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No. 121

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

July 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BLAKE D. MOORE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. OLGA KARMAN

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with both deep sorrow and immense gratitude to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of my dear friend, Dr. Olga Karman, who passed away last week after a courageous battle with leukemia.

Dr. Karman was a poet, a professor, an immigrant, an activist, a mother, a grandmother, and a mentor.

She profoundly shaped my life and the lives of countless others across the globe.

Dr. Karman was born in 1940 in Havana, Cuba, where she graduated from the distinguished Ruston Academy in 1958 and attended Santo Tomas de Villanueva University.

By 1960, she left Cuba, immigrating to the United States for a better life.

After settling in rural Connecticut, she resumed her education at Connecticut College, graduating in 1966 *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

Powered by her fierce intellect and passion, she received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to study at Harvard University, earning her a Ph.D. in Latin American literature in 1976.

Later that same year, Dr. Karman arrived in Buffalo, where she would spend the rest of her life enriching the city's cultural, academic, and civic fabric. She taught Spanish at Nichols School, and in 1980, she joined the faculty of D'Youville University, my alma mater, where she spent the next 27 years teaching generations of students.

At D'Youville, Dr. Karman taught Spanish and helped to establish the D'Youville-Da Vinci High School partnership. Her impact as an educator was immeasurable. I was one of the many students lucky enough to sit in her classroom.

In 1997, I participated in the study abroad trip to Panama with Dr. Karman. As we visited the rainforest and met with the people of the region, she turned to me and out of the blue asked me: "Have you ever thought about getting involved in politics?" I said: "I think about it every day, but I don't know how."

She gave me a one-word answer that changed my life forever: "volunteer." That moment was a true turning point for me and led me to where I am today.

That story, so simple yet so profound, speaks to who she was: a woman who saw people clearly and believed in them completely.

She believed that politics is personal, that poetry can be protest, and that identity is not a limitation but a calling. Her own life was proof.

As a lifelong author, Olga's work was widely published and deeply personal. Her memoir, "Scatter My Ashes Over Havana," captured the pain of her exile and the complexity of her return to Cuba. Her poems appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Buffalo News*, and even on public artwork throughout Buffalo's West Side where she lived and wrote until her final days.

Dr. Karman's commitment to service extended far beyond the classroom or the written word. She was relentless in her advocacy for our community and for people. She served on the Governor's Advisory Committee for Hispanic Affairs. She was a founding member of western New York's Hispanics and Friends and helped shape Hispanics United of Buffalo.

She spent her later years as a certified interpreter for the board of parole, all while continuing to write poems and short works.

We lost Dr. Olga Karman last week on July 9. She passed away just as she lived: surrounded by family. She is survived by her children, Carla and Nathaniel, and her lifelong companion and twin brother, Roberto Karman.

Olga's greatest joy in life was being a grandmother to Gregory, Woodrow, Nicholas, William, Hugh, and Mika; and a proud great-grandmother to Ayla, Penelope, Avery, and Lincoln.

She leaves behind a grateful community and countless friends, too many to name, but just to name a few: Michelle Swygert-Seay, Raul and Geno Russi, Mayor Tony Masiello, Judge Raul Figueroa, Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, and of course, her entire D'Youville University family.

Our Nation is a better place because of Dr. Olga Karman. I am forever grateful that our paths crossed. We honor

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

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



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Dr. Olga Karman's legacy today knowing that her spirit lives on through her writings and the lives she touched, including my own.

Dr. Olga Karman will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.

"Thank you very much, my good friend. We love you";

"Muchas gracias mi buena amiga. Te queremos."

#### CONGRATULATING JOE JENSEN

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Jensen on a successful 50-year career serving as a 911 dispatcher. Joe started his career at the Marshall Police Department as a dispatcher and is wrapping it up with Lyon County.

His calm voice put people at ease, even during one of the scariest times of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joe for his courage, positivity, and service throughout the years. The community will miss him, but they are grateful to him for making it a better place. May he enjoy his well-deserved retirement and the next chapter of his life. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Joe.

#### CONGRATULATING OFFICER SARA VANLEEUEWE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Officer Sara VanLeeuwe on a successful 30-year career at the Marshall Police Force. From the time she was a teenager, Sara knew she wanted to be a police officer, starting her career as a part-time officer.

Over her 30 years, Officer VanLeeuwe has had a huge impact throughout her community and especially loved the work she did in the schools. She taught antidrug classes to hundreds of students and served for 19 years as the Marshall School resource officer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sara for her courage, compassion, and service. I know Marshall will miss her presence on the force. May she enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING 2025 MEEKER COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2025 Meeker County Farm Family of the Year: the Ahlgrens. Along with their six children and a few part-time employees, Rick and Sarah Ahlgren run the Ahlgren Dairy. The farm milks 220 cows and raises replacement heifers in Ellsworth Township.

While the farm has been in the family for generations, since Rick and Sarah purchased the operation in 2018, the family has invested in new robotic equipment, cover cropping, and a new heifer barn. The family is also active in their community, participating in educational events and even hosting a live nativity scene for the public each December.

I am proud to have a family so committed to both responsible agriculture

and their community. It is because of family like theirs that our rural communities thrive.

#### AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO A QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Mrs. MCBATH of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the attack on every American's right to a quality public education in this country.

Families have been promised the right to send their kids to good public schools, regardless of where they live, how much money they make, or their child's disability. However, the careless actions of Secretary McMahon and the Trump administration continue to threaten that promise.

From canceling programs dedicated to teaching children with dyslexia, autism, and other disabilities in the middle of the school year, to cutting teacher pay and illegally withholding billions of dollars meant for after-school programs, President Trump and Secretary McMahon are choosing to make it more difficult for your child to get the attention and high-quality education that they deserve at school.

□ 1010

They are choosing to miss deadlines and hold your tax dollars hostage, tax dollars meant specifically for our children.

This funding is typically released every year before July 1 to ensure that schools are ready to go for the school year that is about to start the next month. It represents at least 10 percent of Federal K-12 funding in every State and almost 15 percent in my home State of Georgia, almost \$225 million.

These dollars appropriated by Congress are meant to improve student learning and empowerment, as well as their achievement, operate before- and after-school programs, train teachers, and help adult learners go back to finish high school.

A few weeks ago, on the evening of June 30, the Department of Education sent out the following message to States:

"Given the change in administrations, the Department is reviewing [the funding for these programs], and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing grant award notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1."

In their own words, they knew this deadline was coming and missed it anyway. They chose to wait until the last second to notify States and schools that the funding your family relies on to educate your child for the school year that is starting in a few short weeks is not where it is supposed to be.

Instead of being in your child's classroom, your money is sitting in Wash-

ington because the Secretary of Education could not be bothered to meet a deadline that is the difference between a school having an after-school program or not. This is funding that is the difference between a child having a safe place to go while they wait for mom or dad to get off work and come get them or not.

The Trump administration's failure to release this funding on time is disrupting school and district planning, jeopardizing the education of millions of students, and forcing layoffs, program delays, and cancellations for students and their families. It is wrong, and it is completely unnecessary.

Last week, I led a letter to the administration signed by 150 Members of the House demanding that the administration follow the law and release this funding. House Democrats will continue to do everything that we can to make this right for the families who are counting on us every day.

There is no legitimate reason that any child or family in this country should have to personally deal with program closures and larger class sizes. That is what the Secretary and President are demanding of parents every single day that they fail to meet this incredibly basic responsibility.

My son, Jordan, was, unfortunately, killed in a shooting in 2012, and I miss him every single day. While my son may be gone, I will never stop being his mother. I will never stop fighting for every child who isn't getting what they truly deserve from our great country.

When I came to Congress in 2019, I promised I would never stop fighting to ensure that every kid who grows up here in the United States receives the skills necessary and stays alive long enough to live a decent life, a life that my son never got to truly fully explore or enjoy.

Time and time again, Secretary McMahon and President Trump fail to rise to the challenge, and the American people are the ones who continue to pay the price.

No more excuses. Secretary McMahon and this administration must follow the law and immediately release the funding meant for our schools, teachers, and families. It must happen.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GOLDA EISENBACH

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of little Golda Eisenbach, who was tragically taken from the Monsey community in June.

Golda was the beloved 4-year-old daughter of Spring Valley Trustee Yisroel Eisenbach, a dedicated public servant from a cherished Rockland County family.

Golda's life was cut short in a tragic accident caused by a drunk driver, a painful reminder of how one reckless

choice can shatter lives. What should have been a peaceful end to a day playing at the park with her family and friends ended in heartbreak.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Eisenbach family as they continue to mourn their precious daughter's life. Golda brought so much light and love to her family.

My prayers are also with the other victims of this senseless accident who are still recovering.

May Golda's memory be a blessing, and may her loved ones find peace in the strength of the community surrounding them.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF HERMAN S. GEIST

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Herman S. Geist, a Westchester County legend and a true public servant.

Herman was the first-ever chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and he helped build the foundation of local government in our region for years to come.

A decorated World War II veteran, Herman came home and spent his life working to strengthen his community, from protecting our parks to supporting healthcare and preserving New York's history.

Herman led with humility, integrity, and purpose, and Westchester is better because of him.

I thank his family for sharing Herman with all of us. Herman's legacy lives on in the institutions he strengthened, the people he mentored, and the county that he helped shape.

#### HONORING PATRICIA "PATTY" RATHSCHMIDT

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Putnam County resident, Patricia "Patty" Rathschmidt, who passed away this week surrounded by the family she so deeply loved.

A daughter of Yonkers, the proud child of an Irish immigrant mother and a decorated World War II veteran, Patty lived a life rooted in service. As a nurse, as a mother of 8, and as a grandmother of 12, Patty poured her heart into caring for others.

Perhaps her most lasting impact began in 2007 when her son Luke was deployed with the 82nd Airborne. Patty and her husband, Jim, founded United for the Troops, a nonprofit that has sent over 30,000 care packages to our men and women in uniform. Each one is a symbol of love, gratitude, and the warmth of home and is sealed with a kiss.

Patty's strength, compassion, and selfless spirit inspired all who knew her. I considered her a friend and will miss her dedication and commitment to our community.

May her memory always be a blessing, and may she find peace with her son Luke in Heaven.

#### HONORING RON TOCCI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Hudson Valley hero, Ron Tocci, for his lifelong service to our veterans, our State, and our Nation.

A proud son of New Rochelle and a U.S. Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, Ron Tocci brought the same grit and commitment to public service that he brought to the battlefield.

For 20 years, he served in the New York State Assembly, including over a decade as chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he authored more than 200 bills. Ron secured funding for State veterans' nursing homes, fought for those battling addiction, and never stopped working to uphold the dignity of our flag and those who defend it.

Ron was then commissioner of veterans affairs for the State of New York, and for 11 years, he served as director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency, where he fought to combat veteran homelessness and provide our veterans with the services and dignity that they deserve.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Ron for his decades of selfless leadership and for reminding all of us what it means to put service above self.

Ron has been a tremendous friend, supporter, and colleague, and I look forward to what the future holds for him.

□ 1020

#### THANKING OFFICER ROBERT SCISCO

(Ms. MCBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Robert Scisco, a school resource officer at Rehoboth Elementary, who has been named Delaware Mentor of the Month.

For the last 3 years, Officer Scisco has mentored Yanziel Rodriguez, a rising fourth grader, meeting weekly to talk, play checkers, and build a bond grounded in trust and encouragement. Before every move, Officer Scisco reminds Yanziel to stop, take a moment, and think, advice for a game of checkers and for life.

This is what public service looks like: presence, patience, and purpose.

Officer Scisco is helping build a culture of safety and connection in our schools, one relationship at a time. I thank him and the Cape Henlopen School District.

#### HONORING NORTH SHORES BEACH PATROL

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary heroism of the North Shores Beach Patrol lifeguards who, while off duty, sprang into action to save a swimmer in distress off the coast of Delaware.

On the evening of July 3, lifeguards received an alert of a distressed swimmer and immediately texted one another, racing back to the beach. Luke McDermott and five others searched beyond their patrol zone and swam over 300 yards in dangerous, choppy water to rescue a woman who had been adrift for 2 hours without a life jacket.

Their swift response, courage, and deep sense of duty saved a life, and Delaware is indebted to them.

#### DEVASTATING FOOD ASSISTANCE CUTS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, last week, I stood alongside Senators COONS and BLUNT ROCHESTER at the Food Bank of Delaware, joined by advocates, providers, and families, to speak out against the devastating food assistance cuts in the Republican budget. The most powerful voice that day was my constituent, Elizabeth Morales.

Elizabeth is a biochemist, a widow, and a mom from Newark. After an unexpected layoff in 2023, SNAP gave her just enough support to keep food on the table for her daughter while she got back on her feet. It wasn't a hand-out. It was a lifeline. Now, that lifeline is being ripped away from families like Elizabeth's.

Under this budget, Delaware will lose tens of millions of dollars in SNAP support, putting more than 37,000 families at risk. These cuts don't just stop at the grocery store. They reach into our classrooms.

Up until this budget, kids were automatically enrolled in school meal programs through SNAP, but this budget breaks that link, creating a mountain of paperwork for families and schools and putting thousands of students at risk of going hungry.

We know that a hungry child cannot learn. Nutrition fuels focus, growth, and lifelong success. These cuts don't just take away meals; they take away potential. As Elizabeth put it: This is theft, plain and simple.

It is cruelty disguised as policy. It punishes families not for failing to work, but for living through a hard season. I will not stop fighting until we restore this funding so that no one in Delaware goes hungry.

#### READ THE BILL

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here in the people's House once again.

Just a week ago, when I was celebrating with friends the July Fourth holiday, watching the fireworks go off and celebrating the freedoms we enjoy, many people actually came up to me in Palm Bay.

In fact, one mom came up to me and said: How can you vote to take away my child's Medicaid? He is disabled. For about 5 minutes, I talked to her at length, talking about what this bill is versus what people are talking about, especially the media, especially those right now on my right.

To her great happiness, I think, I told her that her child would not be left behind, that this bill keeps coverage for the most vulnerable, especially our disabled. I literally pointed it out to her, by looking at pages 630 to 633 in the bill. I even told her to simply read the bill and not believe some of the statements she read in the media or the scary texts that were coming out.

A few days later, I heard back from her. She said: You were right. It is in the bill. My son will still be protected.

That was a really happy day for me because people were seeing the true story. They were moving beyond some of the bogus headlines and to the truth. We owe it to those folks who are vulnerable to take care of them. We are a just and civil society that shows compassion, especially for folks who are in need.

When you read the bill closely on pages 630 to 633, it outlines: If you are a senior in a nursing home, you are protected; if you are a child of low-income parents, you are protected; if you are a pregnant woman, you are protected. Those are important items. We made those promises to our most vulnerable.

We also sent a very clear message that if you are able-bodied, get out there and work, be a part of the American Dream, the American experience, and make sure that we are all playing on a level playing field.

We were recently at a hotel. Can you imagine if you walked into a place, you had to pay the full freight for that hotel room, and someone else who made the exact same amount of money didn't have to pay a dime because they either lied on the application or maybe they no longer did a check to verify what their income was? That is not fair.

However, the good news is that with this new bill, there are incentives to get back into the workplace. The latest numbers that came out indicate 10 million Americans are going to be going back to work. The odds are they will actually get health insurance paid for by their employer or, because they are earning more money, they can afford to do so.

That is the American Dream. It is not to be a ward of the State. It is to live the American Dream. It is to be on this Earth because God wanted us to be active members in our community, not a ward of the State. These are commonsense ideas in which jobs matter and dignity matters. That is what we did in this bill.

The other overwhelming rhetoric I kept hearing over and over is, this is somehow a big tax cut for the rich. Again, for those people who don't know, the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans did not change. I want to make sure that it echoes through the next few years, that they recognize the folks who are working and happen to be earning the most money will stay at the same exact tax rate.

What we did do is help out folks who were hardest hit the last 4 years by higher prices: grocery stores, restaurants, their rent, and of course gasoline. Those were all up 20 and 30 percent, and people were hurting. There was no tax relief in 2021 or 2022. Now, they are saying suddenly they want to give tax relief to the middle class.

They had the trifecta back in 2021 and 2022. They chose to do nothing. We

stepped up and said: If you earn tips, if you earn overtime, especially if you work for a lifetime and you earn Social Security, we are going to give you a tax cut. Some of those, in fact, are retroactive. That is real money in people's pockets. We are moving this country forward.

I am happy to be a part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to back up what we talked about on the campaign trail and to have a leader in our President who is willing to put it all on the line for people who are in an unfortunate situation. That is the American Dream, and that is why I am proud to support this bill.

I can't wait until a year from now when they see some of the mistruths that were stated on this floor come to reality, that we protected the most vulnerable, stimulated and grew this economy, and really took on the status quo in Washington, D.C.

#### CONGRATULATING LARRY HASKELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Larry Haskell, Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney, who recently announced his retirement after more than a decade of dedicated service.

Larry's career is a testament to true public service. Before serving as a prosecutor, he was a B-1 and B-52 pilot in the U.S. Air Force and a lieutenant colonel who answered the call to duty after 9/11, serving bravely in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

After retiring from the military in 2005, Larry returned to Spokane to continue his work in the prosecuting attorney's office, where he was elected in 2014 and has since dedicated himself to justice in our community.

Over the years, Larry has tackled some of the toughest cases—murder, assaults, gun crimes, gangs, witness intimidation—always with integrity and unwavering commitment to public service.

Larry once said that being elected to his office was one of the greatest honors of his life, and it is clear he poured his heart and soul into this work. He also showed wisdom and humility, knowing when it is time to pass the torch.

As Larry steps into retirement, I thank him for his courage, dedication, and service, both in uniform and in the courtroom. Spokane County and our entire region owe Larry Haskell a debt of gratitude.

I congratulate Larry on a job well done and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

#### FIREFIIGHTERS RUN TOWARD DANGER

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart not just to speak but to mourn, to honor, and to demand that we never grow numb to the unimaginable loss suffered by those

who dedicate their lives to protecting ours.

Every day, nearly 1 million volunteer and career firefighters across our country suit up, knowing they may not return home. They run toward danger when many others run away.

They give up holidays, time with their children, and nights of sleep so we can live safely.

Today, I rise to honor three of them, three men from the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department and Kootenai County Fire & Rescue who answered the call of duty and paid the price for their courage in an act of senseless and evil violence.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, Battalion Chiefs John Morrison and Frank Harwood were not only respected leaders in the fire service, they were pillars of the Coeur d'Alene community. They were proud husbands, fathers, and friends. They were the kind of men who showed up before anyone asked, who did the work no one saw, and who led not with titles but with strength and humility.

Gabe Eckert, president of Local 710, recalled his last memory with John Morrison. They were just two men on the patio, quietly drinking beers and talking about their dads.

That is who these men were, constantly striving to serve the public and the people closest to them. We lost more than firefighters. We lost role models.

Engineer David Tysdal was also critically injured in the attack. He has now endured three major surgeries. By God's grace, he is steadily recovering. If he is listening today, we encourage David to stay strong. He carries the prayers of gratitude of a nation with him.

Mr. Speaker, this violence was not just a tragedy. It was an outrage. An attack on these men was an attack on the very fabric of our community. That anyone would target them with such brutality should chill us to the bone.

The deaths of John Morrison and Frank Harwood and the injury of David Tysdal are a devastating reminder of the cost of service.

To the loved ones mourning these brave men, no words will ever be enough. May they find comfort in knowing their courage echoes far beyond Coeur d'Alene.

#### CONGRATULATING MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTEES

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate 37 outstanding students in my district who accepted appointments to the Nation's military academies. They just reported last week, and these are incredibly impressive young men and women.

My district, Virginia's 10th, has an incredibly competitive process and nominates the most number of people

to military academies of any district in the country.

These young men and women were able to get through our rigorous progress by demonstrating leadership, patriotism, and a commitment to service.

We thank the students for their dedication, their courage, and their willingness to answer the call. We look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will have as future leaders of our Armed Forces.

#### MEDICAID PAPERWORK RED TAPE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing the same thing about the big, ugly bill the President signed last week. We hear we are keeping Medicaid for the people who need it and only kicking off able-bodied people. This is simply not true.

These cuts to people's benefits are a little sneaky. It is not a work requirement. It is a paperwork requirement. They want to inundate people who need Medicaid as a lifeline with paperwork that will be difficult for them to do.

These are folks with health issues, folks on Medicaid with disabilities, mothers and fathers with multiple jobs and kids, or without access to reliable broadband in a few cases.

The red tape imposed on Medicaid by this bill isn't meant to be a flaw. It is the whole point. That is why they have pushed it forward past the next election.

We have seen this before. In Arkansas and Georgia, they promised to save taxpayer money with "work requirements." All they did was kick people off who actually needed it the most. Unemployment rates didn't go up. Why? Many people on Medicaid are already working.

Who is better at paperwork? Is it someone on disability who Medicaid was intended for or someone who wants to defraud the system?

Most of the waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid is actually from providers and not from the folks who need it. No, the real fraud is this paperwork requirement. We need to get rid of it.

#### CONCERN FOR EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of deep concern for students across Virginia and the country. Right now, this administration is withholding nearly \$7 billion in congressionally approved education funding.

This is money meant for public schools. These fund after-school programs, teacher training, literacy training, and more. Without warning, the administration froze them. The result has been delays and potential cuts and layoffs. School districts, including the ones that I represent, are now scrambling to fill unexpected budget gaps.

I have heard directly from educators in my district whose jobs will be on the line and whose students risk losing vital support if this funding isn't restored.

It is our students who will pay the ultimate price, but it doesn't stop there. The Department of Education has been

painfully slow to respond to those seeking help.

My constituents have been waiting for months for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness that they are owed. Others have been placed on incorrect student loan payment plans and subjected to poor treatment from loan providers. They are left frustrated and financially strained.

The administration must release K-12 funding and allow the Department of Education to continue their work. Our students deserve better than this waste and red tape.

#### CONGRATULATING MADISON WHITBECK

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to former Ms. Loudoun County, now Ms. Virginia, Madison Whitbeck.

Madison is a proud graduate of Riverside High School in Loudoun County where she cultivated a love for the arts. Madison will spend the year traveling to over 70 elementary schools, teaching students curriculum on making health choices relating to drugs and alcohol.

She will begin her work on the Arts for All initiative, as well, seeking to expand access to the arts for students across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate Madison, and we look forward to seeing all the great things that she does.

#### U.S. EMBASSY VISA UNCERTAINTY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a concern I have heard from many constituents about the delays and uncertainty in the visa process at U.S. Embassies, particularly in Islamabad.

Families in my district have cases stuck in administrative processing with no clear timeline. These delays are keeping families apart, creating needless anxiety and making it impossible to plan for the future.

Just last week, this administration announced the firings of 1,300 staff at the State Department. That is 1,100 civil servants and 246 Foreign Service officers.

While these cuts may not directly impact those embassy operations, they are only going to have a domino effect that is going to hurt every single embassy around the country and around the world.

At a time of heightened conflict and global uncertainty, we should invest in our diplomatic and consular capacities, not reducing them. I hope that the work in Islamabad has improved so that our constituents can be served better.

#### CONGRATULATING THE WATERVILLE HOTEL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Waterville Hotel, a cherished institution in Waterville, Pennsylvania, as it

marks two centuries of service to the Pine Creek Valley community.

In 1825, Abraham Harris founded what was then known as the Harris Hotel, strategically positioned on Route 44 overlooking Little Pine Creek.

It quickly became more than a simple roadside stop. It provided rest, refuge, and warmth for lumberjacks, hunters, fishermen, travelers, and politicians traversing our rugged Pennsylvania Wilds.

As the logging and lumber industry flourished in the 19th century, so did the hotel's significance. It hosted community meetings, business affairs, social gatherings, and even served as a way station for elected officials, becoming an integral part of the region's political and civic fabric.

Through wars, Prohibition, economic strangulation, and the decline of rail, The Waterville Hotel pressed on. Under the stewardship of generations, most notably under Jess and William Smith from 1933 to 1945, it reinvented itself, evolving along with its patrons and the purpose it served, the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Fast-forward to 2023, when local residents Jason McConnell and Vanessa Brown, whose families had roots and ownership of the adjacent country store, joined forces with longtime friend Brad Wyland to revitalize both the hotel and the restaurant.

Their vision has been rooted in pride and preservation, honoring family ties and restoring beloved menu items including a throwback menu featuring The Original Mountain Burger, a culinary emblem of community heritage.

Today, The Waterville Hotel stands as a vibrant hub, serving hearty fare from burgers and fries to vegetarian dishes, complemented by local craft beers and wines. The interior is filled with photographs spanning generations, each snapshot a testament to traditions, memories, and the moments shared.

For many, this hotel is far more than a place to eat or sleep. It is a community gathering place. It is their own Cheers, as longtime staff member Dan Collar described. It is a place where locals and visitors alike return year after year, bound by a shared experience of belonging.

□ 1040

The Waterville Hotel serves as a gateway to the spectacular Pine Creek Valley, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, and the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

From summer activities like biking, hiking, kayaking, and fishing to winter pursuits such as snowmobiling and snowshoeing, guests make the hotel their base for outdoor adventures throughout the seasons.

As we celebrate 200 years from its humble origins in 1825 to its enduring cornerstone status today, we honor not just a building but a living legacy woven into the heart of Waterville.

It has cultivated community, supported local economies, and preserved a connection across generations.

Looking ahead, under the stewardship of McConnell, Brown, and Wyland, and buoyed by devoted staff and loyal patrons, the Waterville Hotel embarks on its third century with the same spirit of resilience, innovation, and community pride that has carried it this far.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Waterville Hotel's bicentennial, a symbol of heritage, community, and hope.

May its doors open to new chapters for generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Central Falcons softball team for their first-ever State championship title.

The heart of this historic victory was the junior left fielder Hadley Witherow, who made the catch of her life to seal the 4-1 win over King William for the class 2 State title.

The Falcons were led by Coach Timmy Wakeman and Assistant Coach Jamey Mantz, who instilled belief in players like Kristen Hockman, whose bat sparked the offense; Veronica Gordon, who delivered key hits; and Keriana Stottlemeyer, who set the tone with her patience at the plate.

Serenity Burnshire and Carsyn Burton added crucial doubles, and Vanessa Gordon's sacrifice fly RBI in the bottom of the fifth created another scoring play.

While in the circle, Lexi Burkholder and Liz Bilbow combined for a stellar performance, supported by the steady glove of Emily Finks behind the plate. Together, they held off King William's powerful bats.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating this remarkable group, the Central Falcons softball team, and their unforgettable championship run.

#### RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNER CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Christendom College, which has, once again, shown that excellence on the field can go hand in hand with achievement in the classroom.

The United States Collegiate Athletic Association named Christendom the winner of the 2025 President's Cup, recognizing the Nation's top academic-performing athletic department. I commend Director of Athletics Patrick Quest and Assistant Athletic Director Joe Dotson for their outstanding leadership.

Christendom's varsity teams posted a 3.51 GPA, with the senior student athlete class achieving a 3.61 average. A total of 45 student-athlete sophomores, juniors, and seniors earned USCAA and NCR National Academic All-American honors. The 20 senior academic all-Americans are Josie Belleville, Regina Bonvissuto, Cate Brezinsky, Jude

Burkett, Sean Corcoran, Joshua Cruz, David Echaniz, John Gunthorpe, Miranda Keller, Colleen Kosten, Bridget McCaughey, Mary Noble, Mary Sabados, Lizzie Scarchilli, Andrew Snyder, Catherine Thomas, Michael Townsend, JP Tsakanikas, Christopher Usher, and Nicholas Ward, many excelling in multiple sports. Twenty-five sophomores and juniors were also recognized for their academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Christendom on this fourth President's Cup in 6 years, which reflects a deep commitment to forming student athletes who excel both intellectually and athletically.

#### RECOGNIZING SALEM HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Salem High School boys' lacrosse team, which made history this year by capturing their first-ever VHSL State championship.

They capped an incredible 2025 season with an 11-7 victory over Loudoun County. Along the way, they won the Region 4D championship with a 14-3 win over Jefferson Forest and claimed the Tommy Girani Cup, achieving all three of their goals.

Their journey was defined by resilience and determination. After falling short in last year's quarterfinals, they returned to defeat Broad Run 9-4 and upset three-time defending champs Atlee in a hard-fought 7-5 semifinal.

This historic run was powered by standout performances. Jackson Jones led with 37 goals and 47 assists. Holden Custer added 45 goals and 21 assists. Parker Dallas scored 42 goals with 36 assists. Jackson Wininger contributed 24 goals and 26 assists.

On defense, Ronnie Frith, Brayden Hall, and Carson Garland combined for over 120 takeaways and 180 ground balls, while goalie Richard Hof made 125 saves. Face-off specialist Ryan Warren won nearly 70 percent of his draws. Remarkably, seven players earned first team all-State honors.

I commend Coach George Revercomb, his staff, and Athletic Director Drew Barrett. This championship reflects the spirit of Salem, a city that rallies behind its youth.

I congratulate the team, their families, and the Salem community.

#### PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FINANCIAL SURVEILLANCE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act. This critical legislation aims to safeguard financial privacy and freedom of the American people.

A central bank digital currency may sound like innovation, but under Federal control, it becomes a powerful and dangerous tool for surveillance. This allows unelected bureaucrats to monitor and potentially restrict how Americans spend their hard-earned wages.

Recently, we have seen alarming examples of this kind of overreach, from the Chinese Communist Party using its digital currency to track and control

citizens to Prime Minister Trudeau in Canada freezing the bank accounts of peaceful protesters. That kind of government power has no place in the United States.

The Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act ensures the Federal Reserve cannot issue a CBDC without explicit authorization from Congress. It protects financial privacy and upholds the constitutional rights of every American.

#### CELEBRATING DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

(Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Duuual.

Mr. Speaker, football fans across the Southeast will recognize that as the rallying cry for the Jacksonville Jaguars. You may wonder how many u's are in that rallying cry. The answer is: No one really knows. How about that?

Everyone knows that there is one "a" in that rallying cry, and that is the reason, Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on that "a" because, for the first time ever, Duval County schools received an A grade from the State of Florida Department of Education.

It is a big deal. It is a big deal in northeast Florida. This momentous accomplishment reflects the hard work and unwavering commitment of our students, educators, administrators, families, and parents. It reflects years of progress, innovation, and a community-wide effort to achieve educational excellence.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Christopher Bernier, the school board, and the steadfast efforts of teachers and staff across the district, Duval County has not only met the State's rigorous standards, but it has surpassed them, Mr. Speaker.

To the parents who have stayed involved, to the students who rose to the challenge, and to every member of Team Duval, I thank them. Their success is a shining example of what happens when a community believes in its children and backs that belief with action.

I congratulate Duval on this well-deserved recognition. Duuual—I can't say it enough.

#### HONORING NASSAU COUNTY PIRATES

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a Pirate, arrgh.

Mr. Speaker, you might think of a pirate as someone who takes what isn't theirs, but in Nassau County, Florida, a Pirate is someone who earns everything they have with grit, heart, and honor.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, as a proud Pirate, a graduate of Fernandina Beach High School, and a product of Nassau County Schools. Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to recognize a historic achievement. Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns, the Nassau County School Board, and a tremendous support team, Nassau County Schools has been named

number one in the State of Florida by the Department of Education. Number one goes to Nassau County. Even more impressive is that every single school in the district earned an A rating from the Department of Education.

It is not just about grades, Mr. Speaker. It is a reflection of community vision, a commitment to excellence, and a belief in every student's potential.

I thank our teachers for sparking curiosity and building confidence. I thank our qualified administrators for their steady leadership. I thank our families and parents for their support at home and for making students do their homework. I thank the students. They are the future of Nassau County, America, and this great Nation.

With their hard work and determination, the future is bright as ever. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I will always be partial to the Pirates, but I know they are not the only champions in town. Here is to all of our 17 schools in Nassau County and all 12,000 of our incredible students.

Let's go Warriors, Hornets, Flashes, and Pirates. Their pride, passion, and pursuit of excellence make our county, our Nation, and our community much stronger.

#### BUILDING ON CLAY COUNTY'S STRONG FOUNDATION

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when people think of a strong foundation, they often think of something built on rock, not clay. However, in Clay County, Florida, we are proving them wrong. That is because here, the foundation that lasts is built on education.

Today, I rise, Mr. Speaker, to proudly recognize Clay County District Schools in northeast Florida for, once again, earning an A rating from the Department of Education.

This continued success reflects the dedication of students, educators, administrators, and families working together to achieve excellence.

Under the leadership of Superintendent David Broskie, a committed school board, and the tremendous support team, Clay County has built a culture of winning, where teachers are supported, students are challenged, and families are engaged.

I thank everyone who makes this success possible.

Clay County doesn't just aim for excellence. It delivers it.

I congratulate Clay County and Clay County Schools. Their achievement is a win that proves that excellence doesn't just come from stone. It is forged in Clay.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Holy God, mighty Lord, draw back the curtain that separates us from You. In Your grace, reveal Yourself to us that we would see Your face and know that You are watching over us this day.

May we not hesitate to draw near to You with sincere hearts. Grant us the assurance that when we approach You in faith, You cleanse us of all our guilt and purify us of all unrighteousness.

Let such awareness of Your unconditional love and steadfast mercy change the attitude we may have brought with us into this place. Rather, let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, a hope in Your redemption and renewal at work in us and in the world.

For You, O Lord, are faithful. Your promises are trustworthy. Confident in Your provision and sure of Your salvation, we devote ourselves to Your perfect plan for this day.

In Your eternal and sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. RASKIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMAN BENJAMIN SCHMELTZER, III

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Norman

Benjamin Schmeltzer, III, a proud son of Iowa and a remarkable American whose legacy of service and love continues to inspire.

Born in Davenport in 1949 and a graduate of Bettendorf High School, Norm never stopped representing the values of his home State. After earning a degree in criminology from California State University at Long Beach, Norm joined the U.S. Army Intelligence School, graduating first in his class. He then served as a special agent with the United States Secret Service.

Norm's passion for justice led him to Loyola University School of Law where he graduated third in his class before founding his own successful law practice.

He was a dedicated public servant, a devoted husband, and a proud father and grandfather.

Norm's journey was one of purpose and perseverance. He and his wife, Jane, both Secret Service agents, became the first two agents to marry within the agency. Being a fellow veteran and having a brother in the Secret Service, I know how challenging that is. Their 50-year love story is a testament to their shared courage and commitment.

To his family watching today, including his beloved sister Christine and his niece McKenna, who is here in the gallery today, please know that this Chamber recognizes Norm's extraordinary life and mourns his loss with you.

Norm embodied the spirit of honor, integrity, and service. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness and excellence that will not be forgotten.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 283. An act to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes.

S. 433. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

#### NO APOLOGY FROM FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, diethylstilbestrol, or DES, is a drug that was prescribed to pregnant women



between 1940 and 1971 to prevent miscarriage.

As early as 1953, there was evidence it didn't work. Nevertheless, it was prescribed for decades because the FDA waited years to alert doctors that something was wrong.

Since then, we have learned DES is an endocrine disrupter that leads to rare cancers and birth defects across generations of families, including among men and women who call themselves DES sons and daughters and who are leading the charge for more awareness and a formal apology.

One of my constituents, a DES daughter herself, Caitlin McCarthy, has been a leader in this effort. She is joined today with Dr. Gwendolyn Mink, Karen Fernandes and Andrea Gardner, also leaders in this effort.

Despite years of false starts and half apologies, the FDA has still not actually said sorry for failing to warn the public in time.

Mr. Speaker, these people deserve that formal apology. Until then, Congress ought to pass my resolution, H. Res. 342, which establishes DES Awareness Week and urges the FDA to fund a follow-up study and issue an apology. An apology will not undo the damage, but it will set us on the path to making things right.

### TRUMP DELIVERS FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans are grateful that under the leadership of President Donald Trump, America is beating inflation, leading to lower costs, higher pay, and job creation.

American families are experiencing a 7.5 percent increase in real income, more than three times the pace of last year under the Biden administration. Gas prices have fallen nearly 3 percent in May alone, and everyday costs are also down over the past month, including those for meat, poultry, and eggs.

President Trump is succeeding in creating jobs for families, increasing opportunities, and defeating inflation. These achievements reflect the goal of President Trump and the Republican-led Congress to put America First. Promises made, promises kept.

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 that war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, with Moscow dismissing today Trump issuing a "theatrical ultimatum" as Putin murders civilians in Ukraine and even in Russia.

Our sympathy on the death of National Committeeman Glenn McCall, a devoted American patriot.

□ 1210

### DEI POLICIES BUILD STRONGER FUTURE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, this administration's open hostility to programs involving diversity, equity, and inclusion is built on deep-seated prejudices that have no basis in constitutional principles, economic realities, or morality.

Our Constitution has been amended specifically to advance inclusion, equity, and diversity, granting freedom to Black Americans from slavery and ensuring their right to vote, and establishing the right of women and those over 18 to vote, as well—free speech, assembly, and religious practices for all.

Economic growth recognizes the buying power of all of our citizens and the rising tide that allows women, people of color, and those of every demographic to grow businesses and buy services and products that expand our economy and make us competitive in worldwide markets.

Then, there is the morality of helping others. The Good Samaritan stopping by the roadside to help a beaten stranger not of his own religion is a testament to: "Who is my neighbor?" It is not just the person who shares my skin color.

Policies to eliminate all DEI efforts are a vestige of the prejudiced past, not a prescription for a stronger future America.

### RECOGNIZING TAWANDA DICKENS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tawanda Dickens, who is a civilian employee with the United States Capitol Police.

Ms. Dickens, as most of us call her, will be retiring in August after many years of remarkable service. Her work is often unseen, as she covers the late-night shift within the Capitol complex, but I, along with many others, agree that her work makes a real positive difference to those of us who know her.

I am so fortunate that Ms. Dickens not only helped me often, but, as she did with many, many others, she befriended me. She is someone who is a friend to many here in the people's House, and she is respected by all who know her.

I congratulate Ms. Dickens on her well-deserved retirement. May God continue to bless her and her family as she enters this new and exciting chapter of her life.

### CONDEMNING REPUBLICANS' BIG, UGLY LAW

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Republicans' big, ugly law, which decimates food assistance for 42 million Americans, including millions of children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Erica from Wilson, North Carolina, had this to say about SNAP: "As a grandmother who is having to raise my granddaughter, this program helps me. I survived three heart attacks, yet [I am] still able to make sure my granddaughter is taken care of."

At a time when so many families are struggling to put food on the table, why would we take away a lifeline that millions of Americans rely on?

This past weekend, I visited Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, North Carolina, where I saw firsthand indispensable work to combat food insecurity in our own community.

Republicans have abandoned vulnerable, hungry people to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. It is shameful and un-American.

### RECOGNIZING CENTRE COUNTY CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

(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 a major milestone in Centre County: the graduation of the 500th first responder from the Centre County Crisis Intervention Team Training Program.

Since 2011, this initiative has brought together law enforcement, EMS, corrections officers, and mental health professionals for 40 hours of specialized training.

These first responders are now better equipped to recognize mental health crises, use deescalation techniques, and connect individuals with appropriate care.

Prior to my time serving in Congress, I spent decades as a volunteer firefighter and cross-trained as an EMT. I recognize and value the commitment these individuals have to their communities and understand firsthand the vital role that they play in ensuring public health and safety.

These graduates are more than professionals. They are pillars in our community, working each day to ensure public safety with compassion and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Centre County CIT team for their dedication and congratulate all 500 graduates for their service to our community.

### MASS STATE DEPARTMENT LAYOFFS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, our National Archivist, our National Security Advisor, and our



USAID Administrator took some time off from his work in these full-time positions to exercise his additional powers as Secretary of State of the United States.

The guy with four Federal jobs fired, en masse, more than 1,300 professional civil servants at the State Department, each of them doing just one job and, in general, doing it in an exemplary and excellent way. They have devoted their careers to America and America's role in the world.

Yet, Secretary, Archivist, National Security Advisor, USAID Administrator Rubio has robbed America of centuries of their expertise for no apparent reason at all. This destruction of the American role in the world comes as China is bolstering its soft power everywhere.

This is a giant blow to our national security and effectiveness in the world.

I express gratitude to the patriotic men and women at the State Department, many of them my constituents, for their decades of service, and I affirm our enduring commitment to the values they have worked so hard to advance.

#### CONGRATULATING PROVO, UTAH, AS AMERICA'S BEST-RUN CITY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city of Provo, Utah, for earning the top rank as America's number one best-run city.

In WalletHub's 2025 study, Provo outperformed 148 other large U.S. cities, excelling at financial stability, public services, safety, infrastructure, and education.

Mayor Michelle Kaufusi aptly noted that getting the fundamentals right is the most important part of governance, like delivering quality education, maintaining safe neighborhoods, ensuring well-maintained infrastructure, and practicing responsible fiscal stewardship.

This approach is validated by this national ranking, showing that going back to the basics leads to residents prospering, businesses flourishing, and a community thriving.

Provo's success also reflects the vital presence of my alma mater, Brigham Young University, at the heart of the community. Home to over 35,000 students and a world-class private university, BYU provides a steady flow of educated graduates, drives economic activity, and fosters a culture of excellence that enriches every neighborhood.

I am also proud to note that our district office calls Provo home, and I am grateful for the support from the local community there.

I am proud to represent the residents of Provo and to champion the excellent qualities that they have on the floor of this House.

#### HONORING CHARLES PARSON GAYLOR, III

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I honor the remarkable life of Charles Parson Gaylor, III, a distinguished district court judge, lifelong Goldsboro resident, and devoted servant.

Charlie embodied compassion in his work, striking a balance between firmness and fairness. He enforced strict rules about cell phones in his courtroom. Yet, he approached the bench with such gentleness and care. His passion for life was evident in his deep love for his family, his genuine appreciation for history, and his fascination with old cars.

For more than 15 years, I was fortunate to call Charlie my friend. His memorial service was a testament to the lives he touched. Many friends, family, and colleagues gathered at his beloved First Presbyterian Church.

For 52 years, Charlie was a steadfast partner to his wife, Rhonda.

Mayor Gaylor, his son, should always remember: Get in, get out.

Sarah and Charlie brought him great joy. I send my deepest condolences to them both.

#### MORE FUNDING FOR FBI

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we did in the big, ugly bill that passed last week or the week before is that we put more money into ICE than we put into the FBI.

The United States' largest investigative function will be in ICE, not in the FBI. We put more money into chasing people who fix our roofs, take care of our yards, take care of our children, take care of our seniors, work the back section of the restaurants, and make America work. We should be putting that money into finding criminals that the FBI should be finding.

We have a crime problem. That should be first. The people committing felonies, rapes, murders, and child sexual abuse is what they said they were going to go after in the immigration fights. Yet, now they are going after statistics and records for deporting more people than any other country in the world.

It is a shame. Crime should be focused on in the FBI and not, as President Trump said today, that the FBI should be working on voter fraud, public corruption, and election fraud in the 2020 elections, and then he said thugs and criminals.

The first order is to protect us from criminals. Save America. Put our monies where they serve the best purpose, and that is the FBI, not ICE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from en-

gaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1220

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. SUOZZI, New York

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Virginia

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4016, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3633, DIGITAL ASSET MARKET CLARITY ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1919, ANTI-CBDC SURVEILLANCE STATE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1582, GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS 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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 580 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4016) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No amendment to H.R. 4016 shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as

read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 4016 for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 4016 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3633) to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Agriculture and Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-6, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the

bill (H.R. 1919) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 8. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 1582) to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 9. 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 July 18, 2025, relating to the bill (H.R. 4) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, last night the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 580, providing for consideration of four measures: H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025, also known as the CLARITY Act, under a structured rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees, provides one motion to recommit, and makes one amendment in order.

□ 1230

Further, the rule provides for consideration of S. 1582, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act, also known as the GENIUS Act, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees, and provides for one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 4016, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2026, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, provides for one motion to recommit, and makes 330 amendments in order.

Finally, the rule provides for same-day consideration of a measure related to rescissions this week.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate a rule on four pieces of legislation, beginning with H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1919 serves as a critical safeguard against the financial power and erosion of individual privacy in the United States, as it would prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency, CBDC, or using it to conduct monetary policy without explicit authorization from Congress.

I would like to pose a fundamental question to my colleagues. Should the Federal Government have the power to monitor, control, or restrict how Americans use their own hard-earned money? Further, should the Federal Government be allowed to make such sweeping decisions behind closed doors without input from the public or their elected representatives?

At its core, this bill is about ensuring the preservation of personal financial freedom. The American people have a basic right to financial privacy. They have the right to spend, save, and manage their money free from surveillance or interference.

A CBDC would explicitly threaten that right by giving the Federal Government unprecedented insight into individual transactions and the potential ability to control or limit access to personal funds.

H.R. 1919 is about one thing: stopping the government from gaining unchecked power over how Americans

conduct their financial lives. It ensures that if any form of digital currency is ever created by the Federal Reserve, it must be debated, authorized, and legislated by Congress instead of unilaterally developed by unelected bureaucrats operating behind closed doors.

The potential consequences are too significant to permit unchecked bureaucratic experimentation with tools that could fundamentally redefine the relationship between individuals and their government without clear oversight risks undermining longstanding economic principles.

Now is the time for Congress to assert its role and ensure that any future developments uphold the values of transparency, individual rights, and a market-driven economy.

Next, Mr. Speaker, the rule also provides for the consideration of H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025, otherwise known as the CLARITY Act. H.R. 3633 delivers a foundational framework that has been missing for far too long, which is clear, consistent rules for digital assets and the innovators building the future of finance.

For years, American entrepreneurs and developers in the digital asset space have been forced to navigate a regulatory maze marked by conflicting guidance, shifting definitions, and enforcement actions in place of actual rules. These inconsistent conditions have stifled domestic innovation, discouraged responsible market participation, and driven capital and talent to more favorable jurisdictions abroad.

H.R. 3633 addresses these issues directly by clarifying the legal status of digital assets and establishing well-defined regulatory responsibilities between the SEC and CFTC, creating a more predictable landscape for market participants while preserving critical investor protections and maintaining the integrity of U.S. financial markets.

This legislation reasserts the role of Congress in setting national policy for emerging financial technologies. It ensures that decisions with far-reaching economic implications are not made through regulatory overreach but through transparent and deliberative processes.

H.R. 3633 is not only sound regulatory policy but also essential economic policy. It will help preserve the United States' leadership in financial innovation, support the growth of compliant digital asset markets, and provide much-needed certainty to investors, developers, and regulators alike.

In an increasingly competitive global financial landscape, this legislation positions the United States to lead with clarity, credibility, and confidence.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for consideration of S. 1582, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act, otherwise known as the GENIUS Act.

This is not just a stablecoin bill. This is a strategic step toward modernizing the U.S. financial infrastructure for

the digital age while protecting the interests of consumers, markets, and the Nation.

S. 1582 provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for the issuance and oversight of payment stablecoins in the United States. It is designed to support responsible innovation, ensure consumer protection, and preserve the role of the U.S. dollar in an increasingly digitized global financial system.

Stablecoins have become an essential component of the digital asset economy, as they offer faster, lower-cost transactions and expand access to financial services. In the absence of a clear Federal framework, however, stablecoin development has outpaced regulation, leaving investors without consistent protections and businesses without clear rules of the road.

This legislation changes that by providing clear, enforceable standards for payment stablecoin issuers, creating practical regulatory pathways through both State and Federal charters and setting strong reserve and disclosure requirements to ensure these assets remain secure and trustworthy.

Critically, this bill prohibits the issuance of algorithmic stablecoins lacking sufficient collateral, guarding against destabilizing risks that could ripple through the broader financial system. Also reinforcing the primacy of the U.S. dollar, this bill ensures that dollar-backed stablecoins are subject to prudent oversight and sound risk management.

At a time when other nations are rapidly moving to define the future of digital finance, S. 1582 ensures the United States takes a prompt and necessary step forward with clarity, credibility, and confidence.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4016, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2026.

H.R. 4016 provides the critical funding necessary to ensure the readiness, modernization, and global strength of the United States Armed Forces. This bill reflects Congress' enduring commitment to our national defense and to the brave men and women who dutifully and selflessly serve this country with distinction.

At a time of rising global threats from strategic competitors, like China and Russia, to unstable regimes and nonstate actors, America must remain prepared and ready. Deterrence requires strength, and strength requires sustained investment, which is exactly what this legislation delivers.

This bill funds operations, maintenance, personnel, and procurement across all branches of the military, ensuring that our servicemembers have the tools, training, and resources they need to succeed in every domain, including land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace. It provides for next-generation systems and emerging technologies, strengthens our nuclear deterrent, and supports investments in cyber capabilities to defend against 21st century threats.

Importantly, this legislation continues bipartisan efforts to improve military quality of life, including robust funding for servicemember pay increases, housing improvements, and family support programs, believing that those who sacrifice to defend this country should never have to sacrifice dignity or stability at home.

H.R. 4016 reflects a deep commitment to national security, strategic deterrence, and support for those who serve. It targets stability, honors peace through strength, and honors our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, reinforcing global stability, and ensuring that the United States remains ready to respond to emerging threats with confidence, capability, and conviction.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to consideration of these pieces of legislation, urge passage of this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule.

Although Bitcoin has been around for over 15 years, cryptocurrencies and related decentralized financial products have exploded in the past few years. Many Americans now own cryptocurrencies, and the industry has seen significant growth.

At the same time, our laws have not kept up with these novel crypto products, and there is wide agreement that Congress must update our laws to appropriately account for crypto assets. However, today's bills are not the answer to that problem.

The CLARITY and GENIUS Acts are bad legislation. They are industry-written bills that give the crypto industry everything it wants at the expense of retail investors, consumers, and the overall health of our financial system. These bills are products of the D.C. swamp that so many of our colleagues usually condemn.

□ 1240

Mr. Speaker, every time our Republican colleagues write a finance bill, it leaves us less safe and more prone to financial crisis. We saw the very real consequences of this when Silicon Valley Bank failed in 2023. That failure was the direct result of Republican legislation that exempted Silicon Valley Bank from Dodd-Frank Act regulations.

GOP proponents of that bill had argued, without evidence, that Dodd-Frank was too onerous and that big banks needed regulatory relief, but it only took a couple of years for their disastrous deregulatory agenda to lead exactly where we all knew it would, with billions of dollars of customer deposits evaporating overnight and with the Federal Government bailing out the bank's uninsured depositors.

This time, Republicans are at it again with two bills that will create a weak and ineffective regulatory regime for cryptocurrencies and stablecoins,

allowing exchanges and insurers to continue risky, fraudulent, and illegal practices with limited oversight by the SEC or Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

These bills give the crypto industry exactly what it wants. They get the illusion of a real regulatory regime and the legitimacy that would bestow. They get weak rules that can be exploited and manipulated for financial gain, and they get enforcement mechanisms that are so meager and underfunded that they won't deter bad actors.

We have seen what deregulation gets us. It got us the 2008 financial crisis. It gets us bankruptcies and bailouts, and it ultimately leaves hardworking Americans holding the bag while CEOs get golden parachutes.

It is not like we are talking about deregulating some benign financial product. Crypto stands out as a uniquely risky asset. From the invention of bitcoin until now, the primary demonstrated uses for cryptocurrencies have been speculation, fraud, and money laundering.

You can't really use crypto to buy anything. The coins themselves aren't backed by any profits, assets, or other tangible property. While we have been hearing about all the wonders of the blockchain for over a decade, shockingly few companies actually use it in a way that is essential to their business.

In practice, the main real-life-use case for crypto is money laundering. Crypto is used by Mexican cartels to launder their proceeds from drugs trafficked into the United States. Terrorist organizations fund their operations with crypto, and countries like North Korea use cryptocurrencies to avoid U.S. sanctions and fund their nuclear weapons programs.

In fact, bitcoin and Tether are the payment methods of choice for the fentanyl manufacturers in China that supply the Mexican cartels, as well as other fentanyl traffickers inside the United States. These criminal organizations rely on crypto, and the legislation under consideration today will not disrupt that illegal commerce.

The CLARITY and GENIUS Acts will not do anything to prevent crypto from being used to break our laws or fund fentanyl deaths and senior fraud. These bills do not provide any meaningful regulations to ensure that issuers and exchanges fully comply with anti-money laundering laws. Add to this that cryptocurrencies are used to facilitate billions of dollars' worth of fraud against Americans each year. This fraud comes in the form of scams, especially those targeting seniors, where fraudsters trick people into purchasing fake crypto products and then run off with the money, leaving the seniors with no recourse.

Then there is the institutional fraud, the fraud that comes from the crypto companies themselves. Here we also have a long list of examples, the most

notable being the fall and bankruptcy of cryptocurrency exchange FTX, which incorporated itself in The Bahamas to avoid American regulatory scrutiny, gambled with customer funds, and ultimately left its customers penniless because of fraudulent business practices.

There is no other way around it. The CLARITY and GENIUS Acts will not stop these types of fraud from happening, and they will leave regular investors on the hook if they are victims of fraud.

The other glaring omission in these bills is they do nothing to stop the abuse of cryptocurrencies and stablecoins as tools for bribery and influence peddling. As President Trump and his allies have demonstrated on a daily basis, any politician can issue a crypto asset, own the majority of tokens, and then anyone who wants to buy that politician's attention or votes can just invest in the asset. There is no oversight or disclosure requirement. There is deniability on both sides of the transaction. Any person, any foreign country can bribe and buy politicians through cryptocurrency like this. Those who have purchased such coins have been open about their motivations for doing so.

Right before his inauguration, President Trump issued his own coin, the Trump coin, for which he is the majority owner. Millions of dollars of questionable funds, including funds from foreigners and foreign governments, have flowed into this coin, as well as his companies, Trump Media and World Liberty Financial.

All in all, it is estimated that President Trump has netted \$1 billion from those crypto schemes, taking advantage of the Office of the President to enrich him and his family.

During the 2024 election, crypto companies donated millions of dollars to elect the President. After he was elected, they donated millions more to his inaugural committee. It is notable that in his first 6 months in office, Trump has dismantled all the regulators that oversee the financial and crypto industries, dropped criminal charges and investigations against various crypto companies, pardoned a crypto exchange that pleaded guilty to abetting money laundering, and pardoned the former owner of the Silk Road who was responsible for selling hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of drugs on the deep web.

Apparently, anyone who seeks to buy influence in this White House simply has to find one of the President's companies or meme coins and make a sizable investment. Emiratis and Saudis are investing in Trump's crypto assets to curry favor. People looking for pardons, dismissals, or preferential regulatory treatment are taking advantage of the Trump crypto scheme. Lawyers and lobbyists are advertising to clients that they can buy a pardon for the right price. It is easily the biggest potential corruption scandal in our Nation's Presidential history.

If there is any crypto regulation we need right now, it is a bright-line prohibition on any elected official profiting off a crypto asset.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 15th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which paved the way for corporations and billionaires to spend unlimited money in our elections. Because of this ruling, anyone, for the right price, can buy their preferred outcomes in our elections and in Congress. One need look no further than Elon Musk and the crypto bills that we are considering today to see the impact of the *Citizens United* decision.

We all know about the millions that Musk poured into the Trump campaign and the White House access he was granted before their abrupt split recently, but the crypto industry also spent a lot of money. It spent money to make these bills happen.

Over the past few years, the crypto industry has emerged as one of the biggest and most aggressive political spenders in American politics. In the 2024 election, crypto emerged as the biggest corporate spender, accounting for nearly half of all the corporate money spent. Crypto outspent every other business lobby by tens of millions of dollars.

While the crypto industry's political spending is enormous, what really sets it apart is the brazenness with which the industry buys influence in Washington. Usually, it is hard to exactly pinpoint a direct relationship between political spending and outcomes, but crypto spending is so in your face that we can actually put a price on these bills.

All in all, the CLARITY and GENIUS Acts cost the crypto industry about \$245 million, and that is a conservative figure. That is just the money spent on 2024 campaigns. If you count money spent to hire expensive lobbyists to come to Congress and ply Representatives with industry talking points, the number is even higher.

Crypto's \$245 million was spent supporting candidates who backed the industry and defeating candidates who did not. Crypto got a good return on its investment. In the overwhelming majority of races that crypto principals invested in, they got their preferred candidate. Now crypto companies have been able to write their own regulations to ensure they won't face serious scrutiny or oversight, meaning that fraud and money laundering will continue unabated, and investors will be on the hook when the next crypto crisis happens.

Fifteen years after the *Citizens United* decision, these bills are the direct result. Crypto is a textbook example of the consequences of that decision. The question before us today is, how should cryptocurrencies be regulated? The answer we are getting is with regulations provided by the crypto industry itself.

Fifteen years later, *Citizens United* has been an unmitigated disaster for

our country. Unlimited spending in politics has corroded our democracy. It has bred cynicism and nihilism in the political process. It has made Americans feel disenfranchised and powerless. It says to every American, your voice doesn't count unless you can pay to play.

□ 1250

Mr. Speaker, we have a political system where any company or any rich person can pay for advertisements, pay for lobbyists, donate to campaigns and PACs and super-PACs, all to buy influence and get their desired outcomes from Congress or the White House.

Time and time again, in every sector of our economy, corporations and the rich have won in Congress, in the courts, in the rulemaking process, and even in decisionmaking by enforcement agencies.

We see the consequences of Citizens United everywhere we turn. It is the reason corporations can screw over workers and consumers with no penalty.

It is why every part of the economy is monopolized by two or three companies that sell poor products and give bad service. It is why we are diving headfirst into a global climate crisis and doing nothing about it.

It is why every time someone runs for office on a platform of putting people over profits, they have to endure attacks from super-PACs supported by billionaires or business interests. Our democracy will remain imperiled so long as the mega-rich can buy influence, votes, and elections.

If anyone was unsure of the consequences posed by Citizens United in 2010, it is now clear, beyond any doubt, that the decision was an abject failure for the country. We have to overturn Citizens United, get dark money out of politics, and make sure our government is accountable to voters and not donors.

To my colleagues here in the House, we don't need to end campaign spending for Members of Congress to do the right thing. Integrity doesn't require authorizing legislation. We cannot allow big money donors to buy or bully Congress. We need to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule also provides for consideration of the fiscal year 2026 Defense appropriations bill. Since taking the majority in the House, Republicans have unfortunately abandoned any pretense of bipartisan compromise to promote our national security by loading every defense bill with radical, rightwing policy riders. These riders have turned what was once a rare area of bipartisan consensus into yet another partisan divide.

This time around, Republicans have loaded the national defense bill with provisions to prevent female servicemembers from accessing reproductive healthcare. They have given a green light to discrimination against LGBTQ servicemembers.

This bill does nothing to address the gross mismanagement of the Pentagon by Pete Hegseth, a man who has leaked classified intelligence, who spends more time in front of his Pentagon makeup mirror and doing press stunts than effectively managing the Armed Forces, and who has prioritized support for bigotry and weird cultural war obsessions like changing the pictures on the Pentagon's website and renaming military bases after Confederate icons.

When this bill is combined with the money spent by Republicans in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the United States is on track to spend over \$1 trillion on defense. Every year, we spend more and more on defense. It is not clear that taxpayers are getting a good deal.

After years of consolidation and lax antitrust enforcement, the defense industry has ossified around five major prime contractors, each with a degree of specialization. That means only two or three companies ever compete for major contracts.

The consequences of this consolidation can be found across the defense industrial base. We don't make enough of the weapons and platforms that we need. Production for major platforms is often beset by delays and cost overruns. We spend billions on studies and research programs that don't lead anywhere. Production timelines are always being extended. Delivery times are delayed, and per-unit costs are increased.

In the face of these glaring business inefficiencies, Congress and the Pentagon always give the contractors what they ask for and ask for very little in return.

We need to replenish our weapons stockpiles. We need to quickly field next-generation military assets like the Columbia submarine and the B-21 Raider. We need to bolster supply chains that support this production. We need to ensure that the Nation has the industrial capacity to respond to a sustained major conflict anywhere in the world.

In order for us to achieve these goals, meet our national security needs, and support our servicemembers, Congress needs to perform real oversight over the Pentagon and defense contractors.

In my time in Congress, I have supported multiple efforts to require the Pentagon to perform a clean audit with tangible enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance. In each case, these efforts haven't garnered the votes for passage because at the end of the day, this body has not been willing to hold the Pentagon and defense industry's feet to the fire.

The Pentagon has failed to complete seven audits in a row. That is seven. Until the Pentagon faces real consequences for being unable to account for the billions of taxpayer dollars it spends every year and failing to comply with congressional oversight, we will never have accountability.

At a time when our Republicans' quest to root out waste, fraud, and

abuse has led them to slash funding for American's healthcare and hunger relief, it is astonishing they are willing to write yet another blank check to the Department of Defense with no questions asked, despite growing evidence of cost overruns, mismanagement, and more.

At the end of the day, I want our servicemembers to have every single advantage over our adversaries. I want them to have all the tools, platforms, resources, and weapons systems we can provide. I don't want taxpayers to get a bad deal. I don't want to waste money on overpriced defense contracts that overpromise and underdeliver.

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

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD, supporters of cryptocurrency exercised their First Amendment right last election and contributed to many candidates.

In fact, those supporters spent over \$50 million in support of Democrat candidates. Supporters of cryptocurrency are not just Republicans or Democrats. These are Americans who are very eager to see us pass the most important legislation for the cryptocurrency industry in history this week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), our Rules Committee chairwoman.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying legislation. The four separate measures being considered under this rule all have a singular commonality. They serve to put American interests first, where they should always be.

All of us can agree that within the global markets, and on the global stage, America must always remain competitive and stand tall. That is not sometimes. That is not occasionally. That is not part of the time. That is always.

From protecting consumer privacy to ushering in a new era of financial innovation, providing for the common defense of the Nation to strengthening the dominance of the American dollar, these pieces of legislation are as consequential as they are vital.

This is the caliber of legislation that the American people expect our Republican majority to deliver. Republicans here in the people's House continue to exceed that mark. We have done it many times before, and this week, we will do it again.

One of the four bills being considered under this rule is H.R. 4016, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2026. This legislation provides for appropriations for the DOD for the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do that Congress' first solemn responsibility, one of many, is to provide for the common defense of the Nation.

In total, H.R. 4016 provides \$831.5 billion and adheres to the budgetary top line put forward in the President's FY26 budget request.

Consider for a moment the provisions contained within this legislation that uphold Congress' responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, there is \$189 billion for Active-Duty, Reserve, and National Guard military personnel, which is \$6.6 billion above the fiscal year 2025 enacted level. There is an increase of 3.8 percent in basic pay for all military personnel beginning January 1 of next year. There are sizeable investments in research and development, procurement efforts, and operation and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the four underlying measures, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1300

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

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order amendment No. 50 to H.R. 3633, offered by Representative KHANNA, which requires the Attorney General to preserve and release any records related to Jeffrey Epstein.

I applaud my colleagues, Representative VEASEY and KHANNA, for their work to release the Epstein files. I strongly support these efforts and the release of the files.

Last night, at the Rules Committee, Republicans rejected an amendment that would have required the Department of Justice to release the Epstein files, multiple criminal investigations which allegedly documented trafficking of young women and girls by Jeffrey Epstein, a sex offender and financier with whom the President often socialized.

For years, the President and those in his orbit, including Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel, alleged that prior administrations had covered up the identities of the rich and powerful people to whom Epstein had trafficked the girls and the facts surrounding his allegedly suspicious death.

They came into office pledging to seek accountability for the horrific crimes by revealing Epstein's client list and other information, but recently backtracked and refused to release any further information.

There appear to be only two explanations for this about-face. Either the Epstein files did not contain the explosive information that Trump and his allies claimed during his campaign, or this administration is the one covering up what is in the files.

Last night, all the Republicans on the Rules Committee except one voted against releasing the files.

Why would they try to prevent the truth about Epstein's abuse and those he enabled from coming out? That is anybody's guess.

With this previous question, the entire Republican Conference has the opportunity to correct that mistake. They can vote today to release the Epstein files.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), who is the sponsor of the resolution directing the Trump administration to release the Epstein files to discuss our proposal.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, yes, the resolution was voted down by Republicans last night, so let's speak the truth because there are two Americas right now.

In their America, billionaires can buy silence, sweep crimes under the rug, and count on friends in high places to protect them. In our America, Mr. Speaker, if you break the law, you are held accountable.

In their America, wealth and power buy secrecy. In our America, justice demands sunlight and truth.

In their America, underage girls are treated like disposable property by predators who believe they will never face consequences. In our America, victims deserve justice, and the predators should face the full weight of the law.

Time and time again, this administration has chosen them—the billionaires, the elite, the people who think children are theirs to exploit—over us, the American people.

Time and time again, they have looked into the cameras and promised the American people: We will release the Epstein files.

We heard it over and over again: We will tell you the truth.

When the moment of truth comes, they slam the door shut. Why? It is because their loyalty is not to justice. It is about protecting the rich, the famous, and the powerful, no matter how monstrous their crimes are.

Meanwhile, Republicans in this Chamber are working overtime to gut healthcare for 17 million Americans, to rip food off families' tables, and to kill good-paying jobs in their so-called big, ugly bill.

When it comes to exposing the powerful predators who preyed on underage girls, suddenly, they have nothing to say. That is because they think there is one set of rules for billionaires and another for the rest of us. They think the American people will forget, that we will stop asking questions, and that we will let them keep secrets.

Let me be crystal clear: This is not about partisanship. This is about peo-

ple. It is our America. No one, no matter how rich, famous, or well-connected, is above the law.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, in our America, no one is beyond accountability. We will not forget. We will not look away. We will not stop demanding the truth.

We demand the immediate release of the Epstein files—no more games, no more lies, and no more protection for predators hiding behind the rich and powerful.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are referring to a tactic Democrats employed, yet again, to try to take control of the House of Representatives through the Rules Committee. They did so because they are desperate to stop us from passing the most important cryptocurrency legislation in the history of our country and because they are, for whatever reason, desperate to stop us from bringing forward our legislation that funds our brave military.

The Republican majority is not going to hand the keys to the House of Representatives to a caucus that, on a daily basis, impugns and denigrates the 77 million Americans who voted for President Trump.

To my friends watching at home who support bitcoin and cryptocurrency: Make no mistake. Members of Congress who vote against the rule today are voting against the most important legislation for the cryptocurrency industry in history.

I beseech my colleagues who appreciate, support, and invest in cryptocurrency to study today's vote. Do not let those who vote against us today come around during election time to ask for support as they claim to fight for this incredible industry. Judge them by their vote today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding, and I congratulate him for managing his first rule on the House floor. His constituents are lucky to have him representing them in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying legislation. This is an important week in the House as we take up legislation to fund our military and advance several key financial services bills, including efforts to establish a clear market structure for cryptocurrency and protect Americans' financial privacy by blocking a surveillance-style central bank digital currency.

Let me begin with the Defense appropriations bill. Chairman CALVERT and his team have, once again, delivered a strong, thoughtful proposal that makes



strategic investments in American military superiority, strengthens our southern border, and, most importantly, takes care of our troops and their families.

I am especially proud that the rule makes in order several of my amendments, including those that highlight the importance of continued support for the advanced combat engine and innovative semiconductor production, two areas critical to our national security and future readiness.

On the financial services front, as a former member of the Financial Services Committee, I am encouraged to see Chairman HILL and Chairman THOMPSON leading the charge to ensure America remains a global leader in the fintech sector.

This package brings regulatory clarity to the digital asset ecosystem, promotes market innovation, and protects Americans' financial freedom and privacy by prohibiting the Federal Reserve from issuing a CBDC without congressional approval.

These bills are the product of years of thoughtful, collaborative work, some of which I was proud to contribute to.

These bills ensure that we remain a leader in the digital asset ecosystem and will strengthen the U.S. dollar as a global currency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this rule and all of these bills.

Finally, to our friends on the other side of the aisle regarding the amendment that was offered in our Rules Committee last night that several Republicans voted against, it is a stretch on germaneness, although it was ruled germane. I do find it incredibly interesting that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle suddenly want to force this issue because it is politically expedient, even though they did not release any of it when they were in charge.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate about what Congress should be considering, and my amendment would simply allow Congress to express its will with respect to the release of the Epstein files. This is something our Republican colleagues and certainly key members of the Trump administration have been talking about for years until their recent about-face.

Congress can express its will. We would like to have it put up for a vote. It doesn't block any votes on the crypto bills or the Defense Department funding.

We think that the administration should release these files. It really is a little confusing, I think, why suddenly our Republican colleagues are blocking this, but perhaps it was a mistake. At least one Republican voted with Democrats last night to release the files, so this would just give all of our colleagues the opportunity to say what they have been saying for so many years, that the Epstein files should be released.

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

□ 1310

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Speaker's Rules Committee voted to block my amendment that called for the full release of the Epstein files while protecting the victims' identity.

Let's just be clear. They voted to protect rich and powerful men who were abusing, assaulting, and abandoning young women. That is what this vote is about.

A nation that chooses impunity for the rich and the powerful at the expense of children is a nation that has lost its moral purpose.

You ask why did they vote this way? Let's speak plainly. It is because these rich and powerful men donate to the politicians in Washington, D.C., and play golf with the elites in Washington, D.C. They are foreign leaders who we don't want to offend. They interact with our intelligence agencies that we don't want to disobey. There is something rotten in Washington.

This is a question of whose side are you on. Are you on the side of the people? Are you on the side of America's children? Or are you on the side of the rich and powerful who have had their thumb on the scales and shafted Americans for decades?

We are going to get a vote again this afternoon. I hope people will find the courage of a Republican like RALPH NORMAN or a Republican like MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE or a Republican like THOMAS MASSIE or the many MAGA Republicans who are demanding the full release of the Epstein files. It is not a question just of Epstein. It is a question of trust in our democracy. It is a question of restoring a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, it is a question of the rebirth of a nation that stands for our children. I hope everyone in this up-or-down vote will vote to make sure that the Epstein files are released while protecting victims' identity.

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

I join the millions of Americans who want accountability for anyone who committed crimes with Jeffrey Epstein. But I ask you: Can you really trust the same radical leftists who presided over one of the greatest scandals in American history, a coup in Joe Biden's White House in which unelected staff actively sought the destruction of our country?

Can you really trust the same radical leftists who sought to segregate those of us who opted to make medical decisions for ourselves during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Can you really trust the same radical leftists who have spent the last decade trying and failing, trying and failing, and trying and failing to tear down President Trump, one of the greatest Presidents in American history?

Can you really trust those same people, who are trying to stop us from passing the most important cryptocurrency legislation in history and appropriations to fund our brave military today?

A vote against today's rule is a vote against cryptocurrency and our Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia, for this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule for H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025 and H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act. Together, these bills provide much needed clarity on digital asset regulation and ensure critical consumer protections so Americans retain their financial freedom.

Before basketball became the great sport that we know and love, it needed rules. Without structure, the game could not grow and thrive. The same is true for digital assets.

Innovation depends on clear, reliable guardrails. For too long, this space has been clouded by legal uncertainty and regulation by enforcement, leaving the industry without direction and consumers without protection.

The CLARITY Act addresses that gap. It defines the role of the SEC and CFTC, establishes clear rules of the road for responsible innovation, and protects the rights of Americans to hold and use their own digital property.

At the same time, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, which I cosponsor, defends the foundational principles of financial freedom. A government-run central bank digital currency would allow unelected bureaucrats to surveil, program, and ultimately control how Americans spend their money. This legislation protects Americans by ensuring the Fed cannot issue CBDCs to individuals.

Last year, Representative Tyler Clancy and I, in the State of Utah, passed a law banning CBDC, but we all recognize that State laws cannot pertain or prevail throughout the country. This bill allows us to establish security and protections for the American people all over our country.

When the Chinese Communist Party thinks CBDC is a good idea, I think that tells us exactly how we should vote, against CBDC.

These bills promote free market innovation, protect privacy, and ensure the next generation of finance is built on American values, not Federal overreach.

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

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



I am not sure what the gentleman from Georgia is talking about when he says that my amendment is offered as a product of radical leftists. I know that it is rare in D.C., but this amendment actually has broad bipartisan support, from the far right, from the far left, and from the middle.

We just want to release the Epstein files. That is why we have offered the amendment, and this body has the opportunity to vote on it.

I don't understand why my Republican colleagues are suddenly so adamant about throwing up procedural hurdles to have the Epstein files released.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I worked hard in school, but the grade I am proudest of is getting the first F ever issued by the crypto industry.

This rule prohibits you from considering two amendments that had total support from Democrats and total rejection from Republicans in the Financial Services Committee.

The first prohibits the use of taxpayer money to buy crypto. Trump has already said he wants what he calls a strategic reserve of crypto. If you vote against this rule, you are voting to allow him to buy bitcoin or Trump coin with taxpayer money. That second amendment, also prohibited by this rule, says that taxpayer money will not be used to bail out stablecoin or other crypto assets.

We have already seen dozens of scandals since Sam Bankman-Fried, but now the industry can say we have got total power in Congress. They gave us just a patina of regulation, and if there is ever a problem with your crypto assets, we will get you bailed out.

This rule is incredibly hypocritical. It tells us that we are supposed to be for innovation and blockchain. Then it calls for the prohibition of the Fed having blockchain or any electronic use of the U.S. dollar.

The Constitution says currency is what the U.S. Congress should control, but this bill will say that the dollar must use George Washington technology while China can have a digital yuan and the crypto bros can have hidden digital money.

It is not surprising that President Trump was against crypto until he realized that he could make hundreds of millions for his campaign and billions for his family by signing up with the crypto bros.

This is crypto week. It is also tax evaders month, national drug dealers' day, and human traffickers Tuesday.

Vote "no" on this rule. Release the Epstein files. Don't try to distract us and say that the reason we can't protect girls in this country is because —

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, don't tell us we can't release the Epstein files because you hate Joe Biden or because you hate leftists. People on the right, people in the center, and everyone who wants to protect girls in America says to release the Epstein files now.

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE) to speak to the most important cryptocurrency legislation in the history of our country.

□ 1320

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JACK) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the CLARITY Act, the GENIUS Act, and the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act.

I am a cosponsor, actually, of the CLARITY Act, which creates clear, enforceable rules for digital commodity markets and gives innovators confidence to build here in the United States of America.

Similarly, the GENIUS Act establishes a dollar-backed stablecoin, reinforcing the U.S. dollar's dominance in global financial markets.

Finally, the anti-CBDC legislation ensures that we never enact a CCP-like financial surveillance regime in this country.

Together, these bills ensure that the U.S. remains the world leader in digital asset innovation. I encourage my colleagues to support these commonsense pieces of legislation.

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, digital assets are not some future concept. They are already a key part of our financial system, and Washington needs to start acting like it. Nearly one in three Americans have used them in some form, and we cannot afford to let our adversaries, especially the Chinese Communist Party, write rules for this new financial frontier as we sit on the sidelines.

That is why we are advancing these three critical pieces of legislation to make sure that America stays the world leader in financial innovation.

Under the Biden administration, America's innovators operated in a cloud of legal uncertainty, at best. Folks had to choose between dealing with outdated rules or taking their ideas overseas. The Trump administration, however, has taken a much more forward-thinking approach, and now it is Congress' turn to step up.

The CLARITY Act changes this to establish clear regulatory language that allows for the protection of consumers, while also giving innovators the certainty that they need to build and grow right here in the United States.

Stablecoins have shown real promise for faster, cheaper payments at home and abroad. They have opened access to the U.S. dollar for people who have never had that kind of financial stability before. Yet, while the private sector has raced ahead, Washington has been stuck.

The GENIUS Act fixes that. It gives stablecoin issuers a regulatory framework for strong reserves, real redemption rights, and smart risk management.

Finally, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act is about protecting liberty. It blocks the Federal Government from launching a central bank digital currency that could be used to track or control how law-abiding citizens spend their dollars.

Together, with these three bills, this is a big step forward. President Trump is making American leadership in financial tech a priority. These bills reflect that vision with clear rules, strong protections, and a real momentum to keep the dollar at the heart of global finance.

Let's make crypto great again.

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

Mr. Speaker, last night in the Committee on Rules, my Democratic colleagues and I offered multiple amendments to try to improve the crypto bills.

We offered amendments to prevent the President and his closest relatives from profiting off of crypto while he is in office. We offered amendments to protect investors and consumers and allow the kind of government oversight that is needed to protect our economy.

All of these amendments were rejected by committee Republicans.

Last night, as we discussed the Defense spending bill, we also pressed Republicans on how military families will be impacted by the Medicaid cuts in Republicans' big, ugly bill.

About 850,000 military families on TRICARE also receive healthcare through Medicaid, particularly children with special needs. Those families may now see their health benefits cut or taken away as a result of the big, ugly bill. That issue was not addressed in the Defense spending bill.

Our Republican colleagues didn't want to hear it, and I doubt we will be able to prevent them from proceeding with this misguided crypto legislation today.

Yet, I will say this: If these bills become law, we can predict many more crypto scandals and crises and money laundering. A lot of people will lose a lot of money, and no one will face accountability for taking advantage of retail investors. I hope that day doesn't come, but it is bills like this that will determine the future of our financial system.

Do we want a system that promotes speculation, bubbles, Ponzi schemes, and frauds or one that promotes investment in innovative and productive businesses that grow the real economy in ways that benefit all Americans?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the PQ and rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this week, the House has the ability to advance four pieces of legislation under this rule:

H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act prohibits the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency, CBDC, that undermines Americans’ rights to financial privacy.

H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025, also known as the CLARITY Act, establishes clear, functional requirements for digital asset market participants, prioritizing consumer protection while fostering innovation.

S. 1582, the GENIUS Act provides a clear regulatory framework for the issuance of payment stablecoins in the U.S.

H.R. 4016, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2026, provides critical resources to strengthen military readiness, support servicemembers and their families, invest in next-generation defense capabilities, and ensure that the United States can meet global threats with confidence and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on the previous question and “yes” on the rule, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of three key pieces of legislation regarding cryptocurrency and our financial markets.

The GENIUS Act, the CLARITY Act, and the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act are all critical bills that will help make America the crypto capital of the world. These bills provide simplified rules of the road for the crypto industry, which so desperately needs these provisions to flourish. Specifically, they create federal standards for stablecoins, provide clear definitions for different digital assets, and prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing its central bank digital currency.

We are in another arms race with our adversaries over cryptocurrency and blockchain dominance, like China and Russia. These are historic pieces of legislation that will make America the crypto capital of the world, which is a priority of President Trump and his administration.

The United States must remain the world’s leader in innovation. Under President Trump’s leadership, we are finally on track for regulatory clarity, market protection, and innovation without fear of government overreach.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support these bills.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 580 OFFERED BY  
MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment specified in section 11 shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution if offered by Rep-

resentative Khanna of California or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 11. The amendment referred to in section 10 is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**Sec. 513. PRESERVATION AND RELEASE OF RECORDS.**

(a) The Attorney General shall retain, preserve, and compile any records or evidence related to any investigation, prosecution, or incarceration of Jeffrey Epstein.

(b) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall release and publish any records or evidence related to any investigation, prosecution, or incarceration of Jeffrey Epstein on a publicly accessible website.

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEUBE). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution and the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1717.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 210, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—211

Aderholt	Downing	Hinson	Miller (IL)	Rogers (KY)	Stutzman
Alford	Dunn (FL)	Houchin	Miller (OH)	Rose	Taylor
Allen	Edwards	Hudson	Miller (WV)	Rouzer	Tenney
Amodei (NV)	Ellzey	Huizenga	Miller-Meeks	Roy	Thompson (PA)
Arrington	Emmer	Hurd (CO)	Mills	Rulli	Tiffany
Babin	Estes	Issa	Moolenaar	Rutherford	Timmons
Bacon	Evans (CO)	Jack	Moore (AL)	Salazar	Turner (OH)
Baird	Ezell	Jackson (TX)	Moore (NC)	Scalise	Valadao
Balderson	Fallon	James	Moore (UT)	Schmidt	Van Drew
Barr	Fedorchak	Johnson (LA)	Moore (WV)	Schweikert	Van Dyne
Barrett	Feenstra	Johnson (SD)	Moran	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Baumgartner	Fine	Jordan	Murphy	Self	Walberg
Bean (FL)	Finstad	Joyce (OH)	Nehls	Sessions	Weber (TX)
Begich	Fischbach	Joyce (PA)	Newhouse	Shreve	Webster (FL)
Bentz	Fitzgerald	Kean	Norman	Simpson	Westerman
Bergman	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)	Nunn (IA)	Smith (MO)	Wied
Bice	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)	Obernolte	Smith (NE)	Williams (TX)
Biggs (AZ)	Flood	Kennedy (UT)	Onder	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (SC)
Biggs (SC)	Fong	Kiggans (VA)	Owens	Smucker	Wittman
Bilirakis	Fox	Kiley (CA)	Palmer	Spartz	Womack
Boebert	Franklin, Scott	Kim	Patronis	Staub	Yakym
Bost	Fry	Knott	Perry	Stefanik	Zinke
Brecheen	Fulcher	Kustoff	Pfluger	Steube	
Bresnahan	Garbarino	LaHood	Reschenthaler	Strong	
Buchanan	Gill (TX)	LaLota	Rogers (AL)		
Burchett	Gimenez	LaMalfa			
Burlison	Goldman (TX)	Langworthy			
Calvert	Gonzales, Tony	Latta			
Cammack	Gooden	Lawler			
Carey	Gosar	Lee (FL)			
Carter (TX)	Graves	Letlow			
Cascomani	Greene (GA)	Lucas			
Cline	Griffith	Luna			
Cloud	Grothman	Mace			
Clyde	Guest	Mackenzie			
Cole	Guthrie	Malliotakis			
Collins	Hageman	Maloy			
Comer	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mann			
Crane	Haridopolos	Mast			
Crank	Harrigan	McClain			
Crawford	Harris (MD)	McClintock			
Crenshaw	Harris (NC)	McCormick			
Davidson	Harshbarger	McDowell			
DesJarlais	Hern (OK)	McGuire			
Diaz-Balart	Higgins (LA)	Messmer			
Donalds	Hill (AR)	Meuser			
			Adams	Gillen	Ocasio-Cortez
			Aguilar	Golden (ME)	Olsewski
			Amo	Goldman (NY)	Omar
			Ansari	Gomez	Pallone
			Auchincloss	Gonzalez, V.	Panetta
			Balint	Goodlander	Pappas
			Barragan	Gottheimer	Pelosi
			Beatty	Gray	Perez
			Bell	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
			Bera	Harder (CA)	Pettersen
			Beyer	Hayes	Pingree
			Bishop	Himes	Pocan
			Bonamici	Horsford	Pou
			Boyle (PA)	Houlihan	Pressley
			Brown	Hoyer	Quigley
			Brownley	Hoyle (OR)	Randall
			Budzinski	Huffman	Raskin
			Bynum	Ivey	Riley (NY)
			Carbajal	Jackson (IL)	Rivas
			Carson	Jacobs	Ross
			Carter (LA)	Jayapal	Ruiz
			Casar	Jeffries	Ryan
			Case	Johnson (GA)	Salinas
			Casten	Johnson (TX)	Sanchez
			Castor (FL)	Kamlager-Dove	Scanlon
			Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Schakowsky
			Cherfilus-	Keating	Schneider
			McCormick	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
			Chu	Kennedy (NY)	Schrier
			Cisneros	Khanna	Scott (VA)
			Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
			Clarke (NY)	Landsman	Sewell
			Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
			Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Sherrill
			Cohen	Latimer	Simon
			Conaway	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
			Correa	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
			Costa	Leger Fernandez	Soto
			Courtney	Levin	Stansbury
			Craig	Liccardo	Stanton
			Crockett	Lieu	Stevens
			Crow	Lofgren	Strickland
			Cuellar	Lynch	Subramanyam
			Davids (KS)	Magaziner	Suozi
			Davis (IL)	Mannion	Swalwell
			Davis (NC)	Matsui	Sykes
			Dean (PA)	McBath	Takano
			DeGette	McBride	Thanedar
			DeLauro	McClain Delaney	Thompson (CA)
			DelBene	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
			Deluzio	McCollum	
			DeSaulnier	McDonald Rivet	
			Dexter	McGarvey	
			Dingell	McGovern	
			Doggett	McIver	
			Elfreth	Meeks	
			Escobar	Menendez	
			Espallat	Meng	
			Evans (PA)	Mfume	
			Fields	Min	
			Figures	Moore (WI)	
			Fletcher	Morelle	
			Foster	Morrison	
			Foushee	Moskowitz	
			Frankel, Lois	Moulton	
			Friedman	Mrvan	
			Frost	Mullin	
			Garamendi	Nadler	
			Garcia (CA)	Neal	
			Garcia (IL)	Neguse	
			Garcia (TX)	Norcross	

## NOT VOTING—11

Carter (GA)	Loudermilk	Ogles
De La Cruz	Luttrell	Ramirez
Green (TN)	Massie	Wilson (FL)
Hunt	McCauley	

□ 1412

Ms. BROWNLEY, Messrs. HORSFORD, OLSZEWSKI, Ms. PIN-GREE, Messrs. SUBRAMANYAM, PAPPAS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. SUOZZI changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. HAMADEH of Arizona, HUIZENGA, and Mrs. LUNA changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

## RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

### MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today mourning the loss of life in the State of Texas that touched profoundly everybody across this great country and so many people who are visiting this part of Texas.

Obviously, we have been struck by the loss of life, particularly for those young girls associated with Camp Mystic.

It has been grueling. It was a rough week.

There has been a lot of destruction, and a lot of beautiful parts of our State have been destroyed, but we will rebuild.

Here is the thing that I want to say. When people talk about destruction, what will not be destroyed is the spirit of the people of Texas; the spirit of the people that those camps represent; the spirit of the little girls who are already talking about wanting to go back; the spirit of the people associated with Dick Eastland, the camp director of Camp Mystic who gave his life trying to save those little girls; the spirit of Jane Ragsdale, who lost her life saving five little girls—her guitar was found down the Guadalupe River just yesterday; and the spirit of all the little girls who were riding in the bus as they left Camp Mystic, singing hymns and expressing their faith. They were looking at the destruction that they couldn't possibly comprehend as they left that camp, but they were still putting their faith in their Lord and their Savior.

If there is anything we can take out of this, it is that sense of community,

that sense of pride that we have in knowing that we will rebuild and that we will come together, and that sense that we know the power of the cross that stands on the hills over the city of Kerrville, the power of the faith of the people of Texas, and the power of the faith of the people of this Nation who have responded. Millions of dollars have come into the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, \$30 million last week, and I think that number is rising.

I thank all the members here in this delegation. Most of them have reached out to me personally.

To my friends and colleagues in this delegation: It is not just Kerr County. It is the State of Texas. Many of my colleagues have been affected across the State, but I thank them for their prayers and their well-wishes.

Just know, Mr. Speaker, that their spirit endures. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the people of Texas, the people of Kerr County, Texas, and the first responders who are today back in the floodwaters, resuming the search for the missing. There are still over 100 missing in that part of our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all those present in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to please join us in a moment of silence.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, if I may, there are some little girls from Camp Mystic in the gallery, and I thank them for being here.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4016, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3633, DIGITAL ASSET MARKET CLARITY ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1919, ANTI-CBDC SURVEILLANCE STATE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1582, GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS 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

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 580) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4016) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3633), to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1919) to

amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1582) to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

## RECORDED VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 223, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

## AYES—196

Aderholt	Garbarino	McDowell
Alford	Gill (TX)	McGuire
Allen	Jimenez	Messmer
Amodei (NV)	Goldman (TX)	Meuser
Arrington	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (IL)
Babin	Gooden	Miller (OH)
Bacon	Gosar	Miller (WV)
Baird	Graves	Miller-Meeks
Balderson	Griffith	Mills
Barr	Grothman	Moolenaar
Barrett	Guest	Moore (AL)
Baumgartner	Guthrie	Moore (NC)
Bean (FL)	Hageman	Moore (UT)
Begich	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (WV)
Bentz	Haridopolos	Moran
Bergman	Harrigan	Murphy
Bice	Harris (NC)	Nehls
Biggs (SC)	Harshbarger	Newhouse
Bilirakis	Hern (OK)	Norman
Boebert	Higgins (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Bost	Hill (AR)	Obernolte
Brecheen	Hinson	Onder
Bresnahan	Houchin	Owens
Buchanan	Hudson	Palmer
Burlison	Huizenga	Patronis
Calvert	Hurd (CO)	Pfleger
Cammack	Issa	Reschenthaler
Carey	Jack	Rogers (AL)
Carter (TX)	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Ciscomani	James	Rose
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Rouzer
Cole	Johnson (SD)	Rulli
Collins	Jordan	Rutherford
Comer	Joyce (OH)	Salazar
Crank	Joyce (PA)	Schmidt
Davidson	Kean	Schweikert
De La Cruz	Kelly (MS)	Scott, Austin
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Sessions
Diaz-Balart	Kennedy (UT)	Shreve
Downing	Kiggans (VA)	Simpson
Dunn (FL)	Kiley (CA)	Smith (MO)
Edwards	Kim	Smith (NE)
Ellzey	Knott	Smith (NJ)
Emmer	Kustoff	Smucker
Estes	LaHood	Stauber
Evans (CO)	LaLota	Stefanik
Ezell	LaMalfa	Steil
Fallon	Langworthy	Steube
Fedorchak	Latta	Strong
Feenstra	Lawler	Stutzman
Fine	Lee (FL)	Taylor
Finstad	Letlow	Tenney
Fischbach	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Fitzgerald	Mace	Tiffany
Fitzpatrick	Mackenzie	Timmons
Fleischmann	Malliotakis	Turner (OH)
Flood	Maloy	Valadao
Fong	Mann	Van Drew
Fox	Mast	Van Duyne
Franklin, Scott	McClain	Van Orden
Fry	McClintock	Wagner
Fulcher	McCormick	Walberg

Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Wied

Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack

Yakym  
Zinke

## NOES—223

Adams	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguiar	Gillen	Olzewski
Amo	Golden (ME)	Omar
Ansari	Goldman (NY)	Pallone
Auchincloss	Gomez	Panetta
Balint	Gonzalez, V.	Pappas
Barragán	Goodlander	Pelosi
Beatty	Gottheimer	Perez
Bell	Gray	Perry
Bera	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
Beyer	Greene (GA)	Pettersen
Biggs (AZ)	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Bishop	Harris (MD)	Pocan
Bonamici	Hayes	Pou
Boyle (PA)	Himes	Pressley
Brown	Horsford	Quigley
Brownley	Houlihan	Randall
Budzinski	Hoyer	Raskin
Burchett	Hoyle (OR)	Riley (NY)
Bynum	Huffman	Rivas
Cabajal	Ivey	Ross
Carson	Jackson (IL)	Roy
Carter (LA)	Jacobs	Ruiz
Casar	Jayapal	Ryan
Case	Jeffries	Salinas
Casten	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Castor (FL)	Johnson (TX)	Scalise
Castro (TX)	Kamlager-Dove	Scanlon
Cherfilus-	Kaptur	Schakowsky
McCormick	Keating	Schneider
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
Cisneros	Kennedy (NY)	Schrier
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Clarke (NY)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Cleaver	Landsman	Self
Cloud	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Clyde	Latimer	Sherrill
Cohen	Lee (NV)	Simon
Conaway	Lee (PA)	Smith (WA)
Correa	Leger Fernandez	Sorensen
Costa	Levin	Soto
Courtney	Liccardo	Spartz
Craig	Lieu	Stansbury
Crane	Lofgren	Stanton
Crockett	Luna	Stevens
Crow	Lynch	Strickland
Cuellar	Magaziner	Subramanyam
Davids (KS)	Mannion	Suoizzi
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Swalwell
Davis (NC)	McBath	Sykes
Dean (PA)	McBride	Takano
DeGette	McClain Delaney	Thanedar
DeLauro	McClellan	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Deluzio	McDonald Rivet	Titus
DeSaulnier	McGarvey	Tlaib
Dexter	McGovern	Tokuda
Dingell	McIver	Tonko
Doggett	Meeks	Torres (CA)
Elfreth	Menendez	Torres (NY)
Escobar	Meng	Trahan
Espallat	Mfume	Tran
Evans (PA)	Min	Underwood
Fields	Moore (WI)	Vargas
Figures	Morelle	Vasquez
Fletcher	Morrison	Veasey
Foster	Moskowitz	Velázquez
Foushee	Moulton	Vindman
Frankel, Lois	Mrvan	Wasserman
Friedman	Mullin	Schultz
Frost	Nadler	Waters
Garamendi	Neal	Watson Coleman
Garcia (CA)	Neguse	Whitesides
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Williams (GA)

## NOT VOTING—13

Carter (GA)	Hunt	Ogles
Crawford	Loudermilk	Ramirez
Crenshaw	Luttrell	Wilson (FL)
Donalds	Massie	
Green (TN)	McCauley	

□ 1428

So the resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Scalise of Louisiana moves to reconsider the vote on adoption of H. Res. 580.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to reconsider.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY 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. 1717) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 33, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

YEAS—380

Adams	Budzinski	Cuellar
Aderholt	Bynum	Davids (KS)
Aguiar	Calvert	Davidson
Alford	Cammack	Davis (NC)
Allen	Carbajal	De La Cruz
Amo	Carey	Dean (PA)
Amodei (NV)	Carson	DeGette
Ansari	Carter (LA)	DeLauro
Arrington	Carter (TX)	DelBene
Auchincloss	Casar	Deluzio
Babin	Case	DeSaulnier
Bacon	Casten	DesJarlais
Baird	Castor (FL)	Dexter
Balderson	Castro (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Balint	Cherfilus-	Dingell
Barr	McCormick	Doggett
Barragán	Chu	Dunn (FL)
Barrett	Ciscomani	Edwards
Baumgartner	Cisneros	Elfreth
Bean (FL)	Clark (MA)	Ellzey
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Emmer
Begich	Cleaver	Escobar
Bell	Cline	Espallat
Bentz	Clyburn	Estes
Bera	Cohen	Evans (CO)
Bergman	Cole	Evans (PA)
Bice	Comer	Ezell
Bilirakis	Conaway	Fallon
Bishop	Correa	Fedorchak
Bonamici	Costa	Feenstra
Bost	Courtney	Fields
Boyle (PA)	Craig	Figures
Bresnahan	Crawford	Fine
Brown	Crenshaw	Finstad
Brownley	Crockett	Fischbach
Buchanan	Crow	Fitzgerald

Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frost  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gill (TX)  
Gillen  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Goldman (TX)  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez, V.  
Goodlander  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Graves  
Gray  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harder (CA)  
Haridopolos  
Harshbarger  
Hayes  
Hern (OK)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlihan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hurd (CO)  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jack  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (TX)  
Jacobs  
James  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kean  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Khanna  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Latta

Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Letlow  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lucas  
Lynch  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mannion  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McDonald Rivet  
McDowell  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McGuire  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Messmer  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Min  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olzewski  
Omar  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Patronis  
Pelosi  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pfluger  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Pou  
Quigley  
Randall  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Riley (NY)  
Rivas  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Ross

## NAYS—33

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

Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Boebert  
Brecheen  
Burchett

Burlison  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Collins  
Crane

Crank  
Donalds  
Downing  
Gooden  
Greene (GA)

Griffith	Kennedy (UT)	Pressley
Hageman	Luna	Roy
Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (NC)	Schmidt
Harrigan	Norman	Self
Harris (MD)	Onder	Spartz
Harris (NC)	Perry	Steube

## NOT VOTING—19

Beyer	Knott	Moore (WV)
Carter (GA)	Leger Fernandez	Ogles
Davis (IL)	Loudermilk	Ramirez
Green (TN)	Luttrell	Stauber
Hudson	Massie	Wilson (FL)
Hunt	McCauley	
Keating	Miller (IL)	

□ 1436

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY changed her 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 194, YEA on Roll Call No. 195, and YEA on Roll Call No. 196.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 196.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote No. 196 on H.R. 1717, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Nay when I should have voted Yea.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1721

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RULLI) at 5 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.

## COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 15, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On July 15, 2025, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session, with a quorum being present, to consider seven resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 15, 2025.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Enclosures.

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION GREATER METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND, OH AREA

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 126,000 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, currently located at 1501 Lakeside Ave East in Cleveland, OH, at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,794,740 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

*Provided that*, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 315 usable square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided that*, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 315 usable square feet or higher per person.

*Provided that*, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

*Provided further*, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

*Provided further*, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

*Provided further*, the Administrator of General Services shall require tenant agency(ies) to agree to reporting actual utilization data on at least an annual basis during occupancy and such reports shall be transmitted to the Committee.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
GREATER METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND, OH AREA**

Prospectus Number: POH-01-CL22  
Congressional Districts: 9, 11, 14, 16

**Executive Summary**

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 126,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located at 1501 Lakeside Ave East in Cleveland, Ohio. The FBI has occupied space in the building since 2002 under a lease that expires on January 31, 2027.

The lease will provide continued housing for the FBI and will improve the office and overall space utilization from 140 to 138 and 322 to 315 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively through an increase in personnel count.

**Description**

Occupant:	FBI
Current RSF:	121,912 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF <sup>1</sup> :	126,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	4,088 RSF Expansion
Current USF/Person:	322
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	315
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	1/31/2027
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Delineated Area:	West Boundary: Columbia Road, between Lake Erie to 480; South Boundary: Columbia Road (west point), running 1/2 mile south and parallel to 480 until meeting 71. Then 480 along Rockside Road east to the intersection of Rockside Road and Canal Road; East Boundary: North to 480. Then 480 west to 77 and then 77 north to the Central Business Area; North Boundary: Lake Erie.
Number of Official Parking Spaces <sup>2</sup> :	388
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$6,693,743 (lease effective 2/01/2002)

<sup>1</sup> The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.12; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.15 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

<sup>2</sup> Security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the leased location in addition to the official parking spaces identified in the prospectus. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, under an operating agreement with the lessor or part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building(s). If the additional parking resulting from security requirements is included in the leasehold interest in the building, the proposed total annual cost and maximum proposed rental rate may exceed the amounts indicated above.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
GREATER METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND, OH AREA**

Prospectus Number: POH-01-CL22  
Congressional Districts: 9, 11, 14, 16

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Estimated Rental Rate <sup>3</sup> :	\$45.99 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost <sup>4</sup> :	\$5,794,740

**Background**

FBI's mission is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies, and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

The FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in Cleveland, Ohio covers 8 resident agent offices. The current location is at 1501 Lakeside Avenue East.

**Justification**

The FBI's field office has been housed in downtown Cleveland since 2002 in a lease at 1501 Lakeside Avenue East that expires on January 31, 2027. The FBI has a continuing need for housing within the delineated area to ensure FBI mission continuity. The proposed project will result in utilization rate improvement with the FBI assigning additional personnel to the Cleveland field office.

**Summary of Energy Compliance**

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

**Resolutions of Approval**

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

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<sup>3</sup> This estimate is for fiscal year 2027 and may be escalated by 2.2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government.

<sup>4</sup> New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.



GSA

PBS

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**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
GREATER METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND, OH AREA**

Prospectus Number: POH-01-CL22  
Congressional Districts: 9, 11, 14, 16

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**Interim Leasing**

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
GREATER METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND, OH AREA**


Prospectus Number: POH-01-CL22  
Congressional Districts: 9, 11, 14, 16

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**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 7/9/2025

Recommended: 

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 

Administrator, General Services Administration

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CHARLOTTE, NC

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 172,000 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, currently located at 7915 Microsoft Way in Charlotte, NC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,256,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

*Provided that*, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 423 usable square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided that*, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not

enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 423 usable square feet or higher per person.

*Provided that*, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

*Provided further*, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

*Provided further*, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

*Provided further*, the Administrator of General Services shall require tenant agency(ies) to agree to reporting actual utilization data on at least an annual basis during occupancy and such reports shall be transmitted to the Committee.

GSA

PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CHARLOTTE, NC

Prospectus Number: PNC-01-CH23  
Congressional District: 12

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 172,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) currently located at 7915 Microsoft Way in Charlotte, NC. The FBI has occupied space in the building since 2011 under a lease that expires on June 16, 2026.

The lease will provide continued housing for the FBI and will improve the office and overall space utilization rates from 168 to 161 and 460 to 423 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Current RSF:	171,460
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF <sup>1</sup> :	172,000
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	460
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	423
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	06/16/2026
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: I-77, US 160 West Blvd. East: I-277, E 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, US 16 Providence Rd. West: West Blvd., I-485 South: I-485, South Blvd., E Woodland Rd., Selwyn Ave., Queens Rd., US 16 Providence Rd.
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	507
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$6,548,700 (lease effective 06/17/2011)
Estimated Rental Rate <sup>2</sup> :	\$48.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost <sup>3</sup> :	\$8,256,000

<sup>1</sup> The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.12.  
<sup>2</sup> This estimate is for fiscal year 2026 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.  
<sup>3</sup> New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CHARLOTTE, NC**

Prospectus Number: PNC-01-CH23  
Congressional District: 12

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**Background**

The mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice services to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

The FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. Field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. This Charlotte, NC, location serves as the main office of eight satellite resident agencies in Asheville, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Manteo, Hickory, Raleigh, and Wilmington.

**Justification**

The FBI is currently housed at 7915 Microsoft Way, Charlotte, NC, in a lease that expires June 16, 2026. The agency requires continued housing to carry out its mission and anticipates this need to continue beyond the 20-year term of this proposed lease.

GSA will consider whether the FBI's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for the FBI to accomplish its mission.

**Summary of Energy Compliance**

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

**Resolutions of Approval**

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CHARLOTTE, NC**

Prospectus Number: PNC-01-CH23  
Congressional District: 12

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**Interim Leasing**

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

**OMB Memorandum M-21-25 Implementations and Long-Term Space Requirements**

The requirements within this prospectus reflect the known space needs prior to its submission to Congress. Agencies continue to develop their return to physical workplaces strategies consistent with OMB Memorandum M-21-25, incorporate lessons learned while working both in-person and under maximum telework during the COVID-19 pandemic, and determine each agency's long-term space posture. Accordingly, the requirements outlined in this prospectus may change prior to award of a lease. In the event that a change results in a revised requirement that makes a material change and does not fit within the acceptable parameters of the congressional resolutions, GSA will submit an amended prospectus for consideration by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 12/20/2022 \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Administrator, General Services Administration

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 110,531 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, currently located at 8825 Nelson B. Klein Parkway in Indianapolis, IN, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,990,475 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

*Provided that*, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 440 usable square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided that*, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 440 usable square feet or higher per person.

*Provided that*, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

*Provided further*, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from

the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

*Provided further*, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

*Provided further*, the Administrator of General Services shall require tenant agency(ies) to agree to reporting actual utilization data on at least an annual basis during occupancy and such reports shall be transmitted to the Committee.



GSA

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PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Prospectus Number: PIN-01-IN24  
Congressional District: 5, 7

**Executive Summary**

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 110,531 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located at 8825 Nelson B. Klein Parkway in Indianapolis, Indiana. The FBI has occupied space in the building since 2011 under a lease that expires on August 3, 2026.

The lease will provide continued housing for the FBI and will improve the office and overall space utilization rates from 168 to 158 and 481 to 440 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

**Description**

Occupant:	FBI
Current RSF:	110,531 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	110,531 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.12)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	481
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	440
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	08/03/2026
Proposed Maximum Leasing Term:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Northern Border: 96th Street Western Border: Raceway Rd. Southern Border: County Line Rd. Eastern Border: Mainly Carroll Rd. (This is not clearly defined by a street, but in most places, it is Carroll Rd.)
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	122
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$4,660,919 (lease effective 08/04/2011)
Estimated Rental Rate: <sup>1</sup>	\$45.15 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost: <sup>2</sup>	\$4,990,475

**Background**

<sup>1</sup> This estimate is for fiscal year 2026 and may be escalated by 2.2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

<sup>2</sup> New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

Prospectus Number: PIN-01-IN24  
Congressional District: 5, 7

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The FBI's mission is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats; to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States; to provide leadership and criminal justice to Federal, State, municipal, and international agencies, and partners; and to perform these responsibilities in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the public and is faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

The FBI has 56 field offices located in metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The field office locations carry out investigations, assess regional crime threats, and work with partners on cases and operations. The FBI field office in Indianapolis, Indiana, covers 9 resident agent offices. The current location at 8825 Nelson B. Klein Pkwy was a build-to-suit lease completed in 2011 for the FBI as the sole tenant.

**Justification**

The FBI's field office is currently housed at 8825 Nelson B. Klein Parkway in a lease that expires August 3, 2026. The FBI has a continuing need for housing to ensure mission continuity. The agency anticipates maintaining its latest space requirements beyond the proposed term of this lease (20 years). The proposed lease will result in utilization rate improvement, housing of additional personnel, and maintaining mission readiness to provide efficient operations.

GSA will consider whether the FBI's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to determine whether the Government can expect to recover the relocation and duplication costs of real and personal property needed for the FBI to accomplish its mission.

**Summary of Energy Compliance**

The Government will incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability requirements into the Request for Lease Proposal and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. The Government encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement, and to the maximum extent practicable requires offerors to comply with the Energy Star requirement and other statutory and regulatory requirements.

**Resolutions of Approval**

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

Prospectus Number: PIN-01-IN24  
Congressional District: 5, 7

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constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

**Interim Leasing**

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

**OMB Memorandums M-21-25 and M-23-15 Implementation and Long-Term Space Requirements**

The requirements within this prospectus reflect the known space needs prior to its submission to Congress. Agencies continue to develop their long term workplace strategies consistent with OMB Memorandums M-21-25 and M-23-15, incorporate lessons learned while working both in-person and under maximum telework during the COVID-19 pandemic, and determine each agency's long-term space posture. Accordingly, the requirements outlined in this prospectus may change prior to award of a lease. In the event that a change results in a revised requirement that makes a material change and does not fit within the acceptable parameters of the congressional resolutions, GSA will submit an amended prospectus for consideration by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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**PROSPECTUS – LEASE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

Prospectus Number: PIN-01-IN24  
Congressional District: 5, 7

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**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 10/24/2023

Recommended: Elliot Doomes  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Ralph Carnahan  
Administrator, General Services Administration

January 2023

Housing Plan  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PIN-01-IN24  
Indianapolis, IN

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) <sup>1</sup>				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage <sup>5</sup>	Special <sup>6</sup>	Total
8825 Nelson B. Klein Parkway, Indianapolis, IN	206	206	44,398	14,740	39,969	99,107						
Estimated/Proposed Lease												
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>44,398</b>	<b>14,740</b>	<b>39,969</b>	<b>99,107</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>45,608</b>	<b>13,530</b>	<b>39,969</b>	<b>99,107</b>

Office Utilization Rate (UR) <sup>2</sup>		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	168	158

UR = average amount of office space per person  
Current UR excludes 9,768 USF of office support space.  
Proposed UR excludes 10,034 USF of office support space.

Overall UR <sup>3</sup>		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	481	440

R/U Factor <sup>4</sup>			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
	99,107	1.12	110,531
	Estimated/Proposed	99,107	110,531

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.  
<sup>2</sup> Calculation excludes the judiciary, Congress and agencies with fewer than 10 people.  
<sup>3</sup> USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel  
<sup>4</sup> R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF  
<sup>5</sup> Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of special space.  
<sup>6</sup> Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

Special Space <sup>6</sup>	USF
ADP Space	4,834
Conference/Training	6,360
Copy Center	1,550
Fitness Center	3,400
Food Service	1,410
Loading Docks	500
Mail Rooms	850
Restrooms	240
Automotive Bay	9,825
Corridor	130
Evidence Processing	3,350
Interview Room	1,400
Special Storage	300
Technical/Operations Room	5,100
Visitor Screening Facility	420
Weapons Vault	300
Total	39,969

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
ALTERATION—OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM,  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the reconfiguration and renovation of core assets under the United States General Services Administration's (GSA's) jurisdiction, custody, or control to support efforts to optimize space configuration and performance; deliver the best value in real estate to GSA's customer agencies across the government;

reduce the government's footprint; and achieve significant annual cost savings for taxpayers at a total cost of \$150,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included as part of this resolution.

*Provided*, that General Services Administration shall not delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, that an Expenditure Plan be submitted to the Committee prior to expenditure of any funds.

*Provided further*, projects funded shall demonstrate a clear connection to long-term footprint reduction, including but not lim-

ited to sale, disposal, relinquishment, or substantial reductions in rentable square footage or financial costs.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the program.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: POP-0001-MU25

**FY 2025 Project Summary**

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the reconfiguration and renovation of core assets under GSA’s jurisdiction, custody, or control to support efforts to optimize space configuration and performance; deliver the best value in real estate to our customer agencies across government; reduce the government’s footprint; and achieve significant annual cost savings for taxpayers. This proposed Optimization Program facilitates GSA’s strategic divestiture of unneeded federally owned assets and reduces the reliance on privately owned space.

**FY 2025 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested.....\$425,000,000**

**Program Summary**

As part of GSA’s ongoing efforts to right-size and modernize the Federal Government’s real estate footprint in support of agencies’ missions, GSA is identifying opportunities to optimize space within its inventory of real property assets. GSA continues to partner with federal agencies to transform federal workspaces for the future and to make the federal footprint more sustainable and cost effective for taxpayers. Projects will vary in size by location, agency mission and operations. Funding in this program will help to modernize federally owned buildings under GSA’s jurisdiction, custody and control, as well as fund customer agency tenant improvements, furnishings, equipment, and any necessary move expenses.

Typical projects will include one or more of the following elements:

- Modernization and reconfiguration of existing federally owned space under the jurisdiction, custody and control of GSA to accommodate new customer agency space assignments and the reconfiguration of existing occupied space;
- Rightsizing the federal footprint, including restacking, consolidation, co-location and strategic disposition, to account for anticipated remote and hybrid work arrangements;
- Alterations, building system and technology upgrades, such as fire sprinklers, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, or smart building technology needed as part of a relocation, optimization, consolidation, co-location, disposition, or any combination of the foregoing; and
- Acquiring customer agency furniture, fixtures and equipment, physical move services, or a combination of the foregoing.



GSA

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**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: POP-0001-MU25

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Preference will be given to projects that are interrelated to the disposition of assets that no longer support the mission needs of the Federal Government and agency co-location projects that facilitate shared resources and shared special space.

Projects will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Projects that result in a reduction of repair liabilities in core assets;
- Projects that result in an improvement in the utilization of customer agency space assignments;
- Projects that facilitate reductions in the cost to operate and maintain federally owned properties in GSA's portfolio;
- Projects that result in an overall cost savings for the American taxpayer;
- Projects that result in the reduction of unneeded Federally owned space; and
- Projects that result in the release of leased space.

**Justification**

Executive departments and agencies have been evaluating how their work environments can be structured to most effectively achieve their missions while strengthening their organizations for the future. As federal agencies rethink their workspace and workplace requirements, GSA, as the government's largest civilian real estate provider of space and services, plays a key role in helping federal agencies carry out their plans and work to facilitate the Federal Government's transition to an optimal real estate footprint that saves taxpayer dollars. Funding for portfolio optimization is essential so that GSA can execute those opportunities in GSA controlled space.

GSA will make critical investments in federally owned GSA assets to allow for the consolidation of federally owned or leased space, the disposal of buildings that do not or cannot meet performance standards and the long-term financial viability of the optimized portfolio.

Federal agencies have identified lack of resources as the main challenge in achieving optimal utilization of workspaces. An optimization program that includes funding for agency tenant improvements, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment, and necessary move expenses will provide more reliable funding to address this challenge.

Overall, the optimization program will result in improved space utilization, cost savings for the American taxpayer and a more sustainable portfolio.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: POP-0001-MU25

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**Summary of Energy, Water, Sustainability, and Climate Risk Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the PBS-P100, *Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service*. GSA will focus on design and construction opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies that minimize operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate sustainable design principles into projects, reduce the environmental impact of materials, and address climate risk liabilities in a manner that is life cycle cost effective.

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**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION  
OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: POP-0001-MU25

**Certification of Need**

GSA has determined that the proposed Optimization Program is the most practical solution to meeting the strategic priority of rightsizing and modernizing the federal government's real estate footprint in support of agencies' missions and the American people.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 4/1/2024

Recommended: Elliot Doomes  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Patricia Carrahan  
Administrator, General Services Administration

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

AMENDED PROSPECTUS—ALTERATION, JACOB K.  
JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX, NEW  
YORK, NY

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a repair and alteration project for the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building (Javits FOB) Complex located at 26 Federal Plaza in New

York, NY, to upgrade the legacy fire alarm system in approximately half of the Javits FOB Complex to match the modern fire alarm system partially installed, demolish and abate select space and build out new space for both the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and the National Labor Relations Board for a total estimated project cost of \$37,195,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

*Provided further*, that the United States General Services Administration shall not

delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX  
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-NY25  
Congressional District: 10

**FY 2025 Project Summary**

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the Jacob K. Javits Federal Office Building (Javits FOB) Complex located at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY. The proposed project will upgrade the legacy fire alarm system in approximately half of the Javits FOB Complex to match the modern fire alarm system partially installed, demolish and abate select space and build out new space for both the Department of Justice Antitrust Division (ATR) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), respectively.

**FY 2025 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested**

(Design, Construction, and Management & Inspection).....\$37,195,000

**Major Work Items**

Fire protection; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), electrical, and plumbing upgrades; demolition/abatement; and interior construction

**Project Budget**

Design .....\$3,189,000  
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) .....31,908,000  
Management and Inspection (M&I).....2,098,000  
**Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC).....\$37,195,000**

\*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

**Schedule**

	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
Design and Construction	FY2025	FY2029

**Building**

The Javits FOB Complex consists of three interconnected buildings - the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building (Javits FOB), the Annex and the James L. Watson Court of International Trade (CIT). The Javits FOB, a 45-story office building was constructed in 1967 along with the CIT, an 8-story court/office building. In 1977, the Annex, a 45-story office building was built along the west side of the original Javits FOB in 1977. The CIT is connected to the Javits FOB via a 4-story pedestrian bridge. The entire Javits FOB Complex consists of over 2.8 million gross square feet of space.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX  
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-NY25  
Congressional District: 10

**Tenant Agencies**

Court of International Trade; Department of Agriculture; Department of Commerce; Department of Justice; Department of Labor; US Postal Service; Department of State; Internal Revenue Service; Department of Defense; US Tax Court; Social Security Administration; Merit Systems Protection Board; Railroad Retirement Board; National Labor Relations Board; Department of Homeland Security; Small Business Administration; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Agency for Global Media, and GSA

**Proposed Project**

The project will upgrade the legacy building fire alarm system serving the Javits FOB, Annex, and CIT. Under a previously completed 2016 prospectus project, a new fire alarm system backbone was installed serving all floors in the Javits FOB and Annex. After the system backbone was installed, subsequent projects with large floor renovations were integrated into the new system utilizing new Fire Alarm Control Units (FACUs) wired into the new backbone. Currently, approximately half of the main building remains on the old system and the other half has been migrated to the new system. The goal of the proposed project is to integrate the remaining floors of the Javits FOB and Annex served by the old system into the new system utilizing new FACUs and most of the existing wiring and devices on the floors. The CIT building remains served by the old system, requires more extensive work, including a new fiber riser networked back to the main building backbone, and will be the subject of a project proposed in a future fiscal year.

The project also includes the demolition and abatement of all space previously assigned to NLRB and ATR as well as GSA – controlled vacant space, and the associated common restrooms. The project will include the buildout of interior space, including partitions, finishes and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems upgrades for the NLRB and ATR.

**Major Work Items**

Fire Protection Upgrades	\$20,695,000
Demolition/Hazardous Material Abatement	5,085,000
Interior Construction	2,575,000
HVAC Upgrades	1,734,000
Electrical Upgrades	1,386,000
Plumbing Upgrades	<u>433,000</u>
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>\$31,908,000</b>

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX  
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-NY25  
Congressional District: 10

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**Justification**

The building is currently operating with two fire alarm systems – a legacy system, and a system that was upgraded under a previously completed 2016 prospectus level project. Technology differences between the systems require staff and emergency personnel to manually check both panel displays when an alarm is triggered, and either operate both panels to silence, acknowledge, or reset. The legacy system dates to the 1980's and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Parts needed for a repair or replacement cannot be purchased through official distributors. The old system controls all the life safety functions (elevator recall, fan shutdown, fire pump monitoring, generator monitoring). If an essential component of the older system failed it would cause the legacy system to fail, consequently resulting in decommissioning of the fire alarm system for roughly half of the building. This would require emergency repairs to swing over the controls and an expensive, extensive continuous fire watch until the system is brought back online or upgraded.

Both NLRB and ATR were previously housed in approximately 15,000 and 14,000 square feet, respectively within the Javits FOB. In March 2022, a series of hazardous materials releases occurred within the interior spaces that were caused by vibrations from the construction work on the floor above coupled with the deteriorated condition of the fireproofing above the ceiling. To protect occupant agencies from further hazardous materials releases in the spaces, GSA relocated both agencies to alternative locations in existing federally controlled space. Both agencies have advised GSA that the temporary alternative space does not meet their long-term needs and is disruptive to their operations. The proposed project within Javits FOB meets the long-term requirements of both Federal agencies.

**Summary of Energy, Water, Sustainability, and Climate Risk Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of *PBS-P100, Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service*. GSA will focus on design and construction opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies that minimize operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate sustainable design principles into projects, reduce the environmental impact of materials, and address climate risk liabilities in a manner that is life cycle cost effective.

**Prior Appropriations**

None

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX  
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-NY25  
Congressional District: 10

**Prior Committee Approvals**

None

**Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)**

PNY-0282-NY14	Renovation of Building Core	2014	\$6,520,000
	Surrounding FBI space		
PNY-0282-NY16	Consolidation Build-Out	2016	\$104,893,580*
* \$7,660,000 was funded in FY15 through a reprogramming, \$96,244,000 was funded through the FY16 Major R&A Expenditure Plan, and \$889,580 was funded in FY 2021 through an escalation.			
PNY-0282-NY18	Plaza Structural Repairs	2018	\$65,712,000
PNY-0282-NY20	USAO Swing Space Construction	2020	\$33,288,000
PNY-0282-NY21	Building Structural Upgrades	2021	\$56,000,000

**Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)**

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation, and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

**Recommendation**

ALTERATION



GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLEX  
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-0282-NY25  
Congressional District: 10

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**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 4/1/2024

Recommended: Elliot Doomes  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Adam Carnahan  
Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
ALTERATION—CARL B. STOKES U.S.  
COURTHOUSE, CLEVELAND, OH

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a repair and alteration project for the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse located at 801 W. Su-

perior Avenue in Cleveland, OH, to upgrade the building's fire alarm system for a total estimated project cost of \$14,942,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

*Provided further*, that the U.S. General Services Administration shall not delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
CARL B. STOKES U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OH**

Prospectus Number: POH-0301-CL25  
Congressional District: 11

**FY 2025 Project Summary**

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse (Stokes Courthouse) located at 801 W. Superior Ave. in Cleveland, OH. The project will upgrade the building's fire alarm system.

**FY 2025 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested**

**(Design, Construction, and Management & Inspection).....\$14,942,000**

The fire alarm scope requested herein was submitted previously as part of a larger building-wide proposed prospectus project in FY 2023. Although this prospectus was approved by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on July 20, 2022, and November 19, 2022, respectively, funding for the full scope was not appropriated. Due to the emergent need and life safety concerns with the fire alarm system, GSA is now seeking approval and appropriation for a stand-alone fire alarm project.

**Major Work Items**

Fire protection upgrades; interior construction

**Project Budget**

Design .....	\$1,319,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) .....	12,455,000
Management and Inspection (M&I) .....	1,168,000
<b>Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC) .....</b>	<b>\$14,942,000</b>

\*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

**Schedule**

	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
Design and Construction	FY 2025	FY 2030

**Building**

The Stokes Courthouse is a 747,032 gross square foot building with 21 stories above grade and 3 below grade. Construction of the building was completed in 2002, and its primary function is to serve as a federal courthouse. The Stokes Courthouse is located at the intersection of Superior Avenue and Huron Road. The building acts as an anchor to the downtown area of Cleveland and is prominent in the city's skyline.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
CARL B. STOKES U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OH**

Prospectus Number: POH-0301-CL25  
Congressional District: 11

**Tenant Agencies**

Judiciary – District Court, Magistrate Court, Court of Appeals, Probation and Pre-trial Services; Department of Justice – U.S. Marshals Service, Executive Office of Immigration Review, U.S. Attorney, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Senate and GSA

**Proposed Project**

The project proposes to upgrade the building's fire alarm system that has exceeded its useful life. The main fire alarm control panel will be replaced and other components throughout the building will be repaired or replaced. All finishes disturbed by the installation of the new fire alarm will be restored.

**Major Work Items**

Fire Protection	\$10,114,000
Interior Construction	<u>2,341,000</u>
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>\$12,455,000</b>

**Justification**

The existing fire alarm, installed in 2001, is past its useful life and affected by major deficiencies. There are service and reliability issues between the main panel and the sub-panels. Compatible replacement parts are no longer produced, and the supply of spare parts is depleted. All newly manufactured components are incompatible with the existing system's firmware. Maintaining the system in a fully operational condition is extremely difficult as spare parts are unavailable and currently produced components are incompatible.

GSA has determined that there was improper installation of a select number of the smoke detectors, with the detectors not installed to the fire codes; lacking correct separation distance from HVAC equipment. There are also pressurization issues in the stairwells and library atrium. The cause of the pressurization issues is the atrium's smoke control system. It creates a pressure differential that inhibits egress in some areas as over-pressurization requires more force to open doors. The project scope includes improvements to the atrium and rebalancing the system which will eliminate the pressurization issues.

**Summary of Energy, Water, Sustainability, and Climate Risk Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of *PBS-P100, Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service*. GSA will focus on design and construction

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**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
CARL B. STOKES U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OH**

Prospectus Number: POH-0301-CL25  
Congressional District: 11

opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies that minimize operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate sustainable design principles into projects, reduce the environmental impact of materials, and address climate risk liabilities in a manner that is life cycle cost effective.

**Prior Appropriations**

None

**Prior Committee Approvals**

None

**Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)**

Prospectus	Description	FY	Amount
POH-0301-CL23	Plaza Replacement - Design, M&I	2023	\$10,235,000

**Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)**

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation, and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

**Recommendation**

ALTERATION

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
CARL B. STOKES U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OH

Prospectus Number: POH-0301-CL25  
Congressional District: 11

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**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 4/1/2024

Recommended: Elliot Doomes  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Robin Carnahan  
Administrator, General Services Administration

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

AMENDED PROSPECTUS—ALTERATION RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX, WASHINGTON, DC

*Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives*, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a repair and alteration project for the Ronald Reagan Building Complex (RRB Complex) located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW in Washington, DC, for the full replacement of the fire alarm system and completion of tar-

geted fire protection and life safety repairs and upgrades throughout the RRB Complex, at an additional design cost of \$2,136,000, an additional estimated construction cost of \$28,199,000 and a reduction in management and inspection cost of \$40,000, for a total additional cost of \$30,295,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends Prospectus No. PDC-0000AF-DC22 adopted by the Committee on October 27, 2021.

*Provided further*, that the United States General Services Administration shall not

delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

*Provided further*, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

GSA

PBS

AMENDED PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX  
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000AF-DC25

**FY 2025 Project Summary**

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the Ronald Reagan Building Complex (RRB Complex) located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The proposed project includes the full replacement of the fire alarm system and completion of targeted fire protection and life safety repairs/upgrades throughout the RRB Complex.

**FY 2025 House Committee Approval Requested**

(Design, Construction, and Management & Inspection)..... \$30,295,000<sup>1</sup>

This prospectus amends Prospectus No. PDC-0000AF-DC22 GSA is requesting approval of an additional estimated design cost of \$2,136,000, additional estimated construction cost of \$28,199,000 and a reduction in management and inspection cost of \$40,000, for a total additional cost escalation of \$30,295,000 due to time, labor, and market conditions.

**FY 2025 Senate Committee Approval Requested**

(Additional Design, Construction, and Management & Inspection)..... \$4,511,000<sup>2</sup>

This prospectus amends Prospectus No. PDC-0000AF-DC24. GSA is requesting approval of additional design cost of \$786,000, additional construction cost of \$4,524,000 and a reduction in management and inspection cost of \$799,000, for a total additional cost of \$4,511,000 for cost escalation due to time, labor, and market conditions.

**FY 2025 Committee Appropriation Requested**

(Design, Construction, and Management & Inspection).....\$95,095,000

**Major Work Items**

Fire protection and life-safety replacement/upgrades

<sup>1</sup> Prospectus PDC-0000AF-DC22 was approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on October 27, 2021, and January 12, 2022 respectively, for design cost of \$5,048,000, estimated construction cost of \$55,551,000, and management and inspection costs of \$4,201,000, for a total cost of \$64,800,000, but no appropriations were received.

<sup>2</sup> Prospectus No. PDC-0000AF-DC24 was approved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on November 20, 2024, for additional design cost of \$1,350,000, additional estimated construction cost of \$23,675,000, and additional management and inspection costs of \$759,000, for a total additional cost of \$25,784,000, however no appropriations were received.



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**AMENDED PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX  
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000AF-DC25

**Project Budget**

Design .....	\$7,184,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) .....	83,750,000
Management and Inspection (M&I) .....	4,161,000
<b>Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC) .....</b>	<b>\$95,095,000</b>

\*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by GSA.

**Schedule**

	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
Design and Construction	FY 2025	FY 2028

**Building**

The RRB Complex is a 3.88 million gross square foot, 10-story, mixed-use office building and includes a Federal Office Building (FOB), an International Trade Center (ITC), and a public parking garage. The building has five separate office towers connected by an atrium and public concourse areas and was constructed in 1996. The building is situated on 9.9 acres of land with 1,950 parking spaces.

**Tenant Agencies**

Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection Mission Support Facilities; Environmental Protection Agency; GSA - Public Buildings Service Field Office, Outleased Space; Department of Commerce - Office of the Secretary; and House of Representatives

**Proposed Project**

The project proposes the full replacement of the fire alarm system. In addition, the project proposes to complete targeted fire protection and life safety repairs in order to bring the entire building up to current fire protection and life safety code standards.

**Major Work Items**

Fire Protection and life-safety/replacement/upgrades	\$83,750,000
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>\$83,750,000</b>

**Justification**

The RRB Complex's main fire alarm system requires replacement. The system has reached the end of its useful life, and the manufacturer has issued notice that the panel will no

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX  
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000AF-DC25

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longer be supported with parts and service. Presently, when failures arise, GSA has to send existing parts out to second-party electronics refurbishers to be repaired.

In addition to replacement of the fire alarm system, numerous life-safety improvements are necessary, including relocating, expanding, and installing sprinkler replacements in accordance with applicable nationally recognized codes and standards as well as Federal laws and regulations, installing firestopping where it is missing or inadequate, providing additional signaling and notification device coverage, correcting inadequate exit signage, and directing egress to outdoor pathways.

The repairs or replacement of the fire and life safety systems will provide reliable, efficient service and ensure that current building codes, fire, life safety, and accessibility requirements are met. If the existing system fails, GSA will be required to implement a fire watch. Depending on the type and extent of the impairment, the cost of the fire watch could amount to approximately \$150,000 per day.

**Summary of Energy, Water, and High-Performance Green Building Compliance**

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of PBS Core Building Standards (CBS). GSA will focus on design and construction opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies to minimize operating costs, incorporate sustainable design principles, and reduce the environmental impact of materials in a manner that is life cycle cost effective in accordance with 42 United States Code 6834.

**Prior Appropriations**

None

GSAPBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX  
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000AF-DC25

**Prior Committee Approvals**

<b>Prior Committee Approvals</b>			
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
House T&I	10/27/2021	\$64,800,000	Design = \$5,048,000 ECC = \$55,551,000 M&I = \$4,201,000
Senate EPW	01/12/2022	\$64,800,000	Design = \$5,048,000 ECC = \$55,551,000 M&I = \$4,201,000
Senate EPW	11/20/2024	\$90,584,000	Additional Design = \$6,398,000 Additional ECC = \$79,226,000 Additional M&I = \$4,960,000
<b>Approvals to Date</b>		<b>\$64,800,000</b> <b>\$90,584,000</b>	<b>House T&amp;I</b> <b>Senate EPW</b>

**Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years):**

None

**Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)**

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation, and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

**Recommendation**

ALTERATION

GSAPBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING COMPLEX  
WASHINGTON, DC**


Prospectus Number: PDC-0000AF-DC25

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**Certification of Need**

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 6/11/2025

Recommended: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 15, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on July 15, 2025, at 4:35 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Hostage-Taking and the Wrongful Detention of United States Nationals Abroad.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO  
HOSTAGE-TAKING AND THE  
WRONGFUL DETENTION OF  
UNITED STATES NATIONALS  
ABROAD—MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-69)

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond July 19, 2025.

Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals are heinous acts that undermine the rule of law. Terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gain—as well as foreign states that engage in the practice of wrongful detention, including for political leverage or to seek concessions from the United States—threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States nationals and other persons abroad. Hostage-taking and the wrongful de-

tention of United States nationals abroad continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14078 with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2025.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY  
OF ERIC TARPINIAN-JACHYM

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of Eric Tarpinian-Jachym of Granby, Massachusetts, who was an intern in my office.

Eric's life was tragically cut short by a senseless act of violence in our Nation's Capital. Eric was an innocent bystander who was gunned down as he walked down the street less than one mile from the White House.

I offer my prayers and condolences to Eric's family, friends, and loved ones.

Eric was a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who came to Washington to participate in our government. He was a kind and friendly presence in my office, greeting everyone who came through the door with a smile.

The loss of Eric will be felt for a long time. We will never forget his presence and kindness in my office. Those he met in his short time in my office will not forget him either.

Eric Tarpinian-Jachym was a dedicated, thoughtful, and kind person who loved our country, and he gave his life in service to others. I thank him for his service and for the impact he made on our lives. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) in paying tribute to Eric Tarpinian-Jachym of Granby, Massachusetts, who tragically lost his life here in Washington.

Eric was a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts, a proud graduate of Granby Public Schools, and a young man of great promise. He came to Capitol Hill eager to learn, contribute, and serve the people and this great institution, only motivated by idealism and a commitment to public service. Through his determination and intellect, he accomplished all of that.

Those who were close to Eric speak of his thoughtfulness, curiosity, and noteworthy commitment to learning about his government. He loved archery, fishing, and the great outdoors, but surely it will be his character that is remembered most.

To his parents, Tamara and Robert; his siblings, Angela and Jeremy; and

all who loved him, including his best buddy Hunter, our deepest condolences on behalf of the United States of America. May his memory be a blessing for all of us.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence to remember Eric Jachym.

□ 1730

RESTORE FUNDING FOR EDESIA'S  
PLUMPY'NUT

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 28th time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children. I see some of my friends and colleagues are here who perhaps haven't heard this before. I will set aside my prepared remarks.

This is Plumpy'Nut. It is a peanut paste that is used to treat children with malnutrition whose organs are no longer able to process food because they are starving.

Prior to January, the United States of America saved the lives of millions of children by shipping this peanut paste that is manufactured here in the United States to children around the world. That program was halted when funding for USAID was stopped by the Trump administration.

However, the Trump administration has said repeatedly that they intend to restore funding for this program. Marco Rubio said it. Elon Musk said it when he was still running DOGE. They have still yet to do it.

There are thousands of boxes of this product sitting in warehouses in Georgia and in Rhode Island. All that we need is for someone in the administration to sign a piece of paper to get the shipments going again. Every day that we do not is a day that children are starving.

We are not asking the administration to change their policy. We are just asking them to deliver on their stated policy. We are asking them to restore the shipments and to save lives.

FIXING OUR FORESTS

(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, with the budget reconciliation package now signed into law, we are finally taking real steps to fix our forests. This is something we have needed for many years in California and all over the West.

The law directs the Forest Service to increase timber sales by 250 million board feet each year and the Bureau of Land Management by another 20 million.

My colleagues might wonder: Wow, 250 million sounds like a lot. It would

sound like a lot, but if my friends knew that our forests are growing ten times the amount of board feet versus what is being taken out each year, they would know we are going to fall farther and farther behind unless we get more aggressive on forest management policy.

Therefore, we will get many more million-acre wildfires and smoke plumes coming all the way to the East Coast, as came for my district in what was known as the Dixie fire just a few years ago.

We will get more and more dead trees coming out of the forest. We will get more logs heading to our local mills. Why is the U.S. the number one importer of wood products when we are burning it in our own Western States? There will be less fields sitting there, waiting to burn if we take this stuff out of the forest.

It is very important in northern California, and in the Western States it is very important. We have lived through these devastating wildfires time and time again, and we are getting really tired of it.

Better forest management isn't an option. It is a necessity. This is the people's lands and the people's asset. If the Federal Government isn't going to take care of it, we need to find more partners to do it otherwise.

This requires long-term contracts, giving the industry more continuity. They will know that if they invest tens of millions of dollars building a mill, they will be able to pay for that mill over the years by having a continuous flow of timber to them.

It is important for our small towns and for the jobs that used to be in them and for the businesses that are now boarded up because of the issues of crime and domestic abuse when people don't have work. They need that work. They need those jobs. We need that for our economy. Make it in the USA.

#### REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF CAMP MYSTIC

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, earlier today here on the House floor, I rose to lead the Texas delegation, my friends, and this entire body in a moment of silence for all of those who have been affected by the floods in Texas, particularly those that were affected in the district in which I am proud to represent in central Texas.

It has always been an honor, as I often say out on the campaign trail, to represent the best part of the best State in the best country in the history of the world. That particular part of the State is, as one of my staffers describe it, Heaven on Earth. At least that is how many of us have viewed it historically.

For now a century, it is the reason why there have been multiple camps for children along this beautiful part of

the Texas Hill Country, the centerpiece of which is the Guadalupe River.

Those people who live along it cherish it. Those people who go there for camp cherish it. We have been experiencing the tragedy and the loss of life that now so many across the country have associated with it.

I will turn time over to my colleagues because I have certainly been able to express a lot of my views about this. I want to say just a couple of things in kicking this off.

I view things through the lens of the stories of heroism, the stories of courage, the lives that were saved, the people that were airlifted, the Coast Guard that responded, the sheriffs and the local law enforcement that showed up, the first responders that helped, the State that was on the scene, the camp counselors who showed up, the camp directors who gave their lives, all of the people who showed up and the spirit and the strong faith of a community bonded together by faith that now endures.

That, to me, is the enduring legacy. I tend to look through that lens. From those of us who understand Texas best, I don't think we should miss this moment for the people of this Nation to understand how horrific this truly was.

When I went on the scene—and several of us were there quickly for a variety of reasons, which we will all hear about in a minute. When I went on the scene on the night of July 4 and then again on the 5th and the 6th, and then driving out to go look at the damage and meet with my constituents and meet with people affected, it looked like an F5 tornado had just rolled down the river.

Mr. Speaker, 100-year-old trees were leveled and flattened. Houses were totally destroyed and lifted off the foundation. There was debris. Pickup trucks were fully buried with a little part of them sticking out of the ground.

Of course, as we have been talking about, there is the extraordinary loss of life. We are now at well over 100 individuals who are now deceased that are officially known in Kerr County, but many more are expected. There are well over 100 individuals who are missing.

Of course, now somewhat of note for the entire country are these wonderful little girls associated with Camp Mystic. My children are 15 and 14. They are a rising sophomore and freshman. Many of their schoolmates and many of their friends go to Camp Mystic or go to Camp La Junta or one of the other wonderful camps up and down this area and this part of Texas.

It is hard to put into words how much this is a part of the fabric of our community in central Texas but really particularly the entire State of Texas and even nationwide.

Many of our colleagues were impacted by this. We have colleagues from Georgia and other colleagues across the entire Nation. I had col-

leagues from Alabama reach out because they had constituents who were lost. It is a wonderful vacation spot that was obviously turned on its head.

The extraordinary impact is going to be felt for a long time, and we are going to have to rebuild. We will have to take the time and the energy necessary to do it. It is, as I believe, the spirit of the entire community that will endure.

As I said earlier—and I will talk about more of this later—it is for me the enduring image of those little girls leaving the camp, singing hymns, while they surveyed the damage.

It is the people who showed up with crosses and the people who showed up in prayer groups. It is the people who showed up from churches.

They are the Samaritans and first volunteers who showed up within days to clean out mud and the people who have rallied around this community.

They are the people across this country who have done so through faith and belief and the power of what these little girls represent and the charm bracelets that they wear. These bracelets were made by the local jewelry store, James Avery, which is a part of the rich history and tradition.

I could go on, but my colleague from West Texas has personal experience with this because his family has been associated with these camps for generations. I am going to let my friend, Mr. PFLUGER, fill in a little bit of the personal nature of this. I look forward to hearing from the remainder of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that he has done a great job of representing in a very tough time. It is easy to lead when times are good. When times are tough, we see character. Mr. ROY has done a very nice job, an extraordinary job, in leading in a very challenging situation.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor all of the lives that were lost during this devastating and tragic series of floods that swept through central and west Texas last week and to recognize the bravery and the selflessness of the heroes who stepped up when they were needed most. I will start by honoring the memory of the 11 lives that were lost from my district.

They were: Officer Bailey Martin, Bobby Martin, Amanda Martin; and Jayda Floyd from Odessa. Lost from Midland were Michelle and Cody Crossland; and Joel, Kyndall, and Tasha Ramos; Tanya Burwick from Blackwell, who worked in San Angelo for many years; and Steve Edwards from San Angelo.

□ 1740

These lives were lost far too soon, selfless individuals, leaders, officers in the police force, and people whom we

will miss dearly. We will continue to pray for the many more whose lives have been lost and for those families that are still searching for them, hoping and praying for a miracle.

I sent my young girls to Camp Mystic for a couple of reasons. Number one is because, for young women, this was a place where they didn't have access to the digital world. They had access to relationships. They were taught about faith. They were placed in cabins with other young girls where they learned how to develop friendships. They learned things like horseback riding, archery, swimming, and camp craft.

My girls are fourth-generation campers at Camp Mystic. I learned about this when I was a kid and went to many closing ceremonies as a young child, watching my sister and her friends. Now, I have had the opportunity to watch my own girls for the last 10 years attend this camp.

I want to say that my wife, Camille, and I are eternally grateful that we are reunited with my two daughters who were present at the camp during this tragedy. While we rejoice their safety, and I will be forever grateful to God for sparing their lives, we are mourning and deeply grieving the many families who are having to say good-bye to their loved ones and to their daughters up and down the river, campers who were there for the Fourth of July to celebrate our Nation's independence and to celebrate being with families.

It is just unimaginable the grief. It is unimaginable the heartbreak, especially those young kids and those young girls specifically at Camp Mystic.

I want to honor Dick Eastland, who was the owner of Camp Mystic. He was a man whom I have known my entire life, a man who gave his life trying to save campers at Camp Mystic.

The Eastland family for years has poured their lives into young women, building these young women and these young ladies to be women of faith, to be women of character, to be citizens of this great Nation, and to raise families in a way that we would see the character and the strength of their faith.

Dick Eastland and the entire Eastland family are like many other families throughout this country who run camps. Whether they are Boy Scout camps, Girl Scout camps, YMCA camps, summer camps, or church camps, it doesn't matter. These camps are important to our Nation. In ways that sometimes parents can't always do, these camps represent a place where these kids can come to learn how to be better citizens, better friends, and better community members. They are important.

Camp Mystic was important. The image that I will never forget in my mind as I walked the camp just 2 days after this tragedy is where my young daughter stood getting away from the flood that was rising very rapidly, and where she had her head bowed, praying for safety. They were singing songs,

knowing that there was a really tragic event unfolding in front of them. They were praying for their friends and for their safety.

My middle daughter said that this was a family. Everybody knew everybody, and this family is deeply grieving right now.

I hope that this serves as a wake-up call for our Nation and that it serves as a wake-up call for us to congratulate and celebrate the countless heroes, some of whom gave their lives. We will never know their stories.

We celebrate the fact that we live in a country where we can freely worship and where we can stand firm on our faith. Camp Mystic was a place like other places throughout this country that taught that to these young, innocent souls. It taught them to lean on their faith and taught them to lean on their friends, their relationships, and their families. It taught them the core values of what this great country affords.

I hope that this serves as a wake-up call for all of us to get back to that foundation, that we can take a lesson from this tragedy and build on it in a way that we do good and honor the memory of almost 130 people now, and rising, those that tragically lost their lives.

We won't ever forget. This green ribbon serves as a reminder here today.

Again, I thank my friend here, CHIP ROY, for representing during this hard time and for calling this hour to recognize that memory.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from west Texas. I appreciate his sharing with the country and with all of us and our colleagues the testimony of his little girls and his family and their connection to Camp Mystic. He has been an extraordinary representative of Camp Mystic and those camps and has shown great leadership himself as we are all looking forward to finding ways to make sure that these camps rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize the next speaker from Texas, Coach ROGER WILLIAMS, I want to note that our colleague, BUDDY CARTER, is in Dallas as we speak at the funeral of a little girl in his family. BUDDY CARTER represents Georgia down there in Savannah. His grandniece is being buried in Dallas-Fort Worth, and he is there with his family now. To show how far-reaching this was and how many people it touched, BUDDY's granddaughter was also at Camp Mystic but survived. This is touching almost everybody in this Chamber in one way or another.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), who is my esteemed coach and friend.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank CHIP for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas flooding victims.

On July Fourth, what should have been a day of celebration turned into a day of tragedy as catastrophic flooding struck central Texas, devastating our

communities and claiming far too many innocent lives.

My prayers remain with the victims, their families, and those affected by this heartbreaking disaster. As emergency crews continue recovery operations, I remain committed to supporting our fellow Texans in any way I can.

In the face of immense devastation, we have also witnessed our neighbors stepping up to help one another, showing the Nation the true spirit of Texas and what it means to be a part of a great community.

I extend my deepest gratitude to President Trump, the brave first responders, State and local officials, and the countless volunteers who are working tirelessly to bring relief and hope as we navigate this unimaginable loss, and I again say thank you to Chip for his leadership.

While there is a long road ahead, I know Texans will continue to be on the lookout for one another and recover together.

On a personal note, my 4-year-old granddaughter called today and wanted to know if it was okay if she prayed for the little girls and could she make bracelets for the victims' parents. All she had was a rope with a string to do it with.

Texas is a big State, but Texas is a small State.

In God We Trust.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), my friend from Houston and my congressional classmate.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, what happened in Kerr County was not a typical flood. We know floods in Houston. We know worst-case scenarios, and this is one of them.

More than 6 inches of rain fell in just a few hours. In some areas, the Guadalupe River surged over 30 feet in just 45 minutes, and we lost dozens of lives, including 27 at Camp Mystic. Children and counselors were caught while they were sleeping.

Entire communities were hit before sunrise with not enough time to react, but in the face of devastation, Texans rose up. Local responders acted immediately, some without any sleep and without any backup.

In one case, Petty Officer Scott Ruskan saved 165 people.

□ 1750

Dick Eastland, owner of Camp Mystic, gave his life saving his campers. He was found shielding them. Emma Foltz bravely led her bunkmates to safety. Julian Ryan sacrificed himself for his fiancée and children.

There are so many more stories of heroism. These are just a few, but it is good to know that there are still heroes in America. You never know if you are going to be one until the time comes. These are unmistakably Texan stories of courage and sacrifice.

I am proud of the Trump administration declaring a disaster within 48 hours, making sure that FEMA and the Coast Guard mobilized quickly and help was on the ground fast.

This is a rare and devastating event, but it will stay with us. We will mourn, but we will never forget.

We pray that we can prove worthy of those we have lost and prove worthy in our own lives of those heroes and those survivors.

I can't help but think of what I saw just a few days ago. Thousands of people lined the streets in my district in Kingwood as they brought back the Wilson family. Shiloh Wilson, a 12-year-old boy, was out there for a rodeo competition. He and his parents were all lost. Now they can rest together because of the volunteers and the first responders that got them back home. What an amazing sight to see, thousands of people back home lining the streets awaiting their arrival.

These people will never be forgotten. I am proud to stand here with my colleagues today to make sure that doesn't happen.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Houston and appreciate his sober remarks in recognition of so many heroic actions.

Mr. SELF. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROY and Mr. PFLUGER for those personal memories. I thank MORGAN LUTTRELL, our Texas colleague, who has been in the river recovering bodies.

When I look at the Texas flag, I see more than a symbol. I see a legacy: a legacy of grit, resilience, and people who never fail to rally when faced with adversity.

The devastating floods that swept through Mr. ROY's district brought unimaginable loss. Homes were destroyed. Families were torn apart. Entire communities were forever changed.

In the midst of destruction, Texans are still standing tall. We remain strong, as we always have, even in the face of overwhelming hardship.

My wife, Tracy, my team, and I continue to pray for the victims and the families affected by this tragedy.

As Christians, we are called to be there for one another. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

In the wake of this disaster, our Texas communities embodied those verses. Neighbors helped neighbors, strangers became friends, legislators became volunteers, local businesses donated millions to support recovery, and ordinary Texans became extraordinary heroes.

More than 12,000 volunteers have flocked to Kerr County to help with search and recovery efforts. Together, we lift one another up.

Texans have always exhibited an undeniable gift and a deep-rooted spirit of resilience. In the face of tragedy, we do not break. We build. We rally. We rise.

As we begin the painful process of moving forward, let us never forget the lives that were lost, their families, their stories, and their names.

I pray that when their sorrows begin to ebb, that cherished memories will begin to offer comfort, that all of us will remain mindful of the fragility of life and the strength found in the unity forged by the bonds of grief.

May the peace that passes all understanding be felt by those whose hearts are broken, and may all Texans find hope in the unwavering spirit that binds us together.

Finally, let us remember that the Lone Star State is not only defined by its wide open spaces and rugged land but by its people and by the guiding spirit and will of our creator.

We will rebuild, we will recover, and we will remain Texas tough.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and appreciate his kind remarks.

I am going to ask Judge CARTER from my neighboring district just north of Austin to come deliver a few remarks. His district has also been directly impacted by flooding, and I am sure he will have something to say about that.

Right before he begins, I do want to reiterate something that I believe Mr. SELF referred to and maybe Mr. CRENSHAW. That is our colleagues who have stepped up, guys like our friend MORGAN LUTTRELL, who has not been in front of cameras. He has not been doing anything other than his training to do diving and looking for bodies in the river. MORGAN is doing the hard work and joining in and stepping up. I believe his brother is with him and other great patriots who have joined that effort. There have been people from all over the country who have joined that effort.

Our friend, Mr. CLAY HIGGINS from Louisiana, came over. He engaged as a former sheriff who has training that was on point. We have had a lot of folks from our community step up to try to help, and I am deeply grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything my friend said. Mr. LUTTRELL is an amazing guy.

I rise today with a heavy heart on behalf of the people of Texas, the 31st District, and the Hill Country of Texas, the most beautiful part of our State.

Over the last 12 days, Texans have witnessed horrific tragedies, incredible acts of bravery, and the unwavering spirit of our State.

In my district, we lost eight souls and one remains unaccounted for. These people were friends, neighbors, mothers, and fathers. My deepest condolences go out to the families mourning these unimaginable losses.

This tragedy has made its mark on every corner of our State, but especially Kerr County. More than 130 people were lost—I understand it is lower than that now—but still more than 100 lost their lives and over 160 people remain unaccounted for. My heart goes

out to every family that will never be the same.

It is hard to imagine dropping your kid off at camp, feeling comfortable about going home, and getting the news of something like this disaster. I have four children and seven grandchildren, and it is just unimaginable to me.

In the face of this disaster, Texans have shown the world exactly who we are: strong, faithful, and steadfast in our belief that we can take care of each other.

We have seen first responders bravely rescue hundreds of Texans, and we have seen them bear the weight of recovery efforts. We have seen volunteers band together to support those who lost everything.

The road ahead will be long, but I want Texans to hear that you are not alone. We mourn together, we will rebuild together, and we will carry each other forward because that is what we do as the people of Texas.

May God bless each and every one of you and comfort you in your loss.

For those heroes among us and for this great State of Texas, blessings and grateful thanks.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge CARTER for his leadership and for representing his district so well and looking out for those impacted by the storms and the floods in his own area. I deeply appreciate his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, next is a colleague of mine who is deeply familiar with storms and flooding because he represents the southeast part of the State of Texas, although that is a different kind of flooding typically.

I want to personally offer my thanks and gratitude to my friend, BRIAN BABIN. All of my colleagues have stepped up and called and offered support and help. In particular, I would say my friend, Mr. BABIN, and his team have been there picking up phone calls from our office, helping out, doing whatever is needed, and offering guidance. They have experienced this kind of thing a little more often than we have, but we are deeply grateful.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is an anguishing thing to have to come up here and talk about some of our friends and colleagues who have gone through this. CHIP has done a wonderful job here with this Fourth of July.

My family and I dropped off four grandsons and a granddaughter back in May at Camp Mystic and at Camp Stewart for Boys. My history with this area goes way back, 60 years or better.

I served as a counselor at Camp Stewart under Uncle Bill James, who sold that camp later on to the Ragsdale family. Kathy Ragsdale and I have been talking on the phone recently, and what a loss she sustained. She lost her daughter, Jane.



Mr. Speaker, spending a couple of days out there in that beautiful country, probably the most beautiful in the entire State of Texas, with the crystal-clear, green Guadalupe River canopied by 100-plus-foot Cyprus trees, some of them 10 feet in diameter, it is just unbelievable beauty, tranquility, and peacefulness. To think that, within a span of less than 1 hour, that thing came up 30-plus feet and became a raging, raging torrent—a demon, if you will—wiping out wonderful, wonderful families, children, and turning that place into a devastating desert.

I thank the first responders, our President, our Governor, CHIP ROY, and a number of my colleagues for their help. I am the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. NASA itself offered aircraft and imaging technology to come out and help in the search and rescue efforts.

Quite frankly, it touched lives. My district is literally probably 250 miles away from this one, but I have to mention names. My district lost Aiden Heartfield, Joyce Badon, Ella Cahill, the whole family of John and Julia Burgess and their two little boys, Mary Grace Baker from Beaumont, and Reese Manchaca. So many others were touched by this in a way that we will never ever forget.

Yet, Texas is tough. As CHIP said, we are no strangers in my district to disasters. I have been in office now going on my fifth term. I think we have probably had seven disaster declarations in my district because of tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes, as well.

We have a Texas spirit. It is unbreakable. Quite frankly, we are going to rise above this. We want to let these families that are out there know that they are in our prayers. We are going to do what it takes to make this place whole again, keep these camps going, and keep this wonderful tradition that we have. The cultural, patriotic—you name it—the Christian environment of these camps are going to have to be sustained, and they will.

Mr. Speaker, I just say before I close how much we appreciate all of the people who absolutely sacrificed. My own son was out there the last 2 or 3 days with his chain saw. He brought his 10-year-old son out there. People were coming and stepping forward. We heard about the Luttrells; our colleague, MORGAN LUTTRELL. They are out there finding some of these victims.

This thing is turning out to be much bigger than we had thought. At first, we thought maybe there would be a couple of dozen people lost here, but we are looking at close to 300. By the time it is all done, I am just not sure how disastrous this thing is going to be.

Yet, Lord, we want to thank You for Your blessings, Your love, Your mercy, and we are going to rise above this because we are Texans. We pull together, and we keep our faith in our Heavenly Father.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his steadfast leadership and friendship.

Thank you, brother. I appreciate you.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to invite another friend of mine, no stranger to floods, from the southeast part of the State, my friend, RANDY WEBER.

As the gentleman is coming up to the microphone, I point out the extent to which this delegation, I know, is grateful for the leadership of our Governor, Governor Abbott; the head of the Texas Department of Emergency Management, Nim Kidd; the countless individuals and public servants affiliated with the Department of Public Safety and its head, Freeman Martin; the folks who are associated with the Sheriff's Department in Kerr County and throughout the region, the other areas affected by floods. I can't name everybody.

The city manager in Kerrville has done a fantastic job. We have just had so much fantastic leadership of people in the State of Texas stepping up and, as BRIAN said, so many volunteers from across the State. We continue to. We want to be very clear. All of this is current and present. The search continues. It continues today. They are engaged right now, and we are deeply appreciative for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my good friend.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are breaking across the Lone Star State, especially for our dear friend and colleague, Congressman CHIP ROY, and his beautiful district as they recover from unimaginable devastation caused by those Fourth of July floods.

In the dead of night, the Guadalupe River surged more than 20 feet in just 45 minutes. Think about that—20 feet. Families were forced to fight for their lives. Homes were overtaken. Children at summer camps ran for safety. It was the worst-case scenario and one that was unfolding in total darkness.

Mr. Speaker, down on the Gulf Coast, we are no strangers to disasters, as CHIP mentioned. We know hurricanes. We have weathered our fair share of storms, but this—this was something else. It was sudden, swift, and heart-breaking. This was the very center of Texas, the very part of the heart of the center of Texas, and Texans across the Nation felt it.

Many knew someone who was impacted. We have all seen the images, Mr. Speaker. We have heard the stories. The pain is real. The loss is deep. Yet, through it all, our God is still great. Even in the midst of destruction, the light of faith and courage shone through and still shines through.

Children gathered were heard singing hymns. Neighbors rescued neighbors, Mr. Speaker. Total strangers became heroes.

Our first responders and our great Coast Guard saved countless lives. Everyday Texans are stepping up, Mr. Speaker, helping with cleanup and recovery, giving comfort where it was needed the most.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we also mourn the lives lost. From my district, five precious souls along with the countless, as was said, maybe up to 300. District 14 lost five precious souls: Mary Grace Baker, attending Camp Mystic, whose young life was so tragically cut short; Ella Cahill; Joyce Catherine Badon; and Aiden Heartfield, all from Beaumont, my district, celebrating Independence Day together; and Brad Perry, a volunteer firefighter from League City who, together with his wife, was swept away in his RV by the floodwaters.

His wife, Tina, was miraculously rescued after clinging to a tree for 5 hours.

These were the mothers, the fathers, the daughters, the sons, and friends. Their loss is felt deeply not just in our hometowns and their hometowns but across Texas and beyond.

We do thank Governor Abbott and President Trump for coming and supporting and making a way and making sure that we had every resource that we needed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said here that Texans are tough. We rally, we rebuild, and more than anything, we pray. We pray for Congressman CHIP ROY's district. We pray for every grieving family. We pray for healing, for strength, and for the peace that only God Almighty can bring.

May we, Mr. Speaker, as leaders never forget our duty to stand beside them not just in words but in actions. I will end, Mr. Speaker, by saying God bless Texas, and may God bless the families walking through this storm.

□ 1810

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend RANDY WEBER for his leadership and his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to NATHANIEL MORAN, who represents a good number of my family in east Texas and is just one of the great lights in our delegation, a good man and friend with whom I am very proud to serve.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and to remember those whose lives were lost and who were impacted by the catastrophic floods that struck central Texas in the early morning hours of July Fourth, when children and families were abruptly awakened by the terrifying sounds of water rushing into their campsites and homes, overtaking them in a matter of minutes. It was an unthinkable tragedy. One that has scarred, no doubt, the sorrowful soul of so many in Texas and beyond.

As we have come to understand, many of those who were lost were simply children enjoying their time at summer camp, children not unlike my two children, who went to summer camp this year. It is a place meant for joy and laughter and for friendship and lasting memories, but instead brought destruction.

Mr. Speaker, 132 precious lives have been lost to date, and with so many more individuals still unaccounted for. The physical and emotional destruction has been overwhelming. Lives have been lost, homes and businesses have been washed away, lifelong belongings destroyed, and an entire community, State, and Nation are left in anguish and in shock.

Mr. Speaker, we are heartbroken for the families who lost precious family members. No words can fill the void that these loved ones left in their homes and in their communities. We pray for peace, for comfort, for healing, and for understanding during the long and hard road of grief ahead. We acknowledge, though, that in our humanness we may never fully understand why such tragedies happen, but in that same moment, we acknowledge fully that we serve a great God above who does.

I will also take time to extend my deepest gratitude to the courageous first responders as well as our local and State officials who acted swiftly and selflessly in the face of this devastation to save so many other lives. Their dedication and bravery saved countless lives in the face of this devastation. Equally inspiring were the countless Good Samaritans, ordinary citizens who became heroes, risking their own lives to help both friends and strangers in need.

Texans are remarkable. As has been said today, in the midst of tragedy, we will see and we do see and we have seen the immense character of the people of Texas, particularly the people of central Texas.

In the days and weeks ahead, we pledge to stand in prayer and in sorrow and solidarity with the families who have lost their loved ones and the people of central Texas, particularly those in Kerr County that have been so intently affected by this devastating flood.

Mr. Speaker, our prayer today is for hope and for peace for all of those in the difficult days ahead. I am privileged to be able to stand here alongside so many great men and women of character that serve our delegation in the State of Texas.

I thank Mr. ROY for his leadership during this time of devastation and tragedy in his district and to say we stand with those families. We ask for God's blessings and peace on each one of them. May God bless them.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from east Texas for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, while I wait for my friend Mr. GILL to come up to the microphone, I do want to note—because there has been so much unnecessary politicization of all this and finger pointing. I will have more to say about that in a minute, but I just will be very clear that on Friday, July Fourth, I called the President to tell him what was happening in the district that I represent, that I am proud to represent, the flooding and it was terrible,

because we were going to have a bill signing that day. The President could not have been more gracious. He could not have offered more in terms of his willingness to act quickly. I called that same day over to the Secretary's office, Secretary Noem, and she got back to me within 15 minutes offering us anything we needed. She had folks on the ground. She moved quickly to get the Army Corps of Engineers activated, moved quickly to get fixed-wing aircraft mobilized—this is all prior to a disaster declaration—and then had the boots on the ground ready to go when the disaster declaration was ready.

There is a lot of stuff flying around, so let's be very clear. In a nonpolitical statement, but just the reality of what has happened, this administration was on the ground in the district that I represent helping people. I think that should be noted. I think that the record should be clear. The people that I represent are deeply grateful for it and are deeply proud to acknowledge it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to BRANDON GILL, who represents the district in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area and just a little North of that. I deeply appreciate his service as a freshman member of the delegation and his strong words of encouragement throughout this.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Texas Hill Country is well-known as one of the most beautiful regions in the State and it just witnessed one of the most horrific disasters in our State's history.

I saw it last week myself when we went down to Kerrville, and you could see homes gone and roads shattered and families broken. I met first responders who pulled neighbors from waters that just destroyed lives.

I heard the stories like that of Jeff Ramsey and his wife, Tanya, two constituents from Texas-26. They were Texans, and they were parents trapped in their camper at Hill Country Campground as the flood swallowed everything around them.

In those final moments, Jeff picked up his phone and he said good-bye to his kids. "Hey, buddy, I love you so much. I think this is it for us. Tell Rache-y I love her."

Mr. Speaker, what do you say to that? What do you say to a son who lost his father or to a daughter who only has her father's final words? What we are going to say is that we will never forget them. That we will honor every life lost, including Jeff, Tanya, and every other life taken by those unforgiving waters. We will honor and remember the young girls and staff at Camp Mystic and the vacationing families enjoying their Independence Day weekend.

This flood stole lives and stories and futures and Texans. Today, we mourn them and we honor them and we will remember them. We will carry their names and their stories, but we also thank the first responders who jumped

into this mess in dangerous conditions and who are still working to clean up the flood.

I think, in particular, of our colleague Congressman MORGAN LUTTRELL, who is out working right now, as well as Mr. ROY who has been working around the clock for his district over the past 2 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Kerrville, God bless Texas, and God bless the U.S.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate and thank BRANDON for his kind words and remarks, his presence and that of the entire delegation.

There were a number of other of my colleagues who wanted to be here this evening, but they couldn't make it because they had other obligations. We don't always get to control the timing of the House floor. I thank those individuals for their support during this whole time.

□ 1820

I want to conclude with a few thoughts. I gave way earlier to make sure that all of my colleagues had a chance to speak.

I want to give some flavor to what we have experienced, particularly in Kerrville and in the Hill Country and that part of our great State, over the last 10 days or so.

Remember that, on July Fourth in Kerrville, there is an area in the center of town, a park where thousands of people go every year to listen to music, to Texas country music, typically. Robert Earl Keen is a local artist from Kerrville who plays every year, typically.

My children, my family, my wife and I, we have been going there every year for the better part of a decade. You will sit down there on the river and canoe and tube up and down the river while you are waiting for the concert. Then, the concert is at night with fireworks down there at the park.

It is often attended by the people who are coming down to camp on the Guadalupe, just a little west of Kerrville, in the area that has now become more known, for people across the country, in Hunt, Texas, where these kids' camps are located.

There are about 18 or 20 camps right there on the water and 40 camps or so in that general area for kids in the summer. Many of these camps have been there for decades, some as long as a century.

Camp Mystic is one of those that would celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. That is an all-girls camp, as my colleagues have noted. My colleague AUGUST PFLUGER's daughters were there last week. It is an all-girls Christian camp.

Camp La Junta, right down the river, is also a Christ-centered camp. That is an all-boys camp. It had massive damage, massive flooding. Fortunately, they had no loss of life.

There are multiple camps. I can go through it. I am going to leave some out if I keep going up and down the river.

People ask why. People ask these questions of me and say: Why are these camps, all of these houses, all of these campgrounds so close to the river? Well, because the river is awesome. I mean, why are there houses on the beach? Because people like to be on the beach.

This is not something that should be that surprising, and it shouldn't be something that we shift away from. It is a great blessing that the Lord has given us this part of the country that you can go to and experience and live with these clear waters and the limestone that is cut through there after thousands of years. This whole area was an area where the Comanches were known to collect, in that part of the country, and also take part and enjoy those particularly beautiful waters and springs.

It draws people from all over the country, and that is why these camps are there.

I noted earlier on the floor, when we had the moment of silence, the extent to which faith is the central part of everything we are experiencing. It is the reason these camps, for the most part, exist. It is the reason for the spirit that we have seen coming out of Kerrville, as so many people mourn and so many people across the country are taken by the stories of these little girls.

Fredericksburg is also an awesome town, just down the river from Luckenbach, from the famous country song.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, when you come into Kerrville and are coming in on Highway 16, coming down from Fredericksburg, you come in on 16 into Kerrville. Up on the hill as you enter, Mr. Speaker, there is a giant cross, and there is a garden there. It is filled with a bunch of the important symbols of our Christian faith, not just the cross, but other things. It was all done by an artist named Max Greiner, and he has done a fantastic job laying it out. It gets hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

This cross sits up on the hill over Kerrville. I noticed, and I said this in an interview this weekend, that there were numerous crosses just showing up throughout the town. There was an interview one of the reporters was doing on the river, and there were three crosses sitting on the bank of the river.

I was driving down the highway, Highway 39, which goes from Kerrville out west through Ingram and then Hunt and out by where these camps are. I went out to Camp La Junta after the President came in. It was my, I think, third or fourth journey over the last 10 days.

I noticed the changes from the days I first went over there, when the floods had just occurred, all the damage, debris, and cars, and just absolute devastation that destroyed houses, the roofs. The flood lines were 30 feet up in these

tall cypress trees. You couldn't even believe it.

There were trees stuck in the tops of trees. There was metal roofing that was up in the tops of these trees. There was a dumpster wrapped around a tree.

When I was down in Kerrville, the stage from the Fourth of July setup was wrapped around trees probably 500 yards down from where the stage had been set. This is a massive, heavy stage on a truck bed. That was where the President got his briefing. Mr. Speaker, if you saw the pictures, that is where the President was located. That was a stage, that rubble that was there.

There was a massive dumpster wrapped around trees, a heavy metal dumpster, just shredded like aluminum foil. That was the force of this water.

Somebody told me that it was 1.6 million gallons of water per second rushing through this corridor. That is what we were dealing with.

Going back to the cross, Samaritan's Purse showed up on the ground immediately. It is a great organization headed by Franklin Graham out of North Carolina. They show up to deal with disasters all across the country and all around the world. Here they are in my own backyard, not something I had necessarily anticipated.

This organization is there cleaning out mud from the Lowe family's house. They are a fantastic family, and I had known them. We went and visited. I can't say that I participated in the clean-out. I intend to do that when we get out of this session in August.

We were going around and looking at the damage. They were explaining and walking through it for the average viewer out there asking how this could happen. They looked down and saw the flooding waters, but they were way down. They woke up at 1 in the morning to some alerts. They kept listening and watching the water come up. Then, they realized they had to move.

By the time they realized they were going to move, it moved from 15 feet below the level up to the level of their house in a matter of minutes. It just came rushing in. They were able to get out just before and get up to high ground.

Another family friend of mine whose kids were there—there were about 30 of them. There were several families, parents, and kids from my kids' school. They were all on a piece of property with three houses. Same thing—they woke up at 3-something in the morning. The river was way down a good 15 or 20 feet below the house. They were watching the water rush and go: Well, maybe we ought to think about moving.

They started moving people out of the three houses on the piece of property, these rental properties. They were sitting there and cleaned out the first house, got the kids ready. By the time they did that over 15 or 20 minutes, thinking they had hours, the water was already up to the house.

They moved to the second house, and the water was up to their knees. The

third house, the water was up to their waist. They had to get up and ride the storm out for 3 hours on top of another house, 30 people, including kids.

They were fortunate to survive, and they are okay. All seven of their cars are down the river. The remaining of their houses are down the river.

When I went to the Lowe's house, they were explaining it to me. They are great people of faith. Next to their house was a foundation, all that was left of a home. There were several of those in a row.

There was one man sitting out in a chair by that foundation. That man, I was told, was the father of a 20-year-old boy who he had lost. He was trying to find him, trying to find his body.

They had found three girls who had been there in their vacation home. The dad wasn't there. He was back home in Houston.

I walked over. I saw the man and offered him my condolences and listened to his story. This was maybe 4 days after it happened. He walked me through how, at 4 in the morning, the son had called him and explained that it was a bad spot. The water had already engulfed the house. It had come up so quickly. He was walking through it and trying to figure out how to get out. The son was trying to get the three girls out of the house.

He is talking to his dad and then hands the phone off to one of the girls. The son is trying to get the other girls out of the house and get through the water. About that time, a very large cypress tree—huge; I saw the remnants of it still there—came through, hit them and the house, and took it out.

The one girl who was left on the phone saw it and basically said to the young man's dad: "Tell my parents I love them." That was the last thing she said and the last thing he heard.

There are dozens of these stories. People act like something should have been done differently. Maybe it should have. Maybe there can be better systems. We will go through all that, and we will figure it out. That is what we do as people. We don't point fingers.

I will close with this, going back to the cross, going back to the spirit of the people of Kerrville and of the Hill Country who showed up, the first responders who have shown up, the people of the State, the Governor, the Texas Department of Emergency Management, all the prayer warriors, all the churches, and the now \$30 million to \$40 million of contributions that have poured in and millions more, all the people showing up, bringing food—every single food vendor called my phone. Thousands of people said: What can I do to help? MORGAN LUTTRELL used his training, along with his brother and others, to go into the water to try to find people.

Important are the stories of these camp directors and camp counselors who did everything they could to save lives. Dick Eastland lost his life trying to save those little girls.

I spent time with his daughter, Mary Liz, over the last week. I met Mary Liz in a church, Trinity Baptist Church, in Kerrville on Saturday night, the day after July Fourth, on July 5. I didn't know Mary Liz. Mary Liz asked me for my number. I gave it to her. We started talking, and I realized that she was Dick's daughter-in-law.

□ 1830

Mary Liz was there in the church with all of the families who still hadn't found their little girls. Mary Liz wasn't running away from it, as the director of the camp, or one of the remaining directors of the camp after Dick had passed away. Mary Liz was there.

Mary Liz has been constantly on the phone with all of these families, trying to find everything they can. We have now found every one of those little girls except for one, and they are not going to rest until they find her. They are not going to rest until they find the other 100 who are still missing.

This is the message that comes out of this: The power of community, the power of faith, the power of the cross that brings people together, the enduring legacy of the little girls singing the hymns as they left Camp Mystic looking at the damage.

The people who will now know the power of Christ because of these little girls' stories, the stories of the charm bracelets, the stories of the James Avery jewelry store, the stories of a century-long tradition where children come together to learn the power of the gospel, to spread the gospel, and to learn that there is more to life than these things. There is more to life than the temporary things of life as opposed to friendship and as opposed to being one with what God gave us. That is what these camps are about.

My staff, I learned, worked at Camp Mystic. The young man who is sitting down here next to me right now worked as a cook in the back of Camp Mystic 4 years ago. He told me that Dick Eastland was like a grandfather figure to him, that Dick Eastland helped teach him how to fish, fly fish, and the basics of life.

That is what every person affiliated with these camps has told me, that is what Dick Eastland and all these other camp directors, like Jane Ragsdale, did. I said earlier that Jane gave her life to save several little girls before she lost hers. I ran into her pastor just randomly on the side of the river. He walked me through her story. It is extraordinary. You heard some of my colleagues talking about it.

The fact of the matter is that is what is touching everybody about this because this spirit is unique, and it transcends, and it will be the enduring story of all of this.

These camps are going to be rebuilt. They are going to reopen. I said on the radio I would send my kids there next summer because that is what we should do. These camps, these things, these people, this community are more im-

portant than fear. Because those of us who have faith in the Lord Almighty and have faith in the Lord's son Jesus Christ, we don't fear earthly loss because the thing that transcends that is our faith in our Lord and Savior and the need to spread that message, and for people to know that.

I am so deeply and profoundly grateful for all of the outpouring of support from this Chamber, from my Texas colleagues joining me here on the floor. I am deeply appreciative for all the people who have been risking their lives to help others, to save others, to find these bodies, to find closure for the families.

We are going to continue to do that. We are going to continue to heal. It is just the beginning.

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

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 517. An ACT to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 16, 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-1379. A letter from the Acting President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to a transaction involving exports to Angola, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1380. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1381. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1382. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad that was declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1383. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1384. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, "Resolution of the Cyprus Dispute"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1385. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-93, "Uniform College Athlete Name, Image, or Likeness Temporary Amendment Act of 2025", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1386. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2024 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1387. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting four notifications of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1388. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two notifications of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1389. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the FY 2024 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1390. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, General Law and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, a nomination, a designation of acting officer, and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1391. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's FY 2025 Payments in Lieu of Taxes program report; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1392. A letter from the Acting Ombudsman for Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting the 2024 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7385s-15(e)(1); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 108-375, Sec. 3161); (118 Stat. 2185); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1393. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organization, Functions, and Procedures [Docket No.: FTA-2025-0003] (RIN: 2132-AB52) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1394. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Charter Service [Docket No.: FTA-2024-0017] (RIN: 2132-AB38) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1395. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — School Bus Operations [Docket No.: FTA-2025-0004] (RIN: 2132-AB53) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1396. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation for Elderly and Handicapped Persons [Docket No.: FTA-2025-0005] (RIN: 2132-AB54) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1397. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Major Capital Investment Projects [Docket No.: FTA-2025-0006] (RIN: 2132-AB55) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1398. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transit Asset Management [Docket No.: FTA-2025-0007] (RIN: 2132-AB56) received July 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1399. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Rationalize Calculation of Regulatory Filing and Compliance Deadlines [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0106; Amdt. No.: 190-23] (RIN: 2137-AF76) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1400. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-API Spec 6D [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0119; Amdt. Nos.: 192-140; 195-109] (RIN: 2137-AF87) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1401. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-API RP 2026

[Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0122; Amdt. No.: 195-111] (RIN: 2137-AF90) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1402. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-API RP 1170 and API RP 1171 [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0120; Amdt. No.: 192-141] (RIN: 2137-AF88) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1403. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Integration of Innovative Remote Sensing Technologies for Right-of-Way Patrols on Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipelines [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0118; Amdt. Nos.: 192-154, 195-116] (RIN: 2137-AF79) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1404. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update PPI-TR 3 [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0131; Amdt. No.: 192-152] (RIN: 2137-AG00) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1405. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-ASTM F2945 [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0134; Amdt. No.: 192-149] (RIN: 2137-AF97) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1406. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-ASTM F2817 [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0128; Amdt. No.: 192-148] (RIN: 2137-AG02) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1407. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Office of Chief, Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Pipeline Safety: Standards Update-ASTM F2600 [Docket No.: PHMSA-2025-0133; Amdt. No.: 192-145] (RIN: 2137-AF94) received July 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1408. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on Semiannual Jackson-Vanik Compliance for Certain Independent States, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1)(B); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 402(d)(1); (88 Stat. 2056); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-1409. A letter from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a re-

port on the actuarial status of the railroad retirement system, including any recommendations for financing changes, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f-1; Public Law 98-76, Sec. 502 (as amended by Public Law 104-66, Sec. 2221(a)); (109 Stat. 733); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1410. A letter from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the 2025 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 369; Public Law 100-647, Sec. 7105; (102 Stat. 3772); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.

## 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. JACK: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 580. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4016) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3633) to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1919) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1582) to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; 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. 119-199). (Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. 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; with an amendment (Rept. 119-200). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 225. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-201). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2835. A bill to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-202). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3645. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to raise the offering amount threshold for when issuers using the crowdfunding exemption are required to file financial statements reviewed by a public accountant who is independent of the issuer, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-203). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3672. A bill to amend

the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the research report exception to include reports about any issuer that undertakes a proposed offering of public securities, with an amendment (Rept. 119-204). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3709. A bill to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to establish a Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program within the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-205). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3716. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-206). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 4387. A bill to establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 4388. A bill to repeal sections 319F-3 and 319F-4 of the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 4389. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax, or refund of tax, for certain Federal insurance taxes for employees who are members of religious faiths which oppose participation in such insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CASE, and Ms. MCBRIDE):

H.R. 4390. A bill to require a review of the United States diplomatic posture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 4391. A bill to promote international cooperation to secure critical mineral supply chains; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MENG, Ms. WILSON of

Florida, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SIMON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. MANNION, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LATIMER):

H.R. 4392. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to increase early detection of and intervention for uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. BACON, Ms. GILLEN, Mrs. KIM, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 4393. A bill to secure the border and reform the immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4394. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop a public-private partnership program to examine innovative anti-money laundering solutions for decentralized finance services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FROST, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MENG, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SIMON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. RIVAS, and Mr. MANNION):

H.R. 4395. A bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. RIVAS, and Mr. MANNION):

H.R. 4396. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study and re-

port on the relationship between hair straighteners and uterine cancer, particularly among women of color; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. FINE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BOST, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 4397. A bill to require the President to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress regarding such designation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LATTA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SELF, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BACON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PATRONIS, Mr. MACKENZIE, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. KIM, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FRY, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WIED, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STRONG, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. STEIL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona):

H.R. 4398. A bill to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practitioner learns of such death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4399. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize state of good repair grants to be used for public transportation resilience improvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. BOST, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 4400. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 4401. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reauthorize the bridge investment program, to remove certain considerations under the bridge investment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4402. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate regulations relating to the disclosure of certain commercial data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.



By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 4403. A bill to prohibit weather modification within the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 4404. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax for waterpipe tobacco, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 4405. A bill to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. DEXTER, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4406. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to authorize the establishment of, and provide support for, State-based universal health care systems that provide comprehensive health benefits to State residents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. BACON, Ms. McBRIDE, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 4407. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of nurses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 4408. A bill to study the effectiveness of disaster response and recovery in non-contiguous communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 4409. A bill to prohibit the common ownership pharmacy benefit managers and pharmacies that provide services under contracts with Federal health plans for Federal employees; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 4410. A bill to amend the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 to extend the special hiring authority for passport services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. McDOWELL (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ONDER, and Mr. COLLINS):

H.R. 4411. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to clarify that certain Presidential functions may not be delegated or carried out using any automated equipment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Ms. SALINAS):

H.R. 4412. A bill to reauthorize the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership

program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. KEAN):

H.R. 4413. A bill to provide for nonapplicability of a policy of denial for exports, re-exports, or transfers of defense articles and defense services destined for or originating in the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 4414. A bill to include commercial weather services as a priority area for funding under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4415. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to relocate the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 4416. A bill to establish in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a program to improve precipitation forecasts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 4417. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for supporting new mobile cancer screening units to expand patient access to essential screening services in rural and underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. FROST, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. LIEU, Ms. McBRIDE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CHU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SIMON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. ROSS, Ms.

DELAURO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. AMO):

H.R. 4418. A bill to increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 4419. A bill to prohibit a State from issuing a motor vehicle operator's license for the operation or use of an ADS-equipped vehicle operating at Level 4 or Level 5 in a manner that discriminates on the basis of disability; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 4420. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Healthy Streets program to enhance the resilience, accessibility, and safety of the Nation's transportation corridors by supporting strategic investments in tree canopy, shade infrastructure, and other nature-based cooling strategies along pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 4421. A bill to codify Executive order 14208 relating to ending procurement and forced use of paper straws; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. THANEDAR (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4422. A bill to require the adoption and enforcement of regulations to prohibit the intentional feeding of bears on Federal public lands in order to end the hunting practice known as "bear baiting" and reduce the number of dangerous interactions between people and bears; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 4423. A bill to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H. Res. 581. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to advance responsible policies; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. ANSARI:

H. Res. 582. A resolution establishing an advisory working group to make recommendations with respect to relief portraits in the Hall of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. BICE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER,

Mr. GOODEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SELF, Mr. GILL of Texas, Ms. MALOY, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. RULLI, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BACON, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. FINSTAD):

H. Res. 583. A resolution denouncing the attack on a U.S. Border Patrol facility in McAllen, Texas, on July 7, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. TURNER of Ohio):

H. Res. 584. A resolution affirming the support of the United States for Montenegro's accession to the European Union; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4300.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec 8

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 4389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 4390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 4391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 4392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 4393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title I Section 8

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title I Section 8

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 4397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 4398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 4400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 4401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 4402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 4403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 4405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 4406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 4407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 4408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 4409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 4410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. McDOWELL:

H.R. 4411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 4413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. PETTERSEN:

H.R. 4414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 4415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 4416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 4419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 4420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 3, Section 8

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 4421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 4422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 4423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 210: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 309: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 485: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 503: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 612: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 621: Mr. VINDMAN.



H.R. 650: Mr. HARRIGAN.  
H.R. 722: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 785: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 842: Mr. CRAWFORD.  
H.R. 909: Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 940: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. FIELDS.  
H.R. 979: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. BURLISON.  
H.R. 1007: Mr. MURPHY.  
H.R. 1063: Mr. BERGMAN.  
H.R. 1065: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1083: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 1094: Mr. BARRETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 1138: Mr. FIELDS.  
H.R. 1171: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1175: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1207: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 1229: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 1340: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 1360: Mr. OWENS and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1397: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 1404: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 1415: Mr. BALDERSON.  
H.R. 1422: Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 1509: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 1517: Ms. NORTON and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 1564: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 1581: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 1666: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
H.R. 1667: Mr. WHITESIDES.  
H.R. 1712: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BYNUM, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
H.R. 1761: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1938: Mrs. KIM.  
H.R. 1949: Mr. BARRETT.  
H.R. 2048: Mr. GARCIA of California.  
H.R. 2081: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 2092: Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 2095: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.  
H.R. 2102: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 2192: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 2213: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 2231: Mr. BISHOP.  
H.R. 2253: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 2309: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 2320: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 2339: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 2396: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2516: Mr. FINE.  
H.R. 2572: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 2591: Mr. BEGICH, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.  
H.R. 2598: Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 2599: Mr. HARRIGAN.  
H.R. 2605: Ms. GOODLANDER and Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 2653: Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 2683: Mr. AMO.  
H.R. 2687: Ms. MALOY.  
H.R. 2805: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.  
H.R. 2853: Mr. IVEY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. SEWELL.  
H.R. 2854: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 2948: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 3006: Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 3045: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. PIN-GREE, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. COURTNEY.  
H.R. 3105: Mr. OWENS and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 3111: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 3114: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 3164: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 3184: Mr. MENENDEZ and Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 3197: Mr. TIMMONS and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 3207: Mr. MCCORMICK.  
H.R. 3270: Mr. LATIMER.  
H.R. 3295: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 3309: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 3335: Ms. SIMON.  
H.R. 3400: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3469: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 3470: Mr. MANNION.  
H.R. 3474: Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 3514: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 3543: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 3552: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 3573: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. CARSON.  
H.R. 3607: Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 3649: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 3682: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. LUCAS.  
H.R. 3696: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. LATIMER.  
H.R. 3699: Mr. BARR and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 3701: Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 3740: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 3763: Mr. CASAR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 3773: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 3806: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 3829: Mrs. MCIVER.  
H.R. 3858: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 3859: Ms. VAN DUYN.  
H.R. 3876: Ms. FRIEDMAN.  
H.R. 3910: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 3943: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 3962: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LATIMER, and Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 3968: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 3971: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 4007: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. HERNANDEZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 4025: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4062: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 4070: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 4091: Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 4117: Mrs. SPARTZ.  
H.R. 4126: Mr. GILL of Texas.  
H.R. 4145: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 4154: Ms. LETLOW.  
H.R. 4157: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
H.R. 4176: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
H.R. 4182: Ms. OMAR and Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 4204: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.  
H.R. 4215: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 4227: Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. KHANNA, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 4228: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 4231: Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 4235: Mr. ROY.  
H.R. 4242: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
H.R. 4246: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4251: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 4253: Mr. PANETTA and Ms. FRIEDMAN.  
H.R. 4255: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.  
H.R. 4281: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4317: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 4325: Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LIEU, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 4332: Ms. OMAR and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4335: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 4348: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4356: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4363: Ms. VAN DUYN.  
H.R. 4375: Ms. TENNEY.  
H.J. Res. 10: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. PETERS and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.  
H. Con. Res. 43: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H. Res. 167: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H. Res. 317: Mr. BEYER.  
H. Res. 459: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H. Res. 561: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H. Res. 570: Mr. KEAN.  
H. Res. 571: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H. Res. 575: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. FONG.  
H. Res. 577: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. BERA.



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## Senate

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, July 4 is supposed to be a day of celebration and patriotism, but earlier this month, leftwing domestic extremists tried to turn that day into a day of tragedy and a day of terrorism.

On the evening of Independence Day, a group of antifa terrorists carried out an ambush attack on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Alvarado, TX.

They drew immigration agents outside by shooting fireworks at the building and vandalizing cars in the parking lot. Unarmed ICE officials came outside. They came outside thinking they were just dealing with hooligans and not realizing that there were snipers hiding in the trees.

The gunmen opened fire, but, thankfully, these leftwing terrorists weren't your typical Texas straight shooters. Though they fired 20 to 30 rounds, they failed to kill or critically injure any law enforcement officers.

When a shooter's gun jammed, he didn't know how to clear it so he dropped his weapon and fled the scene. The terrorists tried to hide in a nearby trailer park, endangering residents who were celebrating our Nation's founding.

Thankfully, the local police were able to detain these violent radicals without harm to any bystanders.

This assault on the ICE facility is a direct result of inflammatory rhetoric

aimed at our immigration enforcement officers. As you see every day on TV, leftwing street mobs constantly chant that ICE employees and ICE, generally, is a modern-day KKK.

A Democrat Congressman recently compared ICE agents to Nazis. I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to condemn these outrageous attacks and to condemn the left's hateful rhetoric toward the men and women who enforce our immigration laws.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, since day one, the Trump administration has been focused on identifying waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government—something on which, I believe, the American people agree with him on. And last month, the administration submitted a rescissions package to Congress that would cut somewhere around \$9 billion in wasteful spending, with a focus on woke and wasteful foreign aid dollars.

We are going to consider that commonsense legislation this week. I would love to report that I expect strong support from Senators from both parties, but, incredibly, Democrats are melting down at the prospect of even the most minor cuts to Federal spending. You would think we were proposing to defund the entire government, from the way they are talking, instead of proposing cuts amounting to approximately one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget. That is right—one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget.

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, our Father, thank You for eyes to see and hearts to feel the wonders of Your world. Lord, fill our Senators today with fresh faith in Your power to protect and sustain our Nation and world.

May they face challenges with the triumphant confidence that no weapon that has been formed can prevail against Your eternal purposes. Lord, keep our lawmakers calm in temper, clear in mind, sound in heart, and strong in faith. Enable them to perform faithfully and well what You require, even to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. When this day's work is done, give them refreshment of mind, spirit, and body.

We pray in Your rejuvenating 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. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S4345

This bill that is inspiring such hysteria in Democrats would cut just one-tenth of 1 percent, or one one-thousandth of the Federal budget.

Now, back in the day, Democrat President Bill Clinton signed into law a rescissions package that was 10 times larger as a percentage of total government spending. Yet today's Democrats can't bring themselves to even contemplate cutting just one one-thousandth of the Federal budget.

And let's remember what kind of cuts that we are talking about here. We are not talking about making difficult decisions about essential Federal programs or gutting foreign aid. We are talking about modest cuts to funding that has been used for things like promoting vegan food in Zambia, funding a pride parade in Lesotho, teaching children how to make environmentally friendly "reproductive health" decisions, making aid more considerate of "sexual orientation and gender identity," and funding a "One Health Workforce," curriculum, which includes material on "environmental racism" and the importance of DEI. The list goes on and on.

Thankfully, the Trump administration has stopped these ridiculous wastes of taxpayer money. Now, it is time for those of us in Congress to do our part and make sure that the budget reflects these commonsense moves, something that every Member of this body should be able to agree on.

The United States is facing serious budget issues. We saw an incredible growth in spending under the Biden administration, which took what should have been a temporary elevation in spending under COVID and essentially made that the government's new baseline—permanent spending.

In 2024, Federal spending was a staggering 54 percent higher than 2019. My Democratic colleagues may not want to acknowledge it, but we have a serious spending problem in this country. And the very least we can do, in response, is to target some of the egregious misuses of taxpayer dollars that we are addressing today in this bill.

In his recent "Dear Colleague" letter, the Democrat leader claimed—in defiance of abundant evidence to the contrary—that Democrats "support ridding our federal [government] of waste, fraud, and abuse."

Well, here is a chance for the Democrat leader and his caucus to put their money where their mouth is. If they really support eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, they can join Republicans and pass this legislation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### INFLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, Americans woke up this morning to a troubling headline: "U.S. Inflation Accelerated in June as Trump's Tariffs Pushed Up Prices." That is what the New York Times said this morning.

We have said from the start that Donald Trump's tariffs are a national sales tax on working- and middle-class families, and now these tariffs are causing inflation to rise, as many of us feared. And there is too large a chance that this tariff increase is just the beginning as increased chaos on tariffs rise.

Tariffs raise the price of groceries, add thousands of dollars in additional cost to the average household, and Trump's chaotic approach does nothing—nothing—to make our economy stronger.

Even worse, real wages are down for June as Americans pay more for groceries, electricity, healthcare costs, and that is before the "Big Ugly Betrayal," which will steal people's Medicaid, kill jobs, and jack up people's electricity bills.

Remember what Donald Trump said on the campaign trail? He said that if elected, he would bring costs down on day one. It is now the middle of July, and inflation is going up. That is the definition of a broken promise.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. President, now on cuts, fresh off of handing billionaires their largest tax break in modern history and fresh off of passing the most devastating cuts to healthcare and good-paying jobs ever, Republicans want to do it again. While Republicans roll out the red carpet for billionaires and special interests, they want to cut funding to local news and cut funding for critical foreign aid that keeps China and Russia at bay.

Americans rely on public broadcasting for weather alerts, and these cuts couldn't come at a worse time. The disaster in Texas reminds us that accurate and speedy forecasts are vital to protecting our country and the lives of Americans, and public broadcast is vital and often the only way to get the word out, particularly in rural America. So why the hell is the administration so obsessed with cutting these life-saving services when they are critical for keeping people safe, when we saw, when we didn't have those services working full steam ahead, how many people's lives are endangered and lost in Texas and around the country.

Public broadcasting does more. It is crucial for Americans to receive the local news for keeping track of city hall, for understanding what is happening in their local school boards, for updates on public events, festivals, educational programming, when we know that traditional television is having a lot of trouble.

To be clear, it is not just local news and public radio stations at risk; this package endangers national security,

our own national security. American aid is vital for preventing pandemics and diseases throughout the world. Foreign aid helps farmers. It helps American researchers. It helps U.S. businesses. More importantly, American aid is vital to holding the line against the Chinese Communist Party and Vladimir Putin. If Republicans eviscerate foreign aid, our adversaries will celebrate America's retreat and move to fill the vacuum.

The worst part is that these rescissions cuts are only the beginning. This package, as bad as it is, is a piece of a larger puzzle for Republicans. Their goal is to use rescissions, impoundment, and pocket rescissions to eradicate any bit of bipartisanship out of appropriations and will pave the way for deeper and even more serious spending cuts on things like healthcare, food assistance, energy, and so many other areas. In fact, many in the Freedom Caucus claim that Donald Trump and Republican leaders promised these deeper cuts by these means in exchange for their vote on the "Big Ugly Bill."

We know that Donald Trump and Russell Vought want to send another rescissions package later this summer. Are they going to make more cuts to Medicaid? Are they going to make more cuts to education or nutrition services or aid for veterans?

Republicans didn't bat an eye when adding \$4 trillion to the debt to lower billionaires' taxes, but suddenly, when it comes to local news and rural radio stations, they suddenly balk. They say it is waste. That is disgusting.

#### FEMA

Mr. President, on FEMA, search and rescue efforts continue in Central Texas 11 days after the devastating July 4 flooding. We continue to pray—to pray—for every life lost. We pray for the families, and we honor the brave first responders who have been on the ground day after day after day.

But honoring those we lost demands accountability. It demands making sure this never happens again. The more we learn about what went wrong, the more one thing becomes painfully clear: Donald Trump, Secretary Noem, and the Department of Homeland Security have failed—failed—in their basic duty to protect Americans from natural disasters.

After spending months demonizing FEMA, after openly calling for it to be dismantled, after shedding thousands of staff and canceling billions in funding, Trump and Noem's disastrous policies have come back to haunt Americans battered by disasters.

This latest tragedy happened in Texas, but the problems go far beyond Texas. This is a nationwide FEMA failure, a systemic issue across the Agency that Donald Trump has made much, much worse. So today, I am calling on the Comptroller General of the GAO, the Government Accountability Office, to immediately investigate, one, how FEMA's funding cuts, staffing cuts, and policy changes contributed to the

failures in Texas, and two, to assess the risks their actions pose for future disaster response nationwide.

The facts are alarming. FEMA contracts stalled while survivors called for help. Vital staff positions sat vacant. Rescue and recovery efforts were bogged down by bureaucratic chokepoints. These aren't just breakdowns; they may constitute a dereliction of duty by those entrusted to protect the public in times of crisis.

The American people have a right to know: Did these reckless decisions cost lives? Are we now more vulnerable when the next storm, fire, or flood strikes, wherever it strikes? A comprehensive and urgent review is not just warranted, it is essential.

Americans do not support the administration making radical DOGE cuts to Agencies like FEMA. These cuts have devastating consequences in life-and-death situations like a natural disaster. Americans do not support chaos from the government when disasters strike. They do not support redtape that leaves families stranded and communities battered.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND GROK AI

Mr. President, now on DOD and Grok AI, just days after Elon Musk's AI model Grok glorified Hitler, pushed Nazi propaganda, and spouted anti-Semitism, Elon Musk's company was handed a \$200 million DOD contract to deploy Grok—to deploy Grok—in our national defense systems. Soon, the same AI model that called itself “MechaHitler” and recommended a second Holocaust will be used in the Pentagon to “address critical national security challenges.”

This Musk contract is not just wrong, it is not just offensive, it is dangerous. The Trump administration must explain how this happened, the parameters of the deal, and why they think our national security isn't worth meeting a higher standard.

#### NOMINATION OF MICHAEL G. WALTZ

Mr. President, on Mike Waltz, this morning, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is hearing testimony from Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz. If that name sounds familiar, it is because the same Mike Waltz was fired as the National Security Advisor a few months ago after sharing military plans in a group chat with a journalist on Signal. Mr. Waltz was part of the crack team that grossly mismanaged national security during the opening months of the administration, from Signalgate, to Ukraine weapons and intelligence pauses, to outsourcing Air Force One to a foreign country.

He must directly answer for these debacles in front of the American people before assuming a critical role on the world's stage. With so much going on around the world, Mr. Waltz must acknowledge these failings and prove he is ready to collaborate with our partners and go toe to toe with our adversaries at the U.N.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is astonishing, as I come to the floor, to listen to the Democrat minority leader. We just heard his comments about foreign aid keeping “Russia and China at bay.” If it were only the case.

The minority leader has a long and spirited history of wasting American taxpayer dollars. Now he wants to send taxpayer dollars overseas to pay for climate projects and vegan food programs. Apparently, that is what he means when he talks about foreign aid keeping Russia and China at bay. He forgot to mention that he wants to spend half a million dollars to put electric vehicles—electric buses—on the streets of Rwanda. He forgot to mention that he wants to spend \$6 million on net zero cities in Mexico. He forgot to mention he wants to continue to spend over \$100,000 for media training in Liberia.

Mr. President, I ask, how does that keep Russia and China at bay? He failed to mention that he wants to continue to spend \$3.3 million on civic engagement in Zimbabwe. He didn't say any of that because there is no good reason at all for that kind of wasteful Washington spending. None of that spending helps farmers or ranchers in my home State of Wyoming. None of this spending helps struggling families.

In November, Americans voted to end this wasteful Washington spending. Voters got it right. CHUCK SCHUMER gets it wrong. How many people went to the polls and told politicians to spend \$7.4 million of their hard-earned money on teaching foreign countries about environmental racism? No one.

Democrats love to hide behind fearmongering, and that is what the minority leader has done again today. Democrats never stand up and defend their spending on the merits. I don't see Democrats coming to the floor and talking about those projects that they want to see continued because they know it doesn't hold up to the least amount of public scrutiny. The American people look at this, and for them, the issue is quite simple. Their taxpayer dollars are being wasted and have been wasted for a long time. The Democrats in this body want to continue wasting them.

We still have families digging out from the worst inflation in 40 years. We have cities overwhelmed by illegal immigrants and the crime that they are bringing to these communities. People deserve to have their taxpayer dollars spent on issues that are focused on their priorities. President Trump sent Congress a proposal to rein in some of the worst wasteful spending.

How do the Democrats respond? Well, they are threatening to shut down the Government of the United States. Democrats are fighting tooth and nail to protect programs most Americans didn't know even existed and they wouldn't support if they knew they existed. That is what we are doing today: exposing some of these terrible programs and wasteful Washington spending.

It is indefensible what has happened with spending in the past with the last administration. If we have another Schumer shutdown—we have had one before—if we have another one, the American people will pay a heavy price. Seniors who rely on Social Security, military families living paycheck to paycheck, and border patrol agents will be forced to work without pay. Why? So the Democrats can continue to send Americans' taxpayer dollars to foreign countries for very questionable projects.

I heard the minority leader lecture us before about bipartisanship and regular order. Well, look at what has happened. When Senator SCHUMER was the majority leader of the U.S. Senate a year ago, the Senate Appropriations Committee—the committee itself—passed 11 of 12 appropriations bills. They did it by December of 2024, 1 year ago from now.

Many of those bills that came through the committee received unanimous support by the Republicans and the Democrats on the committee. So what happened? Well, Republicans supported getting all these bills done on time through the committee on a bipartisan basis. What did Senator SCHUMER do with these bills? He was the majority leader. He had control of the agenda of the floor of the U.S. Senate. He sat on them for 225 days. He didn't bring them to the floor of the U.S. Senate. Oh, no. He refused to bring a single bill to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a single vote not because he couldn't, because he refused to.

The American voters revolted, changed parties of the President, Senate, and the House. Now he wants to be the one to blame Republicans for gridlock. This is the height of hypocrisy.

That is what we are dealing with, Mr. President. I am all for regular order. That is why I want to commend Senator SUSAN COLLINS for her leadership now as the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Senate. She is working in good faith. She is committed to getting the job done.

This debate is about more than dollars and cents. It is about priorities and about how we spend American taxpayer dollars. Americans didn't vote to continue the Green New Deal or even try to force it on the rest of the world. The American people voted to fix what is broken here at home. Republicans have our priorities straight. Republicans are focusing on making our Nation safer and more prosperous. Republicans are getting this country back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I would like to talk today about the rescission bill that will be coming before us in the next couple of days, and I want to really cover two points: what is being done in this bill and how it is being done. I think they are equally important. In fact, I think, perhaps, how it is being done is more significant in the long run.

The rescission bill talks about, essentially, two areas: public broadcasting and USAID. In my view, the rescission—the total rescission—of those two Agencies—and, by the way, it is a total rescission. It is not a selective cutting of certain programs or partially. It is the whole thing, both in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and USAID. The rescissions range from bad policy to downright dangerous, and I want to talk about that for a minute.

Public broadcasting: Public broadcasting has a unique place in the United States in our media environment in that it is the only media form that is not driven by advertising and advertising dollars. It cannot be driven by ratings. It, therefore, is able to provide programming to the American people that they probably, almost certainly, would not have access to otherwise. It wouldn't simply find a home on commercial broadcasting because the ratings wouldn't be there, but that doesn't mean that the programming isn't important.

My kids were raised on "Sesame Street." It made a huge difference in their readiness to go to school, in their understanding of language and numbers, and in the whole basis of our education system. "Sesame Street" is a program that wouldn't find a home on commercial broadcasting. This is likely also with "NOVA"—with nature—and, yes, with the "PBS NewsHour."

The news business today has become more entertainment because it is based upon advertising and attracting viewers and, therefore, is more inciteful—and I mean that as C-I-T-E, not S-I-G-H-T. It is more inciting to people's anger and unrest in order to keep them viewing, whereas the "PBS NewsHour" is pretty much straight news. It wouldn't get the ratings on MSNBC or on FOX News, but it provides a source of news both in terms of nationally but also in each State. The local National Public Radio's kind of programming—all things considered—is essential to providing information. Now, some people may think it is biased. I don't think anything done by a human is going to be free of any and all bias, but

it is pretty much straight news, and it is an asset to our communities, particularly to our rural communities.

By the way, this isn't where we have Federal dollars that are supporting all of these initiatives. In fact, the majority of the support for public broadcasting, both television and radio, comes from the public, from contributions. So, in effect, our Federal dollars are matched to a very high degree by the public making their own contributions. That is an indication of how much the public values these wonderful assets to our information environment here in the country, and to cut off Federal funding is just an essential piece of the funding. A lot of it goes to the local stations. We talk about the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and we think of PBS and the national programs, but a lot of this funding ends up going to the local stations all over the country that provide essential sources of information to their public.

By the way, the costs we are talking about are ridiculously low. I did the calculation. The relationship between the cost of the public broadcasting to the Federal budget is—let's see—7 cents to \$10,000. That is the ratio: 7 cents out of \$10,000. That is what we are talking about here, which is an almost immeasurable part of the Federal budget, but the return on investment is enormous. It is enormous. If this were a gigantic, \$100 billion program, then we would be having a different kind of discussion; but this is a relatively small program in the context of the Federal budget, with a very high return on investment to the American people.

Now let's talk about USAID. The majority whip was just talking about that, and he listed a number of projects that, I think, are questionable and that I don't necessarily support. USAID is an essential part of our foreign policy to help to stabilize unstable parts of the world; to extend America's soft power; to build America's brand; and, yes, to do some very essential projects.

For example, in PEPFAR, which is an initiative of the George W. Bush administration involving AIDS, the estimate is that that initiative, since its beginning in 2005, has saved 25 million lives; 25 million lives were saved by that program that will be destroyed by this bill. You can't tell me that having that level of benefit to the people of the world does not redound to the benefit of the United States—the sponsor of the initiative.

It is the same thing with malaria. The estimates are that the malaria program, which goes back to, I believe it was, the Obama administration, has prevented 1.5 billion cases of malaria—which is a real plague in many parts of the world—and has saved 11 million lives.

Just those two programs together—those two USAID projects—have saved 36 million lives. We are talking about cutting them off. That is not only bad policy, it is cruel—it is cruel—and it

undermines the credibility of this country.

Of course, foreign aid has a lot of benefits aside from the ones that I have just outlined. By the way, if Congress and the administration want to cull the programs and say, "We don't think this one is necessary. This is not a good expenditure of the people's money," that is fine, but that is not what this bill does. This bill throws out the beneficial baby with the questionable bath water. It is a total abdication of America's engagement with the world. Vaccination campaigns, food security, nutrition programs, disaster response, refugee support—these align with our American values. As I say, it is a relatively small part of the budget. It helps to stabilize fragile states, and it cuts the risk of extremism and terrorism and conflict.

James Mattis put it best. Gen. James Mattis—one of the most distinguished military officers of our time—said: If you don't fund the State Department fully, then you are going to have to buy me more bullets. That puts it most succinctly. You are going to have to buy me more bullets because the programs of USAID tend to stabilize the world and mitigate the tendency toward extremism and violence.

Since we have started to gut USAID, which was one of the first acts of this administration back in January and February, China has stepped into our shoes. I am on the Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee, and I have seen and heard testimony that China is basically stepping in where we are walking away. We are handing Africa and Latin America to the Chinese—in some cases, to the very programs that we were sponsoring. They are the ones who are now engaging with local governments, with local leadership, and getting the credit for helping with these kinds of problems across the world.

We are giving away the goodwill that is part of the American brand. We are giving away the opportunity to build alliances, to strengthen our influence, especially in competition with regimes like China and Russia. It also creates markets for U.S. goods and the U.S. economy. A significant share of the foreign aid ends up going back to businesses and NGOs here in the United States. So it actually contributes to our economic development. Countries that are receiving this U.S. aid end up being partners and customers of U.S. goods, products, and services.

I mentioned it saves lives, and it aligns with our values. There is nothing wrong with talking about values. That is a part of what we should be doing.

USAID is doing important work all over the world. I met with USAID people in Kabul, Afghanistan. I met with them in Jordan, where they are working on a water desalinization project that will literally save Jordan. Jordan is a country that has no water. They are facing a tremendous crisis, so one

of the projects that they are relying on is a very large water production facility that is supported by USAID. That is the kind of project that, I think, we need to continue.

Again, I would not say that every single project they have sponsored is what I would have agreed upon. That is our job as oversight bodies—to take a look at the projects that are being sponsored. The administration can also do that, and they can then cull the projects that we don't think are a useful expenditure of the government's money, of the people's money, but not the wholesale destruction of an Agency that is critical, I believe, to the foreign policy of the United States. So that is the picture on these rescissions.

I believe the more important question, though, as I mentioned, is how this is being done. The question is, Who has the power in our government over appropriations? That is the fundamental question: Where is the power over appropriations as to where Federal dollars go?

The answer to that question, of course, is the Congress. Article I, section 8: The Congress has the power of the purse.

The President can submit his budget, and he can submit a budget that zeroes out USAID and that zeroes out the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, but then the way the process works is that we have hearings; that we have meetings with the Appropriations Committee; the appropriators meet and decide and discuss and debate and come to the floor with a bill that represents the consensus of those on the Appropriations Committee, and then we consider it here.

This process that we are talking about here, this rescission process, turns the whole thing upside down. It basically says the administration can decide programs that are going to go away, and "you can take it or leave it, Congress." I believe that it shreds the appropriations process. The Appropriations Committee and, indeed, this body becomes a rubberstamp for whatever the administration wants.

The deeper problem is, I believe this is another step in Congress's abdication—abdication—of its constitutional authority, which has dramatically accelerated since January.

The war power, which is article I, section 8, is an express power of the Constitution. We barely could have a debate about that, and the President attacked another sovereign country, which may have been the right thing to do. But there was no consultation, there was no attempt whatsoever to engage Congress, which has the power over declaring war, before that step was taken.

Foreign trade: Again, foreign trade—"trade among nations" is the term in the Constitution—is expressly delegated by the Constitution to the Congress. The Congress has delegated some of that authority to the President—to a President, to any President—under

emergency circumstances, but this President has expanded "emergency" to mean just about anything. We learned this week that he is talking about a 50-percent tariff against Brazil because he doesn't like the way the current government is treating the prior President. It has nothing to do with trade. It has nothing to do with the trade deficit. It has nothing to do with tariffs. It has to do with something that the President individually doesn't like. That is not the way the system is supposed to work.

The up-and-down roller coaster that we have been on with regard to tariffs is a perfect example of why one person shouldn't have this authority. This should be something that is done thoughtfully and systematically here in the Congress under article I, section 8, to debate and decide what appropriate tariff levels there are across the world and not this helter-skelter, up and down, changing every other day that has not only already—we have reports today—affected inflation in this country and brought it up, but it has also created enormous uncertainty both in our markets and across the world.

Then, finally, we see the power of the purse—Congress's fundamental responsibility.

By the way, as I have talked to my colleagues—particularly my Republican colleagues—about this issue over the last several months, one of the common refrains is: Don't worry. We don't have to buck the President because the courts will take care of it. The courts will take care of us. They will protect us.

Well, that ain't happening. The ridiculous decision of the Supreme Court yesterday on the Department of Education is an indication that we cannot count on the courts to protect us from the depredations of a proto-authoritarian regime. They basically said: The President can continue to gut the Department of Education because we are going to hear the case later, and maybe we will decide it when it comes.

They did the same thing with birth-right citizenship. They punted on the issue and allowed the authoritarian-like activities to continue before they get to the case in their own good time.

So we can't count on the courts. That means we are it. The Congress, the Senate, has to stand up for the Constitution.

What this bill is, is another building block in the edifice of authoritarianism that we are seeing built before our eyes—a building block in the edifice of authoritarianism.

Why is this important? Is this just a dispute between the Congress and the President; politics as usual; Democrats attacking and undermining a Republican President; and it is just going to be all about the midterms and the elections of 2028? No. This is much deeper than that. This is much deeper than that.

The fundamental premise of the Constitution is the separation of power,

and the reason it is there is because history tells us that if power is concentrated, it is dangerous.

Madison put it absolutely bluntly in the 47th Federalist:

The accumulation of all powers legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same [set] of hands . . . may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

He used the word "tyranny." Madison wasn't mincing words.

History tells us that if you concentrate power in one set of hands, it is dangerous. Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We know that from a thousand years of human nature. That was exactly what the Framers of the Constitution were trying to prevent by this complicated, difficult structure where there is power in the Congress, power in the States, power in the Executive, power in the courts, two Houses of Congress, vetoes, overrides. All of those checks and balances, which have become a kind of cliché, are there for a fundamental reason, and that is to protect our liberty, to protect us from the danger of power being concentrated in one set of hands.

The Framers thought that they didn't have to worry about this, having set up the Constitution the way they did, because they said: Never will the Congress give up its power.

The phrase they used was "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition," that there would be institutional rivalry and we would never give up. Well, they didn't reckon on parties. They didn't reckon on party primaries. They didn't reckon on the Executive having such sway with the legislative branch that the checks and balances essentially have melted away.

This bill is important because of the merits, as I talked about, about the danger of wiping out USAID and all the good it does in the world and the good it does for our country and also wiping out public broadcasting and all the good that it does—the irreplaceable good that it does—for the people in the United States. But it is also more dangerous than ever because it is one more step, as I mentioned, in the breakdown of the fundamental constitutional structure that says power must be divided because if it is concentrated in one set of hands—and I don't care whether it is Donald Trump or the Archangel Gabriel, it is dangerous to have the power in one set of hands. That is how we lose our liberty.

Again, Madison:

When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person or body, there can be no liberty.

We must listen. We must listen to history, to the people who brought us here, the people who brought us this government, the geniuses who formed this structure to protect the liberty of the American people.

It may seem like a small thing—this is one more bill, one more item—but it is one more step, in my view, toward empowering the Executive at the expense not of the Congress but of the

people—but of the people—of the United States.

I don't know what it is going to take, but I hope this debate, this discussion, will lead us to finally say: This is a line too far. We are going to draw a line here, and we will establish a relationship with the President that is cooperative, collaborative, bipartisan, and sharing the power that the Constitution gives to each of us. There is nothing less than the liberty of our people that is at stake.

I therefore urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and begin a discussion in the appropriations process as to these two elements and how they should be structured and funded. That is the way it should be done—not by the dictate of a President, of one who is trying to collapse the authority in our Constitution into his own hands.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes and Senator HAGERTY of Tennessee be allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF ANTHONY TATA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to carefully consider their vote on the nomination of Mr. Anthony Tata to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The position is absolutely critical and crucial. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is responsible for all personnel matters in the Department of Defense, including military families, childcare, family and financial readiness, the military school system, and working with the military services to ensure the health and welfare of the force. It requires a leader of the highest quality of judgment, expertise, and character.

There is no question that President Trump has the right to choose whom he wants in this critical role, but the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness should be someone who is capable, without question, to meet the demands of the job and the expectations of those he will lead.

Mr. Tata was nominated 5 years ago for a position of similar importance in the Defense Department. However, the Armed Services Committee considered his nomination carefully and, on a bipartisan basis, declined to even bring his nomination to a vote. President Trump ultimately withdrew his nomination. I fail to understand why he now would be qualified to oversee millions of servicemembers and their families as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

I respect and I appreciate his military service, but his record of public statements and behavior toward individuals with whom he disagrees politically is disqualifying for a position of this significance.

Mr. Tata's history of controversial and divisive statements is well-documented. Prior to his last nomination, he publicly called President Obama, the Commander in Chief, "a terrorist leader." And he said that then-CIA Director John Brennan deserved to be executed. More recently, he made unsubstantiated claims that there are "mutinous discussions" within the military ranks to sabotage President Trump, and he called for a complete purge of Pentagon leadership, including firing all four-star generals and senior career civilian employees.

I am concerned that Mr. Tata has a misguided and discriminatory view of the military and civilian workforces he would oversee. Our servicemembers and their families and the civilian employees who support them come from all backgrounds and political persuasions. They come from every State and territory in the Union—red States and blue States. Mr. Tata, to be effective, would need to serve all members of the Department of Defense and their families, not just those with whom he agrees politically. His public record and past performance at the Pentagon do not inspire confidence in this great regard.

Mr. Tata failed to alleviate any of these concerns during his hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. In fact, he doubled down on his goal of removing leadership seen as not loyal to this administration and gave no indication he would exercise measured and independent judgment and seems intent on furthering this administration's political weaponization of the military.

The worst thing that could happen to our military is it becomes a political arm of the President of the United States—any President. Military men and women take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, not to serve a President. That has kept our military not only above the political fray but the most expert, the most credible, and the most dominant military force in history. If we have personnel in key positions that are evaluating people on their political beliefs rather than their merit, talent, and commitment to the Constitution, we are making a profound mistake.

As I hope my colleagues know, my top priority has been national security and avoiding partisanship as much as one can do. I am ready and able to pick up the phone and talk to people in the Department of Defense, regardless of political party. We look consciously—I look consciously—for common ground in which we can work together because, ultimately, it is not about Republican Presidents, Democratic Presidents, Republican priorities; it is about the welfare and effectiveness of men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. They deserve more than partisanship. They serve cooperation, consideration, and respect for their views.

The American people also deserve that because they are the ones who ul-

timately are supporting these men and women and not just in a financial sense but in a very, very strong, profound, emotional sense of lending their support, of saluting these brave men and women. I am extraordinarily proud of that.

Having reviewed twice and very carefully Mr. Tata's record, particularly his political—indeed, naked political assertions of going after his enemies, placing him in this position would, I think, put him at a point where he would do more harm than good. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### NOMINATION OF LUKE PETTIT

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm the confirmation of my teammate and friend Luke Pettit, President Trump's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.

Luke has served on my staff for more than 3 years. In that time, he has become a vital part of my team, but more than that, Luke has become a leader, an indispensable adviser, and, in fact, a close friend.

Luke is exceptionally qualified. He came to the Senate with an already impressive resume. He has sterling academic credentials. Luke has years of experience at the Federal Reserve and in the private sector. His background has given him a deep understanding of how our Nation's financial system works, not just in theory but also in practice.

Luke is a true rarity here in Washington, DC. While possessing a deep understanding of complex technical matters, Luke has never lost sight of the true aim of economic policy, which is very simply to expand opportunity and to deliver prosperity to Americans from every walk of life.

Here in the Senate, Luke worked arm in arm with many of your staffers to write the GENIUS Act, landmark legislation to regulate stablecoins and promote innovation. Many of you and your staff will recall the long hours it took to move this measure forward.

This bill's passage was never guaranteed. It passed, in great part, thanks to Luke's tireless efforts to overcome obstacles and to bring people together across the aisle. In fact, without Luke's leadership and perseverance, the GENIUS Act, as we know it, would not have been possible.

Beyond his many qualifications, Luke is a leader in the truest sense. He is admired not merely for what he knows but how he carries himself, with humility and with selfless dedication to the task at hand.

Luke is beloved and respected by my entire team, and he mentors countless young men and women in the Halls of the Senate and beyond, including my own children.



To Senate staffers gathered here today, I hope you will see Luke's confirmation as an inspiration and an acknowledgment of the vital role that all of you play in shaping policy and serving this country. The strength and stability of the financial system are vital to our Nation's prosperity, to our global competitiveness, and, frankly, to the American way of life.

At the highest levels of government, we need leaders who understand the weight of that responsibility, leaders who will approach their duties with wisdom, humility, and an unshakable commitment to do what is right.

Luke Pettit is just that kind of leader.

Mr. President, I can think of no one more qualified, no one more committed, and, frankly, no one more ready to serve than Luke Pettit. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support the confirmation of Luke Pettit, which is about to occur.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Tata and Edlow nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON PETTIT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pettit nomination?

Mr. HAGERTY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

#### YEAS—69

Alsobrooks	Graham	Murkowski
Banks	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hagerty	Peters
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rosen
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schiff
Collins	Justice	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Kim	Shaheen
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Durbin	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Warner
Fetterman	Moody	Warnock
Fischer	Moran	Whitehouse
Gallego	Moreno	Wicker
Gillibrand	Mullin	Young

#### NAYS—30

Baldwin	Coons	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	King
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Lujan
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Markley
Booker	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Cantwell	Hirono	Murphy

Murray	Schatz	Van Hollen
Ossoff	Schumer	Warren
Padilla	Slotkin	Welch
Sanders	Smith	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

McCormick

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.

#### 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. 134, Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Thom Tillis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall, Chuck Grassley, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Mike Rounds, John Kennedy.

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 Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 387 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Blunt Rochester	Cortez Masto
Baldwin	Booker	Duckworth
Bennet	Cantwell	Durbin
Blumenthal	Coons	Fetterman

Gallego
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kelly
Kim
King
Klobuchar
Lujan

Markey
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schiff

Schumer
Shaheen
Slotkin
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

McCormick

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 52, the nays are 47, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:54 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:34 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### VOTE ON TATA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Tata nomination?

Mr. CRUZ. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 388 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Daines	Lummis
Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Fischer	McConnell
Boozman	Graham	Moody
Britt	Grassley	Moran
Budd	Hagerty	Moreno
Capito	Hawley	Mullin
Cassidy	Hoeven	Murkowski
Collins	Husted	Paul
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cotton	Johnson	Risch
Cramer	Justice	Rounds
Crapo	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Curtis	Lee	Scott (SC)



Sheehy  
Sullivan  
Thune

Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker

Young

[Rollcall Vote No. 389 Ex.]

YEAS—50

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Blunt Rochester  
Booker  
Cantwell  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Durbin  
Fetterman  
Gallego  
Gillibrand  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hickenlooper

Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Markey  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen

Sanders  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Slotkin  
Smith  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

Banks  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Cruz  
Curtis  
Daines  
Ernst  
Fischer

Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeven  
Husted  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Justice  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Moody  
Moran

Moreno  
Mullin  
Paul  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Rounds  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sheehy  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

NAYS—46

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth McCormick

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.

### 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 184, Joseph Edlow, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph Edlow, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), and the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

Alsobrooks  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Blunt Rochester  
Booker  
Cantwell  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Durbin  
Fetterman  
Gallego  
Gillibrand  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hickenlooper

Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Markey  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen

Crapo  
Duckworth

NOT VOTING—4

McCormick Murkowski

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 46.

The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joseph Edlow, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, also, with me today is Mr. Will McCarthy, one of my colleagues from my Senate office.

Today, we are going to start talking about and voting on the rescission package, and I want to talk about that for a few minutes.

As the Presiding Officer knows, under our Constitution, Congress passes a budget. We send that budget to the President of the United States, whoever that might be, and the President executes, or implements, our budget.

On occasion, under Federal statute, the President has the authority, after we have passed a budget in Congress, to look at the budget and say: You know, I don't need all this money to accomplish the goals that Congress established and instructed me to accomplish.

So the President can contact us and say: Congress, I would like you to rescind some of the spending in the budget that you sent to me.

It is called a rescission bill or a rescission package.

President Trump has sent us a rescission bill, or a rescission package, asking the U.S. Congress to cut the budget by roughly \$9 billion, and that is what we are going to start voting on today.

Now, \$9 billion is a lot of money—except when you compare it to the overall Federal budget. Nine billion dollars, despite the fact that it is a bucketload of money, is one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget—one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget. It gives you an idea of how big the Federal budget is.

I think most people—most adults, anyway—understand that in life, what you say doesn't really matter. What you say doesn't really matter. It is what you do that demonstrates what you believe. That is certainly true in politics, and that is certainly true in Washington, DC. Ignore what anybody in Washington, DC, says. Ignore it. If you want to understand their behavior, look at their behavior. In Washington, DC, as in life, what you do is what you believe, not what you say. What you do is what you believe, and everything else is just cottage cheese.

Now, President Trump—whether you voted for him or not and whether you like him or not—ran on a platform of reducing the size of government, and the people elected him. Since day one, the President, if you have paid attention to the news, has been working very hard to reduce government spending, and he has reduced a lot. He started out with the DOGE program, with Mr. Elon Musk. Mr. Musk, of course, has left, but the quest to reduce government spending—wasteful government spending, which I call spending porn—continues.

Every Republican in the U.S. Senate has voiced approval of what the President has done. Every Republican—every one of my colleagues, myself included—has said to the President: Attaboy, Mr. President. Go get 'em. Keep issuing those Executive orders. Reduce the spending. We are spending too much money. We have got a \$37 trillion debt. Keep going, Mr. President.

The President has, but he has been doing it through Executive order. There is only so much you can do through Executive order. An Executive order, issued by a President, expires when the President is no longer in office. The only way to permanently reduce spending is to have Congress act, and that is what the President is asking us to do in this rescission bill.

What you do is what you believe, and everything else is just cottage cheese.

The rescission package that the President has sent over—we are going to start considering it today. And after listening in some cases for years but certainly for the last 100-plus days since President Trump has been in office—after listening to my Republican colleagues talk about the importance of reducing spending, it is gut check

time. It is gut check time because what you do is what you believe, not what you say, and now my colleagues and I have an opportunity to really support the President.

Now, I don't know if this bill is going to pass. I do not know if it is going to pass. I mean, I have heard a lot of wailing and the gnashing of teeth and whining and that civilization is going to melt if we cut one-tenth of 1 percent of the budget. That is coming from some of my Democratic colleagues, and they are entitled to their point of view, but I want to put this in context.

After all of us on my side of the aisle have told the world that we need to reduce spending, if we vote against this rescission package and refuse to reduce spending by one-tenth of 1 percent of the budget, we ought to hide our heads in a bag. We ought to hide our heads in a bag.

What kind of spending is the President asking us to reduce, to eliminate? That is important because not all government spending is wasteful, but a lot of it is. That is why I call it spending porn. I am going to read you some of the appropriations that the President is asking us to eliminate from the current budget, and you be the judge. Let the American people decide.

The President is asking us to eliminate \$5.1 million of taxpayer money in the American budget, the Federal budget, that is there to "strengthen the resilience of queer global movements."

The President is asking us to rescind \$6 million for media organizations and civic life for Palestinians.

The President, in light of our \$37 trillion budget deficit, is asking us to reduce spending—to reduce a program—in the amount of \$3.9 million for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex population in the Western Balkans.

The President is suggesting that we eliminate a program of \$1 million for voter ID programs in Haiti.

This is your money, folks.

The President is asking us to reduce the budget by \$3 million which is appropriated for "sexual reproductive health in Venezuela"; \$3 million for circumcision, vasectomies, and condoms in Zambia.

I didn't make this stuff up; it is in the budget.

There is \$3 million for "Sesame Street" in Iraq; \$833,000 for transgender people, sex workers, and their clients in Nepal; \$882,000 for social media mentorship in Serbia and Belarus; \$3.6 million for pastry cooking classes, cyber cafes, and dance focus groups for male prostitutes in Haiti.

How many Americans do you know think we should be spending their money to fund male prostitutes in Haiti? But there it is in our budget—bigger than Dallas—and the President is saying: Cut it out.

We have \$6.2 million for Venezuelan migrants in Colombia and \$500,000 to buy Rwanda electric buses.

I love Rwanda. If they want electric buses, they have got a budget.

There is \$300,000 for a pride parade in Lesotho; \$300,000 for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex advocacy in Uganda; \$500,000 for biodiversity in Peru.

I could keep going. I could go the rest of the day and night.

I know what you are thinking: How in God's name—on God's green Earth—did this spending porn get in the Federal Government's budget? Why would Congress put it there?

Well, I am going to tell you why: We didn't. When we pass a budget, we pass budgets based on programs or agendas or line items. We don't put in there that we would like to spend \$5.1 million on strengthening the resilience of queer global movements. We appropriate money by Agency or line item. For example, we might appropriate money for the Economic Support Fund or, if you look at our budget, you will see money appropriated for the United States Institute of Peace. If you look at our budget, you will see money that Congress has appropriated for migration and refugee assistance. Then this money goes to the bureaucracy, and the bureaucracy takes the money that we have appropriated, for example, to the Economic Support Fund, and they decide to give it to their friends—usually nongovernmental organizations—to fund these nonsensical items that I just spent a few minutes reading.

Congress didn't vote to spend \$3 million on sexual reproductive health in Venezuela; we voted for a program that the bureaucrats took and spent on sexual health, reproductive health, in Venezuela. That is not an excuse, but I get that question all the time: Why did Congress vote to do this? We didn't. The bureaucracy did. It is a giant, rogue beast.

The point is, Trump caught it, and his people caught it, and the President is saying: Get rid of it.

With all of these programs, this spending porn, we would be better off taking this money and spending it on scratch tickets and blackjack. We would be better off taking all of this money that I just talked about and spending it on scratch tickets and blackjack. At least taxpayers might have a chance of getting a return. That is how out of control this is. But if you listen to some of my colleagues, they say: Oh, my God. If we cut \$9 billion—if we cut this spending porn—civilization is going to melt.

There is one other thing in our budget that the President is asking us to cut. He is asking us to cut a little over \$1 billion for what I will call public broadcasting. When I say "public broadcasting," I am talking about the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I am talking about the Public Broadcasting Service, or PBS. I am talking about National Public Radio—NPR, as we call it.

We spend anywhere from \$500 to \$600 million a year on public broadcasting.

Why do we do that? Well, we started doing it years ago—at least 50 years ago—at a time when there were only three television stations and a few radio stations and newspapers. A lot of folks in rural areas didn't get the television stations. They didn't get any news at all. They might live far enough away from a major city that they didn't even have a daily newspaper.

So Congress said: You know, we want everybody to know what is going on in the world. We are going to start public broadcasting, and we are going to give them money every year, and they won't have to run ads because we are going to spend taxpayer money to give to these radio stations and television stations. That was 50 years ago.

Today, American people have access to all forms of media: streaming, cable TV, network TV, TikTok, Twitter, newspapers—those that are left. No one is in a news desert anymore. So why are we spending money on public broadcasting, \$500 million a year?

The other factor is, it is undeniable that Public Broadcasting has become political. Unless you have been a huge disappointment to your parents, you understand if you listen to Public Broadcasting, that it is representing today one political point of view.

The president of NPR—no one would mistake her for Walter Cronkite, I can assure you—her name is Kathleen Maher. This is her position. She is supposed to be delivering the news objectively, but this is what she has said:

Trump is a deranged racist sociopath.

The president and CEO of NPR thinks that America is "addicted to white supremacy." She has denounced the use of words "boy" and "girl." She says that is "erasing language for non-binary people." She contends that the United States was founded on the basis of "black plunder and white democracy." That is who is running the show over there.

She is entitled to her beliefs. This is America. You are entitled to believe what you want.

NPR and PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are entitled to publish and broadcast what they publish, but not on the taxpayers' dime. When we owe \$37 trillion—and we really owe that money—we have no business spending half a billion dollars a year, giving it to any form of media. We don't fund CNN. We don't fund FOX News. We don't fund newspapers. Why are we funding PBS and NPR and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

All the President is saying: I don't want you to do that anymore, Congress. I don't want you to fund any form of media. PBS, for example, is right to publish what they want, but Congress shouldn't give them taxpayer money to do it. Let them go raise money in the private sector.

The President is right. The President is absolutely right.

That is all this rescission bill is going to do. It is going to bring a little bit of sanity back to our appropriations process.

I am going to end on this note. I am going to end as I began: What you do is what you believe, and everything else is just cottage cheese.

I have been here 10 years. Every one of those 10 years, but especially in the last 100 days since President Trump was reelected and started talking about reducing spending, I have listened to all of my Republican colleagues encourage the President and say: That is great. We have got to reduce spending. We have got to reduce spending.

Well, here is your chance. Here is your chance. It is gut-check time. You either believe in reducing spending, or you don't. You either support spending porn, or you don't. We are going to find out who does and who doesn't here in about 3 or 4 hours.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, the Department of Homeland Security has an extremely important mission: to keep Americans safe. Under that mission, the Department is tasked with two critical jobs: border security and disaster response.

Our current Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, has failed both. In her short tenure, Secretary Noem has overstepped, underperformed, and endangered the lives of countless Americans. I believe it is time for Secretary Noem to resign or for her to be fired.

Secretary Noem has undermined FEMA's work and, in so doing, endangered disaster victims. Just a few months ago, Secretary Noem said in a Cabinet meeting:

We are eliminating FEMA.

And she meant it. She meant it. We saw evidence of that in what happened not just in Texas but in North Carolina, New Mexico, California, Kentucky, Hawaii, and Vermont, where FEMA is absolutely crucial to helping people in communities and businesses recover from disaster.

We need FEMA. It is only the resources of the Federal Government that can surge resources into affected communities. We can't lose that function and that capacity. When you need safety from a flood, when you need to start the long road to recovery, you need the support of the Federal Government. No State, no community can do this alone.

I have seen from our experience in Vermont that FEMA, in fact, must be reformed. It must not be destroyed, as Secretary Noem has suggested.

In my view, we cannot have a leader in charge of FEMA who is committed to its destruction. We must have one who is energetically committed to its reform.

We have seen the result of Secretary Noem's indifference to FEMA as the catastrophe in Texas unfolded. As the waters rose along the Guadalupe River

in Hill Country, it was the people of Hill Country, as my colleague Representative CHIP ROY of Texas said, who responded heroically. They were saving lives; they were rescuing stranded children; they were comforting those who lost loved ones; and they provided material assistance and constant support.

As for FEMA, it didn't answer the phone. Secretary Noem had instituted a policy to micromanage FEMA to death. Under Secretary Noem's watch, FEMA instituted a new policy that required the Secretary's signature on any expense more than \$100,000, which, at the time of a major catastrophe, is a very small amount.

Secretary Noem had an "eyes wide open" awareness that this policy would mean it would take "a minimum of five days for front office review." In a disaster, you do not have 5 days.

Contractors for FEMA answered the vast majority of calls—about 3,000—from flood victims on July 5. But according to news reports, after contracts with those companies were allowed to lapse, that response rate fell to 36 percent on July 6 and then only 16 percent on July 7. When people needed someone to answer the phone, FEMA left 13,793 calls unanswered.

In the aftermath of disaster, people cannot wait for help. Many are homeless or living in very dangerous conditions. Search and rescue teams were waiting to be deployed. Disaster recovery centers were slow to open. Current and former FEMA employees have raised the alarm about how slow the Federal Government was to respond and support Texas. We can reform FEMA in very commonsense ways—and we must—but we cannot risk the lives of countless Americans under the mismanagement of a Secretary who has called for its elimination.

There is a second reason Secretary Noem must resign. She is failing our country on immigration. We have three fundamental issues on immigration: border security, the deportation of criminals, and the status of people who are here without legal status but are working, are paying taxes, in many cases have families, and have no criminal record.

I want to step back for a minute and acknowledge something that too many Democrats have been too slow to state: The United States does need a secure border, and President Trump has largely accomplished that.

In December 2023, there were 249,740 illegal crossing arrests between official ports of entry. That was an all-time high. Last month, that number dwindled to 6,070 illegal border crossing arrests. I give President Trump credit for that change.

The second issue is that undocumented immigrants who have committed serious crimes should be held accountable. They should be prosecuted, punished, and deported. There is widespread consensus on that.

Yet on the third issue, those who are here without committing crimes, who

in many cases were brought here as young people, we are seeing under the leadership of Secretary Noem that her response is an across-the-board embarkation on a massive and far-reaching deportation plan. There is no distinction in her policy among those who were brought here as children, who have families, who have jobs, who pay taxes, and who serve their communities.

But there is a big difference between deporting known criminals and rounding up immigrants—some of whom have status to be here, in fact, are here legally—from work sites, from schools, and from churches. This mass deportation policy is not about serving America and doing what our country needs to be strong and safe. It is, instead, about Secretary Noem accumulating the highest possible head count of deportees. It is hurting those folks, their families, and their communities, of course, but it is also hurting America and, particularly, rural America.

Our farmers depend on labor to milk their cows and to pick their crops. It is weakening our construction industry, where workplace raids are shutting down construction sites, including for low-income housing, which we so desperately need. It is decimating our healthcare workforce, in the hospitality industry in every State of the Union.

We need a Homeland Security Secretary who will help us develop a sensible policy for folks who are here without status but have no criminal record, who work, who have families, and are taxpayers.

There is no restraint. There is no nuance. There is no judgment being applied by the Department leader, the Secretary of Homeland Security, to develop a policy that makes sense, a policy that balances security and our economy, a policy that makes a distinction between law-abiding people who know no country other than the United States of America versus criminals who should not be allowed to remain in the country.

And finally, I have significant concerns about Secretary Noem's fiscal mismanagement and self-aggrandizement as DHS Secretary. This fiscal issue is particularly important in light of the billions of dollars that were allocated to that Department in the recent legislation.

Secretary Noem awarded as much as \$200 million for an ad campaign that she started, thanking President Trump for his immigration policy and warning migrants in the United States to leave, a campaign that was reportedly awarded to a Republican campaign consultant.

Secretary Noem spent \$21 million to transport 400 migrants to Guantanamo Bay—\$55,500 per person.

Do we really need to spend that much?

And several of those migrants were quickly transferred out of the facility.

There are also too many instances of Secretary Noem putting her personal

ambition ahead of her mission responsibility. She has posed for photos and videos using detained people as props. She has joined television interviews in various uniforms—as a Border Patrol agent. She has treated ICE raids as political theater.

And while in Vermont at the Haskell Free Library and Opera House—it is a library that sits directly on the Vermont-Canadian border—the Secretary jumped from one side of the line in the middle of the library and parroted terrible things about Canada; “51st State”—and then she jumped back, “United States”; “51st State, United States.”

That was deeply offensive to Vermonters who have an enormous amount of affection for our Canadian neighbors, and we have suffered the consequences of dramatic downsizing of our tourism industry—totally unnecessary, totally provocative and wrong.

We have an obligation to protect the safety of the families that all of us represent, and I urge every one of my colleagues to demand better for our constituents and for every American. We need a Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security who puts public safety and preparedness before her personal image or political aspirations.

Secretary Noem must resign.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I am so pleased that we are going to move forward today on the rescission package that has come over to us from the House.

As I talk to Tennesseans, one of the No. 1 things they talk about is the debt; what are we doing to stop the out-of-control spending and to get this national debt under control.

After you look at what happened with COVID and with the Joe Biden years, we are sitting at \$37 trillion in debt. So last November, the American people voted to make a change on how this country is running. One of the things they wanted to see changed was out-of-control, reckless spending.

Now, if you look at this debt and where it stands right now and you say: How much am I, as an American citizen, responsible for, each and every citizen in this country would be holding \$108,000 in debt. Think about that. All of our citizens, each and every one of us—whether you are the dad, the mom, the children—each and every citizen bears the burden of \$108,000 in our Nation's debt.

One of the things that came up this weekend when I was at home and somebody was asking about the rescission package and when we were going to get this done and start making some of the cuts, start making the DOGE cuts—this was a veteran, and they pointed out that they were aware that we are spending more money to pay the interest on our debt than we are spending to fund the U.S. military.

Think about that. Think about what that message is that goes to other countries as they are looking at what we are spending on national defense compared to what we are spending on our debt.

What does that say about the priorities that we have as a nation?

So Tennesseans know that the path we are on with this spending is not sustainable. We can't continue this.

When you look at where we were with our debt when George Bush was President and we were at about \$10.5 trillion when he left the Oval Office and Barack Obama and Joe Biden come in, and they doubled that number; you had President Trump's first term and COVID hit; and then the out-of-control spending by the Biden White House, that is how you end up at \$37 trillion, and it should concern everyone.

I guess we are learning the autopen was signing a lot of those sales receipts over at the White House. The point is, we have this debt.

Now, the good thing is, that when the American people voted to get this spending under control last November, they sent President Donald Trump back to the White House, back to the Oval Office. And, yes, indeed, he has gotten busy looking at how we spend the taxpayers' money.

He has spent time looking at the resources that we have and how we utilize those resources. And indeed, they have targeted \$190 billion in this year's budget documents for waste, fraud, and abuse and for removing those programs to yield that savings to the American people.

And I think the American people see this as a victory for them and for their pocketbook. Hard-working taxpayers want to keep more of their money. They don't want to be sending it to DC for programs that outlived their usefulness, programs they have never heard of, programs that they don't want.

So we have the opportunity now to go in and claw back some of that money, draw a red line right through the middle of those programs in that budget document and make these savings permanent.

Should we do that? Absolutely. We should be doing that.

That is why you are seeing Republicans here in the Senate choose to move forward on the rescission package that will save \$9 billion out of this year's budget. And you know, as you think about it, budgets are 10-year windows so you are not going to see those items next year or the next or the next. So you are going to compound those savings.

Nine billion dollars each year in that 10-year budget—those savings mount up, and it is what the American people are wanting to see us do, to get rid of some of this reckless spending.

Now there are some good examples of programs that we are going to draw that red line through those programs and eliminate them from this budget document. There is \$1.1 billion for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

Now, this is an organization that funds NPR and PBS. And what we know—think about NPR. They have been pushing a leftwing ideology using the taxpayers' money for years. And my colleague from Louisiana Senator KENNEDY talks some about Katherine Maher, who is NPR's CEO, and the things that she has had to say about President Trump.

She has called him all sorts of names. Now, she is not somebody that is neutral, and she is not somebody that wants to give you a point and a counterpoint. She has an opinion, and she is using your tax dollars to spread her opinion far and wide.

One of the things that they did ahead of the 2020 election, NPR refused to cover the revelations about Hunter Biden's laptop and his overseas business deals. And at that time, NPR's leadership had this to say:

We don't want to waste the listeners' and readers' time on stories that are just pure distractions.

Now, that was their opinion. They are entitled to that opinion, but they are not entitled to take the taxpayers hard-earned money and spend it to push their opinion.

As we now know, they were wrong—they were wrong.

Now, the rescissions package that is coming before us also cuts billions of dollars in foreign aid spending that really does nothing to promote American values and interests around the globe. Here are a few of these things.

There is a \$4 million item for “sedentary migrants” in Colombia. That is their term. That is the line item—\$4 million for “sedentary migrants” in Colombia.

There is \$3 million for an Iraqi version of “Sesame Street.”

There is \$1 million for voter ID efforts in Haiti; \$500,000 for electric buses in Rwanda; \$6 million for “Net Zero Cities”—that means no carbon emissions—“Net Zero Cities” in Mexico; and \$2.1 million for “climate resilience” in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

I could stand here for hours and go through some of the ridiculous, absurd items that are listed and the amounts of your money that you have earned and you have sent to Washington, DC, to be spent on God knows what.

So it is important that we look at this, and, yes, we are going to make reductions in spending in the appropriations process, but do you know what? Doing these cuts helps to push this forward.

You know, there is also some money in this rescission package that is going to be removed from some of these international organizations that work against our interests.

Now, all during COVID, we heard about the World Health Organization and how the World Health Organization was covering up for China, and they were going to be certain that they covered for China, and we would not know the truth about what happened with COVID.

So in this document, we are going to remove \$135 million from the World Health Organization, and from the U.N. Human Rights Council, \$8 million. The reason to do this? They support dictators, they support repressive regimes, and they are demonizing our ally Israel.

These are wise decisions to be made about how we spend their money. And do you know what? It is common sense. As I have had Tennesseans say to me, it is about time that we start to make these reductions. We know that Tennesseans support these cuts. The American people support these cuts.

This is about fiscal responsibility. It is about thinking about our kids and our grandkids and what kind of country they are going to inherit. What are we going to leave for them?

You know, running up this kind of debt—I think it is so important to remember what Admiral Mullen, who was then Chief of Staff over at the Pentagon, said in July of 2010.

He was asked: What keeps you up at night? What do you think is the biggest threat?

His reply to that reporter—significant—he said: The greatest threat to our freedom is our Nation's debt.

It is time for us to stop the out-of-control spending. It is time for us to begin to turn this around and reduce what the Federal Government spends.

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.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, all Americans can take great pride in our Nation's generosity that has saved millions of people around the world from starvation and disease, and our government Agencies coordinating aid efforts should be eager to share details about how their use of taxpayer money makes the world a better place. Yet, over the past decade, USAID repeatedly rebuffed my request for information, using intimidation and shell games to hide where money is going, how it is being spent, and why.

As a result of my oversight, I learned that the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, is a rogue bureaucracy operating with little accountability and even sometimes at odds with our Nation's best interests.

What warranted such secrecy and stonewalling? Here is just some of USAID's questionable spending that I uncovered: Money intended to alleviate economic distress in war-torn Ukraine was spent sending models and designers on junkets to New York City and fashion weeks in Paris and London at a cost of more than \$203,000, \$148,000 went to a pickle maker, a dog collar manufacturer fetched \$300,000, and a custom

carpet manufacturer collected \$2 million.

Elsewhere, \$20 million was awarded to Sesame Workshop, which produces "Sesame Street," to create content for Iraq. Two million dollars went toward promoting—get this, folks—promoting tourism to Lebanon—a nation that our very own State Department warns against traveling to due to the risks of terrorism and kidnapping.

Yes, folks, 2 million bucks for tourism to Lebanon when we are saying: Don't travel there.

Also, \$67,000 was spent to feed edible insects to children in Madagascar, and over \$800,000 was sent to China's notorious Wuhan Institute of Virology to collect coronaviruses.

What exactly was our International Development Agency developing at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology? Well, if the CIA, the FBI, and other experts are correct that the COVID virus likely originated from a lab leak, USAID may have had a hand in a once-in-a-century pandemic that claimed the lives of millions.

There is no shortage of other questionable USAID projects, but President Trump is putting an end to this deep state operation.

The foreign assistance programs that do advance American interests are now being administered under the watchful eye of Secretary Marco Rubio. This includes projects previously supported by USAID that were caring for orphans and people living with HIV.

Imagine how much more good work like this could be done with the dollars that instead financed fashion shows, supported "Sesame Street" programs in Iraq, or ended up at China's Wuhan Institute.

Overseas projects without merit are being ended, and the tax dollars that were paying for them will be refunded if the Senate passes the rescissions bill.

It also cancels taxpayers' subsidies to public broadcasting. Too often, these programs are partisan propaganda. And you don't have to take my word for it. A National Public Radio senior editor recently confessed, and I will quote this editor's words, not mine:

It's true NPR has always had a liberal bent.

He admits the organization has zero—zero—Republicans in editorial positions. Come on, folks, even CNN has Scott Jennings to roast the loony liberal lunatics on that failing network.

NPR has the right to say whatever the heck they want, but they don't have a right to force hard-working Americans to pay for their political propaganda being masked as a public service.

Defunding this nonsense is causing a lot of squealing from the big spenders around here. Washington insiders are more upset at this effort to stop wasteful spending than at the misuse of taxpayer dollars. In fact, saving tax money is such a crazy concept in Washington that Democrats are threatening

to shut down the entire government if this bill passes. It says a lot about the other side's priorities when they are willing to take hostage funding for veterans and senior citizens to prevent \$9 billion in unnecessary waste, fraud, and abuse from being trimmed from our \$7 trillion annual budget. The interest that we are paying on our debt alone is costing nearly \$3 billion every single day—every day.

If we are ever going to get serious about our debt crisis, Congress needs to pass a rescissions bill like this every single week—every week.

Folks, the simple truth is, if you can't find waste in Washington, it is because you simply are not looking. With our national debt now exceeding \$37 trillion, the real question we should be asking isn't why is government spending now being scrutinized, but, rather, why did it take so long?

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. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON EDLOW NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Edlow nomination?

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 390 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Duckworth	Kaine
Baldwin	Durbin	Kelly
Bennet	Fetterman	Kim
Blumenthal	Gallego	King
Blunt	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Booker	Hassan	Lujan
Cantwell	Heinrich	Markey
Coons	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Cortez Masto	Hirono	Murphy

Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders

Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Slotkin  
Smith  
Van Hollen

Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

## NOT VOTING—1

McCormick

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 actions.

The majority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 260.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 260, Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 263.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 263, Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 96.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 96, Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Todd Young, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Deb Fischer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 108.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 91.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Lindsey Graham, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Shelley Moore Capito, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Roger Marshall, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Pete Ricketts.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 114.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 114, John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley, Bill Hagerty, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Jim Justice.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2025—MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I have a discharge petition at the desk and move that the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Budget be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that time until 8 p.m., today, be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that, at 8 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to discharge H.R. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

## RESCISSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, Republicans passed the most expensive bill in the history of the Senate. Why? To cut taxes for billionaires and, at the same time, to cut Medicaid and SNAP for needy families.

But now Republicans are pretending they are concerned about the debt—so concerned that they need to shut down local radio stations, so concerned that they are going to cut off “Sesame Street.” They are so concerned that they want to whack away at our global credibility and slash humanitarian aid in the process.

The idea that this is about balancing the debt is laughable. You could cut every dollar ever spent on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting since it was created and it would not cover the cost of the bill that the Republicans just jammed through. You could cut every dollar we have spent on foreign aid since World War II and that total would still fall short compared to the cost of the Republican tax cuts. Or how about this? If Republicans cut the amount in this rescissions bill every single day for a year, it still would not equal their tax cuts to help rich donors.

So I hope I have made the point. Let's stop pretending this move is about the debt, and let's stop pretending there is no alternative to passing a partisan rescissions package that cuts bipartisan funding, because I have declared, over and over, there is an alternative, which is to do what we always do and discuss rescissions as part of our annual funding bills instead of doing Trump's bidding.

Let's talk about what is at stake here, starting with the damage that these cuts would do to our communities by cutting rural areas off from local news and emergency alerts and ending high-quality kids' programming. If Republicans pass this package they are offering, they are going to slash funding for over 1,500 local news stations nationwide. These are stations that provide an enormous community service, especially in rural areas and in our Tribal communities. They cover stories that matter to families but that often get overlooked by national news. These stations and this funding reach 98 percent of all Americans, and let's not forget they also deliver local emergency alerts. Some of these local radio stations are a genuine lifeline for communities when disaster strikes.

Who among us thinks our communities should have less warning when there is an emergency?—because that is what voting for this package means.

It also means cutting off funding for high-quality kids' programming. There is a reason shows like “Sesame Street” are beloved by kids and parents. It is not just entertaining, it gets our kids thinking; it teaches them about math and spelling and caring and kindness. If Republicans let shows like this get canceled, they are going to open up the floodgates to a wave of what I call brain-rot TV that is engineered to keep our kids watching.

To my colleagues who think they have short-term temporary fixes to reduce cuts to one or two public radio stations or television stations in their States, that will not solve the problem.

And what do you say to those 120 rural stations that will lose 25 percent or more of their funding? What do you say to the dozens of rural stations that will shut down because of this bill and cut off local news, educational programming, and lifesaving services to the rural communities that we serve?

Let's not forget: The other cuts in this bill would seriously undercut our credibility on the world stage.

I thought American leadership was worth investing in; and when we voted for those funds, so did Republicans. Did Republicans forget why we thought that was important when we voted for them? Did Republicans forget that outbreaks spread if we don't help stop them? Did they forget that humanitarian assistance doesn't just prevent death, but it prevents chaos and conflict and keeps our American troops out of harm's way? Did they forget that these investments bring business to our American companies, and they



help feed the world or that building alliances and playing a leading role at international organizations allows us to advance our interests and counter our adversaries?

Set aside the global strategy for a moment. We should not be voting to let children starve or die from preventable diseases. We shouldn't be voting to go back on our word to the world. Saving a couple of pennies is not worth losing our credibility or causing millions of deaths across the globe. It is not even close.

If Republicans really care about the debt, they can start by revisiting the \$4 trillion in tax breaks they just showered on billionaires.

There is a lot more to say about how damaging these cuts would be for our country, but you don't have to take my word for it because even several of my Republican colleagues have said it themselves: They don't like this package. They are already trying to dial it back the tiniest bit, but I do know they have concerns.

Here is a tip: If you don't like it, don't vote for it. Think about who you take orders from—President Trump, Russ Vought, or your own constituents and your own communities?

And let's be honest. For all of his bluster, President Trump will forget about this in a week. He doesn't care about rescissions. He probably doesn't even know what it means.

If you don't like this package but you think you should do more targeted rescissions, do you know what? We can discuss that in a bipartisan way, completely separate from this partisan package.

I have been clear, and I will say it again right now: I stand ready to discuss rescissions as part of the bipartisan spending bills just as we have always done. That is the right way to go about this. How many times have Republicans called for regular order? Well, at no point in our country's history—at no point—have partisan rescissions been regular order. Anytime we have done this in the past, it has been bipartisan. Republicans should join us to make sure this does not become a bad, new first and to ensure that our time on the floor is spent considering important legislation, including our funding bills, rather than one rescissions request after another.

We are working right now to advance fiscal year 2026 bills—right now, at this very moment—and, hopefully, in a bipartisan way. We passed the first two out of committee last week. I want us to continue that work, but I really worry the passage of these bills is going to complicate the road ahead even more because, if Republicans decide it is fine to undo the last bipartisan spending deal with Trump's partisan cuts, then getting these bills across the finish line is going to get really hard. If they keep this kind of thing up, one of these days, Republicans are going to find they have broken the process.

Let me spell out what that looks like, because I think there is a misconception here that wrongly convinces some Members: It is OK; this is the straw that won't break the camel's back.

The reality is that bipartisanship doesn't end with any one line being crossed. It erodes. It breaks down bit by bit until the day there is nothing left.

Don't get me wrong. The negotiating table is always there. And in my experience, there are usually a few Members willing to stick it out and work as hard as they can to get a result.

But here is the thing. The Senate doesn't work off of a few Members. It works off of consensus building and bipartisanship. And the more bridges you burn, the fewer paths you leave to get things done. You can't just keep pushing people away and breaking that basic trust that keeps this place working. Not to mention, if Republicans pass this package of cuts, Russ Vought has made it abundantly clear he will send more. If Republicans pass this package now, we are going to be back here in a month debating whether to rip away funding for, say, after-school programs.

Instead of spending our time doing the hard work and passing laws, instead of considering the bipartisan spending bills we are working on right now, is this floor just going to be drowned in package after package of partisan cuts; fighting over how much of the last deal we are now going to unravel; fighting over whose projects get canceled, whose communities get robbed. I hope not.

I am going to end now with something I talked about during our committee hearing that we held on this package.

When I first came to this Congress, one of the hot-button issues was the line-item veto. President Clinton of my party was asking to have it. Chairman Byrd of my party was organizing against it with Republicans.

I was asked should a Democratic Senate help a Democratic President rip up the bills that we all worked together to pass. I said no. I said no, that is not how this should work. I came here to help my State and my constituents, not to weaken or surrender those responsibilities to any President.

That is as true for me today as it was then.

If my colleagues agree, which I believe many of them do, then the course we have to take here is clear. We need to reject this package outright.

That doesn't mean we can't have a bipartisan conversation about the rescissions as we now write our funding bills. That is the way that we need to do that. That is the way it has always been done. But we have to reject this new precedent of partisan, stand-alone rescissions.

If this place is going to work, if we are going to work together to serve the folks we represent back home, we have

to make choices that help us move closer together and bring more people to the table, not choices that push us apart and chip away, bit by bit, at the trust that makes this place work. Otherwise, one day, we will find we have none of that trust left.

I urge my colleagues to protect that trust and join me in voting no.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Hawaii.

**MR. SCHATZ.** Mr. President, Republicans don't actually have to do this. I understand, as well as anybody, wanting to go along with your party's President, especially in the early months. But being part of an independent and coequal branch has to mean something. Being part of the article I branch means something very specific, and it means that we are the legislature, and we control the purse strings.

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that if the President wants something, you must do it.

What worries me the most about this rescissions package, if it passes, is that it is one thing for the President's signature accomplishment—signature policy priority—to be supported by Republicans in the legislature. I understand that. I understand the inevitable political momentum behind that. But this isn't that.

We have now gone 6 months without a single instance of Republicans and Democrats coming together and establishing that there are some limitations on this President's power.

If you remember the first Trump term, there were a couple of moments when the legislature actually stood up to the President, overrode a veto of his, rejected a rescissions package. They stood up for their prerogatives.

Do you know what happened next? Nothing. Why? Because that is actually how the system is supposed to work.

We are not a parliamentary system. We are not a monarchy, where the President says, by tweet—by tweet: If you don't adopt this exactly how it is written, you will not receive my political support. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

And that set us on a course toward passing this legislation, which I know a dozen—at least a dozen—Republicans hate, hate.

It reduces funding for Jordan. It reduces funding for Ukraine. It reduces funding for global health. It did reduce funding for PEPFAR. It continues to reduce funding for public television and public radio.

By the way, public radio is not just National Public Radio. If you are on a reservation, if you are in a very rural part of your State, it is often not just the only radio station but the only communications infrastructure that exists in a rural area. So it is the only platform for news; that is true. It is also the only emergency communications infrastructure because, still, many places across the United States lack internet.



So MIKE ROUNDS got his deal so that his Tribes will be taken care of. I am glad for him. But there are 49 other States where your emergency communications infrastructure is about to be defunded. Nobody likes that.

Some people are pissed off about NPR's coverage or PBS's coverage. Come on. You defund an Agency because you disagree with their editorial choices? Which country is this? Which country is this?

I want to tell you something a little technical, but I think it gives away the whole game.

So I am the top Democrat on the Foreign Ops Subcommittee. What does that mean? We do funding for USAID, the State Department, and a few other things. When we do the appropriations process, we get letters from every other Member. They are private letters. A lot of people sign them, and they say: Could you please give more money to whatever it is—maternal and child health, or malaria prevention or the PEPFAR Program, the initiative to prevent HIV-AIDS transmission. We get a bunch of letters saying: Please, plus-up this; please plus-up that—bipartisan letters.

And we are trying to write a bill that accommodates all these needs. A lot of people who are about to vote to cut all this stuff are, on the side, writing me a letter saying: Please, increase these accounts.

And why does this matter? This matters because nobody is voting—I shouldn't say "nobody." Many, many people are not voting their conscience tonight, and that is just a fact.

There is a characterization in poker: When you know you are beat and someone puts money in on the river, and you call anyway, it is called a crying call. You give away your money sort of crying.

This is a crying call. This is a "I know I am beat; I vote aye."

And here is the thing: We don't actually have to do this. President Trump's attention is famously divided. If something pops up next week, he will be on that thing next week. He did not wake up every morning thinking: I want to defund UNICEF; I want to defund PEPFAR.

His attention will be divided. And the moment the legislature stands up for itself, usually what he does is—he understands power—he says: OK, those guys were asserting themselves. They are a coequal branch of government, and I am going to have to move on from this.

Why do I know this? We literally did the same thing. There was a rescissions package, which nobody remembers. Why? Because we quietly—with Dick Shelby and others, appropriators all—said: No, we hold the purse strings here. We write the laws that determine appropriations. We are not going to do this thing on a bipartisan basis—enact a spending plan—and then come in on a partisan basis and say: You know, that wasn't actually the spending plan; that

was just the spending cap. And the administration is going to come in and do whatever it wants on a partisan basis.

So what happened? They rejected the rescissions package on the motion to discharge, which is happening in about an hour and 5 minutes.

Then, do you know what happened? Nothing—nothing politically, nothing substantively, except that we kept the appropriations process alive. We kept the filibuster alive. We kept bipartisanism alive.

And in this instance, it is not just about this institution. It is literally about people being kept alive.

For the last 5 months, because of the United States' actions, tens of thousands at least—maybe hundreds of thousands—of babies have gotten HIV-AIDS from their moms because we pulled funding, because Elon Musk had some bug in his ear about USAID, and one weekend he said, "We are going to feed this thing to the wood chipper," and because Democrats, too, and pundits decided: Do you know what? Foreign aid isn't so important to voters.

I don't care if it is important to voters, if it ranks No. 1, No. 2, or No. 3. We are the United States of America, and one of the reasons that we have such a strong reputation is because we do things that are right because they are right, not because our voters are going to reward us immediately, not because we get some geopolitical advantage but because we are the damn good guys. And right now, we are ratifying a bunch of decisions against our will.

We don't have to do this. Donald Trump will move on to the next thing tomorrow. And if it is not on this thing, which has low salience for the voters and is 18 months from the next election—if it is not on this—at what point are my Republican colleagues going to stand up for this branch of government?

I remain ready to work with anybody on anything. I have talked to Chairman GRAHAM about the possibility of literally enacting these rescissions, or at least a portion of them, in the State and Foreign Ops markup, and yet they choose this legislative violence.

We don't have to do this. We don't have to operate under the assumption that this man is uniquely so powerful. He is the most powerful President. He owns the legislature in a way that no President has ever owned the legislature, and we all act like we are just sort of observers, like clicking on the TV and seeing how our fantasy football team is doing this Sunday.

We have agency tonight to reestablish that we are the article I branch of government, and that means something.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MR. KELLY. Mr. President, now is the time that we should be investing in the future of our country and helping American families get ahead, but what we have in front of us this week does

the opposite. It is a bad deal that puts America in retreat at home and abroad. It makes our country poorer and less safe.

When I reviewed what we are about to vote on, I thought about my granddaughter Sage. She is 4 years old, and, like a lot of kids her age, she watches one of the many educational programs that air on PBS. Her favorite is "Daniel Tiger," a show that teaches kids everything from treating others with kindness to brushing their teeth, with Daniel's friend Jodi Platypus. These are lessons every child should grow up learning no matter where they live or how much money their parents make.

But what is in front of us today is a proposal to totally decimate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports local PBS and public radio stations. I don't get this. These are the stations that air children's educational programs like "Daniel Tiger" and "Sesame Street," which help kids learn how to count and how to read and how to spell.

In an era where cable is getting more expensive and monthly subscriptions just add up, free educational programming like this is so important. It is how parents in Arizona and all across the country give their children a head start regardless of their ZIP Code or their income.

If anyone thinks this is just about cartoons, then they haven't spent enough time in rural America. In Arizona, my office is hearing from rural and Tribal leaders about how essential public TV and radio are in their communities. These are areas where broadband is still limited and cell phone service can drop out for miles.

In those places, public radio is often the only daily and sometimes even weekly news source, and it is certainly the most reliable way to receive emergency alerts. During wildfire season, which is raging right now in Arizona, those alerts can mean the difference between safety and tragedy. Public radio also delivers severe weather warnings, road closures, and critical public health information.

These cuts will lead to rural public radio stations laying off staff, reducing programming, or even shutting down entirely. Rural public radio stations are twice as dependent on Federal funding as nonrural stations are.

There are dozens of stations that rely on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for more than half of their funding. Three of them are in Arizona, and they are all on Tribal land—KNNB in Whiteriver, KGRH on the Navajo Nation, and KUYI on the Hopi Nation. Why on Earth would Washington take that away?

While this proposal rips investments out of rural America, it also makes us all less safe.

It is the right thing to do. It is also strategic. USAID and our international partners are often the first line of defense against pandemics, wars, and starvation. You can't put a price on

that good will and the stability that these programs create for America and the conflicts and humanitarian disasters and the refugee crises they prevent.

I saw that myself when I was a young midshipman at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy during my second year at sea. It was a voyage through the Red Sea, off the coast of Egypt, and I was carrying a load of grain on a 1,000-foot-long ship. These were taking crops grown by American farmers from the United States of America to feed starving children in North Africa.

Cutting this off doesn't just lead to starvation and disease and suffering, it also creates instability, a vacuum that gets filled by terrorist groups and warlords, a gap for China or Russia to take advantage of.

One way or another, we are going to end up having to pay for it, and tomorrow's price will be higher. In the meantime, America is weaker, and we are less safe.

This is not a serious plan for deficit reduction. What it really says is this: If you live in a rural area, your access to public safety information doesn't matter. If you are a child whose family can't afford streaming services or reliable internet, your education doesn't matter. If you are someone who wants a safer, more stable world, you are out of luck.

I don't accept that. Arizona doesn't accept that. We should be building a country where, no matter where you live, what you earn, or how connected your ZIP Code is, you can get the information and support you need to stay healthy and informed. All of us, Republicans and Democrats, should be able to work together on that.

I urge my colleagues to think about what is really at stake here, what is at stake for families, and what is at stake for our leadership in the world, and please vote no, because this isn't how we move forward, this is how we fall behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to discharge H.R. 4.

Mr. WICKER. What the Chair has just said is that we have—there is a rescission package which has been sent to us by the administration. It is in the committee now. The next vote would discharge the committee and bring that rescission package to the floor. At that point, if I am not mistaken, we would then have another vote to proceed to that bill; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. WICKER. I don't want to leave my colleagues in suspense. I intend to vote for the motion to discharge after much contemplation and to vote to then proceed to the bill, and I do so with reservation.

First of all, I applaud the administration for asking for rescission of \$9 billion in unnecessary spending. I have made the statement that I would vote for a bill that was twice that size and even larger. I think we can find that much waste. But this is an unusual procedure. It hasn't been done by the Senate and the House. It hasn't been successfully done by an administration since the George W. Bush administration in 1992.

Nine billion dollars is a tiny fraction of what we spend, no question about it—a fraction of a fraction, actually. But there is a big difference that has troubled me, and it is the reason I come to the floor tonight expressing concern in spite of the fact that I will vote in the affirmative on these two motions tonight.

When George W. Bush proposed rescissions back in 1992, he listed specific programs that would receive specific amounts of cuts, and it was a rather thick proposal. But Members on both sides of the aisle in both Houses had exact information about what programs would be targeted and where the cuts would be made and by what amount.

That is not present in the proposal before us tonight, and that troubles me because it concerns me as, perhaps, approaching a disregard for the constitutional responsibilities of the legislative branch under article I. Congress has the power of the purse; the President has the power to enforce.

In this situation, there is a specific amount stated that will be rescinded, and then, basically, we are given a number of areas where the cuts will come from, but this Congress will not be allowed to choose those specific cuts. They will be done by somebody in the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. And in this situation, it will amount to the House and Senate basically saying: We cede that decision voluntarily to the executive branch.

And so I have expressed concern about this. And in meetings that I have been in attendance with our team on this Republican side of the aisle, I am not the only one who has expressed those concerns. There are Members of my party who will vote no tonight—I think a relatively small number—and I don't fault them for voting no. There are also Members who are very concerned, as I am, about this process and who are requesting of the administration: If we do this again, please give us specific information about where the cuts will come. Let's not make a habit of this. Let's not consider this a precedent. But if you come back to us again, Mr. Director of the OMB, if you come back to us again from the executive branch, give us the specific amounts and the specific programs that will be cut. And that has been my concern.

Nevertheless, I choose to be mindful of those concerns, but to answer to a larger imperative at this moment, and that is to realize that we are in a budg-

et crisis and that we have an unsustainable national debt and the amount of this bill is a small step toward addressing that. And so, at this moment, I think that imperative outweighs my concerns about the lack of information that this Senate and our brothers and sisters in the House have about where the cuts will be made.

I hope in conversations with the executive branch today, I hope in conversations over lunch between the OMB Director and Members of the Republican Senate caucus, that the point has been made: Next time give us the specific information.

And so I come tonight to express to my colleagues the reason that I have been so concerned about this, the reason that I understand why some of my colleagues will choose to vote no.

But realizing that we are about something larger and, in this instance, I think the message that we send to our fellow countrymen, to our colleagues in the House, and, yes, to the executive branch, is that the need for the cut in \$9 billion overrides the specific objections that I have. And for that reason, I will vote yes.

I expect the first motion to pass, and then we will proceed on. And perhaps, for the information of our staff and our pages, we may be here late tomorrow night.

But I appreciate the opportunity to explain my concerns and my reason for overcoming those concerns in this instance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of President Trump's rescission package. In a time of extraordinary debt, this bill is a first step in a long but necessary fight to put our Nation's fiscal house in order.

But it is about much more than just that. This package isn't just about how much we spend but about what we spend it on. It is about whether or not we are still a sovereign nation of people in command of our own destiny. It is about whether elected representatives can act on behalf of the people they serve or whether or not they just yield to a vast bureaucratic apparatus of permanent Washington.

We cannot accept a system that forces us to fund our own decline. Let me begin with something simple: We are \$37 trillion in debt. We are borrowing money from our grandchildren to fund bloated bureaucracies and radical leftist activists. While the actual American people are working long hours to afford groceries and gas, their government has been writing checks to leftwing propaganda outlets and spending billions overseas on countries that hate us. Enough is enough.

This rescissions package is our opportunity to drain the swamp, not just in theory but in practice. It claws back nearly \$10 billion in spending—9 billion—including billions for radical NGOs, hundreds of millions for foreign

interests, and, yes, the taxpayer funding that props up corrupt and ideologically captured institutions like NPR and PBS.

And let's talk about that for just a minute because no part of this debate has sparked more hysteria and more outrage from the left than defunding the so-called public broadcasting. Why? Because they know exactly what is at stake. NPR and PBS are not neutral media outlets. They are the closest thing we have ever had in this country to Pravda. They are the arms of the leftwing activist class, taxpayer-funded platforms for political propaganda masquerading as journalism.

Don't take my word for it; take it from Uri Berliner, a veteran NPR editor who recently blew the whistle on what is actually happening behind the scenes there. In a stunning expose, Berliner described how from COVID to Hunter Biden's laptop, to the Russia hoax, NPR simply refused to consider any facts or perspectives that didn't align with the progressive party line. Even asking questions about the company's editorial bias was "treated as evidence of disloyalty."

Berliner took a survey of the ideological makeup of NPR's editorial staff in Washington, DC. The final tally was 87 Democrats and 0 Republicans—0 Republicans, not a one.

Then there is the new CEO of NPR, Katherine Maher. Before she took the job, she spent years denouncing America, praising censorship, and advocating for the most extreme and grotesque forms of far-left politics. She described the First Amendment as the "number one challenge" to combating disinformation, called President Trump a "deranged racist sociopath" and celebrated when he was banned from Twitter saying, it was "satisfying to deplatform fascists."

Now she is running America's National Public Radio, funded, in part, by your hard-earned tax dollars. That is nothing short of obscene.

Why are Americans being forced to subsidize institutions that hate them? Why are truckdrivers in Missouri paying for Ivy League grads in DC to tell them they are bigots? Why are we, as conservatives, spending billions of dollars to leftwing radicals that want to run us out of the public square?

There is no good answer to these questions. The fact is, we shouldn't be. And President Trump's rescission package is a huge first step toward ensuring that we never do it again; that NPR and PBS are just the beginning.

This package also takes aim at the insanity of our foreign aid budget. We are sending billions—billions—to every interest under the Sun, except for that of our own country.

Here is a taste of what this package defunds: \$18 million for gender diversity in the Mexican street-lighting industry; \$2.4 million to make international disaster aid more considerate of sexual orientation and gender identity; \$2.2 million to reduce xenophobia

toward Venezuelan migrants; \$3 million for Iraqi "Sesame Street"; \$4 million for sedentary migrants in Colombia; \$6.2 million to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia; \$33 million for the U.N. Population Fund, including funding for transgender tampons in Bangladesh, LGBTQ campaigns in Rio, and third-gender community centers in Southeast Asia.

And that is not even to mention the \$800 million that this package cuts from the Migration and Refugee Assistance Account, which funds the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, a program that has been at the center of the gigantic NGO industrial complex that has been driving the mass migration crisis in this country on taxpayer dime.

Americans never voted for any of this. They were never even asked. But the entire system is bankrolled by their money. Our own citizens are being pushed out of jobs, swamped by Third-World immigration, and told they are racist for complaining about it when people like Katherine Maher say something and criticize them.

We send billions overseas to promote transgenderism and DEI and spend billions here at home to help import millions of illegal immigrants and pay the salaries of people who hate us, all while our own people are told there is no money for safe streets, decent roads, or a secure border.

The people who run these programs see the Federal budget not as a means to serve the American people but as a piggybank for a global leftwing revolution. The administrative state in Washington, DC, is the beating heart of this revolution. It redistributes hundreds of billions of dollars a year from Middle America to a radical ecosystem of NGOs and activists working to undermine our civilization.

For too long, the Federal Government has been hijacked by people with no loyalty to the country they are supposed to serve. Today, we have a chance to change that.

This isn't just about saving money; it is about taking back control. Every single dollar we claw back from the NGOs and the foreign aid swamp is a dollar we take away from the people who are waging war on our country. It is a dollar we can use to secure our border, rebuild our Nation, and restore the promise of America for the next generation.

The left is alarmed by this bill. They should be.

Unlike generations of many who came before us who would talk a big game and then get to DC and do nothing, President Trump is actually serious about ending their taxpayer-dollar gravy train, and this rescissions package is a major part of delivering on that promise. This is just a first step, but it is a big one.

For a long time, Washington has only ever moved in one direction: More spending, more control, and more power for the bureaucrats. And as per-

manent Washington grows, the citizen shrinks.

This rescissions package reflects President Trump's promise that the American Government will, once again, serve the American people, not the other way around.

It is a time to remind the bureaucrats, the NGOs and the foreign lobbyists and their friends in the media that the American taxpayer does not exist to subsidize their ideological pet projects. We are not a tax farm for global leftism. We are not the world's piggy bank. We are a sovereign nation, and it is time we started acting like one once again.

The American people didn't send us here to protect the status quo. They sent us here because they know the status quo is broken. They sent us here to fight and deliver for them, and that is exactly what this bill does. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this package.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, just days after handing billionaires their largest tax break in modern history and fresh off passing the most devastating cuts to healthcare and jobs ever, Republicans want to keep this going. They want to gut funding for local news stations and radio; they want to reward communist China and Putin and eviscerate foreign aid—all to give tax breaks to billionaires. They say these cuts are necessary in the false guise of eliminating waste, but anyone can see that is not true. It is just to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

Americans are done listening to Republican lectures about wasteful spending after they added \$4 trillion to the debt to cut taxes for billionaires.

For Republicans to turn around and slash local news and public radio in the name of fiscal responsibility is a vindictive swipe at rural America, where these stations are needed so badly. It will leave rural communities twisting in the wind.

The Republican credo seems to be, cut and cut and cut now, and ask questions later. Cut healthcare for 16 million Americans. Cut food assistance to hungry kids. Cut good-paying energy jobs. Let the CCP get ahead of us. Never mind the destruction these cuts will have. Never mind the trillions Republicans just added to the debt to finance their billionaire giveaways. Never mind the kids who will go hungry or the families that will lose insurance or the people who will get sick and die. It is all worth it, Republicans seem to think, so long as billionaires and special interests pay less in taxes.

Now, with this rescissions package, Republicans want to keep going. Cut local radio stations. Cut local TV stations. Cut national security funding. Cut funding for some of the most beloved programs in America. These cuts

are just a piece of the larger Republican puzzle, where they will use rescissions, impoundment, and pocket rescissions, and that will pave the way for even deeper and more serious spending cuts on things like healthcare, food assistance, energy, and so many other areas, and other democratic safeguards will no longer be around.

If you eliminate the Democrats from the process, there is no discussion, there is no argument, and there are no safeguards that can help the average American. It is just the billionaires running rampant, getting what they want.

If you want to understand the Republican playbook, take a look at how they attacked foreign aid. At the very beginning of this administration, Donald Trump and Elon Musk illegally shut down billions in foreign aid. When they were criticized for it, they hemmed, they hawed, and they lied about their actions. The courts had to step in.

Now that these programs have fiscal 2025 dollars, Republicans are trying to do it all over again, this time through a cynical rescissions package. They are passing this law to get the outcome they wanted in the first place: gutting U.S. foreign aid.

Let me be clear. This is not just about foreign aid, as important as it is, this is the playbook that Republicans will do across the board. They will do it with healthcare. They will do it with the Department of Education. They will do it with our schools, our veterans, our housing. They will do it to research dollars. They are slashing them.

I have heard of more instances of great research projects that could have saved lives that are now on hold and can never be brought back again because of the greed of billionaires and the obeisance of Republicans to go along. It is amazing—cutting medical research, where America has always led the world. But now we are going to give that lead to China with what the Republicans are doing.

They are already using impoundment. They are using rescissions. They are using pocket rescissions to poison the bipartisan appropriations process, to break the law to steal funds that Congress appropriated. They are doing it on a party-line vote. Worse, they are letting Donald Trump decide for himself which programs to defund. That puts everything at risk—healthcare, education, food assistance, public health. Everything—everything—becomes at risk. That is what will happen if a package like this is allowed to become law.

Returning to this week's bill, what do this week's cuts mean for families back home? Well, tens of millions of Americans rely on public broadcast for weather alerts, local news, keeping track of city hall, educational programs, and so much more. This affects most badly rural America, including Native communities.

These cuts couldn't come at a worse time. The floods in Texas remind us that speedy alerts and up-to-the-minute forecasts can mean the difference between life and death. For millions, public radio and local TV are sometimes the only way to stay up to date.

Why the hell is this administration so obsessed with gutting those funds that save lives? It is probably because of some whim of Donald Trump's. And he often governs by whim. But then it has disastrous consequences because Republicans just bow to those whims even though they are without factual basis. They don't look at the facts. They don't care about the facts. Donald Trump wants it; let's do it.

Donald Trump may not appreciate the vital role of public media, but people back home know how public broadcast is indispensable.

It is not just local TV stations and public radio that are in danger. These ill-conceived Republican cuts can threaten our national security. These cuts indiscriminately slash billions in critical aid that prevents the spread of disease, fosters economic development, and expands America's cultural impact on the world stage.

Believe me, when we fight, with foreign aid and programs, diseases in other countries, in Africa or Asia, it benefits us because those diseases—in this world where people fly from one place to the other all the time, it benefits us because it will prevent those diseases from coming here.

Removing PEPFAR from the list of cuts was good but nowhere near enough. We are not fooled by a small tweak to this package. These cuts will still leave America weaker and our adversaries more emboldened. After all, foreign aid isn't just about good will, it is about our security.

Cutting foreign aid will have terrible consequences for our security. It increases the exposure of Americans to global health risks, as I mentioned. The cuts harm funding that directly benefits U.S. farmers and U.S. researchers. It will damage U.S. companies' market access abroad. It will make communities around the world more susceptible to terrorist recruitment efforts. China and Russia, meanwhile, will look on with glee.

I thought Republicans cared about being strong on national security. I thought they understood the role that the United States' soft power has in keeping the world a safer place for our values. This bill gravely undermines Republican commitments to U.S. leadership around the world—something so many people have prized.

If Republicans slash more American aid, it will leave a dangerous vacuum that the Chinese Communist Party will continue to eagerly fill. It is a fact. It is happening already in Myanmar and Sub-Saharan Africa in the race for access to precious minerals. These are places where the CCP is taking advantage of America's absence. And it will

have terrible consequences in the long term for our safety, for our security.

These rescissions are only the beginning. We know that Donald Trump and Russell Vought want to send even more rescissions packages down the line, as soon as next month. Remember, Donald Trump and Republican leaders reportedly struck up a crooked bargain. If the hard-right Members of the House Freedom Caucus agreed to support the "Big Ugly Betrayal," Donald Trump would reward them with even deeper cuts to healthcare and other things the hard right despises.

Republicans will pursue these cuts by any means necessary—through rescissions, impoundment, pocket rescissions—even if that means taking a wrecking ball to the bipartisan appropriations process to pave the way for future cuts. It could pave the way for more cuts to Medicaid, to education, to nutrition, to Agencies like the VA and more.

All this translates to working people having to pay more out of pocket while billionaires pay less in taxes. When people's healthcare is taken away, when people's local services are taken away, it adds to a family's expenses. It makes life more expensive for people who live paycheck to paycheck. It makes it harder to see a doctor. It makes it harder to afford medications. It makes it more difficult to choose between providing for healthcare or providing for groceries.

Making things even worse, Donald Trump's tariffs coming in at the worst possible time is making inflation go up—jacking up grocery prices and eating away at family budgets. The tariffs have gone up more than people expected in June, but because so many of those who buy overseas front-loaded their purchases in the first and second quarters, it is very likely the tariffs will go up much more in the next quarter.

Republicans say they fight for the middle class. They say they fight for working people. Then they turn around and take investments away from middle America and rural America and make them pay—pay—more out of pocket. Billionaires, meanwhile, have never had it so good, thanks to Donald Trump and his Republican loyalists.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I know we are approaching the hour that was planned for the vote on this motion to discharge this rescissions package. I just want to take a couple of minutes. I am going to be voting to oppose discharging this package from committee.

It is not that I don't think that we should be doing more when it comes to the oversight of our budget. It is not that I don't think that we should be doing more when it comes to ensuring that we are working to get our levels of spending down, but I also think that we need to be doing more as legislators,

more as lawmakers, more as Senators when it comes to our own authorities, our constitutional authorities, when it comes to the power of the purse.

We do rescissions. We do rescissions in our annual budget bills, in our own appropriations bills—in fact, bills that we are working on right now as appropriators. We have got a series of mark-ups that are going to be coming up this week. We had some last week. We do this. We look to provisions that have been included in the budgets. We look to reprogram, and we look to rescind. We do that as legislators. There is a good reason, I think, that we haven't seen a successful rescissions package before the Senate in almost 33 years. It is because we have recognized that, hey, that is our role here. That is our role here when it comes to the power of the purse.

So I have several concerns, specific concerns, about this package.

First, it is unclear to me how the specific accounts that are targeted for the rescission are going to be impacted. Neither the administration nor others have been able to provide that very clear, very transparent explanation about the programs and the priorities that are going to be cut as a result of the measure. Some changes have been proposed to protect local health programs—that is great; that is important—but I think it is important that we have those details, including the ones that are going to be absolutely zeroed out.

So how do we determine the implications for lifesaving care, for vital resources for women and children abroad?

We have got big, broad categories, but I haven't been given the comfort, if you will, that we are not impacting maternal and child health; that we are not impacting HIV/AIDS; that we are not impacting nutrition programs and programs related to tuberculosis, malaria, polio, neglected tropical disease, pandemic prevention, family planning. I think that we are entitled to have that level of detail when these funds that we have authorized, that we have appropriated, are now being clawed back. I don't think that that is too much to ask.

When it comes to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, my colleagues know I have been a strong supporter, and I will continue to be a strong supporter. If you don't like what is going on within NPR and you think there is too much bias there, we can address that—we can address that—but you don't need to gut the entire Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The entity—the program—that provides for so much support, particularly for those in rural places, is not just your news. It is your tsunami alert; it is your landslide alert; it is your volcano alert; it is the weather to let you know it is safe to go out and get on the fishing grounds; it is your educational programming. I am going to continue to be an advocate for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

So I have got concerns about the contents of the package, yes. I have concerns about the details that we have not been able to fully receive. But more importantly than all of that—more importantly—is our role here. I don't want us to go from one reconciliation bill to a rescissions package to another rescissions package to a reconciliation package to a continuing resolution. We are lawmakers. We should be legislating. What we are getting now is direction from the White House and are being told: This is the priority. We want you to execute on it. We will be back with you with another round.

I don't accept that. I am going to be voting no.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 391 Leg.]

#### YEAS—50

Banks  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Curtis  
Daines  
Ernst  
Fischer

Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeven  
Husted  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Justice  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McCormick  
Moody  
Moran

Moreno  
Mullin  
Paul  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Rounds  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sheehy  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

#### NAYS—50

Alsobrooks  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Blunt Rochester  
Booker  
Cantwell  
Collins  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Fetterman  
Gallego  
Gillibrand  
Hassan  
Heinrich

Hickenlooper  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Markey  
McConnell  
Merkley  
Murkowski  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Slotkin  
Smith  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### RECISSIONS ACT OF 2025—Motion to Proceed

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 114, H.R. 4.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 392 Leg.]

#### YEAS—50

Banks  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Curtis  
Daines  
Ernst  
Fischer

Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeven  
Husted  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Justice  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McCormick  
Moody  
Moran

Moreno  
Mullin  
Paul  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Rounds  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sheehy  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

#### NAYS—50

Alsobrooks  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Blunt Rochester  
Booker  
Cantwell  
Collins  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Fetterman  
Gallego  
Gillibrand  
Hassan  
Heinrich

Hickenlooper  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Markey  
McConnell  
Merkley  
Murkowski  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Slotkin  
Smith  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

(Mr. WICKER assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. LUMMIS assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SHEEHY assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. Are there any Senators in the Chamber who wish to vote or change their vote?

If not, on this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2025

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority leader.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Are there any Senators in the Chamber who wish to vote or change their vote?

If not, on this vote, the yeas are 50, and the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority whip.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2853.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] for Mr. SCHMITT proposes an amendment numbered 2853.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rescissions Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. RESCISSIONS OF BUDGET AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the special message transmitted by the President on June 3, 2025, to the House of Representatives and the Senate proposing the rescission of budget authority under section 1012 of part B of title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 682 et seq.), the rescissions described under subsection (b) shall take effect immediately upon the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) RESCISSIONS.—The rescissions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$33,008,764 are rescinded.

(2) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$168,837,230 are rescinded.

(3) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$203,328,007 are rescinded.

(4) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$157,906,000 are rescinded.

(5) Of the unobligated balances in the first paragraph under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Global Health Programs” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the amounts rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for the following programs: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Nutrition, or Maternal and Child Health: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso does not apply to family planning and reproductive health programs.

(6) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of State—Migration and Refugee Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$800,000,000 are rescinded.

(7) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Complex Crises Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$43,000,000 are rescinded.

(8) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Democracy Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$83,000,000 are rescinded.

(9) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$1,650,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for assistance to Jordan, Egypt, or the Countering PRC Influence Fund.

(10) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contribution to the Clean Technology Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(11) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Organizations and Programs” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$436,920,000 are rescinded.

(12) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Development Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$2,500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for Feed the Future Innovation Labs or the Countering PRC Influence Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(13) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$460,000,000 are rescinded.

(14) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Disaster Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$496,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(15) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “United States Agency for International Development—Funds Appropriated to the President—Operating Expenses” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(16) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Transition Initiatives” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$57,000,000 are rescinded.

(17) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—Inter-American

Foundation” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$27,000,000 are rescinded.

(18) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—United States African Development Foundation” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$22,000,000 are rescinded.

(19) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Related Programs—United States Institute of Peace” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$15,000,000 are rescinded.

(20)(A) Amounts made available for “Corporation for Public Broadcasting” for fiscal year 2026 by Public Law 118-47 are rescinded.

(B) Amounts made available for “Corporation for Public Broadcasting” for fiscal year 2027 by Public Law 119-4 are rescinded.

### MORNING BUSINESS

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, a June 25 article in the New York Times captured, in a single headline, the disaster that the misguided policies of this White House are inflicting on the world’s most vulnerable people. It also illustrates the immense damage this White House is causing to years of hard-won goodwill for the United States around the world.

The title of the article, “Promise of Victory Over H.I.V. Fades as U.S. Withdraws Support,” says it all. The headline goes on to describe how, “a new drug that gives almost complete protection against the virus was to be administered across Africa this year. Now, much of the funding for that effort is gone.”

I remember vividly, as do many of my colleagues, when President George W. Bush announced the PEPFAR program, a program that for the past 22 years has received enthusiastic bipartisan support, a program that has saved countless lives, a program that people and governments around the world have thanked the American people for.

Each year in our appropriations bills we have always, without disagreement, provided the funds to sustain PEPFAR and to fulfill our pledges to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with PEPFAR, as well as in countries where PEPFAR does not, because HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases do not pick and choose who they infect. No country is immune, and no person is safe. Millions of Americans travel, work, and serve overseas, and then they return home. Everyone is at risk if the virus is not contained everywhere.

Now, the Trump administration is proposing drastic cuts to PEPFAR and our contribution to the Global Fund, two programs that by any measure have been wildly successful. This week the Senate will consider President



Trump's request to cut \$400 million from PEPFAR and another \$500 million in other global health programs. If Congress goes along with that, we will share responsibility for sabotaging one of the great public health achievements of this century.

President Trump is pushing these cuts at the cusp of a potential breakthrough in our fight against the HIV epidemic.

There is a new preventative therapy for HIV; it is called lenacapavir, and it is a twice-yearly injection that protects against infection. This drug was supposed to be getting rolled out in eastern and southern Africa.

Not many years ago, preventing HIV infection altogether would have seemed impossible. Now it is real—and it is being derailed by these reckless cuts.

Peter Sands, the executive director of the Global Fund, put it this way:

If you want countries to take on the responsibility for their H.I.V. responses, in terms of both leadership and funding, it's a very different thing to take on a problem that is still growing than a problem where you have made a significant dent in the numbers of new infections. . . . And lenacapavir gives that opportunity to dramatically reduce new infections.

We don't even know what the full impact of these cuts will be because funding for collecting the data needed to track infection rates is on the chopping block.

So I can't help but wonder why? Why is the White House walking away from these lifesaving programs that everyone agrees have been a huge success story? It would be one thing if HIV/AIDS had been eradicated. But we are a very long way from that. There are an estimated 1.3 million new HIV infections every year.

We cannot let down our guard. We cannot be so shortsighted to think that we would save money by cutting funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund. Prevention is far less expensive than treatment. If Congress does not reject these funding cuts there will almost immediately be more infections, not fewer. More Americans will get sick. Mother to child transmission will exponentially increase. Many more people will die needlessly.

A drug developed by an American biopharmaceutical company that can prevent HIV/AIDS finally exists. Let's do again what President Bush did nearly a quarter century ago and show the world that the United States can be the world's leader in saving lives from a deadly disease.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 81, Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am

working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 379.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 58, William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 380.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed cloture on the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 381.

I was unable to attend the cloture vote for Executive Calendar No. 261, Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed cloture had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 382.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 383.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on July 14, 2025, due to unavoidable travel delays because of the weather, I missed rollcall vote No. 384. Had I been present, I would have voted no on vote No. 384, cloture on the confirmation of Whitney D. Hermandorfer to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

On July 14, 2025, due to unavoidable travel delays because of the weather, I

missed rollcall vote No. 385. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on vote No. 385, cloture on the nomination of Luke Pettit to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14078 OF JULY 19, 2022, WITH RESPECT TO HOSTAGE-TAKING AND THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS ABROAD—PM 32

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond July 19, 2025.

Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals are heinous acts that undermine the rule of law. Terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gain—as well as foreign states that engage in the practice of wrongful detention, including for political leverage or to seek concessions from the United States—threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States

nationals and other persons abroad. Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14078 with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2025.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1596. An act to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the "Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 410. An act to extend the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 900. An act to direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1044. An act to amend Public Law 99-338 with respect to Kaweah Project permits.

H.R. 1455. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1618. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1709. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the Cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1729. An act to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado.

H.R. 1770. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and to direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and tokens, respectively.

H.R. 1765. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications

and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1766. An act to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2037. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2316. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to provide that interest on obligations held in the Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund shall become available for apportionment at the beginning of fiscal year 2033.

H.R. 3657. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 517. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 410. An act to extend the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 900. An act to direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1044. An act to amend Public Law 99-338 with respect to Kaweah Project permits; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1455. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1618. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1709. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1729. An act to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1765. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1766. An act to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1770. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and to direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and tokens, respectively; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2037. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2316. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to provide that interest on obligations held in the Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund shall become available for apportionment at the beginning of fiscal year 2033; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3657. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### 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-1303. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1304. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Austria, Italy, Slovenia, and Qatar in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-095) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1305. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-066) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1306. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to



section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada, Germany, and Norway in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-030) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1307. A communication from the Acting Director of the Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Construction Standards - Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health" (RIN1218-AD72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1308. A communication from the Acting Ombudsman, Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2024 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1309. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-80, "1333 M Street, SE Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1310. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-81, "Child Fatality Review Committee Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1311. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-86, "Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1312. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-87, "Certified Business Enterprise Program Compliance and Enforcement Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1313. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report to Congress concerning intercepted wire, oral, or electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1315. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a cumulative report on rescissions dated June 3, 2025; to the Committees on Appropriations; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Foreign Relations.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 2296. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military ac-

tivities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-39).

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. COTTON for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

\*Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

\*Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

\*George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

\*John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

\*Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MORENO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2274. 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 not nationals or citizens of the United States at birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2275. A bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2276. A bill to address patent thickets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2277. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on risks to the Global Positioning System and associated positioning, navigation, and timing services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2278. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2279. A bill to repeal the changes to Medicaid State provider tax authority and State directed payments made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and provide increased funding for the rural health transformation program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JUSTICE (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2280. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2281. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide to rural communities technical assistance in recovering from disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 2283. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2284. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

S. 2285. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study and report on the relationship between hair straighteners and uterine cancer, particularly among women of color; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2286. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to authorize the establishment of, and provide support for, State-based universal health care systems that provide comprehensive health benefits to State residents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. REED, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2287. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, including social work, physician assistant, and chaplaincy education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative and hospice care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2288. A bill to reauthorize the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2289. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve maternal health coverage under Medicaid and CHIP, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2290. A bill to clarify certain regulations to allow for the installation of pulsating light systems for high-mounted stop lamps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 2291. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that flexible fuel vehicles may use certain gram per mile carbon dioxide values for purposes of determining fleet average carbon dioxide standards for certain vehicles; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2293. A bill to require the President to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress regarding such designation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. KING):

S. 2294. A bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KIM):

S. 2295. A bill to increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2296. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 321. A resolution commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BUDD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 322. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2025

as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month" and June 27, 2025, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 326, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System land without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

S. 485

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 485, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the fre-

quency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 739, a bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 874, a bill to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income capital gains from the sale of certain farmland property which are reinvested in individual retirement plans.

S. 942

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1031

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1031, a bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Radiation Oncology Case Rate Value Based Payment Program exempt from budget neutrality adjustment requirements, and to amend section 1128A of title XI of the Social Security Act to create a new statutory exception for the provision of free or discounted transportation for radiation oncology patients to receive radiation therapy services.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded

construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1244

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1244, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow parents of eligible military dependent children to establish Military Education Savings Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services.

S. 1486

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1486, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas.

S. 1702

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under such titles, and for other purposes.

S. 1847

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1847, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the treatment of certain association health plans as employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1926

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1926, a bill to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2228

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2228, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to harmonize the definition of employee with the common law.

S. 2254

At the request of Mr. GALLEG0, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a

cosponsor of S. 2254, a bill to codify the Federal Trade Commission's negative option rule.

S. 2272

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2272, a bill to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 240

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 240, a resolution affirming that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are fundamental values of the United States and emphasizing the ongoing need to address discrimination and inequality in the workplace, pre-K through 12th grade and higher education systems, government programs, the military, and our society.

AMENDMENT NO. 2425

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2425 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. KING):

S. 2294. A bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Minnesota Senator SMITH to introduce the Kay Hagan Tick Act Reauthorization. I would also like to recognize Senator KING, who is joining as an original cosponsor. Our bill is named after our colleague, former Senator Kay Hagan, who passed away in October 2019 due to complications from the tick-borne disease known as the Powassan virus. This bipartisan legislation will reauthorize Federal programs that provide local communities and States with resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of tick-borne and other vector-borne diseases.

Tick-borne diseases like Lyme have become a significant public health concern, with the incidence exploding over

the past 20 years. The number of Americans with tick-borne diseases has been rising at an alarming rate. In 2003, Lyme disease infected around 30,000 Americans. Last year, there were an estimated 500,000 cases, an increase of 1,400 percent. In my State of Maine, we recorded a record 3,200 cases of Lyme disease in 2024, and experts predict a increase in tick populations this year after a winter that was not consistently cold enough to reduce their numbers.

Far too many Americans with Lyme disease experience a complex diagnostic odyssey that takes months or even years. One of my constituents, Adina Bercowicz from Yarmouth, shared with me her harrowing journey of diagnosis and treatment after a tick bite during her pregnancy. Prior to getting sick, Adina was working full-time and regularly attended yoga and martial arts classes, had an active social life, and traveled frequently for work. She then began to experience symptoms such as chronic fatigue, sharp joint pain, memory loss, cognitive decline, and migraines. It took several doctors and dozens of tests for Adina to be diagnosed with late-stage, chronic Lyme disease, but at this point, her symptoms were debilitating. She still struggles with daily symptoms, but along with her husband Yan, has worked to found LymeTV, a nonprofit in Maine that seeks to raise awareness about Lyme disease.

In addition to the physical and emotional toll that Lyme disease can impose, it also can be expensive. Medical costs of Lyme disease are estimated at \$2 billion per year. When accounting for indirect medical costs, including inability to work, in some cases, the annual costs balloon to \$75 billion per year.

A correct and early diagnosis can reduce costs and improve the prognosis. We have a long way to go, but I am encouraged that we have made progress since the original Kay Hagan Tick Act was signed into law in 2019. For example, a clinical trial for a Lyme disease vaccine for people is underway right now at the MaineHealth Institute for Research. Reauthorizing the Tick Act would allow crucial developments such as these to continue.

The Tick Act uses a three-pronged approach to address Lyme and other tick and vector-borne diseases. First, it would require HHS to continue to implement and update as appropriate its National Strategy for Vector-Borne Disease. This strategy was required by the original legislation and released in 2024. I look forward to working with the Department to achieve its target of reducing the number of Lyme disease cases by 25 percent by 2035.

Second, the Tick Act would reauthorize the Regional Centers of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease, which Congress established in 2017 in response to Zika. Since then, tick-borne diseases have accounted for three in four vector-borne diseases in the U.S., and

these centers have led the scientific response. Our legislation would reauthorize funding for these centers for another 5 years.

Finally, the bill would reauthorize funding for CDC grants, awarded to State Health Departments, to improve data collection and analysis, support early detection and diagnosis, improve treatment, and raise awareness for vector-borne diseases.

The Kay Hagan Tick Act takes a comprehensive approach to address tick-borne diseases. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 321—COMMEMORATING 30 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM ON JULY 11, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 321

Whereas since the end the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in the United States and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas the joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States service members missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 to 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on the prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issue, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for the breakthroughs in subsequent United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas the efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics, collectively built the foundation for ongoing war legacy programs in Southeast Asia, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas on February 4, 1994, U.S. President Bill Clinton lifted of the trade embargo in place since the end of the Vietnam War, in turn paving the way to the announcement of a normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, lead-

ing to significant cooperation between the government and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106-554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);

Whereas on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, a move that followed President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of nonlethal defense items and defense services and President Obama's 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a new Three Year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of the United States aircraft carrier to Vietnam in 2018;

(3) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(4) welcomed the United States commitment to contribute to remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(5) took significant steps forward with an increase in direct investment in Vietnam with an emphasis on energy cooperation;

Whereas on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) officially upgraded the bilateral relationship to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short 10-year period; and

(3) underscored the fundamental principles guiding United States-Vietnam relations, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs by initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support to the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the significance of the 30th anniversary of normalization of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) the strong and enduring relationship built by United States and Vietnam based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity;

(2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the United States during the past 50 years, including—

(A) their tireless commitment to strengthening ties among different communities, sectors, businesses, youths, and people's organizations between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) facilitating reconciliation and economic prosperity between the 2 countries;

(3) honors—

(A) the service of members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, including those who gave their lives in the conflict; and

(B) United States veteran-led initiatives established and dedicated to engaging in reconciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

(4) expresses the commitment of the United States to the sustained continuation of funding and operational support to war legacy programs in Vietnam foundational to the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airport;

(B) unexploded ordnance removal;

(C) support for persons with disabilities;

(D) capacity building in provincial and national efforts on mine action; and

(E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and fallen soldiers from the war;

(5) acknowledges the significant progress in various areas of cooperation, including political and diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, and people-to-people exchanges;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to sustaining and building on the partnership officially established in the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and

(7) expresses—

(A) the determination of the United States to continue strengthening cooperation across sectors; and

(B) the vital importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to addressing shared challenges and promoting continued regional peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 322—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH” AND JUNE 27, 2025, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”**

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BUDD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 322

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom, health, and welfare of the people of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas nearly 2,800,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of enduring traumatic combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to severe and chronic post-traumatic stress responses, commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that approximately—

(1) 11 to 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom suffer from severe or chronic post-traumatic stress responses;

(2) 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf war have post-traumatic stress in a given year; and

(3) 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era have had post-traumatic stress in their lifetimes;

Whereas the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to describe and categorize the symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress;

Whereas the symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress have historically been unjustly portrayed in the media, stigmatizing individuals living with post-traumatic stress;

Whereas electro-magnetic imaging has shown that severe traumatic stress causes physical changes in the brain;

Whereas many post-traumatic stress responses remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to—

(1) a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions; and

(2) a lack of access to mental health treatment;

Whereas, without timely redress, traumatic stress responses can worsen over time and lead to severe consequences, including self-harm;

Whereas exposure to trauma during service in the Armed Forces can lead to post-traumatic stress;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress have created challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veterans service organizations, as well as the larger medical community, both private and public, have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help to eliminate the stigma attached to the mental health issues of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including the recognition that post-traumatic stress is often a repairable injury, and examination of how post-traumatic stress is portrayed by the media;

Whereas timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress responses can diminish complications and prevent suicides; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day raises public awareness about issues related to post-traumatic stress, reduces the associated stigma, supports resilience, and helps ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) June 2025 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month”; and

(B) June 27, 2025, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the entire medical community, to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress, understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) encourages the leadership of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who suffer from post-traumatic stress; and

(5) recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress on the spouses and families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 2853. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCHMITT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4, to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 2853.** Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCHMITT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4, to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Rescissions Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. RESCISSIONS OF BUDGET AUTHORITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to the special message transmitted by the President on June 3, 2025, to the House of Representatives and the Senate proposing the rescission of budget authority under section 1012 of part B of title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 682 et seq.), the rescissions described under subsection (b) shall take effect immediately upon the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **RESCISSIONS.**—The rescissions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$33,008,764 are rescinded.

(2) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$168,837,230 are rescinded.

(3) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$203,328,007 are rescinded.

(4) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$157,906,000 are rescinded.

(5) Of the unobligated balances in the first paragraph under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Global Health Programs” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the amounts rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for the following programs: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Nutrition, or Maternal and Child Health: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso does not apply to family planning and reproductive health programs.

(6) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of State—Migration and Refugee Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$800,000,000 are rescinded.

(7) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Complex Crises Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$43,000,000 are rescinded.

(8) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Democracy Fund" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$83,000,000 are rescinded.

(9) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$1,650,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for assistance to Jordan, Egypt, or the Countering PRC Influence Fund.

(10) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contribution to the Clean Technology Fund" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(11) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Multilateral Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Organizations and Programs" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$436,920,000 are rescinded.

(12) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Development Assistance" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$2,500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for Feed the Future Innovation Labs or the Countering PRC Influence Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(13) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$460,000,000 are rescinded.

(14) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Disaster Assistance" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$496,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(15) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "United States Agency for International Development—Funds Appropriated to the President—Operating Expenses" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(16) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Transition Initiatives" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$57,000,000 are rescinded.

(17) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—Inter-American

Foundation" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$27,000,000 are rescinded.

(18) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—United States African Development Foundation" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$22,000,000 are rescinded.

(19) Of the unobligated balances under the heading "Related Programs—United States Institute of Peace" made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$15,000,000 are rescinded.

(20)(A) Amounts made available for "Corporation for Public Broadcasting" for fiscal year 2026 by Public Law 118-47 are rescinded.

(B) Amounts made available for "Corporation for Public Broadcasting" for fiscal year 2027 by Public Law 119-4 are rescinded.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

#### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns from my office be granted floor privileges until July 16, 2025: Charles Roemer, Melissa Blomquist, Caroline Garrett, Mackenzie Connaughton, Lindsay Moore, Madeline Champagne, and Mary Quoyeser.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns on the Committee on Agriculture be granted floor privileges through August 1, 2025: Amara Jackson, Jodi Robinson, Keeton Dassinger, Patrick Phillips, and Mary Eichenberger.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my intern for her shadow days on the following dates: Malia Perry for July 23, 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025 AS "NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH" AND JUNE 27, 2025, AS "NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 322, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 322) expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2025 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month" and June 27, 2025, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day".

There being no objection, 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. 322) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM REFORM ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1815 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.



Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. THUNE. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1815) was passed.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 16; 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 Calendar No. 114, H.R. 4; finally, that all debate time be expired at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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 following the remarks of my Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

H.R. 4

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, the rescissions package before us reduces access to educational programming for children and locally produced public radio and television programming. It diminishes America's global leadership while eliminating lifesaving aid from the world's most vulnerable populations.

I want to spend a minute on the impact that this will have on public radio and television, including the disproportionate impact it will have on rural communities.

One in four Wisconsinites lives in a rural community, and many rely on public broadcasting for local news, emergency alerts, and free educational programming, especially for children. Wisconsin Public Radio is the primary broadcast relay for Wisconsin's Emer-

gency Alert System, including AMBER Alerts and lifesaving weather alerts like tornado and flash flood warnings. Look no further than the absolutely devastating news out of Texas. Access to high-quality information can truly be the difference between life and death. Access to local news from reporters and sources that community members trust is more important than ever.

Stripping away this funding would also endanger local news that is already disappearing in so many Wisconsin communities. In 2024—just last year—almost 20 percent of our local newspapers shut down in Wisconsin, according to a study by Northwestern University. That same study found that Wisconsin's northernmost county, Bayfield, had no local news sources at all while 22 counties across Wisconsin had just 1 local news source.

That is where public radio plays a critical role in keeping Wisconsinites connected with their communities. Stations like WXPB in Rhinelander, WI, would be under threat if this package advances—one of the few news sources producing local reporting in Wisconsin's Northwoods and Michigan's Upper Peninsula—or Radio Milwaukee, which, because of public funding, can broadcast local school board meetings for parents and families to stay in touch with what is happening in their communities.

Without Federal support for public media, this critical information could disappear for Wisconsin families. This is what public broadcasting means for Wisconsinites, but it applies to all the States that we represent. That should be reason enough to oppose this bill on the substance of it.

But the other reason is the extraordinary process that is being used to make this change and the impact it would have on the ability of this body to perform its most basic functions. If passed, this bill would represent the first time this rescissions process would be used to pass completely partisan rescissions, and in doing so, we would undo bipartisan agreements.

That is why I oppose this bill, and I hope enough of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will choose to do so as well.

The Senate passes bipartisan appropriations bills every year. They are hard, and they take months to negotiate, and it doesn't always work as well as it should. Senators on both sides of the aisle often discuss wanting to return to something we call regular order. We decry full-year continuing resolutions, or CRs, and government shutdowns. We say we want to bring appropriations bills to the floor. This isn't a pipedream, and I reject the idea that the appropriations process can't work anymore. More often than not, we pass appropriations bills within the first few months of the new fiscal year—not ideal but workable. We certainly need to work to make it better, and the full-year continuing resolution

we find ourselves in right now is a prime example of its failing, but throwing in the towel, as this bill does, would make it so much worse.

I want to highlight one example of when the appropriations process worked how it should that is particularly relevant in this exact moment.

It was just a few years ago, in fiscal year 2019, that the Labor-Health and Human Services bill—not the easiest bill—passed the Senate and was signed into law prior to the start of the next fiscal year. At that time, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Shelby, along with other Republicans and in working with Democrats, vowed to return to regular order and committed to it.

In May of 2018, President Trump submitted a rescissions package just like the one we are contending with today. Enough Republicans joined all of the Democrats in opposing it. It failed, and that was the end of it.

Then, 3 months later, a combined Defense and Labor-Health and Human Services bill passed. It passed the Senate; it passed the House; and it was signed into law by President Trump on September 28—just days short of the expiration of fiscal year 2018. It wasn't the only pair of bills. Several other appropriations bills were enacted prior to October 1 also.

My Republican colleagues knew then that passing partisan rescissions packages would make passing bipartisan appropriations bills that much harder, if it would be possible at all. That is what we are debating today. The issue here is really simple: How can any minority party, Democrat or Republican, make concessions as part of these bipartisan appropriations negotiations if the majority just walks back those deals a few months later?

The answer is, it can't, and that is why we have never passed partisan rescissions packages like this before.

Passing this rescissions package will also, very likely, mean that there will be more to come. In fact, OMB Director Russ Vought has said as much. Right now, the Department of Education is withholding \$7 billion in funding that normally goes out at this time of year to the States for the upcoming school year to support afterschool programs, STEM education, school counselors, and smaller class sizes, among many other things.

Will the administration put that funding in the next rescissions package?

So, if we pass this bill, we would find ourselves right back here in a couple of months—with the President exerting his influence to pass another partisan rescissions package—or we can end this here, like we did in 2018, and deal with these issues where they should be dealt with and where they frequently are dealt with as part of the appropriations process. We can and should debate the issues raised in this rescissions package as part of the annual appropriations process. We should mark up bills

in committee and bring them to the floor.

But you cannot vote for this rescissions package and then argue for regular order or decry brinksmanship over government funding and government shutdowns or full-year continuing resolutions because walking back on bipartisan agreements like this rescissions package does will make future bipartisan agreements that much harder, if not impossible.

As the ranking member on the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee, I commit to working with my Republican colleagues on their specific concerns with funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, but the concerns I have heard raised as part of the debate on this package actually weren't even raised as part of the appropriations process in the last 2 years as I chaired this subcommittee. My colleagues are saying that this is such a grave problem that we have to take the extraordinary step of rescinding funding when these issues weren't even raised when we passed the appropriations bills with this funding in it originally. That is not how this process should work.

To my colleagues, if you are for regular order, if you want this body to work better and want more bipartisanship and less partisanship, I sincerely ask you to deeply reflect on what this vote means for that goal that a majority of our constituents want from us. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today, we are debating President Trump's disastrous proposal to cut more than \$9 billion in funding that Congress has already approved for local public broadcasting and foreign assistance.

Not only is this bill harmful to communities in Michigan, as well as all across the country, but it also risks undermining a key part of our democratic process.

President Trump and his crony—Budget Director Russ Vought—are trying to undercut the voice of everyday Americans in our government through this process.

Americans sent us here to represent them and to act in their best interest. That is why our Constitution gives Congress—not the President—the sole power to make laws, including the power of the purse. And that is why lawmakers routinely come together to decide, on a bipartisan basis, how to allocate Federal funding in a way that best serves the people who live in our States.

I am proud to take part in that important process as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. And I am proud that my Democratic and Republican colleagues in the committee are working hard to advance commonsense, bipartisan funding bills that will meet the needs of all of our communities.

But Donald Trump wants to throw these bills out the window so he can

pick which communities win and which communities lose when it comes to Federal resources.

Funding laws are still laws, and Congress passed these laws with bipartisan support to direct resources to these programs. No President gets unilateral say on how any law is implemented, and no President gets to overrule Congress's bipartisan laws.

But the legislation pending before the Senate today would open up a slippery slope that would undercut Congress's authority, rob our communities of important resources, and ultimately erode the voice of the American people who elect their Members of Congress to make these decisions in their best interests.

We have to put our foot down because we know it will not stop here. Today it is funding for local public media, but tomorrow it could be funding for infectious disease research, public education, or weather forecasting—all on the chopping block.

They have made it pretty clear that folks just want to cut rather than leading our government in a way that makes our constituents' lives better.

We saw it at the beginning of this year, when the administration froze funds that Congress passed into law to support local infrastructure upgrades, cancer research, childcare programs, opioid addiction centers, and so many more.

Just a few weeks ago, the administration froze a ton of funding that Congress passed for summer school and afterschool programs. And again with the "Big Bad Bill" that our Republican colleagues just passed, President Trump signed into law a bill that gutted funding for critical resources like Medicaid and SNAP, ripping healthcare and food assistance from millions of Americans, all to cover the cost for their massive tax cut for billionaires.

And, now today, Republicans are trying to bypass once again bipartisan laws—laws that many of them voted for themselves—so they can rubberstamp another round of President Trump's harmful cuts.

Let's take a look at the harm that these cuts will do. Take the proposed elimination of funding for public broadcasting. This would eliminate the single most important source of funding for local radio and TV stations that focus on providing high-quality, community-centered content.

When local public media stations from Grand Rapids to Marquette see a huge chunk of their budget eliminated by this bill, they will, at a minimum, be forced to let people go. These are Michiganders who are just trying to keep their friends and neighbors informed on what is happening in their local communities. Families will no longer have 24/7 access to Michigan's Learning Channel, which provides educational math and literacy content for children all across my State.

But the biggest harm that these funding cuts will have on our commu-

nities is the impact to emergency response and public safety.

Many of Michigan's public TV and radio stations are responsible for broadcasting emergency alerts during national disasters like tornadoes, wildfires, or severe flooding. When catastrophic ice storms swept through northern Michigan earlier this year, it was local radio stations that literally saved lives by broadcasting emergency warnings to folks after commercial towers went down.

These alerts are critical, particularly in rural communities where these local public stations are often the only ones available to reach people during an emergency.

WNMU out of Marquette is the only source of emergency alert services for over 250,000 residents in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This singular station covers an area larger than Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Delaware combined. If Republicans pass this disastrous bill, those communities will be left in the dark when the next emergency strikes.

Local public media also plays an important role in supporting national security and law enforcement efforts. In the Thumb region, Delta College Public Media hosts transmitters for the FBI and the Coast Guard to ensure that they can effectively communicate during emergency situations. Eliminating funding for that partnership, as this bill would do, is quite literally putting American lives and the homeland at risk.

And don't get me wrong. I am all for reducing waste and making sure that we are spending taxpayer dollars efficiently, but gutting funding for local stations that communities rely on to keep their families safe is to cut corners that is absolutely detrimental to public safety.

So when President Trump—and his cronies like Russ Vought—say that this bill targets government fraud, waste, and abuse—something that I have spent my entire life fighting against—we know that it is just not true.

Don't forget, they just passed a bill that is going to add \$3 trillion to the deficit. They don't care about balancing the budget or limiting waste. They want to cut services that American families depend on so they can afford a bigger tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

In addition to local broadcasting, this bill also will upend bipartisan investments in foreign assistance that Congress made earlier this year to maintain our global leadership and protect U.S. national security interests.

While foreign assistance represents less than 1 percent of the Federal Government, it provides critical benefits to our Nation. These strategic investments help save American lives, reinforce our global leadership, and support economic growth here in our country. Foreign assistance helps protect global stability and prevent conflict that is



more costly for us in the long run. But this bill undermines those strategic goals by compromising programs that have long received bipartisan support.

Funding for programs like Feed the Future and efforts to counter Russian and Chinese influence have been cut in this bill. These programs just don't support communities abroad, they actually stimulate local businesses and economies right here at home. Feed the Future, which is a part of the U.S. Agency for International Development, supports local farmers by purchasing their products and distributing them to people in need around the globe. If Republicans pass this bill, those farmers will lose.

Feed the Future also partners with universities and colleges across the United States to operate innovation labs that draw on their expertise to tackle the world's biggest challenges to food security.

Institutions like Michigan State University conduct cutting-edge agricultural research to help farmers grow better products that support Americans. These partnerships also provide training opportunities for the next generation of researchers to help maintain America's competitiveness. If this bill passes, MSU will lose.

But Michigan State University is not alone. Institutions across the country in States like Kansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and many more will also have their vital research projects canceled.

Foreign assistance is designed to prevent the need for more costly interventions down the line. This bill will undo the success of past generations of Americans and damage our geopolitical standing, all to save just a fraction of our Nation's annual budget while doing serious damage to American leadership across the globe.

But the bigger picture here is that Republicans are allowing Donald Trump to bypass Congress and the bipartisan laws that we pass right here.

Every year Congress tirelessly negotiates bipartisan funding bills, and each side makes compromises. But if one party can simply rip up those bipartisan funding agreements by enacting one-sided decisions like what my Republican colleagues are going to be doing here, the appropriations process will simply break down.

How can we be assured that these bipartisan agreements are being made in good faith if Republicans are just going to turn their backs on them just a few months later? How can we be sure that the funding laws we pass will help all of our communities succeed if our Republican colleagues will simply let President Trump pick who wins and who loses when it comes to Federal support?

President Trump's Budget Director Russ Vought has already made it clear that he won't stop with this rescission effort. He just opened the door to undercutting the bipartisan funding laws

that Congress passed, and there is no telling where he and President Trump will stop if they succeed here.

Congress is meant to be an independent branch of the government from the Presidency, with our own unique powers. Making decisions about how the Federal Government should allocate its resources is one of those powers that belongs solely to Congress under the U.S. Constitution.

What we do today will either reaffirm that Congress makes the laws, or it will show how quickly our Republican colleagues will roll over and rubberstamp whatever Donald Trump wants, no matter—no matter—what harm it will do to the people that they represent.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful bill.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Oregon.

**Mr. MERKLEY.** My colleagues from Wisconsin and Michigan have spoken to the destructive nature of this rescission because of the programs that will be canceled midstream.

I have seen, so often, the power of our international aid programs in assisting in nutrition and fighting tuberculosis and malaria and AIDS across the world. But what many may not understand is that the small fraction—less than one-third of 1 percent—that we spend on those programs has an incredible yield not just in doing good works around the world, but have been doing good for America because of relationships that are forged through those programs. The respect that is forged through those programs comes back to benefit us in all kinds of cooperation on a huge range of diplomatic goals—be they economic; be they trade; be they issues of national security.

That is, in fact, what is referred to as “soft power,” and soft power is at risk with this strategy of canceling these programs.

I think about rural Oregon, where so often the warnings on floods or fires is broadcast over the public radio system, and all kinds of different channels have different programs that people become quite attached to. So there are simply good humor programs that are fun to listen to, and others are good music programs. But a lot of it is good news programs—things deeply appreciated throughout the State but often harder to access in rural Oregon. So I am concerned about this concerted attack on rural America.

First, my colleagues across the aisle say: We are going to make it very, very hard for people in rural America to get healthcare if they are on Medicaid. And then, without Medicaid financing and paying for services, you lose an entire hospital or you lose an entire clinic. The whole rural community is profoundly damaged because everyone's healthcare is affected. An attack on rural America continues through this bill.

But what I really want to talk about now is to give a sense of how this bill

is an attack on the separations of power that we all here in the Senate have taken a constitutional oath to defend.

When I first came to Congress as an intern for Senator Hatfield, we were celebrating our 200th anniversary. That is so long ago, 49 years ago. And Senator Hatfield had a saying about appropriators, and that was that appropriators—that is, those Members of the Senate who served on the spending committee—they were first appropriators, and then they were Republicans or Democrats. That is how strongly they felt about their shared responsibility to manage the power of the purse.

The power of the purse—article I, section 9, of the Constitution says:

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.

And here is the thing. The Congress is vested with that power, but when you decide how to spend money, you are really talking about your values. So those who serve on the Appropriations Committee were doing their best to enact the values of our country, be they investment in healthcare, in housing, in education; investments that created good-paying jobs, investments that helped small communities thrive, investments that helped build infrastructure across the country. That was the responsibility that was so cherished.

And there was a term for those who chaired the 12 subcommittees on Appropriations, and that term—the colloquial term—was that they were the Senate's “cardinals.” It was taken from the Catholic Church, where cardinals helped steer the church on the right path. And the cardinals of the Senate had the responsibility of steering our Nation, through our spending decisions, on the right path for the people of America.

This is, in fact, a key part of government by and for the people: that shared responsibility to spend that money wisely. But even in the early years that I was here in the Senate, we were starting to see signs of the breakdown of that relationship.

In the last conversation I had with Senator Hatfield before he passed away, he said: What happened to the Appropriations Committee?

Now, Senator Hatfield was a Republican, and he had been chair of the Appropriations Committee. And he said: I worked so closely with Dan Inouye of Hawaii, and I worked so closely with PATTY MURRAY of Washington. What has happened to that collaboration?

That was several years ago. But as we have watched, over time, some significant things are happening that we should understand as Senators. In the not so distant past, you have tried to have a fair allocation of revenue laws that raised money, and then, as you filled the Treasury, the question became: How shall we spend it?

So the responsibility shifted from the Finance Committee to the Appropriations Committee. But, over time, it has become more and more popular to spend money for programs through tax credits and deductions. So much of the spending that was in the Appropriations Committee has shifted to the Finance Committee. And then it became more and more popular to shift discretionary spending, over which the Appropriations Committee has control, into mandatory spending. If it is mandatory, it is not a decision decided by the appropriators.

And then, on top of all that, we started to build up more and more national debt, and so all the money that went to interest on that debt is money unavailable to be spent on basic programs of healthcare, housing, education, investments that create good-paying jobs across America, infrastructure, security. That money isn't so available because it is tied up paying for interest.

So these trends are changing the role of those Senate cardinals—the chairs and the ranking members of the subcommittees who help guide us in the 12 different sections of spending. And, I will say, that problem of the debt growing, that is very significant.

Back in 1974, Democrats and Republicans came together and said: Let's have an architecture to ensure that we are very responsible and don't run up massive debt. We will have a filibuster-free pathway for one purpose, and that is to reduce deficits—only to reduce deficits.

And then my colleagues, 22 years later, across the aisle—my Republican colleagues—said: Well, you know, we want a filibuster-free pathway to do tax cuts which will increase the deficit. And they brought in a new Parliamentarian in order to get a ruling that they could do the exact opposite of what 100 Senators had agreed to. So more and more payments diverted into interest.

We had that Big Beautiful Bill, as Trump calls it—or as many of us call it, the “Big Ugly Betrayal Bill.” You know the one I am talking about, the one where families lose and billionaires win that was passed 2 weeks ago. Well, this rescission bill is a continuation of that vision of families lose—particularly rural families, particularly all Americans, who lose out on the advantages of soft power that we exercise around the world—and billionaires win. But it is a direct attack, as well, on the immediate process of Democrats and Republicans working together on the Appropriations Committee in this really sacred responsibility of exercising the power of the purse.

Let's examine that word “rescission.” It is a fancy term. What does it really mean? A rescission is a repeal of a previous spending law.

A law was passed. It spent a certain amount of money on a certain program or on a certain Agency. And a repeal of it—that is all that fancy term means.

And so the spending process is one where those members of the spending

committee come together—Democrats and Republicans together—and they work out a bipartisan bill. And in that bill, last year, for fiscal year 2025, 11 out of 12 bills that came out of the spending committee, out of the Appropriations Committee, were unanimous or nearly unanimous. Where do you look for that type of bipartisan cooperation in Congress anymore? Well, last year, in the Appropriations Committee, 11 out of 12 bills passing unanimously or nearly unanimously out of committee. But what is happening right now is consideration of undoing that bipartisan work with a partisan repeal.

Now, just kind of stick with me here about a normal deal. You make an agreement with a friend: I will do this if you do that.

Well, everyone kind of understands that is a partnership. You have an agreement. But what if one person bails on that agreement later? It is a betrayal. But bailing on the agreement is exactly what this bill is.

Democrats and Republicans together made those spending decisions, and now they are being undone in a purely partisan fashion. They are breaking the deal. They are going back on the agreement. They are breaking their word. That is pretty shameful, and it is why my colleagues have been saying: Don't do it—because it is wrong, and it has a huge impact going forward. Once somebody you have made an agreement with breaks their end of the bargain, are you going to make a second bargain with that same individual, knowing that they bailed on the first deal? The answer is probably not.

So how will we come together and continue what we did a year ago—11 out of 12 bills passing out of the Senate committee in a hugely bipartisan fashion—if one side comes back and breaks the deal? I would invite my Republican colleagues: Come to the floor and explain to me how breaking the deal that you were participating in a year ago is an honorable thing to do, and explain to me how we are going to do future deals if you are breaking the existing deal.

Now, never in the history of the Senate has there been a partisan repeal—never. This is the first time. Why? Because we understood together that a deal is a deal.

That doesn't mean the President doesn't have influence. Hey, that was just about last year's bill. The President lays out a budget for the next year and has a huge influence. The President can veto the next set of spending bills or any one of them.

But once it is locked into law—passed by the House, passed by the Senate, signed by a President—to come back and undo that in this partisan fashion, you are breaking the honor code that has made bipartisan collaboration so successful. That is why you shouldn't do it. That is why you should vote no.

Now, this question of how this affects our Constitution is significant because,

as I cited, the Constitution assigns the responsibility of the power of the purse to Congress in article I, section 9. But there have been occasions before when Presidents said: We would like to actually have that power of the purse. And the President who really pursued that aggressively was President Nixon, in the 1970s. President Nixon signed a law about how money would be spent but then decided not to spend it and withheld the money from being spent on housing, on education, on highways, on agriculture, and on pollution prevention programs.

Well, of course, this was appealed on a constitutional basis because the Constitution doesn't give the President the power to impound funds. Congress, by law—and by law signed by a President—had said: Here is what must be spent on these programs. And the President came along, and President Nixon said: I don't want to do it. I am not going to do it. Take me to court.

So they went to court. And it didn't actually make it to the Supreme Court until after President Nixon was out of office, after having resigned because of the Watergate scandal. But, in a way, this was really almost a bigger scandal. This was an attack on the Constitution.

So what did the Court say in *Train v. New York*? And the piece of spending that made it to the Supreme Court was related to spending on water treatment systems, of all things. And the Court said: You cannot do this. You cannot impound funds. It is unconstitutional because the Constitution assigns that responsibility to Congress.

Now, if the law had been written by Congress to say the President has flexibility between here and here, maybe a modest amount of flexibility may have survived the constitutional test. But the idea that the President could just simply ignore the law? No. The Court said no.

Then there was a second test. The second test had to do, in 1996, with Congress, where Republicans controlled the House and they controlled the Senate. They decided: You know how we will tackle the deficit now—now that we have destroyed the 1974 law that said the fast track can only be used for reducing the deficit and how we switched that and said it could be used for increasing the deficit—now we have destroyed that, and we have a new plan, and we will just simply say to the President: You can line-item veto.

Again, the court weighed in, and the court said: Hell no, no you can't, because the Constitution does not say you can delegate to the President powers the Constitution assigns to you.

It assigns it to us. That is our responsibility.

So, again, the core concept here is that bipartisan work in forging a spending bill should not be done by one partner bailing on the deal that was agreed to the previous year.

Now, there is a formal way to go about doing this in a bipartisan fashion, and that is, each spending bill, in

addition to saying what we will spend next year, can contain agreements on undoing the spending from the previous year because it is the same set of people saying: We assigned funds last year, but now we see they are not needed.

Maybe the President pointed out that they are not needed.

We will undo it, but we will undo it in a bipartisan fashion in the Appropriations Committee in that same sense of a partnership working together.

So rescissions, yes. We do them all the time. But they are done on a bipartisan basis in the spending committee, not in a partisan special bill, one-sided, basically bailing on the deal struck last year—because this strategy is a recipe for disaster, destroying the bond of trust on a deal made with each side having its priorities in a bill and then one side bailing on it—because of that, it has never happened before, and it should never happen now.

Mr. President, let's step back from the immediate loyalty test the President of the United States has put forward. The President said: It is a loyalty test. I want you to do this because I want you to bend the knee to me.

That is not the responsibility of a Senator of the United States of America, to bend the knee to the executive branch. The Constitution gives us the responsibility to design how the executive branch functions. It gives us, the Senate, the responsibility to fund the programs and the services.

The way you lose government of, by, and for the people is to have an acquiescent legislature that stops doing its job and just says "We will respond; we will just do what the President asks" and a deferential court. Right now, we have both.

But we took an oath to the Constitution, each one of us, to honor that oath. Do not engage for the first time ever in creating this recipe for disaster of our bipartisan responsibilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the good news is that I am the last speaker of the day. I wish I could tell you my speech will be short. I don't think it will be long, but I will try to make it interesting.

I want to tell you a story. It is not a story about anything that has happened in this building. It is a story about a very humble Catholic parish in Northside Richmond, VA, called St. Elizabeth of Hungary. It is a humble parish. It is a small parish. It is slightly over 100 years old. It is the church where my wife and I were married more than 40 years ago, where all three of our children were baptized, where we attended Mass just this last Sunday to hear the Gospel reading of the story of the Good Samaritan.

The church was founded more than 100 years ago in an unusual way. There were Italian and German immigrants in Richmond who felt looked down upon because of where they had come

from and because of the accents that they spoke with and that their English wasn't so good.

In the aftermath of World War I, people looked at German-Americans and Italian-Americans with some suspicion. German language was being criminalized in some of our States in the aftermath.

These immigrant refugee Catholics decided that they wanted a place where they could feel welcomed, loved, and safe as they worshipped in accord with the American value of freedom of worship. So they set up this little parish in the Highland Park neighborhood of Northside Richmond, VA, where they could go and be together and feel safe. They chose an interesting name, St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary lived 1,000 years ago. She was a teenager, and she was a queen in a time of great poverty. Against the wishes of her husband and other officials, she would take bread and put the bread inside of her garments and go out and distribute it to the poor.

Once, she was caught, and she was made to open her garment, and when she did open her garment, the bread had turned into roses. That is the miracle that was attributed to her. She lived only a short time and died, but she was made a saint by the Catholic Church.

These immigrants who started my parish chose that name because they felt like that was what was needed in the world—people who would try to serve others in need.

One hundred years later—we celebrated the centennial of my church a couple of years ago, and I was sitting there—I have now been a member of the parish for 40 years—and I was looking around, and I realized that times change and they don't.

Catholic Relief Services, which is one of the largest agencies in the United States that help settle refugees, who are legal immigrants—refugees are legal immigrants—about 15 years ago settled a Congolese family into my church who had been in a refugee camp after fleeing violence in the Congo. Catholic, French, and Swahili speaking, one Congolese family came to my church. Then, over time, Catholic Relief Services decided "Well this family likes St. Elizabeth, and they feel welcomed here," and other families started to come to my church.

So by now, as we were celebrating our centennial and I was looking around the parish where I go—this small, very humble parish—it is a sizably Congolese refugee population, legal immigrants to the United States who have been settled through the Catholic Relief Services, and they have come to a place where they feel loved and cared for and safe and welcomed. The color of their skin, the accent they use, and the fact that they are unfamiliar with American culture might make them feel not so welcomed in other venues, but in my church, they feel welcomed.

It made me realize as we celebrated that centennial that my church looks really different in some ways than when it was founded 100 years ago, but in other ways, it is exactly the same. It is a haven for people who are legal immigrants to the United States but need a place where they can gather with others and feel welcomed.

Why do I tell that story? How is it connected to the rescission bill that we are going to be voting on tomorrow?

President Trump has sent a bill to Congress, and one of the pillars of that bill is to rescind the funding for refugee resettlement programs in the United States run by churches. Seven of the ten organizations that resettle refugees in the United States are faith-based organizations. The largest two are the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, operating through the Catholic Relief Services, and the evangelical organization World Vision.

But it is not just them. There is Church World Service, Lutheran Social Services, the Episcopal Church of the United States, and World Relief. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society was founded more than 100 years ago to try to bring Jews at that point from Europe to the United States and make sure that, as legal immigrants—yes, they would be allowed to be here legally, but they needed someone to teach them about American culture and integrating into American life.

The practice of American religious organizations assisting in legal immigration goes back more than a century, and President Trump's rescission package that is before us wipes out funding to a dramatic degree for virtually all of them.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society has had to lay off hundreds of staff.

World Relief said this:

President Trump [has] said he will defend persecuted Christians. [But] the U.S. refugee resettlement program is one of the primary ways that the U.S. government protects Christians and others fleeing persecution.

The Episcopal Church of the United States has had to end its longstanding refugee resettlement program because of President Trump's budget cuts.

Lutheran Social Services has had to—they have struggled to make payroll. They have had to lay off so many people. They reduced the services they are able to provide, especially to Afghan allies who are in the United States because they worked with the U.S. military in Afghanistan to protect our troops.

Catholic Charities has laid off all kinds of staff.

The families at my church come up to me after mass on Sunday, and they are so frightened about what might happen because many of them have family still in refugee camps who might want to come here as legal refugees, as legal immigrants.

I don't know of a President who has attacked religious organizations—Catholic, evangelical, Jewish—that have been doing this work in many instances for more than a century, in

such an orchestrated, intentional, and calculated way as President Trump.

Matthew: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me in. I was sick and you cared for me. I was hungry and you fed me." This is a bedrock belief of our Nation's religious organizations: that they will follow the law—legal refugee program—but they will help the person who is accessing legal refugee programs to be able to integrate into a society so they can live with some sense of dignity and have some chance of success.

Why cut these programs? Why look in the face of these religious organizations that, out of a motivation of conscience, for decades, even a century, have decided that they will try to smooth that path to integrate people into American life who are here lawfully? Why cut their funding? Why force them to be laid off? Why debilitate their ability to provide services? It is an attack on the religious organizations so that they cannot do the work that their faith and their Creator compels them to do.

I am not surprised that President Trump would propose this. The language and the rhetoric and the behavior that he has exhibited toward even legal refugees, legal immigrants to this country lead me to not be surprised that this important funding is on the chopping block in the bill that he has sent to the Senate. But I have to admit that I am surprised that it seems to be just moving on a path to being accepted. It was accepted in the House without much drama, including by a whole lot of people who go to churches, just like me, and hear sermons preached about the Good Samaritan, just like I do every Sunday.

We will have an opportunity tomorrow to grapple with it here. I intend to at least offer an amendment to try to strip this piece of the bill out so that the bill will not be an attack on religious organizations doing what they feel compelled by their faith to do.

It is my prayer that the entire rescission bill fail for the reasons my colleagues have said—a deal is a deal, and we shouldn't backtrack on it. But if we can't defeat the entire rescission bill, it is my hope that we will allow organizations like Catholic Relief Services and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Episcopal Church and World Vision and World Relief and Lutheran Social Services—it is my hope that we will at least allow them to practice the faith they sincerely believe and do it in a way consistent with what their practices have been for decades and in some cases more than a century.

And so that is what I am going to be praying for tonight, that there is a bit of an epiphany in this body, and we realize that the work that these church-based organizations are doing isn't bad. This work isn't something that should be slashed and cut with these valuable faith workers laid off.

My hope is that the Senate will realize this is good work that is really at

the core of who we are as Americans—so tiny little parishes like St. Elizabeth of Hungary or synagogues or other churches all over this country who pride themselves on offering a welcoming environment for people who are here lawfully and want to make their way in America will be able to continue to do just that.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:45 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

JOSHUA D. DUNLAP, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE WILLIAM J. KAYATTA, JR., RETIRED.

WILLIAM W. MERCER, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA, VICE DANA L. CHRISTENSEN, RETIRING.

ERIC CHUNYEE TUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE SANDRA SEGAL IKUTA, RETIRING.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 9034:

##### To be general

GEN. THOMAS A. BUSSIÈRE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be general

LT. GEN. STEPHEN L. DAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. BRANT A. PUTNAM  
COL. SARA A. STIGLER  
COL. ROBERT B. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. WENDY S. ARMILJO  
COL. MANUEL A. COLONDEJESUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. JOSHUA D. ARMSTRONG  
COL. RYAN D. AYERS  
COL. GAVIN M. BATCHELDER  
COL. LEE R. BOUMA  
COL. JESSE R. CARLSON  
COL. TRAVIS J. CRAWMER  
COL. RYAN F. DANNEMANN  
COL. JOSEPH P. GEANEY  
COL. CHARLES T. GADAY  
COL. DAVID L. HALASI-KUN  
COL. CHAD E. HOWESKO  
COL. AMEE C. HOWARD  
COL. JARED F. KENNISH, JR.  
COL. CAROL J. KOHTZ  
COL. MATTHEW S. KOMATSU  
COL. BROCK E. LANGE  
COL. JONATHAN D. MUMME  
COL. JEREMY C. PHILLIPS  
COL. DEREK B. ROUTH  
COL. DENISE K. SWEENEY  
COL. NATASHA S. TAYLOR  
COL. ERIC A. UNDERHILL

COL. BART T. VAN ROO  
COL. LEAH V. VOELKER  
COL. SHELDON B. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. TRAVIS T. BOLTJES  
COL. STEVEN L. CAMPBELL  
COL. JOED I. CARBONELL  
COL. CHRISTIAN P. CORNETTE  
COL. MATTHEW L. GILES  
COL. JASON R. HALVORSEN  
COL. TANYA MARIE C. LEE  
COL. TIMOTHY T. MARTIN  
COL. ANTHONY J. PASQUALE

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be general

LT. GEN. DAVID M. HODNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARCUS S. EVANS  
MAJ. GEN. MARK S. BENNETT  
MAJ. GEN. KEVIN C. LEAHY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH F. JARRARD

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW J. GEBARA  
BRIG. GEN. MAX E. PEARSON

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. WILKEM D. MOLLFULLEDA  
COL. ANTIONETTE C. MULHOLLAND  
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. NIEWIND

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8081:

##### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JEFFREY J. CZEREWKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JOHN E. DOUGHERTY IV

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHRISTIAN F. WORTMAN  
IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL S. SCIRETTA

##### IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601 AND 9083:

##### To be general

LT. GEN. SHAWN N. BRATTON

IN THE MARINE CORPS	FOREIGN SERVICE	CONFIRMATIONS
<p>THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:</p> <p><i>To be colonel</i></p> <p>THOMAS W. CAREY</p> <p>IN THE COAST GUARD</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):</p> <p><i>To be lieutenant commander</i></p> <p>KAILEE H. EVERETEZE</p>	<p>THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:</p> <p>MARY SMITH, OF FLORIDA</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:</p> <p>MICHAEL FRANCOM, OF UTAH</p>	<p>Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 15, 2025:</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY</p> <p>LUKE PETTIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE</p> <p>ANTHONY TATA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS.</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</p> <p>JOSEPH EDLOW, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.</p>

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BRITTON'S  
GOURMET BAKERY ON ITS 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly commend and congratulate Britton's Gourmet Bakery on its 60th anniversary, a remarkable milestone for a beloved small business that began its journey in 1965. Founded by Marie and Ray Britton in Stone Harbor, South Jersey, the bakery relocated to Wildwood Crest in 1992, where it continues to proudly operate today as a cherished, family-owned institution. Now in its third generation, my friend, Christa Linnington and her team, have remained committed to delivering the highest quality recipes, time-honored traditions, and exceptional service that have made it a cornerstone of the South Jersey community. For six decades, Britton's has delighted customers with freshly baked goods, including their famous cinnamon buns, gourmet donuts, Danishes, muffins, and French pastries so iconic, in fact, that President Ronald Reagan once requested a sample and later wrote back to say how much he enjoyed their fritters. The hardworking team at Britton's Bakery begins each day before sunrise, ensuring that their customers enjoy pastries that are not only fresh, but often still warm from the oven. I congratulate Britton's Gourmet Bakery on 60 years of excellence. May their legacy of quality, community, and service continue for generations to come. God bless Britton's Bakery, and God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

CELEBRATING THE HAGAMAN  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPART-  
MENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department on the 100th anniversary of its founding and thank them for their tremendous dedication to protecting and serving the Village of Hagan as well as the surrounding municipalities in Montgomery County.

Since its founding in 1925, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department has been at the forefront of combating disasters across Upstate New York. In addition to fighting fires, the Department protects the Hagan community by responding to medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, and incidents involving hazardous materials. These brave men and women have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and stability of not only their community, but the Mohawk Val-

ley as a whole. For a hundred years, they have faced challenges with unwavering resolve and compassion embodying the true spirit of civic virtue.

In addition to ensuring the safety and stability of the Village of Hagan, the Department also plays a crucial role in fostering community development. Over the years, the Department has worked alongside their neighboring municipalities, strengthening relationships and creating long lasting bonds.

Today, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department boasts nearly sixty volunteers among its ranks, answering over five hundred emergency calls every year. As a testament to their growth and commitment, the Department has grown from a single firetruck station to its current size, boasting 6 fire trucks which are ready to answer the call at a moment's notice.

On June 7, 2025, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the generations of brave men and women who have volunteered with the Department. These extraordinary individuals have sacrificed their time and wellbeing to protect our upstate communities and I am proud to recognize their historic accomplishments and service.

HONORING KATRINA FOTOVAT

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep admiration and heartfelt gratitude to honor Katrina Fotovat, a fierce, compassionate, and tireless champion for the rights of women and girls around the world, as she marks her retirement from the U.S. Department of State.

For more than two decades, Katrina has been a driving force in embedding gender equity and equality into the fabric of American foreign policy. Her legacy is one of courage, conviction, and quiet, determined leadership in some of the most challenging arenas of global diplomacy and human rights work.

Katrina has served with distinction in numerous roles across the State Department: in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, at the U.S. Embassy in Moldova, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and at USAID. Most recently, she served as the Principal Deputy Director, and many times as the Acting Ambassador-at-Large, for Global Women's Issues, guiding the office through moments of great complexity with grace and resolve. Under her leadership, the Office of Global Women's Issues became a beacon for our partners around the world, showing what it means when the United States stands up for the dignity and rights of all people.

Her service has never been about recognition or accolades, it has been about impact.

Whether working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, advocating through the International Human Rights Legal Clinic, or standing shoulder to shoulder with survivors of trafficking and violence, Katrina has always placed people, especially the most vulnerable, at the center of her work.

She has lifted up voices too often silenced, built bridges where there were none, and inspired a generation of women and girls to imagine a better, freer, and more just future.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, and with personal appreciation for her extraordinary dedication, I want to thank Katrina Fotovat for her years of service. She leaves behind a profound and lasting legacy that will continue to ripple across borders and generations.

We honor Katrina, we thank her, and we wish her joy, purpose, and continued impact in whatever comes next.

HONORING KENNETH FREED

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my constituent, Kenneth Freed.

Mr. Freed devoted his life to his family, his community, and his love of classical music. He started his career as a professional musician with the Manhattan String Quartet before relocating to Minnesota and earning a coveted position as violist with the Minnesota Orchestra, where he served for 27 years. Whether with the Minnesota Orchestra or on his own, Mr. Freed shared his love of music across Cuba, Europe, South Africa, and Vietnam, where he performed, gave lessons, and made new friends. Simultaneously, Mr. Freed served as the music director of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra and played viola with the Rosalyra String Quartet and the Isles Ensemble.

Mr. Freed also devoted himself to inspiring a love for classical music in younger generations. He co-founded the non-profit Learning through Music, which helped children improve their academic abilities through music. He helped secure state funding for music education in schools across Minnesota, and especially in communities struggling with historic disinvestment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Kenneth Freed alongside his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING ADELINA WILKS

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Adelina Wilks, an outstanding student-athlete from my district and 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.

recipient of the Olympiad Student Athlete Award. For seven years, Adelina has competed for Bridgeton High School with excellence and distinction—beginning with interscholastic middle school sports and continuing into a celebrated high school career filled with accolades and honors. But Adelina's achievements extend far beyond the athletic arena. She has maintained a GPA above 3.7 throughout her high school years, reflecting a strong commitment to academic excellence alongside her competitive spirit. Adelina brings a rare and powerful combination to every endeavor—a kind and friendly demeanor, a sharp wit, and an unwavering drive to succeed. She has consistently represented her school, her community, and above all, her family, with pride and honor. Supported by a strong foundation at home and guided by her own inner discipline, Adelina has become a role model for young athletes in South Jersey. I congratulate Adelina, on receiving the Olympiad Award, and thank her for inspiring those around her through her dedication and character. God bless Adelina Wilks, and God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MASTER  
SERGEANT STEVEN WILLIAMS

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Master Sergeant Steven Williams for his appointment as the 41st Drum Major of "The President's Own" Marine Band.

Master Sergeant Williams, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Lampeter-Strasburg High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2002, where he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in Beaufort, South Carolina. He later attended Marine Combat Training and the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, as a trumpet player. From January to September 2005, he was deployed to the Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Prior to joining "The President's Own", he was stationed with the 2D Marine Division Band at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He became Assistant Drum Major for "The President's Own" in April 2013, where he assisted in leading the band in ceremonial duties and oversaw unit training. As Drum Major, Master Sergeant Williams directs "The President's Own" in its duties, which include performing at ceremonies such as the inaugural parade, and reviews for the President, heads of State, and dignitaries.

I want to thank and congratulate Master Sergeant Williams for his invaluable service to our country at home and abroad, and for his appointment as 41st Drum Major of "The President's Own." I wish him continued success in his military service and further pursuits.

CELEBRATING U.S. GRADUATES OF  
THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE (ELAM)

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend exceptional commitment of the 2025 graduating class from the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana, Cuba. These eleven courageous and compassionate individuals are now part of a legacy of global medical solidarity that began 25 years ago when Cuba offered full scholarships to students from underserved communities around the world, including the United States.

In partnership with the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), the U.S. ELAM program has graduated 245 physicians since its inception. Many of these graduates come from communities that have historically been denied access to medical education. These individuals have chosen a career path focused on service rather than profit, prioritizing community health over personal comfort. Currently, 101 graduates are making significant contributions to public health across various fields, including integrative medicine, research, education, and nonprofit work. Additionally, 144 graduates are either fully licensed or participating in residency programs in over 30 U.S. States, with many practicing in areas designated as health professional shortage areas or medically underserved communities.

Seventy percent of the program's graduates are women, and eighty percent are Black and Brown, reflecting the diversity of the broader student body at the school as a whole.

These graduates faced unique challenges, including studying medicine in a second language, adapting to a different healthcare system, and navigating the geopolitical impacts of the U.S. blockade on Cuba. Despite these obstacles, they persisted. Their achievements are not just academic; they are also profoundly political, demonstrating what is possible when healthcare and medical education are recognized as fundamental human rights.

Mr. Speaker, during a time when our healthcare system struggles with racial and economic disparities, these doctors remind us that another model is possible—one founded on equity, internationalism, and public service.

On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the U.S. ELAM Class of 2025. May their work continue to heal, inspire, and remind us that solidarity can indeed save lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in regard to missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

RECOGNIZING EMILY KUKAL

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of Emily Kukal, a standout student-athlete from my district and recipient of the Olympiad Student Athlete Award. Emily has been a shining example of excellence at Millville High School—both in the classroom and in competition. With a remarkable 4.8 GPA, she ranks second in a class of over 400 students, having completed eight Advanced Placement courses and earned numerous academic honors. She is also a proud member of the National Honor Society. On the athletic field, Emily has been just as impressive, earning eight varsity letters across three sports: soccer, swimming, and golf. Her ability to balance such high-level academics with outstanding athletic achievement speaks to her dedication, discipline, and character. Emily is not only an accomplished student and athlete—she is a future leader. Her talents and strong work ethic will no doubt continue to shine as she begins the next chapter of her journey at the United States Coast Guard Academy this fall. I thank Emily, for choosing a path of service to our Nation, and I have every confidence she will make an extraordinary officer and continue to make South Jersey proud. I congratulate Emily, and thank her for representing Millville and my entire district, with such great pride. God bless Emily and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

CONGRATULATING THE EAST PAL-  
ESTINE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR  
150 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the East Palestine Fire Department, a pillar of our beloved Ohio community since 1875. It is a privilege to honor these firefighters who have dedicated themselves to keeping our village safe.

For 150 years, these brave men and women have put their lives on the line, responding to countless emergencies with unwavering courage. Beyond their role as first responders, they connect with our community daily and strengthen the bonds that make East Palestine a special place in which to live.

I also want to recognize their heroism during the 2023 train derailment. When disaster struck, with flames and toxic hazards threatening our village, they stepped up with incredible bravery. Their actions that night, and in the days that followed, will be remembered for generations to come.

The East Palestine Fire Department stands as a symbol of hope and resilience, meeting new challenges and staying true to their mission. Their work embodies the spirit of East Palestine, and I am proud to represent them.

I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the East Palestine Fire Department for



150 years of exemplary service and to wish them continued strength and success for many years to come.

HONORING W. DOUGLAS HOWLAND  
FOR HIS SERVICE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Mr. W. Douglas Howland a happy 101st birthday and to thank him for his years of service to his country and his community.

Douglas enlisted after graduating from high school in 1942 and served in the Navy in World War II. For more than 3 and a half years, Douglas served on the aircraft carrier Essex in the Pacific as a radioman on a dive bomber. To this day, Douglas often shares stories of his time during World War II and expresses great pride in having served his country.

Beyond his service to his country, Douglas has been a leader in his community in several ways. Following his time in the Navy, Douglas attended St. Lawrence University, working part time on the railroad to provide for his family. After graduating from St. Lawrence University, Douglas continued to be an active member of his community. From 1962 to 1987, Douglas was a supervisor for the 9th Ward in the City of Watertown. After serving 25 years on the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County, Douglas became Chairman of the Board in 1984 and was involved in the expansion of Fort Drum. Douglas was also president of the North Side Improvement League in the 1960s, during which he emphasized the value of education which manifested through the important role he played in the establishment of Jefferson Community College. After its establishment, Douglas joined the Board of Trustees for the college.

Douglas is also an active member in the Elks Club, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At 100 years old, Douglas remains sharp and curious, eager to stay up to date on current events and follow elected officials on both a local and national scale. Douglas has lived an extraordinary and admirable life, always dedicated to serving those around him and being a leader to others.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored and excited to celebrate W. Douglas Howland's 101st birthday and I thank him for his brave service in the Navy as well as the years of public service that followed.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
WILBERT D. PAYNE, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Wilbert D. Payne, Jr. Mr. Payne turned 75 on July 13th.

Mr. Payne was born on July 13, 1950, and has devoted almost 50 years to serving his

community and country, becoming a historic figure in the City of Opelika and a respected voice among Alabama veterans and civic leaders. In 2016, he made history as the first African American elected Chairman of the City of Opelika Board of Zoning Adjustments, breaking barriers and fostering inclusive representation for the citizens of Opelika.

On February 17, 1970, Mr. Payne was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 19, serving with valor in the Vietnam War and later continuing his service through the U.S. Army Reserve and the Army National Guard until his medical retirement in 2004.

As former Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Twin Cities Chapter 95, he spearheaded the Vietnam War 50-Year Commemoration in Central Alabama, organizing the first ceremony of its kind in Lee County in 2016 and ensuring hundreds of veterans were honored and presented with commemorative pins and the public gratitude they had long deserved. He became an advocate for veterans' rights, mental health care, and public recognition for Vietnam veterans who, like himself, returned home without fanfare or acknowledgment.

His civic service roles include: Chief Voting Inspector for Lee County at the Covington Recreation Center, Chairman and member of the City of Opelika Zoning Board, Member of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Greater Auburn-Opelika Chapter, where he served as All Pro Dad's Chairperson for Carver Primary School and West Forest Intermediate School, Longtime coordinator of the Lions Tamers Social and Civic Club's Family Fun Day/ Juneteenth Celebration, Certified Member and Volunteer with the American Red Cross for 19 years, including service as a former Shelter Manager on the Disaster Action Team (DAT), Board Member of the Greater Peace Church Community Development Corporation, Facilities Coordinator for the J.W. Darden Foundation, Member of the Opelika-Auburn News Editorial Board, Board Member of the Lee-Russell County Council on Aging, Active with People of Action for Community Enrichment and recipient of the Arthur Hill Community Service Award (2023).

Mr. Payne retired from the City of Opelika Engineering Department (1990 to 2000) after previous employment with the Augusta Environmental Company (1981 to 1989) and Diversified Products (1976 to 1980), while balancing his long and honorable military service in U.S. Army (1970 to 1971) and Army Reserve (1971 to 2000). He is supported by his loving wife, BBB4 Wilbert D. Payne, Jr., and has been blessed with 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Payne on this milestone and wishing him a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST  
WILLIAMS MARES

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of speaking about Major Steven Mares, and now I want to talk about the bravery of his youngest son, Specialist William

Mares. William is a senior at Central Regional High School, where he serves with distinction as the Cadet Battalion Commander of the school's Junior ROTC program, the Golden Eagle Battalion. Recently, William followed in his father's footsteps by enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces. He will soon begin basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the very same base where his father trained. After that, he will be stationed in Arizona, the place he was born when his father was based there, a powerful full-circle moment that speaks to the deep military tradition within the Mares family. William has also been accepted to begin advanced individual training at the Defense Language Institute, where he will spend 18 months studying Arabic. Upon completing his training, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics and continue his journey in the U.S. Army, proudly walking the same path of service and excellence his father has traveled. William's ambition, discipline, and devotion to his country are truly inspiring, and I have no doubt that his future is bright and filled with purpose. May God bless William and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the planet.

RECOGNIZING BECKY KOENIG

**HON. RANDY FEENSTRA**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Becky Koenig and congratulate her on her retirement after nearly 40 years in education.

Since 1984, Becky has invested in the education of generations of Iowans across the communities of Sumner, Forest City, Lake Park, and Spencer. Her leadership and dedication to the classroom have left a lasting impact on each student, teacher, and faculty member that has had the pleasure of working, teaching, and learning alongside her.

In addition to teaching, Becky has spent 38 years as a speech coach, guiding students in competition. As a head coach, she contributed to Spencer High School's 50-year streak of sending at least one group to the Iowa All-State Festival.

Outside of the classroom, Becky was known to be a tireless advocate for her fellow educators and students, a true leader. As an Instructional Mentor Coach, she formally mentored many teachers and informally guided countless others with the years of experience and wisdom she accrued.

Becky was one of those educators who had a lasting impact not just on her students' education, but on their lives. Students from the past still reach out to her to chat, grab lunch, and thank her for the role she played in their formative years. She has inspired thousands of Iowans with her work, leaving a legacy that colleagues will look fondly back upon and future educators will look towards as a model for their careers.

As she begins this next chapter in her life, I would like to thank Becky for the incredible work she has done for the state of Iowa—and our great Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Becky Koenig for a remarkable career and wishing her all the best in retirement.



## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's votes due to weather delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. YUNG PATE, JR.

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. Yung Pate, Jr., a proud veteran, respected professional, and devoted community leader, whose contributions have left a lasting mark on the city of Chicago and beyond.

Mr. Pate answered the call to serve his country during the Korean War, carrying out his duties in the United States Army with honor, courage, and steadfast dedication. His service reflected the strength of character and deep sense of duty that would define the rest of his life.

Following his military service, Mr. Pate built a distinguished career in the security field. Known for his dedication to his clients and employees, as well as his exceptional service and professionalism, he became a trusted and admired figure throughout the region. His work helped shape Chicago's security industry, and his legacy continues to inspire a new generation of professionals, including the hundreds he mentored and employed, to follow in his footsteps and uplift others.

Mr. Pate's commitment to service extended far beyond his profession. Throughout his life, he remained deeply engaged in his community, dedicating himself to public service, mentorship, community engagement, and generosity.

Above all, Mr. Pate was a devoted family man. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mrs. Dolores Thibodeaux-Pate, and the cherished Pate family, who continue to uphold his legacy of service and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the cherished life of Yung Pate, Jr.

## RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS "NICKY" BACSIK

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Nicholas Bacsik, an outstanding young man whose hard work and character have earned him the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Nicky designed and built four standing workshop tables at Cloverdale Farms County Park in Barnegat, South Jersey. These tables now complete an outdoor teach-

ing space where children will learn about environmental stewardship and conservation, a legacy that will benefit the community for the years to come. But Nicky's path to Eagle wasn't just about one project. It was about perseverance, leadership, and inner strength. In September of 2023, Nicky faced an unimaginable loss when his older brother, Danny, also an Eagle Scout, was tragically killed while riding his bike at the University of Delaware. The grief was overwhelming, and at one point, it wasn't clear if Nicky would continue his Scouting journey. But he did, and not just for himself. He pressed on with even greater determination, knowing that Danny would have wanted him to reach the milestone. That strength, that resilience, and that sense of purpose is what being an Eagle Scout is all about. I am proud of all that Nicky has accomplished, and even more proud of the man he is becoming. God bless Nicky, and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT L. "BOB" HANLEY

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Seaman Second Class Robert L. "Bob" Hanley, the last living survivor of the sinking of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) in the Sunda Strait off the coast of Java on February 29, 1942, ending the storied U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

As one of only 368 of the ship's complement of 1,060 to survive this sea battle, he showcased American grit, tenacity, and commitment in the fight against fascism and tyranny. He endured multiple POW camps, "hell ships" to Singapore and Burma, and slave labor on the infamous Thai-Burma Death Railway.

His nearly four years of as a POW of Japan were marked by starvation, torture, and beatings. As a POW medical orderly, he labored without medicines and supplies to save the lives of his fellow brutalized POWs. He, himself, survived bouts of dysentery, malaria, and pellagra. At liberation in August 1945, he was among just 291 remaining USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivors.

Bob's resilience never wavered, and his service did not end with his Navy discharge in 1947. He continued serving his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army for 15 years. After his military career, he worked in security at 3M for another 15 years, retiring in 1978 due to medical issues caused by his wartime imprisonment.

Throughout his life, Bob's deep faith as a devout member of the Catholic Church of Saint Peter in Forest Lake, Minnesota, guided him through the darkest times and brightest moments, serving as a cornerstone of his strength. On September 12, 2024, Seaman Second Class Robert L. Hanley passed away at 102 years old. May he rest in peace.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LUCILLE HIRSH HART

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the Record the following proclamation celebrating the 100th Birthday of Lucille Hirsh Hart.

Whereas, Lucille Hirsh Hart was born on June 21, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Lena and Joel Hart, and has spent a century inspiring those around her with her strength, dedication, and love;

Whereas, Lucille built a beautiful life rooted in family, raising four children with devotion and care while serving as an outstanding mother and homemaker;

Whereas, she also dedicated herself to a distinguished career in medical records, ultimately serving as the head of Medical Records at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, a major teaching institution in downtown Philadelphia, where she contributed to the health and well-being of countless patients and supported generations of medical professionals;

Whereas, Lucille has long been an ardent supporter of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, instilling her deep sense of heritage, culture, and commitment in her children and numerous grandchildren;

Whereas, in 1993, Lucille moved to Florida, where she continues to live independently in her own home in Delray Beach, bringing joy, wisdom, and warmth to all who know her;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Lois Frankel, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Lucille Hirsh Hart.

Let it be known that Lucille's life stands as a shining example of service, resilience, and enduring love for family and community. We honor her remarkable century of life and the legacy she continues to build.

Happy 100th Birthday.

## HONORING MR. GREGORY J. ZAGAR FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gregory J. Zagar for his decades of dedicated service with the United States Air Force and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York.

In 1974, Mr. Zagar enlisted in the United States Air Force and served until 1982, when after 8 years of service he was honorably discharged, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York, where he would continue to serve at the rank of Captain until 1985. From 1985 to 1996, Mr. Zagar served as part of the New York Air National Guard based at Hancock Field, where he earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and returned to the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Hanscom Air Force Base, having achieved the title of Colonel.

Since 2004, Mr. Zagar has served in several leadership positions in the Computing and Communications Division at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York. The

Computing and Communications Division is responsible for the discovery, development, and integration of affordable trusted systems, high-performance computing, network systems, and quantum processing and communications for our air, space, and cyberspace domains. His leadership roles within the division included branch chief for six different mission branches across both the Information Directorate and Sensors Directorate, under titles such as Assistant Division Chief, Deputy Division Chief, and Division Chief. In his current role as Division Chief, Mr. Zagar oversees over 120 scientists, engineers, and staff as well as the execution of \$425 million via guidance on defining, budgeting, and managing diverse technical areas.

Among his incredible contributions to Air Force Research is Mr. Zagar's introduction and establishment of a new mission branch within the Computing and Communications Division of the AFRL/RI for Quantum Information Sciences and Technology (known as RITQ). RITQ has played a critical role in establishing and maintaining the world-class facilities for building, testing, and demonstrating the capabilities of new technologies to meet warfighters' current and anticipated future needs. Additional assets expanded and improved due to Mr. Zagar's unwavering dedication include the 300-acre "Controllable Contested Environment" Stockbridge facility, the 78-acre Newport "Upside-Down Air Force," the Extreme Computing Facility, and the Communication System & Technologies Laboratory. Mr. Zagar even came up with the vision and led collaboration on the concept, design, and construction for the Innovare Advancement Center, which succeeded in creating an open research environment where government engineers can partner with industry and academia to advance technology.

Mr. Zagar has been recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the United States Air Force over his many years of service at bases in New York's 21st district. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Commendation Medals, two Achievement Medals, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, which he has received five times. Mr. Zagar has used his experience as a pilot and warfighter with the United States Air Force, U.S. Air Force Reserve, and New York Air National Guard to contribute to the advancement of warfighter command and control technology, ultimately playing a tremendous role in shaping our current world-class computing and communications facilities and engineers.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to commend Mr. Gregory J. Zagar for his tremendous contribution to our district through his work for the United States Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York. I am proud to honor Mr. Zagar for his outstanding accomplishments and thank him for his over 40 years of service and commitment to the advancement of computing and communication technology for the United States Air Force.

## RECOGNIZING SYDNEY PRINCE

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly recognize Sydney Prince, a remarkable young leader who, after six years of steadfast effort, has achieved the distinguished honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. Sydney is the youngest member of a group of 10 girls who make up Troop 452, and since the troop's founding in 2019, she has played an instrumental role in building it into the strong community it is. Her passion for health sciences is evident in everything she does. Just this past summer, she interned with Galloway Emergency Medical Services, where she gained firsthand experience serving her community. It was through this experience that she came up with the idea for her Eagle Scout project, which was a relaxation spot for these local heroes after a long shift, or difficult incident. Sydney designed, planned, and oversaw the construction of a beautiful paver patio behind the Galloway EMS station she interned at. This new space offers first responders a place to relax and regroup after long shifts and challenging calls, a gift that honors their service and supports their well-being. Sydney graduates this month from the Atlantic County Institute of Technology, and she plans to pursue higher education and a career in health sciences. With her compassion, work ethic, and commitment to service, I have no doubt she will continue to be a tremendous asset to her community and to our country. God bless Sydney and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the planet.

## RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE TEAM

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Alpena Community College remotely operated vehicle (ROV) team, known as the Aquajacks, who recently represented Michigan's First Congressional District with distinction at the 2025 Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle World Championship hosted in Alpena, Michigan.

These talented students, who both live and study in Northern Michigan, demonstrated remarkable ingenuity, teamwork, and technical skill on the international stage, earning an impressive third-place finish against nearly 80 teams from 22 states and 18 countries. After months of designing, testing, and problem-solving, at the competition, the Aquajacks' ROV successfully completed complex technical tasks while the team impressed judges with their professional presentations and real-time strategic thinking.

Their performance stands as a testament to Alpena Community College's commitment to hands-on STEM education and development of real-world skills. I want to commend the

Aquajacks' mentor, David Cummins, and the entire Alpena Community College Faculty for fostering such excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Alpena Community College Aquajacks. These students not only represent the future of my district but also highlight the critical role skilled innovators play in strengthening our nation's infrastructure and advancing our national security. Their achievements remind us that effective investment into STEM education is essential to maintaining America's leadership and resilience on a rapidly changing world stage.

## HONORING DR. SOLANGES VIVENS

### HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Dr. Solanges Vivens.

Whereas, Born in Haiti and inspired by the wise, enduring strength of the turtle, Dr. Solanges Vivens immigrated to the United States and devoted over four decades to advancing healthcare and business leadership; and

Whereas, Rising from a non-English-speaking factory worker, to a renowned healthcare executive, author and advocate; Dr. Vivens embodies perseverance, courage, and visionary leadership; and

Whereas, Her academic achievements including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Long Island University, a Master's in Health Services Administration from Georgetown University, and a Doctorate in Humane Letters from Voorhees College, epitomize her lifelong commitment to education, leadership, and service; and

Whereas, Dr. Vivens has received numerous accolades recognizing her achievements, including the D.C. Health Care Association Leadership Award, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Award, Hope Giver Award, and the Champion of Women Award, a Miami-Dade Public County Schools Proclamation, the city of North Miami's "Dr. Solanges Vivens Day", and induction into the Island Space Caribbean Museum, each honoring her service to women, children, and underserved communities worldwide; and

Whereas, Through her acclaimed works, *Girls Can Move Mountains*, *A Revelation*, and *Educated Girl*, Empowered Woman, Dr. Vivens uplifts Haitian youth and shares stories of resilience, while serving as a beacon of hope and healing, representing the Caribbean and African diaspora at international forums like the Global Leaders Women's Conference in Dubai and the Venice Film Festival; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, in celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, proudly honor Dr. Solanges Vivens for her extraordinary contributions to healthcare, women's empowerment, education, humanitarian advocacy, and Caribbean excellence.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one Roll Call vote due to travel delays.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 191.

#### HONORING NOAH SARNOFF

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Noah Sarnoff, an exceptional student-athlete from my district who has been awarded the Olympiad Student Athlete by the Jewish War Veterans. Established in 1972, this award honors the memory of the 11 Israeli athletes tragically killed during the Munich Olympics and celebrates the academic and athletic excellence of remarkable high school students. Noah exemplifies those values. A proud representative of Vineland High School, he has consistently excelled both in the classroom and in athletics, balancing a demanding academic schedule with a standout athletic career. On the soccer field, Noah is a four-year varsity player and two-year team captain. He leads with talent, integrity, and a spirit of sportsmanship that sets him apart. He treats teammates and opponents with respect, leads by example, and represents his school and community with pride. His lasting impact comes not only from his performance, but from the way he uplifts and inspires those around him. Noah truly embodies the spirit and values that the Olympiad Award was created to honor. I congratulate Noah, and thank him for making South Jersey proud. God bless Noah and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

#### CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMBROSIO GUILLEN TEXAS STATE VETERANS HOME

### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home located in El Paso, Texas.

The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home opened its doors to veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents in 2005 to provide long-term care for those in need of specialty care.

Ambrosio Guillen Home has provided quality and outstanding care to thousands of distinguished veterans, ensuring that a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable stay is provided. The care center focuses on medical and social needs, along with treatment plans that prioritize creativity and expression.

I am incredibly thankful to the medical professionals and staff of the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Home for their dedication and tireless work to provide care and attention to our veterans and their families. The long-term care facility would not be what it is today without them.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Vet-

erans Home for their 20 years of service and their profound support to our Texas Veterans and families.

#### HONORING AND COMMENDING CAPTAIN MICHAEL TIBALDO, FIRST OFFICER JAMES KIM, DONNELL MITCHELL, AND JACLYN CURRY

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD, the following proclamation honoring and commending Captain Michael Tibaldo, First Officer James Kim, Donnell Mitchell, and Jaclyn Curry on the emergency landing at the University of North Carolina Rex Hospital.

Whereas, on Sunday April 6, 2025, the crew members of Republic Flight 4711, Captain Michael Tibaldo, First Officer James Kim, Donnell Mitchell, and Jaclyn Curry saved the life of Congressman Donald Norcross; and,

Whereas, during Republic Flight 4711 the Honorable Congressman Norcross endured a sudden medical emergency that required immediate medical attention, and the crew members of the Republic Flight 4711 acted swiftly to orchestrate an emergency plane landing, and the Honorable Congressman Norcross's transportation to the University of North Carolina Rex Hospital; and,

Whereas, had it not been for the professional, capable, and flawless work of the crew members of Republic Flight 4711, Congressman Donald Norcross would have died that day; and,

Whereas, Captain Michael Tibaldo, First Officer James Kim, Donnell Mitchell, and Jaclyn Curry are continuing to keep passengers safe, and representing the International Brotherhood of Teamsters honorably; therefore,

Be it known to all that the undersigned hereby honors Captain Michael Tibaldo, First Officer James Kim, Donnell Mitchell, and Jaclyn Curry.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBERT CORCORAN

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, one of the most commendable milestones a young man can reach is earning the rank of Eagle Scout. This past weekend, I had the distinct honor of congratulating Robert Corcoran on achieving this prestigious award. Robert's journey began in 2012 when he earned his first Cub Scout

rank of Bobcat. Over the past decade, through dedication, perseverance, and strong character, he climbed the ranks and ultimately attained the highest honor of Eagle Scout. Along the way, Robert earned 34 merit badges, including the Light of Christ Award, a testament to his deep and abiding faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For his Eagle Scout project, Robert demonstrated compassion and creativity by upcycling 31 insulated coolers into feral cat shelters. These shelters were distributed through the Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center, providing warmth and protection to South Jersey's stray cat population during the harsh winter months. I congratulate Robert on this remarkable achievement. With his unwavering faith, tireless work ethic, and heart for service, there is no doubt in my mind, he will thrive in all his future endeavors. God bless Robert and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

#### CELEBRATING FULTON UNITED SOCCER CLUB'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Fulton United Soccer Club in Gloversville, New York and congratulate them on their fifty-year anniversary.

The Fulton United Soccer Club is a non-profit soccer league that has given students from Pre-K to 7th grade an opportunity to play soccer since 1975 and currently has 544 children signed up to participate in the club's spring season. Students are coached in a wide range of soccer skills from teamwork to advanced ball coordination by parent volunteers, many of whom were players themselves.

The legacy of this recreational soccer league is truly admirable and contributes to our district through its commitment to providing athletic opportunities to our youth, which is made possible by the enthusiasm and generosity of members of our community.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the Fulton United Soccer Club for its tremendous positive impact on so many children in our communities for so many years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAHANA HAYES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote because I was stuck on the tarmac at DCA. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

## RECOGNIZING DANIEL McCLAVE

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Daniel McClave, whose extraordinary commitment and character have earned him the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America, the Eagle Scout. Daniel began his Scouting journey twelve years ago, steadily advancing through the Cub Scout ranks, achieving the rank of Scout in 2019, before his resilience, dedication, and selfless service led to the achievement of Eagle Scout this past December. Throughout his time in Scouting, Daniel earned an impressive 41 merit badges and was awarded four Eagle Palms—a clear reflection of his extraordinary determination to exceed expectations and lead by example. For his Eagle Scout project, Daniel transformed a storage room at Clayton High School into a fully functional and accessible food bank, ensuring that students and families in need had a reliable source of support and nourishment. Even after achieving the rank of Eagle, Daniel's service did not stop. He has continued to give back by serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor, guiding and mentoring the next generation of Scouts with the same wisdom, integrity, and leadership that defined his own journey. I congratulate Daniel on this outstanding achievement. His leadership, generosity, and commitment to his community are inspiring. My district and the Boy Scouts of America are better because of young men like him. God bless Daniel and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Monday, July 14, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; NAY on Roll Call No. 192; and PRESENT on Roll Call No. 193.

## CELEBRATING THE MINNESOTA FRISBEE ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the Minnesota Frisbee Association (MFA) on their 50th anniversary. Since their founding on July 19, 1975, the Minnesota Frisbee Association has been recognized nationally and internationally as one of the most innovative and successful flying disc clubs.

The Minnesota Frisbee Association has been a trailblazer in Minnesota, building a foundation on the principles of education, communication, community, and competition. They created the MFA Sport Development Grant Program to educate, expand, and increase accessibility to the sport across Minnesota. As a result, the grants have created a boom in frisbee infrastructure, programming, and organizational support across the state.

The Minnesota Frisbee Association has also partnered with sports teams such as the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, and Minnesota's ultimate frisbee team, Wind Chill. They have leveraged these relationships to engage enthusiasts across the state, host local, national, and international competitions, and create a lasting and dedicated community among neighbors and athletes.

Members of the Association can be found competing with their friends and neighbors, or in the Hall of Fame for their contributions to the sport. This dedication to the flying disc community is seen off the field—they engage and uplift their neighbors by donating and fundraising for various local and national charitable causes.

Minnesota Frisbee Association is an example of dedication and passion not only to the sport, but also to their community. Please join me in celebrating the enduring achievements of Minnesota Frisbee Association throughout their 50 years.

## CELEBRATING THE 107TH BIRTHDAY OF ALBERTA BAILEY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following proclamation celebrating the 107th Birthday of Alberta Bailey.

Whereas, Alberta Bailey was born July 5, 1918, and has spent a century inspiring those around her with her strength, dedication, and love;

Whereas, Alberta built a beautiful life as the matriarch of the family, rooted in love with devotion and care while serving as an outstanding mother.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Lois Frankel on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 107th birthday of Alberta Bailey.

Let it be known that Alberta's life stands as a shining example of service, resilience,

and enduring love for family and community. We honor her remarkable century of life and the legacy she continues to build.

Happy 107th Birthday.

## HONORING JOHN T. GOLDEN, SR.

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Navy veteran John T. Golden, Sr.

John T. Golden, Sr. was born in the Bronx, New York, on April 11, 1926. He graduated from Long Beach High School and attended CW Post College before enlisting in the U.S. Navy on February 5, 1943. John was trained in Diesel Mechanics, Demolitions, and was submarine qualified. After beginning his military career as a Fireman, he went on to serve as a Motor Mechanics Mate.

During World War II, John was stationed at forward Naval Amphibious Assault bases in England and served aboard an LST ship during the D-Day Invasion and subsequent transport operations. Later, he was assigned to the transport ship USS General Leroy Eltinge for Operation Magic Carpet, which took him to China before being transferred to the USS General W.F. Hase, which brought him back to the United States. Upon being honorably discharged on March 18, 1946, John was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, the European Theater Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal.

Returning to civilian life, John built a family and a distinguished career. He married Geraldine K. Wood on September 1, 1951, and together they raised five children. John served 20 years with the Nassau County Police Department's 4th Precinct, working as a Detective in the Narcotics and Homicide Divisions. After retiring from the police department in 1972, John and Geraldine relocated to the Town of Day, New York. He then worked at the International Paper Company in Corinth until his retirement in 1988.

Outside of his professional life, John was deeply engaged in his community. He was a member and past Commander of the Hudson-Sacandaga VFW Post No. 5836, a member of the William J. Varney American Legion Post 862, and the Roosevelt Rod and Gun Club. His commitment to veterans' organizations and community activities reflected his lifelong dedication to service.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize World War II Veteran and Motor Mechanics Mate John T. Golden, Sr.

## RECOGNIZING MICHAEL L. TESTA, SR.

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the accomplishments of Michael L. Testa, Sr., a respected attorney and leader from South Jersey, who was recently awarded the

CEO Group's Lifetime Achievement Award. Michael is a Managing Partner at Testa Heck Testa & White, P.A., and has spent more than five decades building a legacy of legal excellence and public service. A certified civil and criminal trial attorney, he has been named to the lists of New Jersey Super Lawyers and Top Ten Lawyers more than ten times each—an extraordinary testament to his professional reputation and courtroom skill. But Michael's impact goes far beyond the courtroom. He has

dedicated his life to serving the people of South Jersey through various municipal and educational roles, including as solicitor for Buena Municipal Authorities Association, Deerfield Township, and Rowan College of South Jersey. His service on the boards of the Rehabilitation Hospital of South Jersey, Sun National Bank, and the Landis Theatre Foundation reflects a deep commitment to strengthening local institutions and opportunities. Michael's legacy is not only defined by his distin-

guished legal career but also by his selfless dedication to civic leadership, education, and charitable causes throughout Cumberland County. I congratulate Michael on this well-earned Lifetime Achievement Award, and thank him for his decades of service and commitment to South Jersey. May God bless Michael Testa, Sr., and may God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S4345–S4380*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-three bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2274–2296, and S. Res. 321–322. **Pages S4368–69**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. (S. Rept. No. 119–39) **Page S4368**

#### Measures Passed:

**National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 322, expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2025 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2025, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”. **Page S4373**

**VA Home Loan Program Reform Act:** Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of 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 the bill was then passed. **Pages S4373–74**

#### Measures Considered:

**Rescissions Act—Agreement:** Senate began consideration of H.R. 4, to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4358–65**

Pending:

Thune (for Schmitt) Amendment No. 2853, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4365**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. 391), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the Committees on Appropriations and on the Budget of further consideration of the bill in accordance with Title 10 of the Congressional Budget and Impound Control Act of 1974. **Page S4364**

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. 392), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S4364**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 16, 2025; and that the debate time be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that all debate time be expired at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. **Page S4374**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–32) **Pages S4366–67**

**Divine Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. **Page S4357**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, July 17, 2025. **Page S4357**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4357**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4357**

**Stevens Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cristian M. Stevens,

of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Page S4357**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. **Page S4357**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4357**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4357**

**Lukas Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. **Page S4357**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Page S4357**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4357**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4357**

**Hansell Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. **Page S4357**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. **Page S4357**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4357**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4357**

**Roth Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. **Page S4358**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. **Page S4358**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4357**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4358**

**Hurley Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes. **Page S4358**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. **Page S4358**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4358**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4358**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 69 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 386), Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S4345–51, S4380**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 388), Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. **Pages S4351–52, S4380**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 387), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4351**

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 390), Joseph Edlow, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S4352–57, S4380**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 389), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4352**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:



Joshua D. Dunlap, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

43 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of colonel.

3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

1 Space Force nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Coast Guard, Foreign Service.

Pages S4379–80

Messages from the House: Page S4367

Measures Referred: Page S4367

Measures Discharged: Page S4367

Executive Communications: Pages S4367–68

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S4368

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S4369–70

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S4370–72

Amendments Submitted: Pages S4372–73

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S4373

Privileges of the Floor: Page S4373

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—392) Pages S4351–52, S4356–57, S4364

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:45 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4374.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### DIGITAL COMMODITIES

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine stakeholder perspectives on Federal oversight of digital commodities, after receiving testimony from Ji Hun Kim, Crypto Council for Innovation, New York, New York; Rostin Behnam, Georgetown University Psaros Center for Financial Markets and Policy, Timothy G. Massad, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and Walt Lukken, Futures Industry Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and Thomas W. Sexton, National Futures Association, Chicago, Illinois.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John

Arrigo, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, who was introduced by Senator Graham, Christine Toretta, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, who was introduced by Senator McCormick, and Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, and to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, who was introduced by Senators Lee and Scott (FL), all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### VACCINE INJURED

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine voices of the vaccine injured, after receiving testimony from Emily Tarsell, Sparks, Maryland; Eric Stein, Arlington, Virginia; Brian S. Hooker, Redding, California; Robert Sullivan, Germantown, Maryland; Polly Tommey, Austin, Texas; Serese Marotta, Washington, D.C.; and Krystle Cordingley, Herriman, Utah.

### CRIMINAL NETWORKS AND ORGANIZED THEFT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine smash and grab, focusing on criminal networks and organized theft, after receiving testimony from Summer Stephan, San Diego County District Attorney, San Diego, California, on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association; David J. Glawe, National Insurance Crime Bureau, Oak Brook, Illinois; Donna Lemm, IMC Logistics, Collierville, Tennessee, on behalf of the American Trucking Associations; and Scott McBride, American Eagle Outfitters, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2026"; and

The nominations of John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel, George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, and Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, all of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to



be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, and Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 37 public bills, H.R. 4387–4423; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 581–584, were introduced. **Pages H3314–16**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H3316–17**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4016) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3633) to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1919) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1582) to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; 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. 119–199);

H.R. 3486, 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, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–200);

H.R. 225, to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–201);

H.R. 2835, to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–202);

H.R. 3645, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to raise the offering amount threshold for when issuers using the crowdfunding exemption are required to file financial statements reviewed by a public accountant who is independent of the issuer,

and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–203);

H.R. 3672, to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the research report exception to include reports about any issuer that undertakes a proposed offering of public securities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–204);

H.R. 3709, to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to establish a Financial Agent Mentor-Protege Program within the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–205); and

H.R. 3716, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–206).

**Pages H3313–14**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Moore (UT) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3249**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H3255**

**Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Representatives Suozzi and Subramanyam. **Page H3257**

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the recent flooding in Texas. **Page H3266**

**Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026, Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025, Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, and GENIUS Act—Rule for Consideration:** The House failed to agree to H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4016) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3633) to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; providing

for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1919) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1582) to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, by a yeand-nay vote of 196 yeas to 223 nays, Roll No. 195, after the previous question was ordered by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 194. Subsequently, Representative Scalise offered a motion to reconsider the vote on the resolution, on which proceedings were postponed. **Pages H3257–66, H3266–67**

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, July 14th.

**Communications Security Act:** H.R. 1717, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, by a 2/3 yeand-nay vote of 380 yeas to 33 nays, Roll No. 196.

**Pages H3267–68**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:36 p.m. and reconvened at 5:21 p.m.

**Page H3268**

**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication:** Read a letter from Chairman Graves wherein he transmitted copies of seven resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 15, 2025.

**Pages H3268–H3304**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President transmitting a notification stating that the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond July 19, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–69).

**Page H3305**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 283 was held at the desk. S. 433 was held at the desk.

**Page H3255**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate appears on page H3255.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yeand-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3265–66, H3266–67 and H3267–68.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### SAFEGUARDING U.S. AGRICULTURE: THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK (NAHLN)

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding U.S. Agriculture: The Role of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)”. Testimony was heard from Annette Jones, California State Veterinarian, and Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Department of Food and Agriculture, California; and public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill. The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs held a markup on the Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs FY 2026 Appropriations Bill. The Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs FY 2026 Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill. The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3838, the “Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2026”. H.R. 3838 was ordered reported, as amended.

**ANTISEMITISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION:  
EXAMINING THE ROLE OF FACULTY,  
FUNDING, AND IDEOLOGY**

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Antisemitism in Higher Education: Examining the Role of Faculty, Funding, and Ideology”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a markup on H.R. 4312, the “Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act”. H.R. 4312 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

**DODD-FRANK TURNS 15, LESSONS  
LEARNED AND THE ROAD AHEAD**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Dodd-Frank Turns 15, Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**BREAKING CHINA’S CHOKEHOLD ON  
CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Breaking China’s Chokehold on Critical Mineral Supply Chains”. Testimony was heard from Former Senator Joseph Manchin, and public witnesses.

**FISCAL YEAR 2026 STATE DEPARTMENT  
POSTURE: MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “FY26 State Department Posture: Management and Resources”. Testimony was heard from Michael Rigas, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Department of State.

**SURVEILLANCE, SABOTAGE, AND STRIKES:  
INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES ON HOW  
DRONE WARFARE ABROAD IS  
TRANSFORMING THREATS AT HOME**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “Surveillance, Sabotage, and Strikes: Industry Perspectives on How Drone Warfare Abroad Is Transforming Threats at Home”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**CASE-BY-CASE: RETURNING PAROLE TO ITS  
PROPER PURPOSE**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability; and Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement held a joint hearing entitled “Case-by-Case: Return-

ing Parole to its Proper Purpose”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**BANKRUPTCY LAW: OVERVIEW AND  
LEGISLATIVE REFORMS**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing entitled “Bankruptcy Law: Overview and Legislative Reforms”. Testimony was heard from Paul M. Black, Chief Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Virginia; Michelle Harner, Bankruptcy Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maryland; and public witnesses.

**HOW LEFTIST NONPROFIT NETWORKS  
EXPLOIT FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS TO  
ADVANCE A RADICAL AGENDA**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “How Leftist Nonprofit Networks Exploit Federal Tax Dollars to Advance a Radical Agenda”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 281, the “Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2025”; H.R. 435, the “Direct Hire To Fight Fires”; H.R. 556, the “Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2025”; H.R. 831, the “Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2025”; H.R. 1676, the “Make SWAPs Efficient Act of 2025”; H.R. 1809, the “Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 2293, the “Cormorant Relief Act of 2025”; H.R. 2405, the “White Oak Resilience Act”; H.R. 2462, the “Black Vulture Relief Act of 2025”; H.R. 2860, the “Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 3187, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of property of the Forest Service to Perry County, Arkansas, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3858, the “Sport Fish Restoration, Recreational Boating Safety, and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2025”. H.R. 281, H.R. 2462, H.R. 556, H.R. 831, H.R. 1676, H.R. 2293, H.R. 2405, H.R. 2860, and H.R. 3187 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 435, H.R. 1809, and H.R. 3858 were ordered reported, without amendment.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4275, the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025”; and 7 General Services Administration Capital Investment and

Leasing Program Resolutions. H.R. 4275 was ordered reported, as amended. General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were adopted.

### RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TREATMENT WITH VA COMMUNITY CARE

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Right Time, Right Place, Right Treatment with VA Community Care". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek Barrs, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, both of the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine constructing the surface transportation reauthorization bill, focusing on stakeholders' perspectives, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Greece, and Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine reforming the State Department to compete in the 21st century, 10 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Crystal

Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for term of four years, Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Kirkland, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine the AI industry's mass ingestion of copyrighted works for AI training, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* business meeting to consider S. 1555, to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, S. 2232, to expand the surety bond program under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and S. 1703, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

#### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit, hearing entitled "Financing Farm Operations: The Importance of Credit and Risk Management", 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Safe Workplaces, Stronger Partnerships: The Future of OSHA Compliance Assistance", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Maintain and Improve the Public Health Workforce, Rural Health, and Over-the-Counter Medicines", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled is "Beyond the Blue Bin: Forging a Federal Landscape for Recycling Innovation and Economic Growth", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Policy on Investment Security", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "HOME 2.0: Modern Solutions to the Housing Shortage", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Management Family FY26 Budget Posture Hearing", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "An Inside Job: How NGOs Facilitated the Biden Border Crisis", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled "Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Exploitation: A New Era of Risk", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled "Puerto Rico's Fiscal

Recovery Under PROMESA and the Road Ahead”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 1945, the “America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark Act”; H.R. 2290, the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act” H.R. 2306, the “Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”; and H.R. 4285, the “Semiquincentennial Tourism and Access to Recreation Sites Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Protecting Lives and Property: Harnessing Innovative Technologies to Enhance Weather Forecasting”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of

Transportation’s Policies and Programs and Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Path of Purpose: Restoring the VA VR&E Program to Effectively Serve Veterans”, 2:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Making America the Crypto Capital of the World: Ensuring Digital Asset Policy Built for the 21st Century”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: to receive a briefing on persecution to protection, focusing on strategies to defend freedom of religion, 2 p.m., 1324–LHOB.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 16

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 16

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4, Rescissions Act, with all debate time on the bill being expired at 1:30 p.m. Following which, Senators should expect a series of votes on or in relation to amendments and the bill.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** To be announced.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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# Congressional Record

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