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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TRENT KELLY 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.

CELEBRATING RAY DOERR'S LEGACY

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very important person in my life, who is actually a distant cousin. His mother was actually a Bost, a cousin of my grandfather. His name was Ray Doerr. He is from Vergennes, Illinois. He passed away on July 12 at the age of 98.

Ray gave back to his community in big ways and small. He served as a trustee in Vergennes for 67 years and as mayor for 10 years. He was the chairman of the Republican Party of Jackson County for 24 years.

He was a friend to Governors and Senators, but he never let politics change who he was. He stayed grounded. He stayed loyal to his roots.

Mr. Speaker, I will say, personally, I stand here today because of Ray. He was one of the first people who encouraged me to get into public service. He saw something in me early on and never stopped offering his advice. When I say ''early on,'' I was 23 years old when he encouraged me to get involved in local politics. I will always value our friendship.

Ray was a proud Navy veteran who answered the call to serve our country during World War II. He enlisted at just 17 years of age, serving in the South Pacific, including during the invasion of Okinawa.

When he came home, he married his wife, Ime, and began a life rooted in faith, hard work, and service to others.

He worked in the mines. He delivered gas to farmers. He was a sales manager for Massey Ferguson. He farmed. He served as an auditor for the Illinois Secretary of State, and he was an auctioneer for 80 years. He was one of the hardest working men I have ever known.

He and Ime were married 68 years at the time of her passing in 2012. Together, they raised a son, Jeffrey. Jeff built a family business and shaped a community.

Ray's legacy is not just titles he held, but the lives he touched. He was a mentor, a friend, and a man of his word. He loved southern Illinois and served it every day of his life. We are all better for having known him.

May God bless Ray Doerr and may He bring comfort to his family and all his loved ones.

RACISM INFUSED IN TEXAS POLITICS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, unafraid; censured, but not silenced.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to address the topic of racism infused in Texas politics.

Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a letter from the Justice Department. It is a letter that has as its reference Unconstitutional Race-Based Congressional Districts, and then it cites the districts: Texas District 9, occupied by a person of color; Texas 18 was occupied by a person of color, who is deceased, to be filled soon; District 29, occupied by a person of color; District 33, occupied by a person of color.

Now, this letter goes on to infuse race into the conversation. The last sentence in the last paragraph reads: ''If the State of Texas fails to rectify the racial gerrymandering of TX–09, TX–18, TX–29, and TX–33, the Attorney General reserves the right to seek legal action against the State, including without limitation under the 14th Amendment.''

Race has been infused into this letter. It was sent to the Honorable Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas, and the Honorable Ken Paxton.

Dear friends, at the end of the day, if they can fulfill what they proclaim in this letter, there will be more White representation in Congress from Texas and less Black and Latino representation. This is nothing more than an attempt to silence many of the voices that are emanating from communities of color in the State of Texas. It is racist.

Now, in this country there seems to be a problem with people saying ''racism.'' It is okay to say ''anti-Semitism,'' but don't say ''racism.'' Racism has not received the same amount of

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acclaim when it comes to dealing with racist issues that anti-Semitism has received when it comes to dealing with things that are anti-Semitic.

Well, I am not afraid. I am going to speak truth to power and about power. Here is the truth: Under this President, Republicanism is eroding and devolving into racism. This President has declined to allow persons from countries of color to come into the country when he has opened the door to Anglos from South Africa. This President has found a way to circumvent what would ordinarily be a society that appreciates and respects people of all colors, and he is turning society against people of color.

This letter, if they succeed with this, will be the equivalent of having a mid-decade redistricting without the empirical evidence necessary to do it with a sense of justice. They will do this, and in so doing, it is comparable to having the halftime at a basketball game, and one team decides, because they have the power to do so, to remove two players from the other team and let that team proceed with three players, and they will now proceed with five. Oh, no, wait, you have to have 10 players on the floor, so what they will do is they will just take those 2 players and add them to their team. They will play with seven, and the other team will play with three.

They are diminishing the amount of representation that people of color will have in the State of Texas. Republicanism is being equated to racism too often in this country, and that is not the case. Republicanism has always been about conservative policies, but now they are about racist policies.

This President is infusing, injecting racism into Presidential policy. It is unconstitutional. I am going to fight it, but more than that, I am going to tell the truth about it. If I happen to be one of those who is extricated, who is removed, evicted, I will be bloodied but unbowed.

Mr. Speaker, nobody is going to silence me. You can come after me, but you won't stop me. You won't silence me. I refuse to allow Republicanism in the form of racism to dictate the policies in the State of Texas without my voice being heard.

Finally, this: I say to my friends that I have on my Texas tie. I am proud to represent my State. I am proud to say I stand against Republicanism as racism.

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

□ 1010

MAY BEAM CONTINUE TO LIGHT THE WAY

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a beam is a ray of light, a symbol of hope. For more than 40 years, BEAM in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, has been that light, delivering hope and help to northeast Floridians in need.

It started in 1985 by representatives of local churches who saw people needing a hand up.

Today, I rise to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, BEAM, a lifeline for families facing hardship in eastern Duval County, places like: Mayport, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach. From keeping the lights on to filling the pantry, supporting seniors and single parents, BEAM continues to show up with compassion and care.

Mr. Speaker, I know what you are thinking. They are 40 years old, and they don't look a day over 29. That is true. What is also true is their volunteers and benefactors are everyday heroes, quietly providing critical services to thousands of neighbors each year.

As our community has grown and changed, BEAM has remained a constant source of light, guiding families through tough times with warmth, direction, and hope.

Today, we celebrate more than a milestone. We celebrate that ray of light that is never dimmed. May BEAM continue to shine, lighting the path forward for those who need it most for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARROL EUGENE FRANKLIN

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart but a grateful spirit to honor the life of my friend, Commissioner Carrol Eugene Franklin, who passed away peacefully in Hilliard, Florida, at the young age of 76.

Born in Booneville, Mississippi, Carrol lived a life shaped by hard work, deep faith, and a quiet but profound dedication to others. He was a proud combat veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division during the Vietnam war.

That same courage and resolve stayed with him throughout his life, whether it was in service to his country, in business, or in leadership with the Nassau County Ocean, Highway & Port Authority.

Carrol was a man who showed up, not just when it was easy but when it was needed. He believed in faith, integrity, and perseverance. He loved his family dearly. For 42 years, he stood side by side with his beloved wife, Judy, raising their sons, Garrett and Greg. They also cherished their granddaughter, Diana Del.

To his church and to his church family at First Baptist of Boulougne; his brothers and sisters; and his many friends, nieces, nephews, and neighbors who knew him, Carrol was the kind of man whose legacy is etched not in headlines but in the lives he lifted.

Mr. Speaker, we say goodbye to a veteran, a man of character, a family man, and my friend. It hurts because that is the impact that Carrol made on so many.

May his memory continue to inspire us all to serve with heart, live with purpose, and love without hesitation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN LEWIS

(Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Karen Lewis, a tenacious organizer, a teacher, and truth-teller.

Long before she became known to many as the president of the Chicago Teachers Union, or CTU, Karen dedicated 20 years to serving Chicago students as a chemistry teacher including at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Illinois' Third.

As president of CTU, Karen built an intersectional solidarity movement rooted in love, in justice, and in the radical belief that working-class Black and Brown children deserve fully funded public schools.

In 2012, she courageously led her union in a successful and historic 7-day strike for a fair contract that captured the Nation's attention and brought new life into Chicago's labor movement.

Today, we invoke Karen, both her wisdom and her vision, to guide us as we stand opposed to all the forces of austerity, division, fear, and hate.

May her memory continue to fuel our fight, and may she rest in peace and power.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARION STAMPS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and the legacy of Marion Stamps, a Chicago civil rights icon and tenant organizer.

Marion moved to Chicago in 1963 at a time when public housing residents were denied the full measure of dignity that they deserved. Marion was an organizer. She cofounded the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization, and she took on the Chicago Housing Authority, demanding respect, safety, and a seat at the table for tenants in Cabrini-Green and beyond.

Marion built people power from the ground up, participating in the first and only successful national rent strike against HUD, exposing the corruption and holding Chicago city leadership accountable.

Today, we invoke Marion, both her blueprint and her audacity to challenge those in power, to guide us as we challenge an administration that would deprive us of affordable housing and deepen housing inequality.

May Marion's courage and her spirit, which lives in her daughters, Karla, Tracy, Guana, Justice, and Commissioner Tara Stamps, guide us to organize tenants, challenge systems, and never ask permission to make our voice heard.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN PENNYCUFF

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of LGBTQ+ activist John Pennycuff, a proud gay

man, a fearless organizer, and a tireless advocate for dignity and justice.

John understood that queer liberation wasn't just about marriage or visibility. It was about housing, healthcare, and survival. Alongside his partner, Robert Castillo, John advocated to have gender identity added to the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance, increasing fair housing protections for LGBTQ+ people in Chicago.

Today, his memory lives on in the John Pennycuff Memorial Apartments, an affordable housing community in Illinois' Third Congressional District that proudly honors the vision of inclusive, just neighborhoods.

Today, in a moment where LGBTQ+ rights are under attack, we invoke John and his uncompromising vision of holistic justice. We thank John, and may his memory call us to act with compassion, with clarity, and without apology.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. CALVIN MORRIS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise to honor the life and legacy of the one and the only Reverend Dr. Calvin Morris, a civil rights giant, a scholar, and a spiritual leader whose work helped shape the conscience of this Nation.

In 1987, at the request of Reverend Jesse Jackson, Dr. Morris became the national coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Operation Breadbasket, today known as Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

He served through the assassinations of Dr. King and Fred Hampton, guiding the movement with courage, with conviction, and with faith.

Dr. Morris also served for nearly two decades as the executive director of the faith-based social justice organization Community Renewal Society, where I am grateful that our paths got to cross.

Today, in a moment when the civil rights gained tanks to our elders are under attack, we invoke Dr. Morris and his moral clarity, his prophetic witness, his fire for justice, and his habit for breaking out into song.

In a time such as this, may his memory inspire the moral courage we need to walk boldly in his footsteps. May Dr. Morris rest in power, and may we continue to be inspired by who he is and continue to be for so many of us.

□ 1020

SORRY, NOT SORRY FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the Democrats are outraged that the largest illegal mass migration in history, which they unleashed on our country, must now be followed by the largest repatriation in history.

Democrats insist that they don't object to removing violent criminals, but that is a demonstrable lie. The whole point of the Democrats' sanctuary laws is to protect criminal illegal aliens from being turned over to ICE for deportation. Instead, they released them back into our communities, where many have gone on to commit even more heinous crimes.

Recently, when Federal officers served a criminal warrant on a southern California marijuana farm, activists staged a riot. Officers liberated 12 minors forced to work at this facility. Eight of them were among the 465,000 unaccompanied alien children that the Democrats placed with poorly or unvetted sponsors during Biden's administration.

It appears the marijuana farm was employing scores of illegal aliens to undercut their competition, in flagrant violation of U.S. labor and immigration laws.

Now, let's start with some simple truths. If we don't enforce our immigration laws, we have no immigration laws. If we have no immigration laws, we have no border. If we have no border, we have no country. We have gotten a glimpse of what that means as foreign flags are waved by violent mobs setting fires, ransacking businesses, and terrorizing motorists in our sanctuary cities.

What do our immigration laws actually say? They say, clearly and unambiguously, that any and every adult who illegally enters our country shall be detained. Those are the exact words of the law: ''shall be detained.'' The Democrats simply ignore it.

They have a right to challenge their detention through a writ of habeas corpus. If they are charged with a crime, they have a right to a trial by jury, but at no time do they have the right to be released back into our communities. Under the law, they ''shall be detained.''

Unless they are charged with a crime, they have the right to leave detention any time they want for any country that will admit them. What they don't have is the right to remain in our country unless a judge determines otherwise.

That is why the administration is expanding detention facilities, because that is what the law requires if our borders are going to mean anything.

The Democrats call these concentration camps, but the detainees are free to leave for home anytime they choose. Indeed, that is the purpose, to provide temporary shelter while transportation is being arranged.

Deportation is not a punishment and requires no criminal charges. It is a simple administrative act. Challenging it does not invoke a right to freely enter and stay indefinitely. You either wait here in detention or in another country that will accept you. Those are your options.

Reportedly, more than a million illegal aliens have already decided to return home, an option for which our government will arrange transportation, a $1,000 stipend to help them resettle, and a right to apply for legal entry. If they wait until they are encountered by ICE, they will be taken into custody, deported, and forbidden from reentering. That is a choice.

What about those who, after breaking our immigration laws to enter the country and breaking our labor laws to work here, have broken no other laws? That doesn't mean there aren't victims. For years, American families have struggled as the flood of illegal labor has taken their jobs and suppressed their wages.

During Biden's 4 years, most new jobs were taken by foreigners, and Americans' real wages declined. Just 6 months into the Trump administration, most new jobs are now taken by Americans, and real wages are growing once again. That is not a coincidence.

Supporting this impoverished, illegal population costs American taxpayers an estimated $160 billion a year. It flooded classrooms with non-English-speaking students, packed emergency rooms with illegals demanding care, and overwhelmed homeless shelters and food banks meant to help Americans. Worst of all, the most violent and dangerous criminal gangs in the world accompanied this population into our country and have now taken deep root in the Democrats' sanctuary cities.

This is why we must enforce our immigration laws to the letter, as this administration is doing. America admits more legal immigrants under our laws than any nation on the planet and will continue to do so, but that does not give license to millions of foreign nationals to violate those same laws.

That is the simple truth the Democrats refuse to acknowledge.

HONORING JAMES ''FERGIE'' FERGUSON

(Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor a giant in our State's history, a giant in our profession, and a giant in the fight for civil rights, the late James Ferguson II, who passed away on Monday, July 21, at age 82.

Mr. Ferguson was not just a brilliant legal mind. He was a trailblazer, truthteller, teacher, and proud HBCU graduate who believed deeply in the power of the law to right all wrongs. He spent his life doing just that, from lunch counter protests in segregated Asheville to courtroom battles that reshaped this Nation.

Mr. Ferguson cofounded North Carolina's first interracial law firm. He stood before the Supreme Court in Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg and won, changing how schools across America desegregated. He defended the Wilmington Ten. He fought for Darryl Hunt. He trained Black lawyers during apartheid.

Mr. Ferguson did it all with quiet grace, a velvet voice, and an iron resolve.

Mr. Ferguson understood something that I often say about HBCUs: They were not built for comfort. They were built for purpose. So was he.

Educated at North Carolina Central University and Columbia Law School, he returned home not to make headlines, Madam Speaker, but to make a difference.

In my journey, I admired him long before I ever met him, but when I ran for Congress, he became a trusted friend, a supporter, and an adviser.

Mr. Ferguson didn't just practice law. He lived it. He believed that justice must be pursued even when it is unpopular and even when the odds are long.

That is the legacy of James Ferguson, not just the legal victories but the courage to take on cases that no one else would, the integrity to mentor the next generation, and the conviction that justice was not just a profession but, for him, a calling.

Mr. Ferguson was a leader in the courtroom. He was a leader in the classroom. He was a leader in our community. He was a model for what public service looks like at its best. Madam Speaker, as a former educator myself, I know a good teacher when I see one. Fergie taught us all.

Today, I honor his life. I honor his work. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his many friends across Charlotte and across this country.

Let us remember him not only in words but in action by picking up the work that he left behind, by fighting the fights that he could not finish, and by standing tall in the truth that he lived.

May he rest in power.

□ 1030

HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF JIMMY MOORE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, James Moore, Sr., who passed away on May 15 of this year. He lived his life in Shelby County, Tennessee.

By the way, for the purpose of these remarks, everybody at home just knew him as Jimmy.

Jimmy loved his family, golf, public service, and the car leasing business, probably in that order.

A longtime owner of Jimmy Moore Leasing, Jimmy never met a customer nor a person with whom he could probably not connect to in some way, shape, or form, probably the same way he connected to people on the golf course.

Jimmy really shined as a public servant. In public service, Jimmy was elected numerous times as a respected member of the Memphis City Council and then a number of times as the circuit court clerk in Shelby County.

Jimmy was a true public servant in every sense of the word. Jimmy was the type of guy who when you were frustrated that city hall wasn't doing enough about the trash being collected, you called Jimmy, Madam Speaker, and he got the trash picked up, usually the same day.

Jimmy was the type of guy that when the traffic lights weren't working, Madam Speaker, you called him, and he would get it taken care of right away the same day.

It may not have been his department or his agency, Madam Speaker, but Jimmy was the guy that you called when you needed your driver's license or marriage license or business license expedited. Jimmy would get to the right people who would get back to you and get it taken care of usually the same day.

As the circuit court clerk, he managed the case filings, the employees, the litigants, and the judges, and he kept all the trains on the track.

Here are two important things about Jimmy: He truly loved people, and he truly loved helping people.

I talked to my friends, Steve Stamson, who was the juvenile court clerk of Shelby County, and also Joy Touliatos, who followed Steve as the juvenile court clerk of Shelby County.

This is what Joy told me about Jimmy and her relationship with him. Joy and the others told me: If Jimmy was your friend, he was your friend for life. If Jimmy walked into the room, people knew that he had your back.

Jimmy dedicated his life to making sure that he left Shelby County a better place to live and to raise a family. Jimmy will be remembered not only for his leadership to our community but also as a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, and a loyal friend.

To Jimmy's beloved wife, Barbara; and his beloved children, Linda, Jimmy Jr., Wendy, and Tim; Roberta and I mourn with you, but we also have so many fond memories of your husband and your father.

Jimmy's loss is a true loss to our community. There is no doubt that Jimmy Moore is greatly missed.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD ''DOC'' BORCICKY

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Richard ''Doc'' Borcicky, a Vietnam war veteran and constituent of North Carolina's First Congressional District.

A native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Doc has dedicated his life to selfless sacrifice. After enlisting in the Marine Corps as a hospital corpsman 3rd class, Doc flew into the heart of danger to execute medevac helicopter support missions.

Flown by an exceptionally skilled and resilient crew consisting of a pilot, copilot, crew chief, two gunners, and a skilled, combat-trained Navy corpsman, medevac helicopter support personnel volunteered to fly these missions anywhere, anytime, 7 days a week.

In August of 1969, Doc, a 19-year-old, deployed to Da Nang. Almost instantly, marines stationed there came under heavy artillery and rocket fire, but Doc stood tall, going on to fly 250 combat support missions over 12 months outside the wire.

Amidst the fog of war, Doc and his fellow marines sought refuge where they could. At the Sacred Heart Orphanage in Da Nang, Doc spent time with forgotten children, many of whom had fathers who had served alongside him.

Doc captured one such kid on camera. His name was Kirk Kellerhals. After being adopted by a U.S. Army veteran, Kirk came to America. In 2017, when he learned of his past, he met the man who had volunteered at his orphanage to escape the tragedy of war.

Through it all, Doc touched the lives of not only these children but of countless servicemembers wounded in battle who never knew his name.

His story shines a light on the forgotten heroes of one of the most consequential conflicts in world history, and it reminds us that all those who have served are deserving of our everlasting gratitude.

When they returned home, Vietnam veterans did not receive a hero's welcome as their parents and grandparents had following the world wars. Instead, their service went unnoticed, unappreciated, and unknown.

By taking the time to honor their patriotism and sacrifice, especially of those whose responsibility it was to save the lives of servicemembers wounded in battle, we are taking one step toward righting that wrong.

In the end, it was former Marine Corps Commandant General Chapman who best summarized what helicopter support meant to marines on the ground in Vietnam proclaiming: ''When a marine in Vietnam is wounded, surrounded, hungry, low on ammunition or water, he looks to the sky. He knows the choppers are coming . . . ''

RECOGNIZING EDWARD EUGENE HOLMES, JULY VETERAN OF THE MONTH

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our July Veteran of the Month, Edward Eugene Holmes. He was a proud Missourian and a resident of the Missouri Veterans Home, and I got a chance to meet him this past winter.

He just left this Earth last month at the age of 99, and we want to take the time to honor his life and legacy today.

Edward was born on April 7, 1926. He joined the U.S. Navy in June of 1944,

just weeks after graduating from high school. He served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific during World War II and was later assigned to the USS *Ault*, part of the Seahorse Squadron, in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

After the war ended, Edward remained on duty during the occupation until January of 1946. During his service, he traveled the world from Australia to Africa to Japan and back home through the Panama Canal.

He was honorably discharged with the rank of Seaman 1st class.

After the Navy, Edward built a long and successful career in the floral industry and was known for his love of fishing, golfing, hunting, and making breakfast for his grandchildren. He was the proud father of 3 sons, grandfather to 6, and great-grandfather to 13.

Madam Speaker, Edward Holmes served his country faithfully with honor, humility, and always heart. It is my privilege to recognize him posthumously as our July Veteran of the Month.

□ 1040

HONORING ROGER WILLIAM SWANK

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we honor a true American patriot, Master Sergeant Robert William Swank as our August Veteran of the Month.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas, and reared in Fort Scott. He answered the call to serve in 1967 and spent over 36 years in uniform, including time in Vietnam with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Roger earned the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, and numerous other awards. He continued his service in the Missouri Army National Guard for more than three decades and retired in 2004.

Off the battlefield, he was just as committed, serving as a mail carrier, a community leader, and a devoted family man. He was married to his wife, Linda, for 35 years, and together they have raised seven daughters.

Even in retirement, Roger remains a pillar of his community by volunteering with the Red Cross, serving his church for more than 40 years, and acting as assistant chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Madam Speaker, I thank Roger so much for his lifelong service to our country and our communities. He is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ANNE'S ACRES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we are proud to honor Anne's Acres, a generational family farm in Lincoln, Missouri, in the Fourth District as our July Small Business of the Month.

Since 1999, Robert and Leslie Exendine, along with their three daughters and six grandkids, have cultivated five acres with nearly 7,000 blooming blueberry plants. Say that 10 times fast. This vibrant farm named for the shared middle name of Leslie and their daughter Kadey is a cornerstone of our district.

During its peak 3-week season from Father's Day to the Fourth of July, Anne's Acres welcomes over 200 visitors, including local school kids. The gift shop delights a lot of people with the aroma of freshly baked blueberry muffins and refreshing slushies. I am hungry now.

Robert, a retired Air Force mechanic from Whiteman Air Force Base, and his family are now expanding, adding 8,000 strawberry plants for next spring.

Congratulations to the Exendine family, including Kadey and her sons, for their dedication. I invite you all to go visit them in Lincoln, Missouri.

HONORING DAN & JERRY'S GREENHOUSES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to honor Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses, a small business gem in Harrisonville, Missouri, in the Fourth District, our August Small Business of the Month.

For years, Dan & Jerry's has been a cornerstone of our community. Their Farm Fresh Selects trial garden tests hundreds of plant varieties each year, making sure only the best make it to our gardens.

Beyond their exceptional products, they foster community spirit through events like the Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Fall Festival, and Plant a Flower for Mom on Mother's Day.

These gatherings create lasting memories and strengthen our small-town bonds. We are honored to be able to visit this phenomenal spot this August during our district work period.

I thank them for their dedication to excellence and community. Let's get to Harrisonville and visit them, as well. Thank you to Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses for being our August Small Business of the Month.

HONORING INCREDIBLE PEOPLE OF NORTH TEXAS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today full of gratitude and pride for the incredible people of north Texas, my neighbors, and my constituents, who have stepped up in extraordinary ways to help their fellow Texans through one of the most devastating flood disasters our State has faced in years.

We all know that when tragedy strikes in Texas, we don't wait around for permission to do the right thing. We just show up. We roll up our sleeves. We help our neighbors pick up the pieces. That has been on full display in the weeks after the floods.

I will take a moment to recognize just a few of the many heroes from Texas' 32nd Congressional District who have gone above and beyond to provide hope and help when it was needed the most.

Sabrina Pinales, Ryan Lenamon, Savion Lee, David Hardage, and Lauren Sturdy, five of my remarkable constituents, didn't think twice before answering the call. They joined their church mission team and headed straight to the Hill Country where flood waters had washed away homes overnight.

These five north Texans have been on the ground every day helping families, clearing debris, delivering supplies, and rebuilding what was lost. They remind us that faith in action and neighbor helping neighbor is what holds this State together when times are hard.

I also want to lift up the brave men and women of the Plano Fire Department and first responders from Dallas. When floodwaters rose and families needed rescue, these heroes did what they always do: They run toward the danger. They deployed to central Texas to help rescue stranded families, clear the roads, and make sure entire communities could get back on their feet safely. They represent the very best of our communities: courage, commitment, and compassion.

It is not just these few. Across north Texas, neighbors have opened their doors to displaced families. Churches, synagogues, and mosques have collected food, clothing, and essentials. Local businesses have donated truckloads of supplies. Nonprofits like the North Texas Food Bank have mobilized to get fresh meals and water to families who have lost everything in just seconds. Countless volunteers have driven hours to help strangers through this terrible disaster.

These are who Texans are. We are defined by our resilience, by our people, by our willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder and say: ''We got you.''

Our State has faced immense tragedy with hundreds of victims, many of whom were children, little girls excited to go to summer camp to make new friends and create memories that would last for a lifetime. Our entire Nation mourns those we have lost, and we are holding close the families who are doing everything they can just to make it through each day hour by hour.

Those families and those victims deserve answers. We must hold State and Federal officials accountable. We have a new chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. GARBARINO from New York. It is my hope that he will respond to our calls to convene the Homeland Security Committee for an oversight hearing of these floods to examine what went wrong and how our government can do better in the future.

Texans deserve a government that matches their generosity. We deserve a government that plans ahead, responds quickly, and never lets politics get in the way of protecting our communities.

Today, I say thank you to Sabrina, Ryan, Savion, David, and Lauren. I thank the Plano Fire Department and our first responders from Dallas. I thank every volunteer, every neighbor,

every house of worship, every first responder who has made a difference during this crisis.

Mr. Rogers once said when bad things happen, to always ''Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'' We have a lot of helpers in north Texas and across our State who have gone above and beyond to help with their neighbors, and we are damn proud of them.

CELEBRATING HENRY JOSEPH KOLINEK, JR.

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

Ms. De La CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mr. Henry Joseph Kolinek, Jr.'s 100th birthday on July 28.

Born in 1925 in Gruene, Texas, Mr. Kolinek graduated from Kenedy High School before attending Texas A&M.

After arriving to A&M, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps and served as a staff sergeant during World War II. He flew 35 combat missions as a tail gunner and courageously protected his fellow soldiers.

After his service, Mr. Kolinek returned to Texas A&M and earned a degree in agricultural economics. He worked 15 years at Union Carbide before returning to his hometown to join First-Nichols National Bank.

His dedication to the bank for over 37 years carried him from vice president to president, and finally, to chairman of the board. He retired at the young age of 80.

Today, Mr. Kolinek remains active in his community and church, serving as a Rotarian and a member of the city council, member of the chamber of commerce, and sits on the Karnes County Airport board, as well.

On his leisure time he is often found driving the tractor on his ranch. He is a very proud father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather, as well.

Happy 100th birthday to Mr. Kolinek. I thank him for his service to our great Nation and to his beautiful community. May God bless him and his family. Happy birthday.

□ 1050

HONORING JOHN SPEARS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Spears, the director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library system.

Although John only became director of the Buffalo & Erie County Library in April 2022, his brief tenure, backed by 25 years of experience, left an indelible mark on western New York.

John was an inspiring leader who worked tirelessly to expand access and make libraries in western New York more inclusive, from eliminating fines for overdue books to redesigning the Central Library to be safer and more welcoming for everyone.

John was a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He was honored by the New York Library Association for innovative leadership and fostering relationships across every community.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working alongside John on a project to digitize the William A. Miles collection at the Merriweather Library, the largest resource center in western New York for information on African-American history.

From the moment the effort began, John was all in. This was just one of the countless examples of John's commitment to making our public institutions more just, representative, and responsive to the people we serve.

John saw libraries as a way of connecting people to their potential—a place where anyone, regardless of their background, could go, sit down, and learn.

On July 20, after a courageous battle with cancer, John passed away. Yet, his legacy lives on. He created a stronger, more inclusive library system that he helped to build. His legacy will last forever.

John is survived by his partner, Brian Dimit; his father, Robert; his brother, Evans; and his sister, Katherine. He leaves behind countless friends and colleagues across western New York and beyond.

I thank John for his service, compassion, and unwavering belief in the power of community. He will be deeply missed.

May John Spears rest in peace.

CELEBRATING JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER BUFFALO ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of an incredible milestone, the 80th anniversary of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo.

Since its founding in 1945, the JCC has stood as a pillar of strength, compassion, and community in western New York. For eight decades, it has served as a cornerstone of our region that reflects the diversity, resilience, and generosity of western New York. With two vibrant campuses, one in Amherst and one in the heart of Buffalo, the JCC opens its doors to over 1,000 individuals each and every day.

Whether it is early childhood education, enriching after-school programs, fitness classes, summer day camps, or arts and cultural events, and much more, the JCC is a space for everyone at every stage of life.

At its core, it is a place that brings people together. It is where families grow, friendships form, traditions are celebrated, and community is built.

The JCC's mission is rooted in inclusion. Regardless of background, faith, or ability, everyone is welcome.

The 80th anniversary of the JCC is more than a celebration. It is about the legacy that continues to shape the present and inspire the future.

I thank the leadership, staff, volunteers, and generations of families who have walked through the JCC's doors for creating a home where values endure, culture thrives, and people belong.

On behalf of a grateful western New York, I congratulate them on a remarkable 80 years. Here is to many, many more.

AMERICA'S BORDERS ARE SAFER

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, America's borders are the safest they have been in decades. Simply put, President Trump is the border security President, and no narrative from the national media or leftwing talking heads can change that.

Border security was the number one issue on the campaign trail and is one of the main reasons that 77 million Americans elected him as President—promises made, promises kept.

It is hard to believe that, in just 6 short months, President Trump has reversed 4 years of disastrous open-border failures from the previous administration. For 4 years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS told the country over and over again that they simply did not have the authority or the ability to secure the border. The reality is that this could not have been further from the truth.

President Trump has shown that the only thing we needed all along was a President who was not afraid to actually enforce the law.

The facts speak for themselves. During the month of June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection saw the lowest number of encounters ever on our borders nationwide. Apprehensions along the border reached a new historic low on June 28, when CBP had the lowest number of apprehensions in a single day in agency history.

Under the previous administration, 27,766 illegal migrants were paroled and released into the country in June alone. Madam Speaker, 1 year later, zero migrants were paroled into the country—again, promises made, promises kept.

This leadership is exactly what Americans voted for this past November, and House Republicans are united in equipping the President to continue securing our borders for good.

In our One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we gave our law enforcement agencies the tools and resources they need to help secure the border. We allocated more than $46 billion to finish President Trump's border wall and ensure that our borders have a physical barrier to keep bad actors out. We invested in the CBP workforce, equipping the agency to hire more personnel to keep our borders secure and enforce the law.

House Republicans invested in state-of-the-art border technology to stop the trafficking of drugs and humans across our border and to finally bring

the fentanyl crisis to an end. This deadly drug has taken the lives of thousands of innocent Americans and made every State a border State—no more.

America remains the land of opportunity that attracts millions of individuals around the world each year. A few months ago, I had the privilege of speaking at a naturalization ceremony for brand-new American citizens who took their oath to the United States and officially became fellow citizens. I was inspired by each of their journeys in becoming Americans and couldn't help but feel blessed to have been born in a land that so many people seek to call their home. At the same time, my heart felt for them.

Of the 168 people who became Americans that day, some of them underwent a multiyear-long process to come here legally. Instead of rewarding their efforts, they watched for 4 years as a President and an administration that were asleep at the wheel allowed our immigration laws to be abused and taken advantage of month after month as millions jumped the line by coming here illegally. I am so glad that America overwhelmingly rejected that nonsense.

Today, our country is more secure and safe than it has been in nearly half a decade. It turns out that common sense works after all, and I am grateful for an administration that chooses common sense over caving to radical, far-left activists.

I thank President Trump for upholding his commitment to making America safe again and securing our border—promises made, promises kept.

HONORING GULLERMINA HEREDIA

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and dear friend, Gullermina Heredia, known lovingly as ''Mina,'' who passed away on July 2.

A proud Mexican American, Mina's family moved to Chicago from Texas in search of better opportunities. As a student at Northeastern Illinois University, she joined the Organization of Latin American Students, where she met her husband, Carlos. She later served as president of the organization, inspiring a new generation of Latino students in Chicago.

After graduation, Mina became a social worker, uplifting countless lives with her warmth and strength. She had a unique ability to make people, especially Latinos and Latinas, feel seen and cared for.

Mina had a gift for bringing people together, and her karaoke nights with Carlos, her husband, were legendary.

Mina was deeply loved and will be remembered for her service and spirit.

My thoughts are with her sons and grandchildren, friends, and all those who were fortunate to know her. We will miss Mina, and we will carry forward the compassion and strength that she showed all of us.

CELEBRATING 79TH BIRTHDAY OF CARLOS ARANGO

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant in our community, Carlos Arango, as he approaches his 79th birthday.

For over two decades, Carlos has been a pillar of Chicago's immigrant rights movement, organizing marches, building institutions, and mentoring generations of activists, often behind the scenes, always with purpose.

Carlos stood on the front lines when it wasn't popular, and he stayed when others moved on. He was instrumental in the strength behind Casa Aztlan, not just a building but a beacon of self-determination, cultural pride, and community defense. Through it, he helped countless immigrants find power, purpose, and a place to belong.

□ 1100

Throughout every political storm, Carlos has remained unapologetically proud of his roots, his people, and, yes, of Los Pumas at the University of Mexico, whose jersey he wears like armor. He is more than an organizer. He is a keeper of memory, a fighter for justice, and a dear friend.

Madam Speaker, I thank Carlos for never backing down and for showing us what commitment is all about. I wish him a happy birthday, and may his struggle live on.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL JORGE FONSECA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Brigadier General Jorge Fonseca, a decorated veteran and proud son of Little Village, on his recent promotion as director of the Joint Staff of the Illinois National Guard.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Jorge came to Chicago with his family and has dedicated over 30 years to public service, beginning as an enlisted combat medic and later commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer.

He served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His path was not easy, but his tenacity carried him through the toughest moments of his career.

Today, his success inspires a new generation of Latinos and Latinas to serve. His journey is a reminder that patriotism isn't defined by birthplace, but by service, sacrifice, and a love of country.

Madam Speaker, I salute General Fonseca. He has made his family, his city, and his country proud.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT EFRAIN MATA

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Efrain Mata, a proud son of 18th Street in Chicago who will be retiring from the Cook County Sheriff's Department after nearly 30 years of distinguished and transformative service.

Sergeant Mata is not only respected for his honor, loyalty, and sharp instincts but also for his vision. He helped pioneer behavioral health and emergency response strategies now being implemented across Cook County, proving that compassion and safety can go hand in hand.

From Chicago to broader assignments across Federal agencies, Sergeant Mata has served with honor, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

However, what sets him apart is that he never lost sight of where he came from. He has always made it a point to give back, supporting families and standing up for his neighbors. He is a father, a supportive husband, a mentor, and the kind of person you always want on your team.

Madam Speaker, we thank Sergeant Mata for his service and wish him Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONGRESSIONAL SCOUTING CAUCUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the bipartisan Congressional Scouting Caucus.

Scouting has been an essential part of my life. I am an Eagle Scout and was a Scoutmaster for more than 30 years.

The lessons I learned through Scouting: leadership, service, self-reliance, and integrity remain deeply imbedded in my daily life and guide my work here in Congress.

My decisions are guided by the principles of the Scout oath: my duty to God, duty to country, duty to others, and to myself. That is the kind of clarity and compass that Scouting instills. It is a moral benchmark, one that teaches young people to serve their communities, respect others, and become engaged, responsible citizens.

That is why I am proud of the work we are doing with the bipartisan Congressional Scouting Caucus. This group exists to strengthen and support Scouting programs across the country and to highlight the incredible impact Scouts have in each of our districts.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join our caucus whether you were a Scout yourself, have Scouts in your family, or simply believe in the power of mentorship and youth leadership. There is no better time to get involved than now.

Today, we are hosting Camp Capitol Hill, an event that will bring the spirit of Scouting right to the heart of our Nation's Capital. This unique showcase will feature Scouts demonstrating outdoor and leadership skills right here on the Capitol grounds in the Rayburn foyer. Displays will include camping equipment, a canoe, a rocket, robotics, knot tying, and Pinewood Derby car racing, alongside educational tables sharing the story and scope of modern Scouting.

There will also be a dynamic panel discussion moderated by Scouting leaders and alumni, highlighting the diverse ways this program shapes the

next generation of leaders, young men and women who will one day serve as firefighters, teachers, doctors, small business owners, and yes, even Members of Congress.

We are also hosting Eagles on the Hill, a reception that will bring together Eagle Scouts and Scouting alumni to celebrate our shared background in Scouting. Eagles on the Hill serves as a reminder that even when Eagle Scouts in Washington disagree on the issues before us, we are united in the belief that Scouting instills essential leadership skills and character values.

The Scouting memorial, just steps from where we sit today, is a tribute not only to the organization but to the ideals it stands for: duty, service, community, and character.

That memorial was made possible entirely through Scout-raised funds in 1960, mostly in the form of dimes. Those Scouts who sent in their dimes have their names engraved at the base of that statue, reminding us of the quiet strength and legacy of civic engagement.

Madam Speaker, I, once again, encourage all my colleagues to join the Congressional Scouting Caucus, attend Camp Capitol Hill, and support the young people who work every day to build a stronger, more service-minded America.

Let's help ensure that the next generation lives up to the Scout law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Also today, on a personal note, I welcome Josh and Finn Kirby to Washington, a Scout leader and a Scout, from the Boy Scout Council in the Juniata Valley.

PLUMPY'NUT SAVES LIVES

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 34th time to call on the Trump administration to restore food aid for children around the world suffering from malnutrition. We have been doing this for months.

We have been doing this for months because after decades of United States leadership in providing aid to children around the world suffering from malnutrition, the Trump administration has stopped funding this lifesaving program.

In my district in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, there is a warehouse with 90,000 boxes of Plumpy'Nut, lifesaving food aid that is designed to save the lives of starving children whose organs are shutting down and can no longer process conventional food.

This food aid has already been manufactured and has already been paid for but is sitting in a warehouse in Rhode Island because some bureaucrat in the Trump administration refuses to sign the piece of paper to restart the shipments.

Why? What possible good can come from allowing children to starve needlessly around the world while American factories and American farmers do not get paid?

The crazy thing is that for months the administration has been insisting that they are going to restart this program. Secretary Rubio, under oath in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that this program was going to be restarted.

Elon Musk, when he was still in the administration before he had his big break up with Donald Trump, even tweeted the name of the factory in my district and said that they were going to get their funding.

Time and time again when we have inquired with the administration, they say: Yes, any day now we are going to restart it. It has been 6 months. Every day that they delay is another day that children unnecessarily starve to death.

We need the administration to honor its word. We are not asking them to change their policy. We are asking them to execute on their stated policy.

I will continue to speak out on this floor every day until they honor their commitment to restart funding for emergency food aid around the world.

□ 1110

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE AND SURVIVE

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, when I was back in my district in Rhode Island, I took the opportunity to catch up with a number of leaders in the restaurant and hospitality industry around my State, and they told me to a person that business is down this summer compared to last summer.

Why? Well, there are a few reasons.

Number one, the tariffs that Donald Trump has put in place are a tax on small businesses and on the middle class. Why are we putting a 10, 15, or 20 percent tariff on food that we can't even grow in the United States?

Mr. Speaker, 99 percent of the coffee that we drink comes from other countries because we can't grow it here. We are taxing ourselves 10, 15, or 20 percent to import pineapples, bananas, and foods that we do not make or grow in the United States. That hurts restaurants and other small businesses in my district and the entire country. It hurts consumers as well.

On top of that, this is summer tourism season in Rhode Island, and we typically get a lot of tourists from Canada and Europe who come to Rhode Island for our beaches, our food, and our hospitality. Wouldn't you know it, international travel into Rhode Island and the entire Northeast is down because, it turns out, when you threaten to invade other countries, when you enact tariffs on other countries with no clear strategy, and when you badmouth our allies, they don't want to come visit here anymore.

We have a hospitality industry in Rhode Island—hotels, restaurants, and other small businesses—that is facing crushing costs from tariffs and less business from international travel. In addition, by the way, their domestic customers, American customers, also have less discretionary income because of the increased cost of food. Besides that, for some reason, we are also taxing imports of energy from Canada, so people's electric and heating bills were higher this year.

Supporting small business used to be a bipartisan cause in Washington, D.C., one of the few things that both parties could join together and come together on, but for some reason, over the last 6 months, it seems that Washington, D.C., is intent on doing everything that it can to make it harder for small businesses in this country to operate.

Let's reset. Let's prioritize tax relief for small businesses and the middle class instead of the rich. Let's eliminate these tariffs on products that we don't even produce in the United States because we don't have the climate for it. Let's help small businesses thrive and survive this summer.

CELEBRATING A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR CALALLEN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historic moment for Calallen High School.

The Calallen Wildcats baseball team captured the UIL 4A D1 State championship with a 5–3 win, ending a 17-year title drought and bringing home the program's fourth State title. Ranked number one in Texas and number two nationally, they lived out their motto: Win on the last day.

Not to be outdone, the Calallen Lady Cats softball team made history of their own, winning their third consecutive UIL 4A D1 State softball championship. This marks the first time in Coastal Bend history that both the baseball and softball titles were won by the same school in the same year.

Congratulations to the Calallen Wildcats Head Coach Steve Chapman, Lady Cats Head Coach Teresa Lentz, and to all the Calallen Wildcats and Lady Cats.

What a great year for Calallen. Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING LONDON PIRATES BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the London Pirates baseball team, the 2025 UIL 3A D1 State champions.

With a 4–3 win, the Pirates secured their second State title in program history, capping off a dominant postseason and a 14-game winning streak.

This championship reflects the discipline and heart that defines London athletics and the unwavering support of a proud community.

Congrats to the Pirates on a remarkable season.

CONGRATULATING GANADO MAIDENS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to honor the Ganado Maidens, our

2025 UIL 2A State champions. With a 5–4 comeback win, the Maidens closed out their season fueled by grit with a 19-game win streak.

The Maidens were down, with one out to go, when they delivered a 2–1 rally that turned the game in their favor. As one local paper put it: It took all of Ganado. It certainly did.

Congratulations to the Maidens, their coaches, their families, and the entire Ganado community on a championship that reflects the very best of Texas.

HONORING THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Corpus Christi, officially designated as the first Coast Guard City in the State of Texas.

For over 45 years, the men and women of the Coast Guard have served our region with courage: conducting daring rescues, safeguarding our ports, training the next generation, and responding with excellence when disaster strikes.

From patrolling our waters to securing energy shipments to their recent heroic efforts responding to the floods in Kerrville, their work keeps both our region and our Nation safe. The Coast Guard in Corpus Christi conducted hundreds of search-and-rescue missions and saved countless lives.

I thank the Coast Guard crews up and down our district along the Gulf of America for their hard work and living out their commitment to faith, service, and freedom every single day. I also thank my fellow citizens of Texas' 27th District for living a life and honoring the service of these guardsmen.

Congratulations, Corpus Christi.

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Ms. SIMON of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House and oppose the defunding of Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide.

The Republicans' cruel budget bill, which all Democrats opposed, included a provision to block Federal Planned Parenthood clinics from receiving Medicaid funds. This was a devastating choice that Republicans have made which will undoubtedly impact families across the Nation.

Planned Parenthood does not just provide birth control. Clinics provide basic healthcare exams, cancer screenings, and vaccinations. Women across this country today will walk into Planned Parenthood clinics across counties and States to receive both diagnostic and care for cervical cancer, hypertension, and basic medical care.

Earlier this year, the largest Planned Parenthood health center in the country opened in my district, named after my predecessor and champion of reproductive health and access, Congresswoman and now Mayor Barbara Lee. The Barbara Lee Oakland Health Center has over 19 exam rooms and is transit accessible, but the Republican budget bill will put Planned Parenthood centers like ours across the country at risk.

Mr. Speaker, 200 of the 600 Planned Parenthood clinics across the country may close and women will die. Planned Parenthood closures will disproportionately impact Black and Brown mothers, who already have a maternal mortality rate more than three times their White counterparts.

These cuts will disproportionately impact poor folks' access to reproductive care, since 40 percent of all births in this country are covered by the very Medicaid services that are now being gutted. These are matters, as I said before, of life and death for us in our district and for women across the country.

I was a young mother living in public housing in San Francisco when I had my first daughter at 19, but I was able to get by. I was able to go to school and raise a wonderful daughter and put her through college and law school because I had access to care and institutions that cared about my life.

If we want people to be healthy in this country and to participate in their communities and work, we need to open up choices, and we need to provide more opportunities instead of less. That is why I offered an amendment to the Republican budget reconciliation bill that would have protected the vital services of Planned Parenthood.

Republicans killed that amendment, but this will not stop our collective work, my work, to ensure that people in my district and around the country in rural and urban communities have the access that they so deserve. Their lives are depending on it.

Just this week, the district courts put a temporary pause on parts of the Republican bill that would defund Planned Parenthood. We will continue to fight back. Planned Parenthood is vital. It is vital to communities' health, and I will not stand by while it is defunded and while our health is devalued.

I was that young mother. We and our families, our children, deserve better.

□ 1120

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM TRAIN

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the anniversary of the legendary Freedom Train, a rolling symbol of American ideals that traveled more than 37,000 miles from 1947 to 1949, visiting all 48 States and welcoming over 3.5 million citizens aboard.

For over 30 years, my constituents, Mary Jayne and John Z. Rowe, have been at the forefront of efforts to preserve the memory of this great national event which helped to remind Americans of the foundations of their liberty.

Powered by the groundbreaking ALCO PA diesel locomotive, numbered 1776 and named the ''Spirit of 1776,'' the train revolutionized public perception of rail power. In an age still dominated by steam, the diesel proved its mettle across all terrain and climate, operating reliably without pause for coal or water.

Its performance, witnessed by millions and scrutinized by railroad leaders nationwide, helped hasten the transition from steam to diesel across American railroads.

Beyond technology, the Freedom Train carried our founding documents and civic ideals to the people. It was guarded by marines, celebrated in towns, and kissed literally by thousands in cities like Brooklyn.

It was not a government project but a private and patriotic mission supported by the Truman administration and the American Heritage Foundation. At a moment of global uncertainty, the Freedom Train reminded Americans of who we were and who we still are.

RECOGNIZING THE ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL LADY CELTICS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of the Roanoke Catholic School Lady Celtics girls' track and field team who captured the 2025 VISAA Division II Virginia State championship with remarkable determination and unity.

After narrowly missing the title by three points in 2023, the Lady Celtics redoubled their efforts, displaying unmatched teamwork in a sport often focused on individual performance.

Guided by an outstanding group of seniors and supported by dedicated underclassmen, they secured the championship with a commanding margin of 55.5 points.

I commend Head Coach Jason Smith and the entire 2025 team. They are Aubrey Aaron, Addison Becker, Anna Stadnyk, Charlie Floyd, Karly Smith, Justinne Llavore, Eva Coniglione, Lillian Kessler, Sydney Whitt, Jamariah Edwards, Lauren Bradley, Brinkley Aaron, Molly O'Herron, Joey Barger, and Kuk Kuk Chen.

Their perseverance, skill, and sportsmanship are an inspiration to our community. I congratulate the Lady Celtics on this well-earned State title.

ENFORCING LAWS FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Stop Illegal Entry Act.

In recent years, more than 10 million illegal immigrants have crossed into our country, including hundreds who are on the terrorist watch list. This is more than a border crisis. It is a serious national security threat.

A failure to enforce our laws created a dangerous incentive. Cross illegally, break our laws, and a person is likely to be released into our communities

under past radical policies. That had to change.

Even more concerning, over 70 percent of those charged with illegal reentry last year had criminal records. These are not first-time offenders. These are repeat criminals who have shown complete disregard for our laws.

The Stop Illegal Entry Act will increase penalties and prison time for illegal entry and reentry, sending a clear message that there will be consequences.

President Trump ended catch and release. With this legislation, House Republicans are continuing that commitment to restore accountability and protect American families.

It is time to bring back law and order by stopping these illegal crossings. I urge my colleague to support this bill and stand for the safety of the American people.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST ICE'S AUTHORITARIAN OVERREACH

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I want you to imagine for a moment that a person is going to the grocery store, grabbing coffee, or picking their child up from school.

Instead of running errands or waiting for the school bell like usual, that individual is surrounded by masked men who scream at them, shove them to the ground, threaten them with weapons, and throw them into the back of a car.

People are calling out for help, asking where that person is being taken. Authorities refuse to answer. The person has no idea where they are going, who these people are, or when or if they will ever see their family again.

Mr. Speaker, imagine if you, or worse, your child, experienced the terror, the fear, and the blind pain of being kidnapped off the street.

For many of my constituents, this is a horrific reality that they are dealing with every single day. ICE is terrorizing our communities. They are kidnapping people off of the streets, tearing families apart, and destroying futures to meet insane daily quotas enacted by Donald Trump.

Just a few weeks ago, Republicans in Congress passed a massive budget that funnels billions of new dollars to ICE. This money makes ICE the largest domestic police force in the United States with more resources than dozens of militaries around the entire world.

This funding is unprecedented, and it is a free pass for ICE to ramp up Trump's cruel and inhumane mass deportation policies.

They are already building concentration camps in Florida where they are threatening to lock up legal immigrants and Latinos from across the country. I have visited facilities like this.

On May 29, I went to the Eloy Detention Center just outside my district. I met with women who wanted to and, frankly, were desperate to share their stories with me.

One was a green card holder who had been pulled over for a traffic stop. When they learned of her status, they stripped her of her green card and threw her into ICE detention without another thought. She had been trying to reach her family for months.

Another woman told me a story about a guard taking all of the women out into the blazing Arizona heat. He forced them to march in circles for hours without water. One woman fainted and needed medical attention.

While they marched, the guard yelled at them: This is the price of the American Dream.

It should not matter who these women are. It should not matter whether they are citizens, legal residents, or undocumented people trying to make a life for themselves.

It is shameful and embarrassing for our country that we would treat any human being like this. The detention centers and the facilities in this country are atrocious. They have absolutely zero oversight mechanisms in place.

More than a month later, after formally inquiring to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE about the conditions that I saw firsthand, I have yet to receive a response.

People are being harassed. They are being dehumanized. They are being abused.

Last weekend, I tried to return to Eloy to meet with several constituents of mine who are detained there.

I wanted to meet with a woman named Yari who has chronic lymphocytic leukemia. She has been detained at Eloy since February and has lost 55 pounds while in detention. She needs help.

I also hoped to meet with a man who has been coughing up blood for weeks.

Lastly, I wanted to meet with a 35-year-old woman with a kidney infection who says her antibiotics are not working and her condition is worsening.

Even after ICE put in place new protocols to make it more difficult for us to do our job and our oversight work, we tried to follow their new rules. I gave them ample notice of my visit and a list of constituents that I hoped to meet with. They let us know that our visit was approved.

Then less than 24 hours before I was supposed to make the trip, they changed their minds and said that my meeting with my constituents was denied.

ICE is leaving families without answers and human beings without care. They are doing it, regardless of whether people are undocumented, legal residents, or even American citizens.

They are splitting up parents by sending them to different detention facilities and then making children navigate the funds for a lawyer and basic survival.

If I cannot get answers as a U.S. Congresswoman, how is anyone else in my district supposed to? Any one of us could be next.

I will always stand with and fight for our immigrant communities. I will do everything I can to push back against Trump's authoritarian overreach.

□ 1130

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL RYAN JAMES BARNARD

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lance Corporal Ryan James Barnard, of Valley Cottage, New York, who died on July 2 while serving our country at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Ryan was just 22 years old. He served in the United States Marine Corps with the 3rd Littoral Combat Team, Ares Company. He was living his dream, wearing the uniform with pride, and doing what he believed in.

Ryan grew up in the Hudson Valley playing Little League baseball and hockey, skating for Nyack High School, the Palisades Predators, and the Army West Point Junior Black Knights. He was known for his quiet focus, toughness, and strong sense of duty.

In the wake of Ryan's passing, his family and our community are working to establish a youth hockey grant in his name, carrying forward his spirit of discipline and teamwork for years to come.

I am grateful for Ryan's service to the United States, and I extend my deepest condolences to the Barnard family.

HONORING MICHAEL HALPIN

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Halpin of Pearl River, New York, who passed away on July 9 at the age of 88.

Born in Kilrush, County Clare, Ireland, Mike immigrated to New York in 1955 and proudly served in the United States Army, including a tour of duty in Korea. After his military service, he continued to serve as an NYPD officer in the 46th Precinct in the Bronx.

Like me, Mike was a proud Irish American. The very definition of a pillar of the community, he served as president of the Rockland Irish-American Cultural Center and the Rockland GAA. He was a member of the AOH Division 3 and led the 2004 Rockland St. Patrick's Day parade as grand marshal.

Mike was a devoted parishioner of St. Margaret's Church, a member of the Hudson Valley 10–13 Club, and, above all, a proud husband, father, and grandfather.

Mike Halpin lived a life of dutiful purpose and leadership with a deep love for both his heritage and his community. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ''JACKIE'' SULLIVAN

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John ''Jackie'' Sullivan, a Navy veteran, FDNY EMS deputy chief, and longtime volunteer firefighter in Spring Valley and Yorktown Heights.

Jack gave his entire adult life to serving others. He spent 12 years as a Navy flight engineer, 31 years as a paramedic, rising to deputy chief, and more than three decades answering fire calls as a volunteer.

On 9/11, he ran toward the towers. When they fell, he dove under a truck to survive and then stayed at Ground Zero for a year, helping recover the fallen with dignity and respect. That tells you everything you need to know about the kind of man he was.

Jackie was also a union leader, a mentor to younger EMTs and firefighters, and a relentless storyteller, who never missed a chance to make someone laugh. He was the kind of guy you wanted by your side in a crisis and around the dinner table once the storm had passed.

To his wife, Denise; his daughters, Katie and Maggie; and all who loved him, our hearts are with you. May his memory always be a blessing.

HANDS OFF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to say hands off our Social Security because Social Security is not a luxury. It is not a handout. It is a sacred trust, a promise that we make to Americans that the hard-earned money that they pay into the system will be there when they need it—our seniors, our children who have lost a parent, people in our communities who live with disabilities.

It is the lifeline that sustains our communities, our seniors. It is a promise that they can live their lives with dignity.

I am here today with my dear colleague, Congressman JOHN LARSON, to not only say hands off our Social Security but also to introduce a bill with that name.

This bill will protect Social Security from an administration that is trying to systematically dismantle it. It will protect benefits. It will stop the privatization of benefits. It will stop staffing cuts and closures, protect privacy and data, and protect the proud men and women who go to work every day to serve our seniors at the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, these are the American people's benefits, and we are fighting to ensure that not only are they here today and tomorrow but for future generations to come.

That is why I am so proud to be in this fight with my dear colleague, the man, the legend, the Congressman who has fought for Social Security for so many years, Ranking Member JOHN LARSON of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the ranking member.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) for yielding to me. Her work and effort are exemplary.

Here is the data, the facts, Mr. Speaker: Over 70 million of our fellow Americans rely on Social Security, and Social Security, throughout its history, has never missed a payment.

Today, it is even more crucial as 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and for more than 40 percent of all Social Security recipients, this is the only benefit that they have.

Representative STANSBURY is part of legislation that seeks to expand benefits, not just protect Social Security. Congress hasn't acted on Social Security and its expansion since 1971. Richard Nixon was President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, because of the initiative, energy, and enthusiasm of Members of Congress like Representative STANSBURY, people in New Mexico and all across the country—Mr. Speaker, it might surprise even you, as well, to know how many people in your district are equally served. More than $300,000 comes in monthly to recipients in your district in the great State of Virginia, but that hasn't changed in over 54 years.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to get behind Representative STANSBURY's legislation that will be incorporated into the Committee on Ways and Means' configuration on Social Security that will benefit the people.

As Representative STANSBURY has indicated, this is America's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and number one antipoverty program for children, and more veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. STANSBURY for her efforts and initiatives.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and honored to be in the fight with the ranking member and, more importantly, to be in the fight for America and for our veterans, seniors, and children.

Let's do this, America. Let's protect Social Security.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JAMES KNECHT, ILLINOIS' FOURTH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Illinois' Fourth District Appellate Court Justice James ''Jim'' Knecht as he reaches the milestone of serving 50 years as a judge.

Jim was born in Lincoln, Illinois, and earned his juris doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1973.

□ 1140

In 1975, Jim began his judicial career serving as an associate circuit judge and was soon after promoted to circuit judge. In 1986, Judge Knecht was elected to the Illinois Fourth District Appellate Court. He is currently the longest serving judge in Illinois court history and an accredited leader within our Illinois legal community.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Knecht is heavily involved in communities across Illinois and with his alma maters. He serves on both the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council and on the National Advisory Board of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence.

At his undergraduate alma mater, Illinois State University, Judge Knecht was an adjunct professor for nearly three decades and is a recipient of their Distinguished Alumni Award.

Again, I congratulate Judge Knecht on this momentous achievement in his legal career and thank him for his continued service to the State of Illinois. I wish Judge Knecht, his wife, Ruth, their children and grandchildren all the best in the future.

I congratulate Judge Knecht.

RECOGNIZING JAMES COLLINS, PRESIDENT OF LORAS COLLEGE

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Collins for his extraordinary 20-year tenure as president of Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. As the longest serving president in the school's history, Jim has left a lasting impact on Iowa's oldest institution of higher education.

President Collins earned his bachelor of science degree in finance from Loras College in 1984. After graduation, he began as an admissions representative and advanced through various leadership positions before being selected as president in 2004 at the age of 42.

During President Collins' tenure at Loras College, the institution achieved unprecedented growth. He oversaw actions to raise the endowment by 67 percent to support students, expanded graduate and professional programs, spearheaded the completion of multiple campus renovations, and led the college to consistent recognition by U.S. News as a top 15 Midwest baccalaureate institution.

President Collins' visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Catholic higher education has impacted thousands of students who attended and graduated from Loras College.

I congratulate Jim, his lovely wife, Lisa, and their children and grandchildren on this remarkable career. I thank him for his decades of service to Loras College and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Go Duhawks.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOUISE KRONHOLM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning, first and foremost, to pay tribute to Louise Kronholm.

Mr. Speaker, when you are in Congress, oftentimes you are unable to be home for wakes and funeral services. Louise Kronholm was the daughter of the legendary John Bailey. John Bailey was the chairman of the Democratic Party in Connecticut. He was the national chairman of the Democratic Party in 1960 when we elected the first Catholic President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The Bailey and Kennedy families were extraordinarily close, and Barbara Kennelly, Louise's sister, was the Congresswoman from the First District in Connecticut whom I succeeded.

Our hearts and our thoughts and prayers are with them today as they mourn and bury their beloved Louise Kronholm, John Bailey's daughter and Barbara Kennelly's sister.

RECOGNIZING PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize Pratt & Whitney aircraft in my hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut.

July 22, 1925, yesterday, marked the 100th birthday and anniversary of Pratt & Whitney aircraft. Pratt & Whitney builds the most dependable engines. They have led the aerospace industry in this country and are the greatest manufacturing force in the world. They are located in East Hartford and in Middletown, Connecticut.

My father and mother both worked there. My mother worked there during the Second World War. She had just gotten out of high school. My mother was 17 years old. She had been in the National Honor Society, and was recruited by Pratt & Whitney to help take down the details, information, and categorizing of parts, et cetera, which was desperately needed.

My father went off to war, and when he came home, he worked there. My brothers have worked at Pratt & Whitney.

In 1925, East Hartford was an agricultural community, and overnight it became the leading manufacturer of airplanes and aircraft and now aerospace.

We salute Pratt & Whitney aircraft.

When my father would go to work, we would say: Dad, are you going to work?

He said: Yeah.

I said: What do you do?

He said: We keep the eagle flying.

The symbol of Pratt & Whitney aircraft is the bald eagle in flight, and underneath it, it says: ''Dependable engines.''

That was true in 1925, and it is true today.

I am proud to be part of the F–35 Caucus and to understand that not only is it important to America, but it is also important to our allies all across the globe who still depend on Pratt & Whitney and their production of the most dependable aircraft engines ever assembled.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the resolution introduced by Governor Lamont of the State of Connecticut recognizing this 100-year anniversary celebration of Pratt & Whitney aircraft.

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

Whereas, 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of Pratt & Whitney, founded in 1925 by Frederick Rentschler, whose vision revolutionized aviation with the creation of the dependable air-cooled Wasp engine; and

Whereas, Pratt & Whitney, headquartered in East Hartford, Connecticut, has since become a global leader in the design, manufacture, and service of aircraft engines and auxiliary power units for commercial, military, business aircraft, helicopters; and

Whereas, Pratt & Whitney has contributed to every major advancement in powered flight over the past century, helping drive innovation, support national defense, and enable safe, efficient air travel around the world; and

Whereas, for 100 years, the people of Connecticut have been at the heart of Pratt & Whitney's success—engineers, technicians, veterans, and countless other skilled employees whose dedication and ingenuity continue to power the future of aviation; and

Whereas, the company's continued investment in workforce development, manufacturing, sustainability, and community partnerships has strengthened Connecticut's economy and aerospace leadership; and

Whereas, the State of Connecticut proudly celebrates the achievements and legacy of Pratt & Whitney, recognizing a century of excellence in engineering, innovation, and public service;

Now, Therefore, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim July 20 through July 26, 2025 as Pratt & Whitney 100th Anniversary Week in the State of Connecticut and encourage all citizens to join in honoring this iconic company's extraordinary contributions to our state, our nation, and the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Connecticut to be affixed this 25th day of July, 2025.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD an op-ed piece that was presented in the Hartford Courant by Pratt & Whitney President Shane Eddy, again, talking about that great workforce over this past 100 years and their dedication then, now, and well into the future.

This op-ed ran in the Hartford Courant July 22nd:

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AVIATION INNOVATION—AND INVESTING IN CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

(By Shane Eddy, President, Pratt & Whitney)

In 1925, an engineer named Frederick Rentschler founded Pratt & Whitney in Hartford with an idea for an air-cooled radial engine that would revolutionize American aviation. Rentschler was driven by a unwavering belief that ''the best airplane could only be designed an the best engine'' and a powerful vision for dependable propulsion to connect people, grow economies, and defend freedom.

His first creation, the R–1340 Wasp, became an engineering landmark—setting a new standard in performance and reliability over the liquid cooled engines of the era. It also marked the beginning of an enduring legacy of safety, innovation and Dependable Engines forged right here in Connecticut by generations of employees, who have quite literally shaped the world we live in.

Over the past century, the skilled men and women of Pratt & Whitney have designed, built and supported products that have powered more than 500 different aircraft types, achieving many commercial and military aviation milestones. We powered the first major commercial air travel in the 1930s, provided more than half the total horsepower for Allied aircraft during World War II, and led the transition of commercial air travel into the jet age in the late 1950s—among countless other examples.

Today, our products power everything from the most advanced fight aircraft, such as the F135 engine for the F–35, to the GTF engine for most fuel-efficient narrowbody commercial jets. Both of these marquee products are built in Middletown, with critical parts produced in East Hartford as well as suppliers located across the state.

The impact of our work extends far beyond Connecticut's borders. Our global team is spread across more than 40 major sites worldwide—including locations in Canada, Poland as well as Singapore—and plays an important role in the design, manufacture and support of our current and future engine programs. The dedication and expertise of our global workforce are at the heart of our success.

As we've gown from a single site in Hartford to a global propulsion leader with 45,000 employees and more than 90,000 engines in service worldwide, Connecticut has and will continue to be our home—just as it's been for the past 100 years. That commitment is reflected in the significant investments we've made in our facilities, our workforce, and our community here in the state.

Looking ahead, Pratt & Whitney is well positioned to shape the future of flight for the next 100 years—with Connecticut's industrial base leading the way. For example, the new GTF Advantage engine for the Airbus A320neo was recently certified by the Federal Aviation Administration and will begin delivering soon. Additionally, we are growing the capability of the F135 with the development of our Engine Core Upgrade to ensure the F–35 fighter remains ahead of threats for years to come. In partnership with our parent company RTX, we are also actively developing technologies such as hybrid-electric to secure positions on the next generation of platforms.

The future for Pratt & Whitney is exciting and incredibly bright—and will be powered by the talented and dedicated men and women at our sites in Middletown and East Hartford, along with the approximately 100 suppliers across the state that support our engine programs.

Connecticut's industrial base is a national asset, producing advanced commercial and military technology at scale that no other country can match. But it's also fragile, and it's imperative that we keep the conditions strong, so it continues to thrive. That includes having a stable and predictable business climate so companies can invest for the long-term and a robust talent development ecosystem that identifies and trains the next generation of aerospace talent. While Connecticut's leaders have made significant progress on both fronts, there is still more work to do to grow and protect the state's industrial base for generations to come.

To our employees, suppliers, partners, and neighbors across the state—thank you for

helping make Pratt & Whitney what it is today. Let's shape the next century of flight, together.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the eagle will keep flying because they have the most dependable workforce and build the most dependable engines ever assembled in the world. I am proud to have been born and raised in East Hartford, the home and the start of Pratt & Whitney aircraft, the engine company that makes the most dependable engines in the world.

HONORING CHUCK CONNER

(Mr. BAIRD of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Conner who officially retired on Monday, July 14, after serving as a national agriculture leader since 1997.

A Benton County native and graduate of Purdue University, Chuck Conner served as the president and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives for over 16 years. From 1997 to 2001, he served as president of the Corn Refiners Association.

He also has a storied career in public service as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President George W. Bush.

Chuck Conner continued his public service as an adviser to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar from Indiana for 17 years.

We are grateful for his decades of service and work to benefit our great agricultural industry. I wish him all the best as he embarks on retirement.

□ 1150

HONORING KENT AND ISABELLA CHISM

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kent and Isabella Chism, two outstanding Hoosiers.

Kent is a fifth-generation family farmer in Indiana who focuses on growing corn and soybeans. His wife, Isabella, currently serves as the American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership Committee chair, and is the former second vice president of the Indiana Farm Bureau.

The Chisms are internationally recognized for their hard work and dedication to promoting America's great agricultural industry. Their family farm has also been a home for workshops, farm visits, and open houses. The Chisms recently received the 2025 Indiana Master Farmers award for their work advocating for agriculture.

Indiana's agricultural industry is better off thanks to the Chisms, who have used their experiences to be prominent voices for agriculture at the State, local, and national levels. I am grateful for their work that has certainly benefited Indiana and our farmers.

AMERICAN ENERGY IS DOMINANT AGAIN

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the One Big Beautiful Bill Act makes American energy dominant again by resuming leasing for domestic energy production. This includes onshore and offshore oil and gas leases as well as coal leases.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act strengthens grid reliability and invests in building key energy and critical minerals infrastructure through the Energy Dominance Financing program.

This legislation also finally repeals the Green New Deal subsidies from the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, such as the tax credit giveaway for expensive, unreliable electric vehicles.

This historic bill also restores our energy security by starting to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which was drained under the previous administration. This big, beautiful bill is a historic win for America's great energy sector that will help reduce energy costs for hardworking families in my district and across the Nation.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 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 at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Richard Kunst, St. James Catholic Church, Duluth, Minnesota, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we offer You thanks in giving our Nation the opportunity to self-govern and self-legislate, knowing that all power is a sharing in Your power and also recognizing that You have blessed the United States of America in a way that other peoples can only long for.

May our philosophical and political differences serve only to strengthen who we are as a people rather than cause division and hatred.

We pray for protection of all Members of this body and their staffs that they may continue to carry out the will of the people who elected them.

Finally, for allowing us to enter into our 250th year as a nation, we give thanks to You, Heavenly Father, for all that You have blessed us with. May those blessings continue for many years, and may we, Your people, always be fully aware that You and no other entity are the source of these gifts.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND RICHARD KUNST

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to have my hometown priest open up the House of Representatives this morning, Father Richard Kunst.

Father Richard Kunst has been a priest in the diocese in and around Duluth for 27 years. He is a faithful, faithful servant of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as reflected by his homilies on a daily basis.

Not only is Father Richard Kunst a great friend to our family but to the Catholic family in and around Duluth, Minnesota.

I thank him for traveling all this way from Duluth, Minnesota, to our Nation's Capital to open up the House prayer this morning.

I am truly honored by his opening prayer.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1316. An act to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING CHASE CHILDERS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, a man who embodied and exemplified the very best of public service and selfless service, Mr. Chase Childers, a husband, father of three, former police officer, and professional baseball player.

Some of us in the Chamber, including myself, have worn the uniform and sworn an oath to protect and serve our communities. We understand the inherent risks, split-second decisions, and unwavering commitment required.

On July 13, while on vacation with his beloved family in South Carolina, Mr. Childers jumped into action to save another family who were caught in a rip current. Mr. Speaker, they were total strangers. They were not his own family but total strangers.

Thanks to the courageous and selfless acts of Mr. Childers, the family of five made it back to the shore safely. Tragically, Mr. Childers did not.

Mr. Childers' heroic actions serve as a reminder that heroism isn't confined to a uniform or a specific profession.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his actions inspire us all to lend a helping hand to other families, friends, neighbors, and, in this case, total strangers.

God bless Mr. Childers and his loved ones. My family and I are praying for his beautiful wife and three children during this very difficult time.

TART WARS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, there is so much upheaval and so much concern that is going on in our country right now—unemployment, Medicaid cuts, all the things that are happening. Yet, in the Virgin Islands this weekend, on my home island, we had our annual Tart Wars.

The Tart Wars brings together the Virgin Islands community to celebrate and showcase our rich culinary traditions, placing fans of pineapple, guava, and coconut tarts in a fierce competition.

Mr. Speaker, coconut tart did win this year. It is not my favorite, but I would have you note that Virgin Islanders, the grand dames of Frederiksted, Claire Roker, Betty Lynch, and even LaVerne ''La La'' Joseph, are all Team Guava.

WELCOMING GRAHAM THOMAS BLACKWELL

(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, on Friday, July 18, 2025, Columbia, South Carolina, was blessed as Leah Grace Denny Blackwell and Matthew Blackwell joyfully welcomed their handsome son, Graham Thomas Blackwell, into the world, a very special gift just 2 days ahead of Leah Grace's own birthday.

Born at Prisma Health Baptist Hospital at 2:03 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long, Graham has entered a loving, prominent, and nurturing home.

I am grateful for Leah Grace, who is a dedicated long-term staff member in the Washington office, serving as senior policy adviser, while Matt is a former staff member who is now at Duke Energy.

Graham is blessed to be born into a home that will guide him through a bright and fulfilling future encouraged by his wonderful grandparents, Tony and Beverly Denny and Bart and Paula Blackwell, who are all appreciated as devoted statewide community leaders.

On behalf of my wife, Roxanne, and our entire family and staff, I extend the warmest congratulations to the happy Blackwell family. May the years ahead be filled with joy, love, and blessings.

God bless Graham Thomas Blackwell.

TIME TO DELIVER RESULTS FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, Americans expect Congress to complete the basic work of government before leaving town for recess, not the least of which is passing the 12 funding bills for fiscal year 2026. Having passed only two bills, it is absurd that Republicans have decided to pack it up early.

Meanwhile, millions fear what Republican cuts to Medicaid will mean for their families. Shoppers are tightening their belts because of record prices for chicken and beef. Businesses are stymied by President Trump's on-again, off-again tariffs. ''Taco or not taco'' is the question they are asking.

Why are Republicans rushing to take the break when so many Americans can't even catch a break? Simply put, Republicans are running scared of a titanic Presidential temper tantrum over releasing the Epstein files.

My Democratic colleagues and I are here to work to lower costs and grow our economy, to build healthier and safer communities, and to ensure strong national security and national defense.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us. Let's get back to work and deliver the results that the American people sent us here to achieve.

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

□ 1210

REMEMBERING THOMAS JOHN ''TJ'' COSTELLO

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of TJ Costello, a leader of the Charlotte community, who unexpectedly passed away on July 8, 2025.

Mr. Costello's life was marked by sacrifice and service, first to his country as a marine leading combat operations in Iraq and then to our local community as a business leader and faithful church volunteer.

He also served my district by guiding hundreds of young North Carolinians through the nomination process at the U.S. Naval Academy of which he is a proud alumnus.

A devoted family man, TJ married his high school sweetheart, Julia, and had three beloved children, and I will remind them that 1 Corinthians declares: No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagines, what God has prepared for those who love Him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating the wonderful life and legacy of TJ Costello.

IMPACTS OF THE BIG, UGLY BILL ON MASSACHUSETTS

(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, Donald Trump and this Republican Congress just enacted the largest transfer of wealth in history. They cut 15 million people off of their healthcare and decimated food assistance for working families to give tax breaks to billionaires.

Last week, I joined my dear friend Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY and Project Bread in Boston to hear directly from people experiencing food insecurity about how the big, ugly bill will make their lives more difficult.

We heard from hungry moms, grandmothers, food pantry leaders, and local officials. Each and every person who participated in the roundtables spoke about how the big, ugly bill will increase hunger. If Trump and Republicans in Congress would spend 5 minutes listening to anyone living paycheck to paycheck, they would know how devastating these cuts are.

In Massachusetts, we are crafting a plan to prevent families from going hungry amid these reckless Federal cuts. Governor Maura Healey, her administration, and local advocates are forming the Anti-Hunger Task Force to adopt long-term solutions to support families in Massachusetts and work to finally end hunger now.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE FIREAID CONCERT IN LOS ANGELES

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have asked Attorney General Pam Bondi to open an investigation into the

FireAid concert that took place in the aftermath of the devastating Los Angeles fires.

What we have learned has happened is absolutely beyond belief. In the aftermath of these fires, which destroyed 18,000 homes and tragically killed 30 people, there was a FireAid concert in which a number of high-profile musicians generously agreed to perform and people responded in an amazing way. Tens of thousands of people donated, raising $100 million for what they were told was direct relief for the victims. Now we have learned that this money didn't go to the victims at all. Instead, it went to nonprofits, some of which have nothing to do with fire relief, where they promote things like voting and civic engagement and multigenerational power building. Some of them aren't even located in L.A.

I have asked the Attorney General to open an investigation in order to restore the intent of the donors, make the victims whole, and to bring accountability.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB STEIN

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bob Stein: a friend, a teacher, and a brilliant mind, who passed away last week after living an equally brilliant life.

I had the privilege of knowing Bob throughout my entire public service career. When he wasn't cycling, Bob was a professor at Rice University, where he spent 46 years being a leading voice on elections, disaster response, and local government, but to call Bob just a professor wouldn't capture who he truly was.

His classroom extended far beyond Rice. He had a remarkable habit of turning local officials into students, and I was proud to be one of them.

Bob Stein spent his whole life helping this Nation live up to its promise. To his wife, Marty, and his children, I thank them for sharing him with us. Mr. Speaker, you know that if you planned to run for office in Houston, you had to sit down and talk to Bob Stein.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful city and a grateful nation, I thank Bob. May he enjoy his cycling in Heaven. God bless.

HONORING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Indian River County, Florida, founded on June 29, 1925.

For a century, this community has stood as a jewel on the Treasure Coast, a place where history, culture, and natural beauty come together in extraordinary ways.

It has grown from humble roots to a thriving community, celebrating a strong economy, welcoming neighborhoods, and stunning environment. From the pristine shores of Vero Beach to the citrus groves of Fellsmere, Indian River County embodies the very best of Florida living.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize and celebrate a century in paradise. I congratulate the people of Indian River County on their 100th anniversary and 100 remarkable years.

MEANWHILE

(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, the news is louder than a toddler with a kazoo at a Metallic concert. While the headlines scream, the internet screams even louder with a monologue known as meanwhile.

Meanwhile, Paramount settles a lawsuit with President Trump over a dispute that could have been easily dismissed, which is defended as freedom of the press, or not.

Meanwhile, Paramount CBS is seeking a multimillion-dollar merger with Skydance Media that requires the approval of the very same Trump administration. Coincidence? Surely not.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration calls for media fairness, the kind perhaps shown by FOX, OAN, and Newsmax. Maybe.

Meanwhile, Stephen Colbert, host of the show ''Late Night,'' number one amongst hosts in his slot and a Trump critic, has his show canceled by CBS, a financial decision it is said. Oh, yeah.

Meanwhile, CBS' great news leader, Edward R. Murrow, rolls over in his grave.

ONGOING MASSACRE IN GAZA

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a mother, a physician, and a Member of Congress horrified by the ongoing massacre in Gaza.

This is not a humanitarian crisis in abstract. It is the result of choices, choices leading to preventable famine.

While bombs are leveling entire cities, the only so-called aid group allowed in, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, is annihilating the very principles of neutrality and humanitarian relief.

Now, we are hearing reports that aid will be contingent on a cease-fire.

Let me be clear: That is morally bankrupt.

You do not negotiate over food. You do not bargain with medicine. You do not turn aid sites into deathtraps.

Palestinians in Gaza deserve safety, dignity, and the right to self-determination, not starvation.

Oregonians have been clear: The United States has a moral obligation to use its power to end this tragedy. A critical step is demanding the U.N. Relief and Works Agency is immediately reinstated in Gaza for large-scale aid delivery.

□ 1220

CONGRATULATING AMPHENOL AEROSPACE

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

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in upstate New York, we make things. This past weekend, we made history when Amphenol Aerospace celebrated its 100th anniversary in Sidney.

Amphenol's is a century-old story of resilience, a community that rebuilt after floods, coming back stronger than before.

It is a century-old story of American innovation, with the world's most cutting-edge technologies rolling off our factory floor.

It is a decades-old story of the power of labor, a true partnership between Amphenol and the Machinists Union, with good jobs, good wages, and a strong middle class.

It is a century-old story of American strength. Amphenol's work defends our homeland.

Above all, though, we are celebrating 100 years of a close-knit manufacturing town of less than 5,000 people where the thing that matters most is not whether you have got an R or a D next to your name, but whether you show up for your shift, do your job with pride, treat each other right, take care of your family, and love this country.

My family and I were honored to celebrate 100 years with everyone at Amphenol this weekend, and we are all in for the next 100.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILL of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

JULY 23, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to Section 2(b)(4) of P.L. 118–144, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

The Honorable Kathy Manning of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

□ 1400

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Commandant defined.

TITLE I—COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

Subtitle B—Accountability

Sec. 111. Annual report on progress of certain homeporting projects.
Sec. 112. Major acquisitions.
Sec. 113. Quarterly acquisition brief requirements.
Sec. 114. Overdue reports.
Sec. 115. Requirement for Coast Guard to provide analysis of alternatives for aircraft.
Sec. 116. Oversight of funds provided pursuant to Public Law 119–21.
Sec. 117. Regular polar security cutter updates.
Sec. 118. Annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION, AUTHORITIES, ACQUISITION, AND PERSONNEL OF THE COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Organization

Sec. 201. Secretary of the Coast Guard.
Sec. 202. Reappointment of Commandant.
Sec. 203. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs.
Sec. 204. Reinstatement of training course on workings of Congress.
Sec. 205. Services and use of funds for, and leasing of, the National Coast Guard Museum.

Subtitle B—Authorities

Sec. 211. Public availability of information.
Sec. 212. Cyber coordination and support in foreign territories.
Sec. 213. Modification of treatment of minor construction and improvement project management.
Sec. 214. Preparedness plans for Coast Guard properties located in tsunami inundation zones.
Sec. 215. Additional Pribilof Island transition completion actions.
Sec. 216. Scientific mission for USCGC Storis.
Sec. 217. Coast Guard access to Department of the Treasury fund.

Subtitle C—Acquisition

Sec. 231. Modification of prohibition on use of lead systems integrators.
Sec. 232. Acquisition improvements.
Sec. 233. Restriction on acquisition, procurement, or construction of vessels in foreign shipyards.
Sec. 234. Great Lakes icebreaking.
Sec. 235. Entity other than the Coast Guard.

Subtitle D—Personnel

Sec. 241. Family leave policies for Coast Guard.
Sec. 242. Modifications to career flexibility program.
Sec. 243. Direct hire authority for certain personnel.
Sec. 244. Command sponsorship for dependents of members of Coast Guard assigned to Unalaska, Alaska.
Sec. 245. Authorization for maternity uniform allowance for officers.
Sec. 246. Consolidation of authorities for college student precommissioning initiative.
Sec. 247. Additional available guidance and considerations for reserve selection boards.
Sec. 248. Behavioral health.
Sec. 249. Travel allowance for members of Coast Guard assigned to Alaska.
Sec. 250. Tuition Assistance and Advanced Education Assistance Pilot Program.
Sec. 251. Recruitment, relocation, and retention incentive program for civilian firefighters employed by Coast Guard in remote locations.
Sec. 252. Notification.

Subtitle E—Coast Guard Academy

Sec. 261. Modification of Board of Visitors.
Sec. 262. Study on Coast Guard Academy oversight.
Sec. 263. Electronic locking mechanisms to ensure Coast Guard Academy cadet room security.
Sec. 264. Report on existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at Coast Guard Academy.
Sec. 265. Required posting of information.
Sec. 266. Installation of multipurpose medical privacy rooms.
Sec. 267. Coast Guard Academy room reassignment.
Sec. 268. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations.
Sec. 269. Concurrent jurisdiction at Coast Guard Academy.

Subtitle F—Reports and Policies

Sec. 271. Policy and briefing on availability of naloxone to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses.
Sec. 272. Policy on methods to reduce incentives for illicit maritime drug trafficking.
Sec. 273. Report on condition of aids to navigation.
Sec. 274. Feasibility study on supporting additional port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific.
Sec. 275. Study and gap analysis with respect to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi aviation hangar.
Sec. 276. Report on impacts of joint travel regulations on members of Coast Guard who rely on ferry systems.
Sec. 277. Report on Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.
Sec. 278. Report and briefings on implementing section 564 of title 14.
Sec. 279. Report on role of Coast Guard.
Sec. 280. Report on Coast Guard personnel skills.
Sec. 281. Report on Coast Guard search and rescue operations.
Sec. 282. Report on alternative sites for the location of Station St. Thomas.
Sec. 283. Report on East Rockaway inlet navigation.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials

Sec. 301. Merchant mariner credentialing.
Sec. 302. Nonoperating individual.

Subtitle B—Vessel Safety

Sec. 311. Grossly negligent operations of a vessel.
Sec. 312. Performance driven examination schedule.
Sec. 313. Fishing vessel and fisherman training safety.
Sec. 314. Designating pilotage waters for the Straits of Mackinac.
Sec. 315. Study of amphibious vessels.
Sec. 316. St. Lucie River railroad bridge.
Sec. 317. Large recreational vessel regulations.

Subtitle C—Ports

Sec. 321. Ports and waterways safety.
Sec. 322. Study on Bering Strait vessel traffic projections and emergency response posture at ports of the United States.
Sec. 323. Improving Vessel Traffic Service monitoring.
Sec. 324. Controlled substance onboard vessels.
Sec. 325. Cyber-incident training.
Sec. 326. Navigational protocols.
Sec. 327. Anchorages.

Subtitle D—Matters Involving Autonomous Systems

Sec. 331. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.
Sec. 332. Pilot program for governance and oversight of small uncrewed maritime systems.
Sec. 333. Coast Guard training course.
Sec. 334. NOAA membership on Autonomous Vessel Policy Council.

Sec. 335. Technology pilot program.
Sec. 336. Uncrewed systems capabilities report.
Sec. 337. Medium unmanned aircraft systems capabilities study.
Sec. 338. Comptroller General report on Coast Guard acquisition and deployment of unmanned systems.
Sec. 339. National Academies of Sciences report on unmanned systems and use of data.
Sec. 340. Unmanned aircraft systems.
Subtitle E—Other Matters
Sec. 341. Information on type approval certificates.
Sec. 342. Clarification of authorities.
Sec. 343. Amendments to passenger vessel security and safety requirements.
Sec. 344. Extension of pilot program to establish a cetacean desk for Puget Sound region.
Sec. 345. Suspension of enforcement of use of devices broadcasting on AIS for purposes of marking fishing gear.
Sec. 346. Classification societies.
Sec. 347. Abandoned and derelict vessel removals.
Sec. 348. Offshore operations.
Sec. 349. Administrative costs.
Sec. 350. Briefing on deployment of Special Purpose Craft – Heavy Weather second generation (SPC-HWX II) vessels in Pacific Northwest.
TITLE IV—OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE
Sec. 401. Vessel response plans.
Sec. 402. Use of marine casualty investigations.
Sec. 403. Timing of review.
Sec. 404. Online incident reporting system.
Sec. 405. Investment of Exxon Valdez oil spill court recovery in high yield investments and marine research.
Sec. 406. Additional response assets.
Sec. 407. International maritime oil spill response.
TITLE V—SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESPONSE
Sec. 501. Independent review of Coast Guard reforms.
Sec. 502. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct.
Sec. 503. Consideration of request for transfer of a cadet at the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of a sexual assault or related offense.
Sec. 504. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.
Sec. 505. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard.
Sec. 506. Modification of reporting requirements on covered misconduct in Coast Guard.
Sec. 507. Modifications to the officer involuntary separation process.
Sec. 508. Review of discharge characterization.
Sec. 509. Convicted sex offender as grounds for denial.
Sec. 510. Definition of covered misconduct.
Sec. 511. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct.
Sec. 512. Complaints of retaliation by victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment and related persons.
Sec. 513. Development of policies on military protective orders.
Sec. 514. Coast Guard implementation of independent review commission recommendations on addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military.
Sec. 515. Policy relating to care and support of victims of covered misconduct.
Sec. 516. Establishment of special victim capabilities to respond to allegations of certain special victim offenses.
Sec. 517. Members asserting post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual assault, or traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 518. Participation in CATCH a Serial Offender program.
Sec. 519. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders.
Sec. 520. Confidential reporting of sexual harassment.
Sec. 521. Report on policy on whistleblower protections.
Sec. 522. Review and modification of Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence.
Sec. 523. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Academy access to defense sexual assault incident database.
Sec. 524. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service.
Sec. 525. Modifications and revisions relating to reopening retired grade determinations.
Sec. 526. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records.
Sec. 527. Flag officer review of, and concurrence in, separation of members who have reported sexual misconduct.
Sec. 528. Expedited transfer in cases of sexual misconduct or domestic violence.
Sec. 529. Access to temporary separation program for victims of alleged sex-related offenses.
Sec. 530. Policy and program to expand prevention of sexual misconduct.
Sec. 531. Continuous vetting of security clearances.
Sec. 532. Training and education programs for covered misconduct prevention and response.
Sec. 533. Requirement to report sexual offenses.
TITLE VI—COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS
Sec. 601. Comptroller General report on Coast Guard research, development, and innovation program.
Sec. 602. Comptroller General review of quality and availability of Coast Guard behavioral health care and resources for personnel wellness.
Sec. 603. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard efforts to reduce prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records and sharing of medical data with Department of Veterans Affairs and other entities.
Sec. 604. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard training facility infrastructure.
Sec. 605. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard basic allowance for housing.
Sec. 606. Comptroller General report on safety and security infrastructure at Coast Guard Academy.
Sec. 607. Comptroller General study and report on permanent change of station process.
TITLE VII—AMENDMENTS
Sec. 701. Amendments.

SECTION 2. COMMANDANT DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''Commandant'' means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

TITLE I—COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 4902 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) $11,287,500,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(ii) $11,851,875,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(iii) $13,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(iv) $14,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(v) $15,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''$23,456,000'' and inserting ''$25,570,000''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''subparagraph (A)(ii), $24,353,000'' and inserting ''clauses (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of subparagraph (A), respectively, $26,848,500'';

(3) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) $3,627,600,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(ii) $3,651,480,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(iii) $3,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(iv) $3,750,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(v) $3,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.'';

(4) in paragraph (3) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) $15,415,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(B) $67,701,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(C) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(D) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(E) $80,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.''; and

(5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) For retired pay, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropriations for purposes of retired pay, payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans, payment for career status bonuses, payment of continuation pay under section 356 of title 37, concurrent receipts, combat-related special compensation, and payments for medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under chapter 55 of title 10—

''(A) $1,147,244,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(B) $1,057,929,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(C) $1,215,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(D) $1,380,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(E) $1,650,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.''.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4904 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''44,500 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''50,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, 55,000 for fiscal year 2027, and 60,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 and 2029''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023'';

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking ''2,500 student years'' and inserting ''4,000 student years for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029'';

(C) in paragraph (2) by striking ''165 student years'' and inserting ''250 student years for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029'';

(D) in paragraph (3) by striking ''385 student years'' and inserting ''700 student years

for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''; and

(E) in paragraph (4) by striking ''1,200 student years'' and inserting ''1,600 student years for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—In any fiscal year in which the submission required under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, does not include a proportional increase in the Operations and Support funding under section 4902(1)(A) of title 14, United States Code, to support the end strengths authorized under the amendments made by subsection (a)—

(1) the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the plan of the Coast Guard to achieve growth in the Coast Guard's military strength to 60,000, which shall include—

(A) proposed missions and purposes for the growth of the Coast Guard in military strength;

(B) the additional estimated cost of salaries and benefits for each fiscal year beginning in the first fiscal year for which such proportional increase is not included through 2032;

(C) an explanation for why the estimated cost in subparagraph (B) was not included in the submission required under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

(D) estimated recruiting resources and costs for each fiscal year from 2027 through 2032; and

(E) estimated resources and costs required to achieve sufficient training capacity for growth in enlisted and officer corps for each fiscal year from 2027 through 2032; and

(2) the Commandant may not delegate the briefing required in paragraph (1).

(c) RULE OF APPLICABILITY.—Section 517(a) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Coast Guard until October 1, 2027.

Subtitle B—Accountability

SEC. 111. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS OF CERTAIN HOMEPORTING PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5102 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) BRIEFING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant fails to submit the report required under this section, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps being taken to produce the report not less than once every 30 days until the required report is produced.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The briefing under paragraph (1) shall be made in person and may not be delegated by the Commandant.''.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of shore infrastructure required to homeport or station all surface and aviation assets to be delivered as part of Level 1 or Level 2 acquisitions that have entered the obtain phase as authorized under section 1132(b) of title 14, United States Code.

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

(A) a description of the current homeports and stations to which of Coast Guard cutters and aircraft are assigned;

(B) a description of cutters or aircrafts that are able to be located by the homeport or station to which they are assigned;

(C) the current number of aircraft and cutters planned for the program of record of the Coast Guard;

(D) a description of cutter and aircraft which are scheduled to be decommissioned or put in special commission status; and

(E) a description of where new cutters and aircraft being acquired as part of the program of record of the Coast Guard will be assigned, including—

(i) an assessment of the shoreside and infrastructure needs for such cutters and aircrafts; and

(ii) an assessment of whether existing facilities are adequate to support such cutter and aircraft, and the costs of planning, engineering, design construction, land acquisition, and environmental remediation.

(c) INITIAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue a report detailing the progress of all approved Coast Guard cutter homeporting projects within the Coast Guard Arctic District with respect to each of the following:

(A) Fast Response Cutters.

(B) Offshore Patrol Cutters.

(C) The USCGC *Storis* procured pursuant to section 11223 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 561 note).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each homeporting project described in such paragraph, the following:

(A) A description of—

(i) the status of funds appropriated for the project;

(ii) activities carried out toward completion of the project; and

(iii) activities anticipated to be carried out during the subsequent 1-year period to advance completion of the project.

(B) An updated timeline, including key milestones, for the project.

(d) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than July 1 of the first calendar year after the year in which the report required under subsection (c)(1) is submitted, and each July 1 thereafter until July 2, 2031, or the date on which all projects described in subsection (c)(1) are completed, the Commandant shall issue an updated report, with respect to each Coast Guard cutter homeporting project described in subsection (b)(1) (including any such project approved on a date after the date of enactment of this Act and before the submission of the applicable report), containing each element described in subsection (b)(2).

(c) REPORT ON CAPACITY OF COAST GUARD BASE KETCHIKAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall complete a report detailing the cost of and time frame for expanding the industrial capacity of Coast Guard Base Ketchikan to do out of water repairs on Fast Response Cutters.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report required under paragraph (1).

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commandant shall publish each report issued under this section on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard.

(e) HOMEPORTING PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''homeporting project''—

(1) means the facility infrastructure modifications, upgrades, new construction, and real property and land acquisition associated with homeporting new or modified cutters; and

(2) includes shoreside and waterfront facilities, cutter maintenance facilities, housing, child development facilities, and any other associated infrastructure directly required as a result of homeporting new or modified cutters.

SEC. 112. MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5103 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''major acquisition programs'' and inserting ''Level 1 acquisitions or Level 2 acquisitions'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''major acquisition program'' and inserting ''Level 1 acquisition or Level 2 acquisition''; and

(3) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) LEVEL 1 ACQUISITION.—The term 'Level 1 acquisition' has the meaning given such term in section 1171.

''(2) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITION.—The term 'Level 2 acquisition' has the meaning given such term in section 1171.''.

(b) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM RISK ASSESSMENT.—Section 5107 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 5103(f)'' and inserting ''section 1171''.

SEC. 113. QUARTERLY ACQUISITION BRIEF REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5107 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 5107. Quarterly acquisition reports and major acquisition program risk assessment

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on all Level 1 and Level 2 acquisition programs, as such terms are defined in section 1171.

''(b) ADDITIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 week before taking procurement actions that will significantly impact the costs or timelines of a Level 1 or Level 2 acquisition program, the Commandant shall brief the committees described in subsection (a).

''(c) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing required under subsection (a) or (b) shall include, for each program—

''(1) a description of the purpose of the program, including the capabilities being acquired;

''(2) the total number of units, as appropriate, to be acquired annually until procurement is complete under the current acquisition program baseline;

''(3) the Acquisition Review Board status, including—

''(A) the current acquisition phase by increment, as applicable;

''(B) the date of the most recent review; and

''(C) whether the program has been paused or is in breach status;

''(4) a comparison between the initial Department-approved acquisition program baseline cost, schedule, and performance thresholds and objectives and the current such thresholds and objectives of the program, if applicable;

''(5) the lifecycle cost estimate, adjusted for comparison to the Future Coast Guard Program, including—

''(A) the confidence level for the estimate;

''(B) the fiscal years included in the estimate;

''(C) a breakout of the estimate for the prior five years, the current year, and the budget year;

''(D) a breakout of the estimate by appropriation account or other funding source; and

''(E) a description of and rationale for any changes to the estimate as compared to the previously approved baseline, as applicable, and during the prior fiscal year;

''(6) a summary of the findings of any independent verification and validation of the items to be acquired or an explanation for why no such verification and validation has been performed;

''(7) a table displaying the obligation of all program funds by prior fiscal year, the estimated obligation of funds for the current fiscal year, and an estimate for the planned carryover of funds into the subsequent fiscal year;

''(8) a listing of prime contractors and major subcontractors; and

''(9) narrative descriptions of risks to cost, schedule, or performance that could result in a program breach if not successfully mitigated, including—

''(A) the current risks to such program;

''(B) any failure of such program to demonstrate a key performance parameter or threshold during operational test and evaluation conducted during the previous fiscal year;

''(C) whether there has been any decision in such fiscal year to order full-rate production before all key performance parameters or thresholds are met;

''(D) whether there has been any breach of major acquisition program cost (as such term is defined in the manual of the Coast Guard titled 'Major Systems Acquisition Manual' (COMDTINST M5000.10C)) in such fiscal year; and

''(E) whether there has been any breach of major acquisition program schedule (as such term is defined in the manual of the Coast Guard titled 'Major Systems Acquisition Manual' (COMDTINST M5000.10C)) during such fiscal year.

''(d) MEMORANDUM DEADLINE.—Not later than 5 business days after the date on which the Secretary approves an Acquisition Decision Memorandum for programs described in this section, the Commandant shall submit such memorandum to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5107 and inserting the following:

''5107. Quarterly acquisition reports and major acquisition program risk assessment.''.

SEC. 114. OVERDUE REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5116. Status of overdue reports

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, and not later than March 1 of each year thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of reports or briefings required under this chapter that have not been delivered to Congress.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under section (a) shall contain the following:

''(1) The status of each required report or briefing that has not been delivered to Congress, including the date the report or briefing is due, and if applicable, the number of days the Coast Guard has exceeded the required completion date.

''(2) A plan and timeline for the next steps to be taken to complete such outstanding reports or briefings.

''(3) The name of the flag officer responsible for the completion of each report or briefing.

''(c) BRIEFING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant fails to submit the report required under this section, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps being taken to produce the report not less than once every 30 days until the required report is produced.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The briefing under paragraph (1) shall be made in person and may not be delegated by the Commandant.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5116. Status of overdue reports.''.

SEC. 115. REQUIREMENT FOR COAST GUARD TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES FOR AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Government Accountability Office titled ''Aircraft Fleet and Aviation Workforce Assessments Needed,'' and issued April 9, 2024 (GAO–24–106374).

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under section (a) shall contain the following:

(1) An assessment of the type of helicopters the Coast Guard requires to meet the mission demands of the Coast Guard.

(2) An analysis of alternatives, including an analytical study comparing the operational effectiveness, costs, and risks to determine the best suited aircraft to meet mission needs.

(3) A fleet mix analysis to identify the necessary number of helicopters to meet the mission needs of the Coast Guard across all districts.

(c) LIMITATION OF AIRCRAFT EXPENSES.—No funds authorized to be appropriated under section 4902(2)(A) of title 14, United States Code (as added by section 101(3)(A)), may be obligated or expended in fiscal years 2027 through 2029 for the procurement or modernization of helicopters until the Commandant submits the report required under this section, unless the Commandant provides a weekly, in-person briefing on the status of the report, which the Commandant may not delegate.

(d) MINIMUM ROTARY WING FLEET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain an operational, geographically dispersed rotary wing fleet of not less than 140 aircraft for the purpose of meeting minimum operational capabilities until the Commandant submits the report required under this section.

(2) REPORT.—In the event the operational rotary wing fleet of the Coast Guard falls below the requirements of this subsection, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a notification not later than 5 business days after the inability of the Commandant to meet the requirement.

SEC. 116. OVERSIGHT OF FUNDS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 119–21.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may not expend or obligate funds—

(1) appropriated pursuant to Public Law 119–21 during any fiscal year in which the Commandant is not compliant with sections 5102 and 5103 (excluding section 5103(e)) of title 14, United States Code; and

(2) that are provided in Public Law 119–21 until the Commandant provides the report required under section 11217 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 1 week before taking any procurement action impacting estimated costs or timelines for acquisitions or procurements appropriated pursuant to Public Law 119–21, the Commandant shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of such action.

(c) EXPENDITURE PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of Public Law 119–21, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a detailed expenditure plan, including projected project time lines for each acquisition and procurement appropriated under such Act and a list of project locations to be funded under such Act.

(d) EXCEPTION.—If the President authorizes an exception under section 1151(b) of title 14, United States Code, for any Coast Guard vessel, or the hull or superstructure of such vessel for which funds are appropriated under Public Law 119–21, no such funds shall be obligated until the President submits to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written explanation of the circumstances requiring such an exception in the national security interest, including—

(1) a confirmation that there are insufficient qualified United States shipyards to meet the national security interest without such exception; and

(2) actions taken by the President to enable qualified United States shipyards to meet national security requirements prior to the issuance of such an exception.

(e) CERTIFICATIONS AND CLASSIFICATION.—Notwithstanding Public Law 119–21, the Commandant shall ensure any cutters or aircraft procured with appropriations made available by such Act meet the requirements of section 1133(c) of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 117. REGULAR POLAR SECURITY CUTTER UPDATES.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the status of acquisition of Polar Security Cutters.

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

(A) a detailed timeline for the acquisition process of Polar Security Cutters, including

expected milestones and a projected commissioning date for the first 3 Polar Security Cutters;

(B) an accounting of the previously appropriated funds spent to date on the Polar Security Cutter Program, updated cost projections for Polar Security Cutters, and projections for when additional funds will be required;

(C) potential factors and risks that could further delay or imperil the completion of Polar Security Cutters; and

(D) a review of the acquisition of Polar Security Cutters to date, including factors that led to substantial cost overruns and delivery delays.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—

(1) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the report under subsection (a), and not less frequently than every 90 days thereafter, the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the status of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition process until Polar Security Cutter 2 achieves full operational capability.

(2) TIMELINE.—The briefings under paragraph (1) shall occur after any key milestone in the Polar Security Cutter acquisition process, but not less frequently than every 90 days.

(3) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of acquisition progress since the most recent previous briefing conducted pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) an updated timeline and budget estimate for acquisition and building of pending Polar Security Cutters; and

(C) an explanation of any delays or additional costs incurred in the acquisition progress.

(c) NOTIFICATIONS.—In addition to the briefings required under subsection (b), the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives within 3 business days of any significant change to the scope or funding level of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition strategy of such change.

SEC. 118. ANNUAL PLAN FOR COAST GUARD OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 5116. Annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific region for the year after the year during which the plan is submitted. Such plan shall include, for the year covered by the plan, each of the following elements:

''(1) A list of objectives for Coast Guard engagement in the Pacific region in support of Department of State and Department of Defense missions.

''(2) An assessment of the capabilities of the Coast Guard to support Department of State and Department of Defense missions in the Pacific region.

''(3) A list of any areas in the Pacific region where an increased Coast Guard presence would better support Department of State and Department of Defense missions.

''(4) The projected demand for Coast Guard engagement in the Pacific region from the Department of State and the Department of Defense for the year covered by the plan and the subsequent 10 years.

''(5) An assessment of whether the Coast Guard will be able to meet such projected demand for the year covered by the plan, including—

''(A) a list of any factors limiting the ability of the Coast Guard to meet such projected demand; and

''(B) an analysis of the location from which any Coast Guard assets used to carry out missions in the Pacific, in addition to assets available in the year prior to the year in which the plan is submitted, will be transferred and any associated gaps in Coast Guard mission coverage any such transfers will create.

''(6) A summary of the resources needed for the Coast Guard to meet such projected demand for the year covered by the plan, including—

''(A) staff;

''(B) infrastructure, including shore infrastructure;

''(C) administrative and logistical support; and

''(D) technology.

''(7) Any other matter as determined relevant by the Commandant.

''(b) FORM.—Each plan under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the annual plan required under subsection (a) submitted during the preceding year.

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

''(1) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

''(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

''(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

''(4) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(5) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(6) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

"§ 5117. Annual budget display for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed budget display for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific region for the fiscal year after the fiscal year during which the budget display is submitted. The Commandant shall base such budget display on the projected demand for Coast Guard engagement in the Pacific region as identified in the most recent annual plan developed under section 5116 of this title. Such budget display shall include, for the year covered by the budget display, the following information:

''(1) With respect to procurement accounts, amounts displayed by account, budget activity, line number, line item, and line item title.

''(2) With respect to research, development, test, and evaluation accounts, amounts displayed by account, budget activity, line number, program element, and program element title.

''(3) With respect to operation and maintenance accounts, amounts displayed by account title, budget activity title, line number, and subactivity group title.

''(4) With respect to military personnel accounts, amounts displayed by account, budget activity, budget subactivity, and budget subactivity title.

''(b) FORM.—Each display under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the budget display required by subsection (a) for the fiscal year after the fiscal year during which the briefing is provided.

''(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' has the meaning given such term in section 5116.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5116. Annual plan for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific.
''5117. Annual budget display for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific.''.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION, AUTHORITIES, ACQUISITION, AND PERSONNEL OF THE COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Organization

SEC. 201. SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of title 14, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) TRANSFER.—Section 888(a) of Public Law 107–296 is transferred to appear after section 101 of title 14, United States Code, redesignated as section 102, and amended to read as follows:

"§ 102. Primary duties

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard shall administer laws, promulgate and enforce regulations, and engage in operations and activities, with due regard to the requirements of national defense, in support of the following:

''(1) NON-HOMELAND SECURITY MISSIONS.—

''(A) MARINE SAFETY.—Engage in oceanographic research, ensure the safe operation of and facilitate the economical movement of goods through the Marine Transportation System, and develop, establish, maintain, and operate rescue facilities for the promotion of safety on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and protect the lives and safety of those on the sea.

''(B) SEARCH AND RESCUE.—Respond to maritime disasters, natural or man-made, and render aid to people in distress to protect the lives and promote the safety of life and property on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, covering all matters not specifically delegated by law to some other executive department.

''(C) AIDS TO NAVIGATION.—Develop, establish, maintain and operate aids to maritime navigation to promote the safe operation of the Marine Transportation System, pursuant to subchapter III of chapter 5, on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(D) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES (FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT).—Safeguard fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, from unlawful acts and environmental degradation under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(E) MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.—Safeguard United States marine resources

and the ocean from unlawful acts and environmental degradation on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(F) ICE OPERATIONS.—Develop, establish, maintain, and operate icebreaking facilities on, under, and over waters other than the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(2) HOMELAND SECURITY MISSIONS.—

''(A) PORTS, WATERWAYS AND COASTAL SECURITY.—Conduct maritime recovery operations in the aftermath of incidents of national significance to ensure the continuity of commerce and critical port and waterway functions, protect the United States maritime domain and the Marine Transportation System, and deny the use and exploitation of the maritime domain as a means for attacks on United States territory, population, vessels, and critical infrastructure.

''(B) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Engage in maritime air surveillance or maritime interdiction to enforce or assist in the enforcement of laws of the United States regarding controlled substances on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(C) MIGRANT INTERDICTION.—Engage in maritime air surveillance or maritime interdiction of the maritime border and approaches to enforce or assist in the enforcement of laws of the United States, including the immigration laws of the United States on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(D) DEFENSE READINESS.—Defend United States national interests in the maritime domain against hostile acts through military action, and maintain a state of readiness to assist in the defense of the United States, including when functioning as a specialized service in the Navy pursuant to section 103.

''(E) OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Enforce or assist in the enforcement of all applicable Federal laws on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the powers authorized in chapter 5.''.

(c) SECTION 888.—Section 888 of Public Law 107–296 is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''No mission'' and inserting ''No primary duty described in section 102 of title 14, United States Code,'';

(B) by inserting '', whether requested or tasked by the Department on behalf of another agency or requested by another agency,'' after ''Department''; and

(C) by striking ''missions.'' and inserting ''such duties.''; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) PROHIBITION.—Except as specified in subsequent Acts, the Secretary—

''(A) may not substantially or significantly reduce—

''(i) the primary duties of the Coast Guard described in section 102 of title 14, United States Code; or

''(ii) the capability of the Coast Guard to perform such duties; and

''(B) shall ensure the preservation and execution of such duties.''.

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) MEMBERS ASSERTING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Section 2516 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a) by inserting ''described in section 102'' after ''Coast Guard operations''; and

(B) by striking subsection (d).

(2) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION.—Section 221 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016 (10 U.S.C. 1413a note) is amended by striking ''section 888(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a))'' and inserting ''section 102 of title 14, United States Code''.

(e) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the President implementing section 201 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, and appointing a Secretary of the Coast Guard, the Commandant, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall—

(A) develop a plan on the structure, feasibility of the Secretary of the Coast Guard position and the reorganization and restructuring of the Coast Guard needed to incorporate the new position; and

(B) submit such plan to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee of Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) CONTENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a complete organizational chart, to include the creation of the Office of the Secretary of the Coast Guard and the directorates that report to the Commandant of the Coast Guard;

(B) a description of each new position created within the Office of the Secretary;

(C) a description of the offices and policies which each new position would be responsible for and how those offices would interact with the offices of the Commandant;

(D) a delineation of powers reserved for the Commandant, outside of current statutory authorizations, not previously reserved or delegated;

(E) a transition plan to ensure the continuity of the execution of all Coast Guard missions; and

(F) recommendations for statutory and legislative changes.

(f) REVIEW OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide the plan developed in subsection (e) to the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the transmission of the plan prepared under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall review such plan and provide recommendations to the Commandant in a report.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(i) a compilation of the responsibilities and duties assigned to the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and potential responsibilities and duties that can be moved to the Secretary of the Coast Guard;

(ii) a detailed list of all responsibilities and duties assigned to the Commandant and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and how those duties overlap or remain distinct;

(iii) a detailed analysis of the responsibilities in clause (i) that should be reassigned or delegated to the Secretary of the Coast Guard and the Commandant of the Coast Guard;

(iv) a detailed analysis of the proper separation and oversight of duties in the chain of command between the Secretary, the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and the Commandant of the Coast Guard;

(v) an analysis of the feasibility of the reorganization of the service in order to preserve the integrity of the military chain of command;

(vi) a comparison to the structure and authorities of other service Secretaries, including but not limited to the Secretary of the Navy, and whether the proposed application to the Coast Guard is appropriate; and

(vii) other matters deemed relevant by the Comptroller General.

(3) SUBMISSION.—The Comptroller General shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report developed pursuant to paragraph (2).

(4) RESPONSES.—In addition to the plan and report, the Commandant shall provide responses to the recommendations in the report under paragraph (2) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate to include—

(A) a description of the recommendations that the service intends to implement;

(B) a justification for each recommendation that the service does not intend to implement; and

(C) an implementation strategy and timeline.

(g) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—Subtitle I of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 106 as section 107;

(2) by inserting after section 105 the following:

''§ 106. Secretary of the Coast Guard defined

''In this title, the term 'Secretary of the Coast Guard' means the Secretary of the Coast Guard established in section 201.''; and

(3) by inserting after section 107, as so redesignated, the following:

''CHAPTER 2—SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD

''201. Secretary of the Coast Guard.

''§ 201. Secretary of the Coast Guard

''(a) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Secretary of the Coast Guard, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

''(2) NOT OPERATING AS A SERVICE IN THE NAVY.—Subject to section 103(c) of Public Law 107–296 and when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall report directly to the Secretary without being required to report through any other official of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The Secretary of the Coast Guard shall not be required to report to any other position in the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, military or civilian, including any other under secretaries, or assistant secretaries.

''(3) QUALIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be appointed from among persons most highly qualified for the position by reason of background and experience, including persons with appropriate management or leadership experience.

''(4) DISQUALIFICATION.—A person may not be appointed as Secretary of the Coast Guard within 7 years after relief from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of an armed force.

''(b) POWERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall exercise the powers of the Secretary in this title, except as may be reserved by the Secretary and reserved for the Commandant pursuant to sections 504 and 505.

''(2) AUTHORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard is responsible for and has the authority necessary to conduct all affairs of the Coast Guard.

''(B) AUTHORITIES AND FUNCTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorities and functions prescribed in paragraphs (2) through (5) of section 701(a) of Public Law 107–296 as such authorities and functions pertain to the Coast Guard shall be reserved for the Secretary of the Coast Guard.

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Coast Guard is also responsible to the Secretary for—

''(A) the functioning and efficiency of the Coast Guard;

''(B) the formulation of policies and programs by the Coast Guard that are fully consistent with national security objectives and policies established by the President or the Secretary;

''(C) the effective and timely implementation of policy, program, and budget decisions and instructions of the President or the Secretary relating to the functions of the Coast Guard;

''(D) carrying out the functions of the Coast Guard so as to fulfill the current and future operational requirements of the unified and specified combatant commands;

''(E) effective cooperation and coordination between the Coast Guard and the other military departments and agencies of the Department of Defense with regards to defense readiness missions to provide for more effective, efficient, and economical administration and to eliminate duplication;

''(F) the presentation and justification of the positions of the Coast Guard on the plans, programs, and policies of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

''(G) the effective supervision and control of the intelligence activities of the Coast Guard; and

''(H) such other activities and duties as may be prescribed by law or by the President or Secretary, in directing the Coast Guard.

''(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—After first informing the Secretary, the Secretary of the Coast Guard may make such recommendations to appropriate congressional committees, as defined in section 1171, as the Secretary of the Coast Guard considers appropriate.

''(5) ASSIGNMENT OF FUNCTIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—

''(A) DELEGATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard may assign such of the functions, powers, and duties as the Secretary of the Coast Guard considers appropriate, to the Under Secretary of the Coast Guard, and to not more than 4 Assistant Secretaries of the Coast Guard.

''(ii) APPOINTMENT.—The Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretaries shall be appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

''(B) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD'S STAFF.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard's staff shall be limited in the roles and responsibilities of such staff to the execution of the powers vested in the Secretary of the Coast Guard. The size of the Secretary of the Coast Guard's staff may not exceed the size necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the office of the Secretary of the Coast Guard.

''(C) REPORTING TO SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—Officers of the Coast Guard shall, as directed by the Secretary, report on any matter to the Secretary of the Coast Guard, the Under Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary.

''(6) ADDITIONAL POWERS.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard may—

''(A) assign, detail, and prescribe the duties of members of the Coast Guard and civilian personnel of the Coast Guard;

''(B) change the title of any officer or activity of the Coast Guard not prescribed by law; and

''(C) prescribe regulations to carry out the functions, powers, and duties of the Secretary of the Coast Guard under this title.

''(7) PROHIBITIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard may not eliminate, materially alter the scope of, or privatize any of the primary duties described in section 102.

''(B) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an annual report demonstrating compliance with subparagraph (A).

''(c) LIMITATIONS.—No officer serving in an appointment described in subsections (a) through (e) of section 103 of Public Law 107–296 may perform the duties of the Secretary of the Coast Guard.

''(d) COMMANDANT REPORTING.—The Commandant shall report directly to the Secretary of the Coast Guard. The Commandant shall not be required to report to any other position in the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, military or civilian, including under secretaries, or assistant secretaries.''.

(h) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 1 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 102 and inserting the following:

''102. Primary duties.''; and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 106 and inserting the following:

''106. Secretary of the Coast Guard defined.
''107. Commandant defined.''.

(i) CLARIFYING AMENDMENT.—Section 505 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of the Coast Guard''.

(j) PUBLIC LAW 107–296.—Public Law 107–296 is amended—

(1) in section 103—

(A) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) SECRETARY OF THE COAST GUARD.—When the Coast Guard is operating as a service within the Department of Homeland Security, to assist the Secretary in the performance of the Secretary's functions, there is a Secretary of the Coast Guard who shall be appointed as provided in section 201 of title 14, United States Code, and who shall report directly to the Secretary.''; and

(B) in subsection (g)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding'';

(ii) by striking ''the Under Secretary for Management'' and inserting ''the Secretary of the Coast Guard''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) UNDER SECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT.—The Under Secretary of Management shall serve in this capacity in the event that the Secretary of the Coast Guard has transferred to the Department of the Navy.''; and

(2) in section 888—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b) through (g) as subsections (a) through (f), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking ''Commandant'' and inserting ''the Secretary of the Coast Guard''.

(k) CHIEF PROSECUTOR OF THE COAST GUARD; INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE COAST GUARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 324. Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Coast Guard a Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard selected by the Commandant under policies established by the Secretary and who meets the qualifications set forth in subsection (b).

''(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard shall be a commissioned officer of the Coast Guard who—

''(1) is a member in good standing of the bar of a Federal court or the highest court of a State;

''(2) is a judge advocate in the grade not lower than O–7; and

''(3) is certified to be qualified, by reason of education, training, experience, and temperament, for duty as Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard by the Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard.

''(c) DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard shall carry out the duties under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) and shall perform the duties assigned as determined by the Secretary and consistent with the policy, regulations, or other guidance promulgated under section 824a of title 10 (article 24a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(2) DETERMINATION OF COVERED OFFENSE; RELATED CHARGES.—

''(A) AUTHORITY.—The Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard shall have exclusive authority to determine whether a reported offense is a covered offense and shall exercise authority over any such offense in accordance with chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice). Any determination to prefer or refer charges shall not act to disqualify the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard as an accuser.

''(B) KNOWN AND RELATED OFFENSES.—If the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard determines that a reported offense is a covered offense, the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard may also exercise authority over any offense that the special trial counsel determines to be related to the covered offense and any other offense alleged to have been committed by a person alleged to have committed the covered offense.

''(3) DISMISSAL; REFERRAL; PLEA BARGAINS.—Subject to paragraph (5), with respect to charges and specifications alleging any offense over which the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard exercises authority, the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard shall have exclusive authority to, in accordance with this chapter and with chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice)—

''(A) on behalf of the Government, withdraw or dismiss the charges and specifications or make a motion to withdraw or dismiss the charges and specifications;

''(B) refer the charges and specifications for trial by a special or general court-martial;

''(C) enter into a plea agreement; and

''(D) determine if an authorized rehearing is impracticable.

''(4) BINDING DETERMINATION.—The determination of the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard to refer charges and specifications to a court-martial for trial shall be binding on any applicable convening authority for the referral of such charges and specifications.

''(5) DEFERRAL TO COMMANDER OR CONVENING AUTHORITY.—If the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard exercises authority over an offense and elects not to prefer charges and specifications for such offense or, with respect to charges and specifications for such offense preferred by a person other than the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard, elects not to refer such charges and specifications,

a commander or convening authority may exercise any of the authorities of such commander or convening authority under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), with respect to such offense, except that such commander or convening authority may not refer charges and specifications for a covered offense for trial by special or general court-martial.

''(d) COVERED OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered offense' has the meaning given such term in section 801 of title 10.

''§ 325. Office of the Inspector General of the Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Office of the Secretary of the Coast Guard an Inspector General of the Coast Guard, who shall be detailed to such position by the Secretary. The Inspector General of the Coast Guard shall be detailed from officers on the active-duty list in the line of the Coast Guard serving in grades above captain. An officer may not be detailed to such position for a tour of duty of more than 4 years, except that the Secretary of the Coast Guard may extend such a tour of duty if the Secretary of the Coast Guard makes a special finding that the extension is necessary and in the public interest.

''(b) DUTIES.—When directed by the Secretary of the Coast Guard or the Commandant, the Inspector General shall inquire into and report upon any matter that affects the discipline, military efficiency, or economy of the Coast Guard.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Inspector General shall periodically propose programs of inspections to the Secretary of the Coast Guard and shall recommend additional inspections and investigations as may appear appropriate.

''(d) COOPERATION.—The Inspector General shall cooperate fully with the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security in connection with the performance of any duty or function by the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security under section 103 of Public Law 107–296 regarding the Coast Guard.

''(e) DUTIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described in paragraph (2), the Inspector General shall periodically propose programs of inspections to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and the appropriate committees of Congress and shall recommend additional inspections and investigations as may appear appropriate.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''324. Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard.
''325. Office of the Inspector General of the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 202. REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMANDANT.

Section 302 of title 14, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence by striking ''further periods of four years'' and inserting ''one further period of four years''.

SEC. 203. SPECIAL ADVISOR TO COMMANDANT FOR TRIBAL AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) REORGANIZATION.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating sections 312 through 325 as sections 313 through 326, respectively.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the items relating to sections 312 through 325 as relating to sections 313 through 326, respectively.

(c) SPECIAL ADVISOR TO COMMANDANT FOR TRIBAL AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 311 the following:

''§ 312. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with Federal trust responsibilities and treaty obligations, laws, and policies relevant to Indian Tribes and in support of the principles of self-determination, self-governance, and comanagement with respect to Indian Tribes, and to support engagement with Native Hawaiians, there shall be in the Coast Guard a Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs (in this section referred to as the 'Special Advisor'), who shall—

''(1) be selected by the Secretary and the Commandant through a competitive search process;

''(2) have expertise in Federal Indian law and policy, including government-to-government consultation;

''(3) to the maximum extent practicable, have expertise in legal and policy issues affecting Native Hawaiians; and

''(4) have an established record of distinguished service and achievement working with Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

''(b) CAREER RESERVED POSITION.—The position of Special Advisor shall be a career reserved position at the GS–15 level or greater.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Special Advisor shall—

''(1) ensure the Federal government upholds the Federal trust responsibility and conducts consistent, meaningful, and timely government-to-government consultation and engagement with Indian Tribes, which shall meet or exceed the standards of the Federal Government and the Coast Guard;

''(2) ensure meaningful and timely engagement with—

''(A) Native Hawaiian organizations; and

''(B) Tribal organizations;

''(3) advise the Commandant on all policies of the Coast Guard that have Tribal implications in accordance with applicable law and policy, including Executive Orders;

''(4) work to ensure that the policies of the Federal Government regarding consultation and engagement with Indian Tribes and engagement with Native Hawaiian organizations and Tribal organizations are implemented in a meaningful manner, working through Coast Guard leadership and across the Coast Guard, together with—

''(A) liaisons located within Coast Guard districts;

''(B) the Director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs; and

''(C) other Coast Guard leadership and programs and other Federal partners; and

''(5) support Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Tribal organizations in all matters under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard.

''(d) DIRECT ACCESS TO SECRETARY AND COMMANDANT.—No officer or employee of the Coast Guard or the Department of Homeland Security may interfere with the ability of the Special Advisor to give direct and independent advice to the Secretary and the Commandant on matters related to this section.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(2) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian organization' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

''(3) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 311 the following:

''312. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs.''.

(e) BRIEFINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the manner in which the Special Advisor for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs will be incorporated into the governance structure of the Coast Guard, including a timeline for the incorporation that is completed not later than 1 year after date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS ON SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDANT TO TRIBAL AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the position of the Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs under section 313 of title 14, United States Code, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the duties, responsibilities, and actions of the Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs, including management of best practices.

(3) BRIEFING ON COLLABORATION WITH TRIBES ON RESEARCH CONSISTENT WITH COAST GUARD MISSION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on potential collaborations on and research and use of indigenous place-based knowledge and research.

(B) ELEMENT.—In providing the briefing under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall identify current and potential future opportunities to improve coordination with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Tribal organizations to support—

(i) Coast Guard mission needs, such as the potential for research or knowledge to enhance maritime domain awareness, including opportunities through the ADAC–ARCTIC Center of Excellence of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) Coast Guard efforts to protect indigenous place-based knowledge and research.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(B) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Native Hawaiian organization'' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

(C) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the such in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, shall be construed to impact—

(1) the right of any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); or

(2) any government-to-government consultation.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 11237 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''section 312 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 313 of title 14''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking ''section 312 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 313 of title 14''.

(2) Section 807(a) of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by striking ''section 313 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 314 of title 14''.

(3) Section 3533(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended by striking ''section 315 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 316 of title 14''.

(4) Section 311(j)(9)(D) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''section 323 of title 14'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 324 of title 14'' each such place.

SEC. 204. REINSTATEMENT OF TRAINING COURSE ON WORKINGS OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 316 of title 14, United States Code, as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 316. Training courses on workings of Congress

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) TRAINING COURSE.—The Commandant, and such other individuals and organizations as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on the workings of Congress and offer such training course at least once each year.

''(2) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training course required by this section shall provide an overview and introduction to Congress and the Federal legislative process, including—

''(A) the history and structure of Congress and the committee systems of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including the functions and responsibilities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(B) the documents produced by Congress, including bills, resolutions, committee reports, and conference reports, and the purposes and functions of such documents;

''(C) the legislative processes and rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including similarities and differences between the 2 processes and 2 sets of rules, including—

''(i) the congressional budget process;

''(ii) the congressional authorization and appropriation processes;

''(iii) the Senate advice and consent process for Presidential nominees; and

''(iv) the Senate advice and consent process for treaty ratification;

''(D) the roles of Members of Congress and congressional staff in the legislative process; and

''(E) the concept and underlying purposes of congressional oversight within the governance framework of separation of powers.

''(3) LECTURERS AND PANELISTS.—

''(A) OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—The Commandant shall ensure that not less than 60 percent of the lecturers, panelists, and other individuals providing education and instruction as part of the training course required under this section are experts on Congress and the Federal legislative process who are not employed by the executive branch of the Federal Government.

''(B) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT PRO BONO SERVICES.—In satisfying the requirement under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall seek, and may accept, educational and instructional services of lecturers, panelists, and other individuals and organizations provided to the Coast Guard on a pro bono basis.

''(4) EFFECT OF LAW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The training required by this section shall replace the substantially similar training that was required by the Commandant on the day before the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.

''(B) PREVIOUS TRAINING RECIPIENTS.—A Coast Guard flag officer or a Coast Guard Senior Executive Service employee who, not more than 3 years before the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, completed the training that was required by the Commandant on the day before such date of enactment, shall not be required to complete the training required by this section.

''(b) TRAINING FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS PERSONNEL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall develop a training course, which shall be administered in person, on the workings of Congress for any member of the Coast Guard selected for a position as a fellow, liaison, counsel, or administrative staff for the Coast Guard Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs or as any Coast Guard district or area governmental affairs officer.

''(2) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The training course required under this section shall provide an overview and introduction to Congress and the Federal legislative process, including—

''(i) the congressional budget process;

''(ii) the congressional appropriations process;

''(iii) the congressional authorization process;

''(iv) the Senate advice and consent process for Presidential nominees;

''(v) the Senate advice and consent process for treaty ratification;

''(vi) the roles of Members of Congress and congressional staff in the legislative process;

''(vii) the concept and underlying purposes of congressional oversight within the governance framework of separation of powers;

''(viii) the roles of Coast Guard fellows, liaisons, counsels, governmental affairs officers, the Coast Guard Office of Program Review, the Coast Guard Headquarters program offices, and any other entity the Commandant considers relevant; and

''(ix) the roles and responsibilities of Coast Guard public affairs and external communications personnel with respect to Members of Congress and the staff of such Members necessary to enhance communication between Coast Guard units, sectors, and districts and Member offices and committees of jurisdiction so as to ensure visibility of Coast Guard activities.

''(3) DETAIL WITHIN COAST GUARD OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At the written request of a receiving congressional office, the training course required under this section shall include a multi-day detail within the Coast Guard Office of Budget and Programs to ensure adequate exposure to Coast Guard policy, oversight, and requests from Congress.

''(B) NONCONSECUTIVE DETAIL PERMITTED.—A detail under this paragraph is not required to be consecutive with the balance of the training.

''(4) COMPLETION OF REQUIRED TRAINING.—A member of the Coast Guard selected for a position described in subsection (a) shall complete the training required by this section before the date on which such member reports for duty for such position.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 316 and inserting the following:

''316. Training courses on workings of Congress.''.

SEC. 205. SERVICES AND USE OF FUNDS FOR, AND LEASING OF, THE NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.

Section 317 of title 14, United States Code, as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary''; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking ''on the engineering and design of a Museum.'' and inserting ''on—''

''(A) the design of the Museum; and

''(B) engineering, construction administration, and quality assurance services for the Museum.'';

(2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as follows:

''(2)(A) for the purpose of conducting Coast Guard operations, lease from the Association—

''(i) the Museum; and

''(ii) any property owned by the Association that is adjacent to the railroad tracks that are adjacent to the property on which the Museum is located; and''; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) SERVICES.—With respect to the services related to the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Museum, the Commandant may, from nonprofits entities including the Association,—

''(1) solicit and accept services; and

''(2) enter into contracts or memoranda of agreement to acquire such services.''.

Subtitle B—Authorities

SEC. 211. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11269 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is—

(1) transferred to appear at the end of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code;

(2) redesignated as section 529; and

(3) amended—

(A) by striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

''§ 529. Public availability of information'';

(B) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than'';

(C) by striking ''the number of migrant'' and inserting ''the number of drug and person''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) CONTENTS.—In making information about interdictions publicly available under subsection (a), the Commandant shall include a description of the following:

''(1) The number of incidents in which drugs were interdicted, the amount and type of drugs interdicted, and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic areas of responsibility in which such incidents occurred.

''(2) The number of incidents in which persons were interdicted, the number of persons interdicted, the number of those persons who were unaccompanied minors, and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic areas of responsibility in which such incidents occurred.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this provision shall be construed to require

the Coast Guard to collect the information described in subsection (b), and nothing in this provision shall be construed to require the Commandant to publicly release confidential, classified, law enforcement sensitive, or otherwise protected information.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE 14.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 528 the following:

''529. Public availability of information on monthly drug and migrant interdictions.''.

(2) JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.—The table of contents for the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking the item relating to section 11269.

(3) DON YOUNG COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022.—The table of contents for the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking the item relating to section 11269.

SEC. 212. CYBER COORDINATION AND SUPPORT IN FOREIGN TERRITORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 721 the following:

''§ 722. Cyber coordination in foreign territories

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Commandant, may coordinate with a foreign entity to provide cyber prevention and response assistance related to the marine transportation systems and assets located outside the United States that have a nexus to the United States Marine Transportation System or illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

''(b) TYPES OF SUPPORT.—The Commandant may conduct cyber assessments, audits, inspections, operations, or other activities as provided under subsection (a).

''(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary may provide support under subsections (a) and (b) after coordination with the Secretary of State.

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may require reimbursement from a foreign entity for costs incurred by the Coast Guard for assistance provided under subsection (a).

''(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'foreign entity' includes foreign governments and intergovernmental organizations the Secretary considers appropriate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 7 of such title is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 721 the following:

''722. Cyber coordination in foreign territories.''.

SEC. 213. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

Section 903(d)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$4,000,000''.

SEC. 214. PREPAREDNESS PLANS FOR COAST GUARD PROPERTIES LOCATED IN TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a location-specific tsunami preparedness plan for each property concerned.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing each preparedness plan under subsection (a), the Commandant shall ensure that the plan—

(1) minimizes the loss of human life;

(2) maximizes the ability of the Coast Guard to meet the mission of the Coast Guard;

(3) is included in the emergency action plan for each Coast Guard unit or sector located within the applicable tsunami inundation zone;

(4) designates an evacuation route to an assembly area located outside the tsunami inundation zone;

(5) takes into consideration near-shore and distant tsunami inundation of the property concerned;

(6) includes—

(A) maps of all applicable tsunami inundation zones;

(B) evacuation routes and instructions for all individuals located on the property concerned;

(C) procedures to begin evacuations as expeditiously as possible upon detection of a seismic or other tsunamigenic event;

(D) evacuation plans for Coast Guard aviation and afloat assets; and

(E)(i) routes for evacuation on foot from any location within the property concerned; or

(ii) if an on-foot evacuation is not possible, an assessment of whether there is a need for vertical evacuation refuges that would allow evacuation on foot;

(7) in the case of a property concerned that is at risk for a near-shore tsunami, is able to be completely executed within 15 minutes of detection of a seismic event, or if complete execution is not possible within 15 minutes, within a timeframe the Commandant considers reasonable to minimize the loss of life; and

(8) not less frequently than annually, is—

(A) exercised by each Coast Guard unit and sector located in the applicable tsunami inundation zone;

(B) communicated through an annual in-person training to Coast Guard personnel and dependents located or living on the property concerned; and

(C) evaluated by the relevant District Commander for each Coast Guard unit and sector located within the applicable tsunami inundation zone.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing each preparedness plan under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consult relevant State, Tribal, and local government entities, including emergency management officials.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on each plan developed under subsection (a), including the status of implementation and feasibility of each such plan.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PROPERTY CONCERNED.—The term ''property concerned'' means any real property owned, operated, or leased by the Coast Guard within a tsunami inundation zone.

(2) TSUNAMIGENIC EVENT.—The term ''tsunamigenic event'' means any event, such as an earthquake, volcanic eruption, submarine landslide, coastal rockfall, or other event, with the magnitude to cause a tsunami.

(3) VERTICAL EVACUATION REFUGE.—The term ''vertical evacuation refuge'' means a structure or earthen mound designated as a place of refuge in the event of a tsunami, with sufficient height to elevate evacuees above the tsunami inundation depth, designed and constructed to resist tsunami load effects.

SEC. 215. ADDITIONAL PRIBILOF ISLAND TRANSITION COMPLETION ACTIONS.

Section 11221 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON STATUS OF USE OF FACILITIES AND HELICOPTER BASING.—Beginning with the first quarterly report required under subsection (a) submitted after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary shall include in each such report—

''(1) the status of the use of recently renovated Coast Guard housing facilities, food preparation facilities, and maintenance and repair facilities on St. Paul Island, Alaska, including a projected date for full use and occupancy of such facilities in support of Coast Guard missions in the Bering Sea; and

''(2) a detailed plan for the acquisition and construction of a hangar in close proximity to existing St. Paul airport facilities for the prosecution of Coast Guard operational missions, including plans for the use of land needed for such hangar.''.

SEC. 216. SCIENTIFIC MISSION FOR USCGC STORIS.

Section 11223 of Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''retrofitting'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting ''retrofitting,'' before ''maintenance''; and

(II) by striking ''the science party'' and inserting ''costs described in paragraph (3)''; and

(B) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant—

''(i) shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Under Secretary to allow the Under Secretary to use any vessel acquired under this section to conduct research, and facilitate science activities, data collection, and other procedures necessary to carry out the purposes described in subsection (c); and

''(ii) may enter into a memorandum of agreement with any other Federal, State, local government entity, institution of higher education, or research institution to use any vessel acquired under this section to conduct research to facilitate science activities, data collection, and other procedures necessary to allow such an entity or institution to carry out the purposes described in subsection (c).

''(B) PROHIBITION.—The Commandant may not charge the Under Secretary or any other entity with whom the Commandant enters into a memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) any fee related to use or operation of any vessel acquired under this section.

''(C) RESTRICTION.—The Commandant may only allow the use of any vessel acquired under this section under any memorandum of agreement entered into under this paragraph if such use is not inconsistent with the missions of the Coast Guard.''; and

(2) in subsection (j) by striking ''through (c)'' and inserting ''and (b)''.

SEC. 217. COAST GUARD ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FUND.

(a) INCLUSION OF COAST GUARD AS DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION.—Section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''the Department of the Treasury or the United

States Coast Guard'' and inserting ''a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (iv) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (v) by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) the United States Coast Guard with respect to any law of the United States which the Coast Guard is authorized to enforce, assist in the enforcement of, or administer pursuant to section 102, 522, or 525 of title 14;'';

(3) in subsection (a)(2)(H) by striking ''the Department of the Treasury'' and inserting ''a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization'';

(4) in subsection (d)(2) by striking ''or the United States Coast Guard'' each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(ii) by striking ''or the United States Coast Guard'';

(6) in subsection (h)(1) by striking ''the Department of the Treasury'' and inserting ''a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization'';

(7) in subsection (j)(1) by striking ''the Department of the Treasury or the United States Coast Guard'' and inserting ''a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization'';

(8) in subsection (l) by striking ''the Department of the Treasury'' and inserting ''a Department of the Treasury law enforcement organization''; and

(9) in subsection (o)(1) by inserting ''the United States Coast Guard,'' before ''the United States Customs Service,''.

(b) ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE FUNDS FOR THE COAST GUARD.—Section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c);

(2) in subsection (g)(2) by striking ''and (c)'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) through (o) as subsections (c) through (n), respectively;

(4) by striking ''subsection (d)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (c)'';

(5) by striking ''subsection (e)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (d)''; and

(6) by striking ''subsection (h)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (g)''.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3)(C), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 4(B) of 9703(g)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)(B)'';

(2) in subsection (f)(4)(B), as so redesignated, by striking ''for transfers pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) and'';

(3) in subsection (g)(2), as so redesignated, by striking ''seizure of forfeiture'' and inserting ''seizure or forfeiture''; and

(4) in subsection (l), as so redesignated, by striking ''524(c)(11)'' and inserting ''524(c)''.

(d) UPDATES TO CROSS-REFERENCES.—

(1) TITLE 28.—Section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(C) by striking ''9705(g)(4)(A)'' and inserting ''9705(f)(4)(A)''; and

(B) in paragraph (10) by striking ''9705(o)'' and inserting ''9705(n)''.

(2) TITLE 31.—Section 5340(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''9705(o)'' and inserting ''9705(n)''.

(3) TITLE 39.—Section 2003(e)(1) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking ''9705(o)'' and inserting ''9705(n)''.

Subtitle C—Acquisition

SEC. 231. MODIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.

Section 1105 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'lead systems integrator' has the meaning given such term in section 805(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163).''.

SEC. 232. ACQUISITION IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1138. Service life extension programs

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Requirements for a Level 1 or Level 2 acquisition project or program under sections 1131 through 1134 shall not apply to an acquisition by the Coast Guard that is a service life extension program.

''(b) SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'service life extension program' means a capital investment that is solely intended to extend the service life and address obsolescence of components or systems of a particular capability or asset.

''§ 1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement

''In carrying out the acquisition and procurement of vessels and aircraft, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, shall consider the life-cycle cost estimates of vessels and aircraft, as applicable, during the design and evaluation processes to the maximum extent practicable.

''§ 1140. Contracts that provide best value for taxpayer

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a Level 1 or Level 2 acquisition project or program under this subchapter, the Commandant shall publicly announce all construction, design, and engineering requirements and negotiate contracts for construction, design, and engineering services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required and at fair and reasonable prices.

''(b) SELECTION PROCEDURE.—The following procedures shall apply to the procurement of Level 1 or Level 2 acquisition project or program under this subchapter:

''(1) STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATION AND PERFORMANCE.—The Commandant shall require prospective contractors to submit a statement of qualifications and performance data.

''(2) EVALUATION.—For each proposed project, the Commandant shall—

''(A) evaluate statements of qualifications and performance submitted by firms regarding the proposed project; and

''(B) conduct discussions with at least 3 firms to consider anticipated concepts and compare alternative methods for furnishing services.

''(3) SELECTION.—From the firms with which discussions have been conducted under paragraph (2)(B), the Commandant shall select, in order of preference, at least 3 firms that the Commandant considers most highly qualified to provide the services required, based on criteria established and published by the Commandant.

''(c) NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall negotiate a contract for construction, design, and engineering services under this section at compensation which the Commandant determines is fair and reasonable to the Federal Government.

''(2) FAIR AND REASONABLE COMPENSATION.—In determining fair and reasonable compensation, the Commandant shall consider the scope, complexity, professional nature, and estimated value of the services to be rendered.

''(3) NEGOTIATION.—The Commandant shall attempt to negotiate a contract with the most highly qualified firm selected under subsection (b).

''(4) FURTHER NEGOTIATION.—If the Commandant is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm under paragraph (3), the Commandant shall formally terminate negotiations with such firm and undertake negotiations with the next most qualified of the selected firms, continuing the process until an agreement is reached.

''(5) ADDITIONAL FIRMS.—If the Commandant is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Commandant shall select additional firms in order of competence and qualification and continue negotiations in accordance with this section until an agreement is reached.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1137 the following:

''1138. Service life extension programs.
''1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement.
''1140. Contracts that provide best value for taxpayer.''.

SEC. 233. RESTRICTION ON ACQUISITION, PROCUREMENT, OR CONSTRUCTION OF VESSELS IN FOREIGN SHIPYARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1151 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1151. Restriction on acquisition, procurement, or construction of vessels in foreign shipyards

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Commandant may not lease, charter, or otherwise procure a vessel which contains a major component of the hull or superstructure constructed in a foreign shipyard.

''(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may authorize exceptions to the prohibition in subsection (a) when the President determines that it is in the national security interest of the United States to address an immediate adverse effect on Coast Guard missions.

''(2) TIMING.—An exception made by the President under paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the President submits to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written explanation of the circumstances requiring such an exception in the national security interest, including—

''(A) a confirmation that there are insufficient qualified shipyards to meet the national security interest without such an exception; and

''(B) actions taken by the President to enable qualified United States shipyards to meet national security requirements prior to the issuance of such an exception''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1151 and inserting the following:

''1151. Restriction on acquisition, procurement, or construction of vessels in foreign shipyards.''.

SEC. 234. GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKING.

(a) GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER AND ICEBREAKING TUGS.—

(1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a strategy detailing how the Coast Guard will complete design and construction of a Great Lakes icebreaker at least as capable as the Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* (WLBB–30) as expeditiously as possible after funding is provided for such icebreaker, including providing a cost estimate and an estimated delivery timeline that would facilitate the expedited delivery detailed in the strategy.

(2) REPORT ON BAY CLASS ICEBREAKING TUG FLEET REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(A) a report that describes the strategy of the Coast Guard with respect to the replacement of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet;

(B) in the case of such a strategy that results in the replacement of the last Bay class icebreaking tug on a date that is more than 15 years after such date of enactment, a plan to maintain the operational capabilities of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet until the date on which such fleet is projected to be replaced; and

(C) in the case of such a plan that does not include the replacement of the main propulsion engines and marine gear components of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet, an assessment of the manner in which not replacing such engines and gear components will effect the future operational availability of such fleet.

(b) GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 11212(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 5 ice seasons beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall conduct a pilot program to determine the extent to which the Coast Guard Great Lakes icebreaking cutter fleet is capable of maintaining tier one and tier two waterways open 95 percent of the time during an ice season.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each of the 5 ice seasons beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that details—

''(i) the results of the pilot program required under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any relevant new performance measures implemented by the Coast Guard, including the measures described in pages 5 through 7 of the report of the Coast Guard titled 'Domestic Icebreaking Operations' and submitted to Congress on July 26, 2024, as required by section 11212(a)(3) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263), and the results of the implementation of such measures.''.

(c) MODIFICATION TO REPORTING REQUIREMENT RELATING TO ICEBREAKING OPERATIONS IN GREAT LAKES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11213(f) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) PUBLIC REPORT.—Not later than July 1 after the first winter in which the Commandant has submitted the report required by paragraph (3) of section 11212(a), the Commandant shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard a report on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the proposed standards described in paragraph (2) of such section.''.

(2) PUBLIC REPORT.—Section 11272(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) PUBLIC REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal year 2024.

''(B) SECONDARY BRIEFINGS.—Not later than November 1, 2025 and November, 1, 2026, the Commandant shall brief the committees described in subparagraph (A) on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively.''.

SEC. 235. ENTITY OTHER THAN THE COAST GUARD.

Notwithstanding section 1105(a) of title 14, United States Code, the Commandant may provide for an entity other than the Coast Guard to contract for the acquisition, procurement, or construction of—

(1) the Arctic Security Cutters for which funds were appropriated under section 40001 of Public Law 119–21; and

(2) all other vessels for which funds were appropriated under section 40001 of Public Law 119–21.

Subtitle D—Personnel

SEC. 241. FAMILY LEAVE POLICIES FOR COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2512 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking ''**Leave**'' and inserting ''**Family leave**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking '', United States Code,'' and inserting ''or, with respect to the reserve component of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense promulgates a new regulation for members of the reserve component of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 711 of title 10,'';

(B) by striking ''or adoption of a child'' and inserting ''or placement of a minor child with the member for adoption or long term foster care'';

(C) by striking ''and enlisted members'' and inserting '', enlisted members, and members of the reserve component''; and

(D) by inserting ''or, with respect to members of the reserve component of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense'' after ''provided by the Secretary of the Navy'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking ''ADOPTION OF CHILD'' and inserting ''PLACEMENT OF MINOR CHILD WITH MEMBER FOR ADOPTION OR LONG TERM FOSTER CARE'';

(B) by striking ''and 704'' and inserting '', 704, and 711'';

(C) by striking ''and enlisted members'' and inserting '', enlisted members, and members of the reserve component'';

(D) by striking ''the birth or adoption'' inserting ''the birth, adoption, or long term foster care'';

(E) by striking ''immediately'';

(F) by striking ''such birth or adoption'' and inserting ''such birth, placement of a minor child with the member for long-term foster care, or adoption,''; and

(G) by striking ''enlisted member'' and inserting '', enlisted member, or member of the reserve component''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PERIOD OF LEAVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may authorize leave described under subparagraph (b) to be taken after the one-year period described in subparagraph (b) in the case of a member described in subsection (b) who, except for this subparagraph, would lose unused family leave at the end of the one-year period described in subparagraph (A) as a result of—

''(A) operational requirements;

''(B) professional military education obligations; or

''(C) other circumstances that the Secretary determines reasonable and appropriate.

''(2) EXTENDED DEADLINE.—The regulation, rule, policy, or memorandum prescribed under paragraph (a) shall require that any leave authorized to be taken after the one-year period described in subparagraph (c)(1)(A) shall be taken within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, after cessation of the circumstances warranting the extended deadline.

''(d) MEMBER OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE COAST GUARD DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'member of the reserve component of the Coast Guard' means a member of the Coast Guard who is a member of—

''(1) the selected reserve who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of title 37; or

''(2) the individual ready reserve who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of title 37 when attending or participating in a sufficient number of periods of inactive-duty training during a year to count the year as a qualifying year of creditable service toward eligibility for retired pay.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2512 and inserting the following:

''2512. Family leave policies for the Coast Guard.''.

(c) COMPENSATION.—Section 206(a)(4) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end ''or family leave under section 2512 of title 14''.

SEC. 242. MODIFICATIONS TO CAREER FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.

Section 2514 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3) by striking ''2 months'' and inserting ''30 days''; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the entitlement of the member and of the survivors of the member to all death benefits under subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 10;

''(4) the provision of all travel and transportation allowances to family members of a deceased member to attend the repatriation, burial, or memorial ceremony of a deceased member as provided in section 453(f) of title 37;

''(5) the eligibility of the member for general benefits as provided in part II of title 38; and

''(6) in the case of a victim of an alleged sex-related offense (as such term is defined in section 1044e(h) of title 10) to the maximum extent practicable, maintaining access to—

''(A) Coast Guard behavioral health resources;

''(B) sexual assault prevention and response resources and programs of the Coast Guard; and

''(C) Coast Guard legal resources, including, to the extent practicable, special victims' counsel.''.

SEC. 243. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such chapter) of title 5, qualified candidates to any of the following positions in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5) in the Coast Guard:

''(1) Any category of medical or health professional positions within the Coast Guard.

''(2) Any childcare services position.

''(3) Any position in the Coast Guard housing office of a Coast Guard installation, the primary function of which is supervision of Coast Guard housing covered by subchapter III of chapter 29 of this title.

''(4) Any nonclinical specialist position the purpose of which is the integrated primary prevention of harmful behavior, including suicide, sexual assault, harassment, domestic abuse, and child abuse.

''(5) Any special agent position of the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

''(6) The following positions at the Coast Guard Academy:

''(A) Any civilian faculty member appointed under section 1941.

''(B) A position involving the improvement of cadet health or well-being.

''(b) NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary may, without regard to the appointment requirements of title 5, noncompetitively appoint a highly qualified candidate to a faculty position in the excepted service.

''(c) LIMITATION.—The Commandant shall only appoint qualified candidates under the authority provided by subsections (a) and (b) if the Commandant determines that there is a shortage of qualified candidates for the positions described in such subsection or a critical hiring need for such positions.

''(d) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written briefing which describes the use of the authority provided under this section on an annual basis, including the following:

''(1) The number of employees hired under the authority provided under this section within the year for which the briefing is provided.

''(2) The positions and grades for which employees were hired.

''(3) A justification for the Commandant's determination that such positions involved a shortage of qualified candidates or a critical hiring need.

''(4) The number of employees who were hired under the authority provided under this section who have separated from the Coast Guard.

''(5) Steps the Coast Guard has taken to engage with the Office of Personnel Management under subpart B of part 337 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, for positions for which the Commandant determines a direct hire authority remains necessary.

''(e) SUNSET.—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2030.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to 2516 the following:

''2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel.''.

SEC. 244. COMMAND SPONSORSHIP FOR DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD ASSIGNED TO UNALASKA, ALASKA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 2517 (as added by this Act) the following:

''§ 2518. Command sponsorship

''On request by a member of the Coast Guard assigned to Unalaska, Alaska, the Commandant shall grant command sponsorship to the dependents of such member.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2517 the following:

''2518. Command sponsorship.''.

SEC. 245. AUTHORIZATION FOR MATERNITY UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS.

Section 2708 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) The Coast Guard may provide a cash allowance, in such amount as the Secretary shall determine by policy, to be paid to pregnant officer personnel for the purchase of maternity-related uniform items, if such uniform items are not so furnished to the member by the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 246. CONSOLIDATION OF AUTHORITIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENT PRECOMMISSIONING INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3710 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3710. College student precommissioning initiative

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized within the Coast Guard a college student precommissioning initiative program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') for eligible undergraduate students to enlist in the Coast Guard Reserve and receive a commission as a Reserve officer.

''(b) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—To be eligible for the Program an applicant shall meet the following requirements upon submitting an application:

''(1) AGE.—The applicant shall be not less than 19 years old and not more than 31 years old as of September 30 of the fiscal year in which the Program selection panel selecting such applicant convenes, or an age otherwise determined by the Commandant.

''(2) CHARACTER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicant shall be of outstanding moral character and meet any other character requirement set forth by the Commandant.

''(B) COAST GUARD APPLICANTS.—Any applicant serving in the Coast Guard may not be commissioned if in the 36 months prior to the first Officer Candidate School class convening date in the selection cycle, such applicant was convicted by a court-martial or assigned nonjudicial punishment, or did not meet performance or character requirements set forth by the Commandant.

''(3) CITIZENSHIP.—The applicant shall be a United States citizen.

''(4) CLEARANCE.—The applicant shall be eligible for a secret clearance.

''(5) EDUCATION.—The applicant shall be enrolled in a college degree program at—

''(A) an institution of higher education described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

''(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that, at the time of the application has had for 3 consecutive years an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students (as defined in section 312(e) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(e))) that is a total of at least 50 percent Black American, Hispanic American, Asian American (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c))), Native American Pacific Islander (as defined in such section), or Native American (as defined in such section), among other criteria, as determined by the Commandant; or

''(C) an institution that meets the eligibility requirements for funding as a rural-serving institution of higher education under section 861 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161q).

''(6) LOCATION.—The institution at which the applicant is an undergraduate shall be within 100 miles of a Coast Guard unit or Coast Guard Recruiting Office unless otherwise approved by the Commandant.

''(7) RECORDS.—The applicant shall meet credit and grade point average requirements set forth by the Commandant.

''(8) MEDICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE.—The applicant shall meet other medical and administrative requirements as set forth by the Commandant.

''(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may provide financial assistance to enlisted members of the Coast Guard Reserve on active duty participating in the Program, for expenses of the enlisted member while the enlisted member is enrolled, on a full-time basis, in a college degree program approved by the Commandant at a college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5) that leads to—

''(A) a baccalaureate degree in not more than 5 academic years; or

''(B) a post-baccalaureate degree.

''(2) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible for financial assistance under this section, an enlisted member of the Coast Guard Reserve shall enter into a written agreement with the Coast Guard that notifies the Reserve enlisted member of the obligations of that member under this section, and in which the member agrees to the following:

''(A) The member shall complete an approved college degree program at a college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5).

''(B) The member shall satisfactorily complete all required Coast Guard training and participate in monthly military activities of the Program as required by the Commandant.

''(C) Upon graduation from the college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5), the member shall—

''(i) accept an appointment, if tendered, as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard Reserve; and

''(ii) serve a period of obligated active duty for a minimum of 3 years immediately after such appointment as follows:

''(I) Members participating in the Program shall be obligated to serve on active duty 3 months for each month of instruction for which they receive financial assistance pursuant to this section for the first 12 months and 1 month for each month thereafter, or 3 years, whichever is greater.

''(II) The period of obligated active duty service incurred while participating in the Program shall be in addition to any other obligated service a member may incur due to receiving other bonuses or other benefits as part of any other Coast Guard program.

''(III) If an appointment described in clause (i) is not tendered, the member will remain

in the Reserve component until completion of the member's enlisted service obligation.

''(D) The member shall agree to perform such duties or complete such terms under the conditions of service specified by the Coast Guard.

''(3) EXPENSES.—Expenses for which financial assistance may be provided under this section are the following:

''(A) Tuition and fees charged by the college, university, or institution of higher education at which a member is enrolled on a full-time basis.

''(B) The cost of books.

''(C) In the case of a program of education leading to a baccalaureate degree, laboratory expenses.

''(D) Such other expenses as the Commandant considers appropriate, which may not exceed $25,000 for any academic year.

''(4) TIME LIMIT.—Financial assistance may be provided to a member under this section for up to 5 consecutive academic years.

''(5) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may retain in the Coast Guard Reserve, and may order to active duty for such period of time as the Secretary prescribes (but not to exceed 4 years), a member who breaches an agreement under paragraph (2). The period of time for which a member is ordered to active duty under this paragraph may be determined without regard to section 651(a) of title 10.

''(B) APPROPRIATE ENLISTED GRADE OR RATING.—A member who is retained in the Coast Guard Reserve under subparagraph (A) shall be retained in an appropriate enlisted grade or rating, as determined by the Commandant.

''(6) REPAYMENT.—A member who does not fulfill the terms of the obligation to serve as specified under paragraph (2), or the alternative obligation imposed under paragraph (5), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of title 37.

''(d) BRIEFING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 15 of each year following the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 through 2028, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the Program.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall describe—

''(A) outreach and recruitment efforts over the previous year; and

''(B) demographic information of enrollees.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 2131 of title 14, United States Code, is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The analysis for chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2131.

(2) The analysis for chapter 37 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3710. and inserting the following:

''3710. College student precommissioning initiative.''.

SEC. 247. ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE GUIDANCE AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESERVE SELECTION BOARDS.

Section 3740(f) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 2117'' and inserting ''sections 2115 and 2117''.

SEC. 248. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

(a) COAST GUARD EMBEDDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in coordination with the Assistant Commandant for Health, Safety, and Work Life, shall establish and conduct a pilot program, to be known as the ''Coast Guard Embedded Behavioral Health Technician Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Pilot Program''), to integrate behavioral health technicians serving at Coast Guard units for the purposes of—

(i) facilitating, at the clinic level, the provision of integrated behavioral health care for members of the Coast Guard;

(ii) providing, as a force extender under the supervision of a licensed behavioral health care provider, at the clinic level—

(I) psychological assessment and diagnostic services, as appropriate;

(II) behavioral health services, as appropriate;

(III) education and training related to promoting positive behavioral health and well-being; and

(IV) information and resources, including expedited referrals, to assist members of the Coast Guard in dealing with behavioral health concerns;

(iii) improving resilience and mental health care among members of the Coast Guard who respond to extraordinary calls of duty, with the ultimate goals of preventing crises and addressing mental health concerns before such concerns evolve into more complex issues that require care at a military treatment facility;

(iv) increasing—

(I) the number of such members served by behavioral health technicians; and

(II) the proportion of such members returning to duty after seeking behavioral health care; and

(v) positively impacting the Coast Guard in a cost-effective manner by extending behavioral health services to the workforce and improving access to care.

(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing regarding a plan to establish and conduct the Pilot Program.

(2) SELECTION OF COAST GUARD CLINICS.—The Commandant shall select, for participation in the Pilot Program, 3 or more Coast Guard clinics that support units that have significantly high operational tempos or other force resiliency risks, as determined by the Commandant.

(3) PLACEMENT OF STAFF AT COAST GUARD CLINICS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Pilot Program, a Coast Guard health services technician with a grade of E–5 or higher, or an assigned civilian behavioral health specialist, shall be—

(i) assigned to each selected Coast Guard clinic; and

(ii) located at a unit with high operational tempo.

(B) TRAINING.—

(i) HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIANS.—Before commencing an assignment at a Coast Guard clinic under subparagraph (A), a Coast Guard health services technician shall complete behavioral health technician training and independent duty health services training.

(ii) CIVILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS.—To qualify for an assignment at a Coast Guard clinic under subparagraph (A), a civilian behavioral health specialist shall have at least the equivalent behavioral health training as the training required for a Coast Guard behavioral health technician under clause (i).

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—The Commandant, in coordination with the Assistant Commandant for Health, Safety, and Work Life, shall administer the Pilot Program through the Health, Safety, and Work-Life Service Center.

(5) DATA COLLECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall collect and analyze data concerning the Pilot Program for purposes of—

(i) developing and sharing best practices for improving access to behavioral health care; and

(ii) providing information to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives regarding the implementation of the Pilot Program and related policy issues.

(B) PLAN.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a plan for carrying out subparagraph (A).

(6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than September 1 of each year until the date on which the Pilot Program terminates under paragraph (7), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the Pilot Program that includes the following:

(A) An overview of the implementation of the Pilot Program at each applicable Coast Guard clinic, including—

(i) the number of members of the Coast Guard who received services on site by a behavioral health technician assigned to such clinic;

(ii) feedback from all members of the Coast Guard empaneled for their medical care under the Pilot Program;

(iii) an assessment of the deployability and overall readiness of members of the applicable operational unit; and

(iv) an estimate of potential costs and impacts on other Coast Guard health care services of supporting the Pilot Program at such units and clinics.

(B) The data and analysis required under paragraph (5)(A).

(C) A list and detailed description of lessons learned from the Pilot Program as of the date of on which the report is submitted.

(D) The feasibility, estimated cost, and impacts on other Coast Guard health care services of expanding the Pilot Program to all Coast Guard clinics, and a description of the personnel, fiscal, and administrative resources that would be needed for such an expansion.

(7) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall terminate on September 30, 2029.

(b) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall hire, train, and deploy not fewer than 5 additional behavioral health specialists, in addition to the personnel required under section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Commandant shall ensure that not fewer than 35 percent of behavioral health specialists required to be deployed under paragraph (1) have experience in—

(A) behavioral health care related to military sexual trauma; and

(B) behavioral health care for the purpose of supporting members of the Coast Guard with needs for mental health care and counseling services for post-traumatic stress disorder and co-occurring disorders related to military sexual trauma.

(3) ACCESSIBILITY.—The support provided by the behavioral health specialists hired pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) may include care delivered via telemedicine; and

(B) shall be made widely available to members of the Coast Guard.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives if the Coast Guard has not completed hiring, training, and deploying—

(i) the personnel referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(ii) the personnel required under section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note).

(B) CONTENTS.—The notification required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the date of publication of the hiring opportunity for all such personnel;

(ii) the General Schedule grade level advertised in the publication of the hiring opportunity for all such personnel;

(iii) the number of personnel to whom the Coast Guard extended an offer of employment in accordance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note), and the number of such personnel who accepted or declined such offer of employment;

(iv) a summary of the efforts by the Coast Guard to publicize, advertise, or otherwise recruit qualified candidates in accordance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of such Act; and

(v) any recommendations and a detailed plan to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of such Act, which may include special payments discussed in the report of the Government Accountability Office titled ''Federal Pay: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Strategic Use of Special Payments'', published on December 7, 2017 (GAO–18–91), which may be made available to help ensure full compliance with all such requirements in a timely manner.

SEC. 249. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD ASSIGNED TO ALASKA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant shall implement a policy that provides for reimbursement to eligible members of the Coast Guard for the cost of airfare for such members to travel to a place within the United States or the territories of the United States at the request of such member during the period specified in subsection (g).

(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—A member of the Coast Guard is eligible for a reimbursement under subsection (a) if—

(1) the member is assigned to a duty location in Alaska; and

(2) an officer in a grade above O–5 in the chain of command of the member authorizes the travel of the member.

(c) TREATMENT OF TIME AS LEAVE.—The time during which an eligible member is absent from duty for travel reimbursable under subsection (a) shall be treated as leave for purposes of section 704 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) RESTRICTION.—The Commandant shall not deny reimbursement for travel authorized under subsection (b)(2) to the respective member.

(e) JUSTIFICATION.—If a member requests to travel to a place that is not the home of record, or state of legal residence, of such member, the approving official under subsection (b)(2) may require a justification of the request by such member and shall not unreasonably deny such request.

(f) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February 1, 2027, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on—

(1) the use and effectiveness of reimbursements under subsection (a);

(2) the calculation and use of the cost of living allowance for a member assigned to a duty location in Alaska; and

(3) the use of special pays and other allowances as incentives for cold weather proficiency or duty locations.

(g) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subsection is the period—

(1) beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) ending on the later of—

(A) December 31, 2029; or

(B) the date on which the authority under section 352 of title 37, United States Code, to grant assignment or special duty pay to members of the uniform services terminates under subsection (g) of such section.

SEC. 250. TUITION ASSISTANCE AND ADVANCED EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, shall establish a tuition assistance pilot program for active-duty members of the Coast Guard, to be known as the ''Tuition Assistance and Advanced Education Assistance Pilot Program for Sea Duty'' (referred to in this section as the ''pilot program'').

(b) FORMAL AGREEMENT.—A member of the Coast Guard participating in the pilot program shall enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating that provides that, upon the successful completion of a sea duty tour by such member, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall, for a period equal to the length of the sea duty tour, beginning on the date on which the sea duty tour concludes—

(1) reduce by 1 year the service obligation incurred by such member as a result of participation in the advanced education assistance program under section 2005 of title 10, United States Code, or the tuition assistance program under section 2007 of such title; and

(2) increase the tuition assistance cost cap for such member to not more than double the amount of the standard tuition assistance cost cap set by the Commandant for the applicable fiscal year.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the pilot program is established, and annually thereafter through the date on which the pilot program is terminated under subsection (d), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) evaluates and compares—

(A) the Coast Guard's retention, recruitment, and filling of sea duty billets for all members of the Coast Guard; and

(B) the Coast Guard's retention, recruitment, and filling of sea duty billets for all members of the Coast Guard participating in the pilot program;

(2) includes the number of participants in the pilot program as of the date of the report, disaggregated by officer and enlisted billet type; and

(3) assesses the progress made by such participants in their respective voluntary education programs, in accordance with their degree plans, during the period described in subsection (b).

(d) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 6 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

SEC. 251. RECRUITMENT, RELOCATION, AND RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTERS EMPLOYED BY COAST GUARD IN REMOTE LOCATIONS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF REMOTE LOCATIONS.—The Commandant shall identify locations to be considered remote locations for purposes of this section, which shall include, at a minimum, each Coast Guard fire station located in an area in which members of the Coast Guard and the dependents of such members are eligible for the TRICARE Prime Remote program.

(b) INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure uninterrupted operations by civilian firefighters employed by the Coast Guard in remote locations, the Commandant shall establish an incentive program for such firefighters consisting of—

(A) recruitment and relocation bonuses consistent with section 5753 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) retention bonuses consistent with section 5754 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—The Commandant, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel and Management, shall establish eligibility criteria for the incentive program established under paragraph (1), which shall include a requirement that a firefighter described in paragraph (1) may only be eligible for the incentive program under this section if, with respect to the applicable remote location, the Commandant has made a determination that incentives are appropriate to address an identified recruitment, retention, or relocation need.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) details the use and effectiveness of the incentive program established under this section; and

(2) includes—

(A) the number of participants in the incentive program;

(B) a description of the distribution of incentives under such program; and

(C) a description of the impact of such program on civilian firefighter recruitment and retention by the Coast Guard in remote locations.

SEC. 252. NOTIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress notification as described in subsection (b)—

(1) not later than the date that is 10 days before the final day of each fiscal year; or

(2) in the case of a continuing resolution that, for a period of more than 10 days, provides appropriated funds in lieu of an appropriations Act, not later than the date that is 10 days before the final day of the period that such continuing resolution covers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Notification under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the status of funding for the Coast Guard during the subsequent fiscal year or at the end of the continuing resolution if other appropriations measures are not enacted, as applicable;

(2) the status of the Coast Guard as a component of the Armed Forces;

(3) the number of members currently serving overseas and otherwise supporting missions related to title 10, United States Code;

(4) the fact that members of the Armed Forces have service requirements unlike those of other Federal employees, which require them to continue to serve even if unpaid;

(5) the impacts of historical shutdowns of the Federal Government on members of the Coast Guard; and

(6) other relevant matters, as determined by the Commandant.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle E—Coast Guard Academy

SEC. 261. MODIFICATION OF BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 1903 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairperson of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or a member of such Committee designated by such chairperson.

''(B) The chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or a member of such Committee designated by such chairperson.

''(C) 3 Senators appointed by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 2 Senators appointed by the Vice President, each of whom shall be selected from among members of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(F) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each of whom shall be selected from among members of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(G) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS.—

''(A) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(C) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with jurisdiction over the authorization of appropriations of the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(B) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(D) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over the authorization of appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(C) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(E) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with jurisdiction over appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(D) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(F) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(3) CHAIRPERSON.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On a biennial basis and subject to paragraph (4), the Board shall select from among the members of the Board a Member of Congress to serve as the Chair of the Board.

''(B) ROTATION.—A Member of the House of Representatives and a Member of the Senate shall alternately be selected as the Chair of the Board.

''(C) TERM.—An individual may not serve as Chairperson of the Board for consecutive terms.

''(4) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated as a member of the Board under paragraph (1) shall be designated as a member in the first session of the applicable Congress and shall serve for the duration of such Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under paragraph (1)(G) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the President.

''(C) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) DUTIES.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Commandant shall invite each member of the Board, and any designee of a member of the Board, to visit the Coast Guard Academy at least once annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(2) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or any members of the Board in connection with the duties of the Board may—

''(A) make visits to the Academy in addition to the visits described in paragraph (1); or

''(B) consult with—

''(i) the Superintendent of the Academy; or

''(ii) the faculty, staff, or cadets of the Academy.

''(3) ACCESS.—The Commandant shall ensure that the Board or any members of the Board who visits the Academy under this paragraph is provided reasonable access to the grounds, facilities, cadets, faculty, staff, and other personnel of the Academy for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board.'';

(2) by striking subsections (e) through (g) and inserting the following:

''(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

''(1) MEETINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the Board shall meet at a location chosen by the Commandant, in consultation with the Board, to conduct the review required by subsection (d).

''(B) CHAIRPERSON AND CHARTER.—The Federal officer designated under subsection (g)(1)(B) shall organize a meeting of the Board for the purposes of—

''(i) selecting a Chairperson of the Board under subsection (b)(3);

''(ii) adopting an official charter for the Board, which shall establish the schedule of meetings of the Board; and

''(iii) any other matter such designated Federal officer or the Board considers appropriate.

''(C) SCHEDULING.—In scheduling a meeting of the Board, such designated Federal officer shall coordinate, to the greatest extent practicable, with the members of the Board to determine the date and time of the meeting.

''(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not less than 30 days before each scheduled meeting of the Board, such designated Federal officer shall notify each member of the Board of the time, date, and location of the meeting.

''(2) STAFF.—

''(A) DESIGNATION.—The chairperson and the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the chairperson and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives may each designate 1 staff member of each such Committees.

''(B) ROLE.—Staff designated under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) may attend and participate in visits and carry out consultations described under subsection (c)(1) and attend and participate in meetings described under paragraph (1); and

''(ii) may not otherwise carry out duties or take actions reserved to members of the Board under this section.

''(3) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out the duties of the Board under this section.

''(4) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Board conducts a meeting of the Board under paragraph (1), the Commandant, in consultation with the Board, shall submit a report on the actions of the Board during the meeting and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy to—

''(i) the Secretary;

''(ii) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

''(iii) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

''(B) PUBLICATION.—Each report submitted under this paragraph shall be published on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard.

''(f) DISCLOSURE.—The Commandant and the Superintendent of the Academy shall ensure candid and complete disclosure to the Board, consistent with applicable laws relating to disclosure of information, with respect to—

''(1) each issue described in subsection (d); and

''(2) any other issue the Board or the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(g) COAST GUARD SUPPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall—

''(A) provide support to the Board, as Board considers necessary for the performance of the duties of the Board;

''(B) designate a Federal officer to support the performance of the duties of the Board; and

''(C) in cooperation with the Superintendent of the Academy, advise the Board of any institutional issues, consistent with applicable laws concerning the disclosure of information.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each advisor consulted by the Board under subsection (e)(3) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or advisor.

''(h) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the Commandant shall provide to the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the President notification of the requirements of this section.''.

SEC. 262. STUDY ON COAST GUARD ACADEMY OVERSIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a study on the governance of the Coast Guard Academy, including examining the roles, responsibilities, authorities, advisory functions, and membership qualifications and expertise of the Annual Board of Visitors established under section 1903 of title 14, United States Code, and Board of Trustees established under the United States Coast Guard Academy Board of Trustees Charter.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Commandant shall examine—

(1) the authorities regarding Coast Guard and department in which the Coast Guard is operating oversight of the Coast Guard Academy, including considerations of how the Coast Guard and department may impact accreditation review at the Academy;

(2) the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors of such Academy;

(3) the Coast Guard roles and responsibilities with respect to management and facilitation of the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors of such Academy;

(4) the advisory functions of the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors of such Academy; and

(5) the membership of the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors for the 10-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act, to include expertise, objectiveness, and effectiveness in conducting oversight of such Academy.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) the results of the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations to improve governance at the Coast Guard Academy.

SEC. 263. ELECTRONIC LOCKING MECHANISMS TO ENSURE COAST GUARD ACADEMY CADET ROOM SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy (referred to in this section as the ''Superintendent''), shall—

(1) install an electronic locking mechanism for each room at the Coast Guard Academy within which 1 or more Coast Guard Academy cadets reside overnight;

(2) test each such mechanism not less than once every 6 months for proper function and maintained in proper working order; and

(3) use a system that electronically records the date, time, and identity of each individual who accesses a cadet room using an electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means, which shall be maintained in accordance with the general schedule for records retention, or a period of five years, whichever is later.

(b) ELECTRONIC LOCKING MECHANISMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each electronic locking mechanism described in subsection (a) shall be coded in a manner that provides access to a room described in such subsection only to—

(A) the 1 or more cadets assigned to the room; and

(B) such Coast Guard Academy officers, administrators, staff, or security personnel, including personnel of the Coast Guard Investigative Service, as are necessary to access the room in the event of an emergency.

(2) EXISTING MECHANISMS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall ensure that electronic locking mechanisms installed in academic buildings of the Coast Guard Academy, Chase Hall common spaces, and in any other location at the Coast Guard Academy are maintained in proper working order.

(c) ACCESS POLICY INSTRUCTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall promulgate a policy regarding cadet room security policies and procedures, which shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a prohibition on sharing with any other cadet, employee, or other individual electronic access tokens, codes, cards, or other electronic means of accessing a cadet room;

(2) procedures for resetting electronic locking mechanisms in the event of a lost, stolen, or otherwise compromised electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means of accessing a cadet room;

(3) procedures to maintain the identity of each individual who accesses a cadet room using an electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means, while ensuring the security of personally identifiable information and protecting the privacy of any such individual, as appropriate;

(4) procedures by which cadets may report to the chain of command the malfunction of an electronic locking mechanism; and

(5) a schedule of testing to ensure the proper functioning of electronic locking mechanisms.

(d) MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—The Superintendent shall ensure that each Coast Guard Academy cadet receives, not later than 1 day after the date of the initial arrival of the cadet at the Coast Guard Academy, an initial training session, and any other training the Superintendent considers necessary, on—

(1) the use of electronic locking mechanisms installed under this section; and

(2) the policy promulgated under subsection (c).

SEC. 264. REPORT ON EXISTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SUPPORT SERVICES FACILITIES AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at the Coast Guard Academy in which Coast Guard Academy cadets and officer candidates, respectively, may receive timely and independent behavioral health and wellness support services, including via telemedicine.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(1) an identification of each building at the Coast Guard Academy that contains a dormitory or other overnight accommodations for cadets or officer candidates; and

(2)(A) an identification of additional behavioral health or wellness support services that would be beneficial to cadets and officer candidates, such as additional facilities with secure access to telemedicine;

(B) a description of the benefits that such services would provide to cadets and officer candidates, particularly to cadets and officer candidates who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment; and

(C) a description of the resources necessary to provide such services.

SEC. 265. REQUIRED POSTING OF INFORMATION.

The Commandant shall ensure that, in each building at the Coast Guard Academy that contains a dormitory or other overnight accommodations for cadets or officer candidates, written information is posted in a visible location with respect to—

(1) the methods and means by which a cadet or officer candidate may report a crime, including harassment, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and any other offense;

(2) the contact information for the Coast Guard Investigative Service;

(3) external resources for—

(A) wellness support;

(B) work-life;

(C) medical services; and

(D) support relating to behavioral health, civil rights, sexual assault, and sexual harassment; and

(4) cadet and officer candidate rights with respect to reporting incidents to the Coast Guard Investigative Service, civilian authorities, the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and any other applicable entity.

SEC. 266. INSTALLATION OF MULTIPURPOSE MEDICAL PRIVACY ROOMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall install or construct at the Coast Guard Academy not fewer than 2 rooms to be used for the purpose of providing privacy to cadets and officer candidates seeking medical or other health-related services.

(b) STANDARDS OF ROOMS.—Each room installed or constructed under this section shall—

(1) be equipped—

(A) in a manner that ensures the protection of the privacy of cadets and officer candidates, consistent with law and policy;

(B) with a telephone and computer to allow for the provision of telehealth appointments or other services both virtual and in person; and

(C) with an accessible and private wireless internet connection for the use of personal communications devices at the discretion of the cadet or officer candidate concerned; and

(2) to the extent practicable and consistent with good order and discipline, be accessible to cadets and officer candidates at all times; and

(3) contain the written information described in section 265, which shall be posted in a visible location.

SEC. 267. COAST GUARD ACADEMY ROOM REASSIGNMENT.

Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ROOM REASSIGNMENT.—Coast Guard Academy cadets may request room reassignment if experiencing discomfort due to Coast Guard Academy rooming assignments, consistent with policy.''.

SEC. 268. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF COAST GUARD ACADEMY FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT BY COVERED FOUNDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1908. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations

''(a) AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, may authorize a covered foundation to use, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis as determined by the Secretary, facilities or equipment of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not authorize any use of facilities or equipment under subsection (a) if such use may jeopardize the health, safety, or well-being of any member of the Coast Guard or cadet of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(c) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may only authorize the use of facilities or equipment under subsection (a) if such use—

''(1) is without any liability of the United States to the covered foundation;

''(2) does not—

''(A) affect the ability of any official or employee of the Coast Guard, or any member of the armed forces, to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner;

''(B) compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Coast Guard, or any individual involved in any such program; or

''(C) include the participation of any cadet of the Coast Guard Academy at an event of the covered foundation, other than participation of such a cadet in an honor guard;

''(3) complies with any applicable ethics regulation; and

''(4) has been reviewed and approved by an attorney of the Coast Guard.

''(d) ISSUANCE OF POLICIES.—The Secretary shall issue Coast Guard policies to carry out this section.

''(e) BRIEFING.—For any fiscal year in which the Secretary exercises the authority under subsection (a), not later than the last day of such fiscal year, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the number of events or activities of a covered foundation supported by such exercise of authority during the fiscal year.

''(f) COVERED FOUNDATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered foundation' means an organization that—

''(1) is a charitable, educational, or civic nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(2) the Secretary determines operates exclusively to support—

''(A) recruiting activities with respect to the Coast Guard Academy;

''(B) parent or alumni development in support of the Coast Guard Academy;

''(C) academic, leadership, or character development of Coast Guard Academy cadets;

''(D) institutional development of the Coast Guard Academy; or

''(E) athletics in support of the Coast Guard Academy.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to item 1907 the following:

''1908. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations.''.

SEC. 269. CONCURRENT JURISDICTION AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish concurrent jurisdiction between the Federal Government and the State of Connecticut over the lands constituting the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, as necessary to facilitate the ability of the State of Connecticut and City of New London to investigate and prosecute any crimes cognizable under Connecticut law that are committed on such Coast Guard Academy property.

Subtitle F—Reports and Policies

SEC. 271. POLICY AND BRIEFING ON AVAILABILITY OF NALOXONE TO TREAT OPIOID, INCLUDING FENTANYL, OVERDOSES.

(a) POLICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdoses, including the use of naloxone or other similar medication to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The updated policy required under subsection (a) shall require naloxone or other similar medication be available for members of the Coast Guard—

(1) on all Coast Guard installations; and

(2) in each operational environment.

(c) PARTICIPATION IN TRACKING SYSTEM.—Not later than 1 year after the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or the date on which the tracking system established under section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 1090 note) is established, the Commandant shall ensure the participation of the Coast Guard in the such tracking system.

(d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 1 year after the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or the date on which the tracking system established under section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 1090 note) is established, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy and the Secretary of Defense shall finalize a memorandum of understanding to facilitate Coast Guard access such tracking system.

(e) BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on the use, by members and personnel of the Coast Guard at Coast Guard facilities, onboard Coast Guard assets, and during Coast Guard operations, of—

(A) naloxone or other similar medication to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses; and

(B) opioids, including fentanyl.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of—

(i) the progress made in the implementation of the updated policy required under subsection (a);

(ii) the prevalence and incidence of the illegal use of fentanyl and other controlled substances in the Coast Guard during the 5-year period preceding the briefing;

(iii) processes of the Coast Guard to mitigate substance abuse in the Coast Guard, particularly with respect to fentanyl; and

(iv) the status of the memorandum of understanding required under subsection (d).

(B) For the 5-year period preceding the briefing, a review of instances in which naloxone or other similar medication was used to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses at a Coast Guard facility, onboard a Coast Guard asset, or during a Coast Guard operation.

(f) PRIVACY.—In carrying out the requirements of this section, the Commandant shall ensure compliance with all applicable privacy law, including section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Privacy Act''), and the privacy regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note).

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of the availability requirement under subsection (b), with respect to a Coast Guard installation comprised of multiple Coast Guard facilities or units, naloxone or other similar medication available at a single Coast Guard facility within the installation shall be considered to be available to all Coast Guard facilities or units on the installation if appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure access, at all times during operations, to the naloxone or other similar medication contained within such single Coast Guard facility.

SEC. 272. POLICY ON METHODS TO REDUCE INCENTIVES FOR ILLICIT MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a policy, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, as well as domestic and international law, to address, disincentivize, and interdict illicit trafficking by sea of controlled substances (and precursors of controlled substances) being transported to produce illicit synthetic drugs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include a requirement that, to the maximum extent practicable, a vessel unlawfully transporting a controlled substance or precursors of a controlled substance being transported to produce illicit synthetic drugs, be seized or appropriately disposed of consistent with domestic and international law, as well as any international agreements to which the United States is a party; and

(2) aim to reduce incentives for illicit maritime drug trafficking on a global scale, including in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Indo-Pacific region, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the policy developed pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations with respect to—

(A) additional methods for reducing illicit drug trafficking; and

(B) additional resources necessary to implement the policy required under subsection (a) and methods recommended under subparagraph (A).

SEC. 273. REPORT ON CONDITION OF AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

(a) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of

this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the condition of dayboards and the placement of buoys on the Missouri River, the Coast Guard Northeast District, and the Coast Guard Northwest District.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(1) a list of the most recent date on which each dayboard and buoy was serviced by the Coast Guard;

(2) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard to systematically service each dayboard and buoy on the Missouri River;

(3) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard to systematically service each buoy located in the Coast Guard Northeast District;

(4) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard to systematically service each buoy located in the Coast Guard Northwest District; and

(5) assigned points of contact.

(c) LIMITATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant may not remove the aids to navigation covered in subsection (a), unless there is an imminent threat to life or safety, until a period of 180 days has elapsed following the date on which the Commandant submits the report required under subsection (a).

(d) STUDY ON RELIANCE ON AIDS TO NAVIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall conduct a study on the extent to which physical aids to navigation, including buoys and dayboards, are relied upon by maritime users in the Missouri River, Coast Guard Northeast District, and Coast Guard Northwest District.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of the extent to which physical aids to navigation serve as primary navigational references for operators of vessels that lack electronic or satellite-based systems, including small commercial vessels, recreational boats, sailboats, and skiffs.

(B) An assessment of the role physical aids to navigation play in supporting safe vessel operation during outages, disruptions, or inaccuracies in electronic or satellite-based navigation systems.

(C) An assessment of mariner perspectives on the availability, visibility, and reliability of physical aids to navigation, based on input from recreational boaters, commercial fishermen, pilot associations, port authorities, and other relevant waterway users.

(D) A summary of reported incidents or near-miss events from the past five years in which the presence or absence of physical aids to navigation played a contributory role in navigational outcomes, including collisions, groundings, or deviations from intended routes.

(E) Recommendations for enhancing navigational safety for mariners who rely exclusively on, or supplement electronic systems with, traditional visual aids to navigation.

(F) A cost–benefit analysis of the continued maintenance of physical aids to navigation, and the projected consequences of their removal, including—

(i) an estimate of the potential increase in maritime accidents, search and rescue operations, environmental incidents, and Coast Guard response missions that could result from the reduction or removal of physical aids to navigation;

(ii) a comparison of the anticipated costs associated with such increased Coast Guard response operations to the ongoing costs of maintaining and servicing buoys and dayboards, particularly in high-traffic areas or locations with limited access to electronic navigation systems;

(iii) an assessment of the role physical aids to navigation play in preventing incidents involving vessels with limited or no reliance on GPS or electronic systems; and

(iv) an assessment of the indirect costs and operational impacts associated with the removal of physical aids to navigation, including increased risk of vessel groundings, prolonged Coast Guard response times, and diminished mariner trust in navigational infrastructure.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 274. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL PORT VISITS AND DEPLOYMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION BLUE PACIFIC.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) complete a study on the feasibility and advisability of supporting additional Coast Guard port visits and deployments, including the homeporting of fast response cutters in the Northern Mariana Islands, in support of Operation Blue Pacific, or any successor operation oriented toward Oceania;

(2) include, as part of the study under paragraph (1), an analysis of where any Coast Guard assets used for port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific, or any successor operation oriented toward Oceania, will be transferred from and any associated gaps in Coast Guard coverage any such transfer will create; and

(3) submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of such study.

SEC. 275. STUDY AND GAP ANALYSIS WITH RESPECT TO COAST GUARD AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI AVIATION HANGAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall commence a study and gap analysis with respect to the aviation hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi and the capacity of such hangar to accommodate the aircraft currently assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi and any aircraft anticipated to be so assigned in the future.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study and gap analysis required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of hangar infrastructure requirements needed—

(A) to meet mission requirements for all aircraft currently assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi; and

(B) to accommodate the assignment of an additional HC–144 Ocean Sentry aircraft to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi.

(2) An assessment as to whether the aviation hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi is sufficient to accommodate all rotary-wing assets assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi.

(3) In the case of an assessment that such hangar is insufficient to accommodate all such rotary-wing assets, a description of the facility modifications that would be required to do so.

(4) An assessment of the facility modifications of such hangar that would be required to accommodate all aircraft assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi upon completion of the transition from the MH–65 rotary-wing aircraft to the MH–60T rotary-wing aircraft.

(5) An evaluation with respect to which fixed-wing assets assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi should be enclosed in such hangar so as to most effectively mitigate the effects of corrosion while meeting mission requirements.

(6) An evaluation as to whether, and to what extent, the storage of fixed-wing assets outside such hangar would compromise the material condition and safety of such assets.

(7) An evaluation of the extent to which any material condition and safety issue identified under paragraph (6) may be mitigated through the use of gust locks, chocks, tiedowns, or related equipment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the commencement of the study and gap analysis required under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study and gap analysis.

SEC. 276. REPORT ON IMPACTS OF JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS ON MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD WHO RELY ON FERRY SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the impacts of the Joint Travel Regulations on members of the Coast Guard who are commuting, on permanent change of station travel, or on other official travel to or from locations served by ferry systems.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the impacts on such members of the Coast Guard of the following policies under the Joint Travel Regulations:

(1) The one-vehicle shipping policy.

(2) The unavailability of reimbursement of costs incurred by such members due to ferry schedule unavailability, sailing cancellations, and other sailing delays during commuting, permanent change of station travel, or other official travel.

(3) The unavailability of local infrastructure to support vehicles or goods shipped to duty stations in locations outside the contiguous United States that are not connected by the road system, including locations served by the Alaska Marine Highway System.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS.—The term ''Joint Travel Regulations'', with respect to official travel, means the terms, rates, conditions, and regulations maintained under section 464 of title 37, United States Code.

SEC. 277. REPORT ON JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the standards and criteria prescribed by the Coast Guard for educational institution participation in the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(2) With respect to each educational institution offering a Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program—

(A) a description of—

(i) the training and course of military instruction provided to students;

(ii) the facilities and drill areas used for the program;

(iii) the type and amount of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program resources provided by the Coast Guard;

(iv) the type and amount of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program resources provided by the educational institution; and

(v) any other matter relating to program requirements the Commandant considers appropriate;

(B) an assessment as to whether the educational institution is located in an educationally and economically deprived area (as described in section 2031 of title 10, United States Code);

(C) beginning with the year in which the program was established at the educational institution, the number and demographics of students who have participated in the program; and

(D) an assessment of the participants in the program, including—

(i) the performance of the participants in the program;

(ii) the number of participants in the program who express an intent to pursue a commission or enlistment in the Coast Guard; and

(iii) a description of any other factor or matter considered by the Commandant to be important in assessing the success of program participants at the educational institution.

(3) With respect to any unit of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps suspended or placed on probation pursuant to section 2031(h) of title 10, United States Code—

(A) a description of the unit;

(B) the reason for such suspension or placement on probation;

(C) the year the unit was so suspended or placed on probation; and

(D) with respect to any unit that was reinstated after previously being suspended or placed on probation, a justification for the reinstatement of such unit.

(4) A description of the resources and personnel required to maintain, implement, and provide oversight for the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at each participating educational institution and within the Coast Guard, including the funding provided to each such educational institution, disaggregated by educational institution and year.

(5) A recommendation with respect to—

(A) whether the number of educational institutions participating in the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program should be increased; and

(B) in the case of a recommendation that such number should be increased, additional recommendations relating to such an increase, including—

(i) the number of additional educational institutions that should be included in the program;

(ii) the locations of such institutions;

(iii) any additional authorities or resources necessary for such an increase; and

(iv) any other matter the Commandant considers appropriate.

(6) Any other matter the Commandant considers necessary in order to provide a full assessment of the effectiveness of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

SEC. 278. REPORT AND BRIEFINGS ON IMPLEMENTING SECTION 564 OF TITLE 14.

Section 11272(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) PUBLIC REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal year 2024.

''(B) SECONDARY BRIEFINGS.—Not later than November 1, 2025 and November, 1, 2026, the Commandant shall brief the committees described in subparagraph (A) on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively.''.

SEC. 279. REPORT ON ROLE OF COAST GUARD.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a Service in the Navy, shall prepare a report on the role the Coast Guard is expected to play in the 5, 10, and 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act in providing assistance to the military departments in—

(1) working with the navies and domestic coast guard of nations located in the Indo-Pacific region on building capacity to protect the territorial waters of such nations from incursions by other nations;

(2) providing a presence in the Arctic and Antarctic to protect United States sovereign national security interests in the regions; and

(3) providing law enforcement capabilities which the military departments do not possess for national security, piracy, alien and drug interdiction, and fishery law enforcement on the high seas.

SEC. 280. REPORT ON COAST GUARD PERSONNEL SKILLS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes the following:

(1) An analysis of the skills and experience of Coast Guard personnel, particularly such personnel with backgrounds in engineering, navigation, heavy equipment operation, and maintenance, that are directly transferable to the dredging industry.

(2) A plan for developing and implementing targeted outreach and recruitment strategies to connect separating or retiring Coast Guard personnel with employment opportunities, including registered apprentice programs, in the dredging industry.

(3) An evaluation of the potential for establishing programs to recognize the skills of Coast Guard personnel for the merchant mariner credentials necessary for employment in the dredging industry.

(4) A description of any existing or planned coordination with the Corps of Engineers, employers, relevant labor organizations, and other relevant agencies to facilitate the transition of Coast Guard personnel into the dredging industry.

SEC. 281. REPORT ON COAST GUARD SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing the search and rescue operations at impacted Coast Guard facilities that contains the following:

(1) The number of impacted Coast Guard facilities.

(2) The number of active Coast Guard facilities operating as scheduled mission stations.

(3) The number of active search and rescue personnel at each impacted Coast Guard facility.

(4) The number of search and rescue personnel at each impacted Coast Guard facility beginning in 2021 and accounted for annually thereafter.

(5) A description of active and past first responder cooperative agreements made between each impacted Coast Guard facility and local law enforcement or first responders for search and rescue operations.

(6) The average response time for all search and rescue operations at each impacted Coast Guard facility beginning in 2021 and accounted for annually thereafter.

(7) The number of lives lost during search and rescue operations at each impacted Coast Guard facility beginning in 2021 and accounted for annually thereafter.

(8) The number of vessel safety checks administered by an impacted Coast Guard facility beginning in 2021 and accounted for annually thereafter.

(9) The number of search and rescue incidents in which a facility responded to a search and rescue incident in an area previously covered by an impacted Coast Guard facility but was unable to fulfill the mission, including—

(A) the distance traveled to the destination of each incident;

(B) the duration time traveled to reach the destination of each incident;

(C) whether the incident resulted in a loss of life;

(D) whether the search and rescue team was able to reach the destination of the incident to complete operations;

(E) whether the Coast Guard had to rely on local authorities to address the incident due to operational limitations for Coast Guard; and

(F) identifying the local authorities addressing search and rescue incidents under subparagraph (E).

(10) The number of ice rescue missions taken by impacted Coast Guard facilities beginning in 2021 and accounted for annually thereafter.

(11) The area of responsibility covered by each impacted Coast Guard facility.

(12) Any other metrics determined to be relevant by the Commandant to convey the changes to search and rescue operations at impacted Coast Guard facilities.

(b) DEFINITION OF IMPACTED COAST GUARD FACILITY.—In this section, the term ''impacted Coast Guard facility'' means a facility or station that was designated as a schedule mission station or closed under either the Assignment Year 2024 Force Alignment Initiative or the Assignment Year 2025 Force Alignment Initiative.

SEC. 282. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR THE LOCATION OF STATION ST. THOMAS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) examines alternative sites on St. Thomas, Virgin Island for the location of Station St. Thomas, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands;

(2) analyzes geographic threats and opportunities on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to Coast Guard mission objectives; and

(3) provides a cost estimate on the cost of acquiring an alternative site which meets the mission needs of Station St. Thomas, including the cost of—

(A) land acquisition;

(B) pier and shoreside facility construction;

(C) relocation of the existing facility, personnel, and equipment, including environmental remediation at the existing site; and

(D) impacts (both positive and negative) on Coast Guard mission readiness of a move to a new site on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

SEC. 283. REPORT ON EAST ROCKAWAY INLET NAVIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report of the navigable waterway of the East Rockaway Inlet located on Long Island, New York.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an evaluation of potential hazards to navigation present in the East Rockaway Inlet;

(2) a map of current and future aids to navigation in the East Rockaway Inlet;

(3) an evaluation of the effects of the current channel hazards on commercial navigation and safety;

(4) recommendations on addressing hazards to navigation present in the East Rockaway Inlet; and

(5) recommendations on updates to the necessary to aids navigation in order to maintain safety.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials

SECTION 301. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALING.

(a) REDUCTION OF LENGTHS OF CERTAIN PERIODS OF SERVICE.—Section 3534 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (u); and

(2) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) REVISING MERCHANT MARINER DECK TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (56) as paragraphs (21), (22), (24), (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), (32), (33), (34), (35), (36), (37), (38), (39), (40), (41), (42), (43), (44), (45), (46), (47), (48), (49), (50), (51), (52), (53), (54), (55), (56), (57), and (58), respectively; and

''(2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

'''(20) ''merchant mariner credential'' means a merchant mariner license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.'; and

''(3) by inserting after paragraph (22), as so redesignated, the following:

'''(23) ''nautical school program'' means a program that—

'''(A) offers a comprehensive program of training that includes substantial sea service on nautical school vessels or merchant vessels of the United States primarily to train individuals for service in the merchant marine; and

'''(B) is approved by the Secretary for purposes of section 7315, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.'.

''(k) NONCITIZENSHIP NATIONALITY.—

''(1) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY.—Section 7102 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(A) in the section heading by inserting '**or noncitizen nationality**' after '**Citizenship**'; and

''(B) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationals (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))' after 'citizens'.

''(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 7304 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(i) in the section heading by inserting '**or noncitizen nationality**' after '**Citizenship**'; and

''(ii) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationals (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))' after 'citizens'.

''(B) CITIZENSHIP AND NAVY RESERVE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(i) in the section heading by inserting '**or noncitizen nationality**' after '**Citizenship**';

''(ii) in subsection (a) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen';

''(iii) in subsection (b)—

''(I) in paragraph (1)(A)(i) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen';

''(II) in paragraph (3) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationality' after 'citizenship'; and

''(III) in paragraph (3)(C) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationals' after 'citizens';

''(iv) in subsection (c) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationals' after 'citizens';

''(v) in subsection (d)—

''(I) in paragraph (1) by inserting 'or noncitizen nationals' after 'citizens'; and

''(II) in paragraph (2) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen' each place it appears;

''(vi) in subsection (e) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen' each place it appears;

''(vii) in subsection (i)(1)(A) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen';

''(viii) in subsection (k)—

''(I) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting 'or noncitizen national' after 'citizen'; and

''(II) in paragraph (2)—

''(aa) by striking 'Not more than' and inserting the following:

'''(A) Not more than'; and

''(bb) by adding at the end the following:

'''(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 and ending on December 31, 2065, not more than 50 percent of the unlicensed seamen on a vessel described in paragraph (1) may be aliens referred to in subparagraph (B) or (C) of such paragraph. '; and

''(ix) by adding at the end the following:

'''(l) NONCITIZEN NATIONAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''noncitizen national'' means an individual described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408).'.

''(C) COMMAND OF DOCUMENTED VESSELS.—Section 12131(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting 'or noncitizen national (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))' after 'citizen'.

''(D) INVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION.—Section 12135(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting 'or noncitizen national (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))' after 'citizen'.

''(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The analysis for chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7102 and inserting the following:

'''7102. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality.'.

''(B) SECTION 7304.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7304 and inserting the following:

'''7304. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality notation on merchant mariners' documents.'.

''(C) SECTION 8103.—The analysis for chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 8103 and inserting the following:

'''8103. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality and Navy Reserve requirements.'.

''(l) EXAMINATIONS.—Section 7116 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

''(m) MERCHANT MARINERS DOCUMENTS.—Chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code is amended—

''(1) by amending section 7306 to read as follows:

'''§ 7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck departments

'''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue a merchant mariner credential, to members of the deck department in the following classes:

'''(1) Able Seaman-Unlimited.

'''(2) Able Seaman-Limited.

'''(3) Able Seaman-Special.

'''(4) Able Seaman-Offshore Supply Vessels.

'''(5) Able Seaman-Sail.

'''(6) Able Seaman-Fishing Industry.

'''(7) Ordinary Seaman.

'''(b) CLASSIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The Secretary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued under subsection (a) based on—

'''(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of vessels;

'''(2) the waters on which vessels are to be operated; or

'''(3) other appropriate standards.

'''(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for a credential under this section, an applicant shall provide satisfactory proof that the applicant—

'''(1) is at least 18 years of age;

'''(2) has the service required by the applicable section of this part;

'''(3) is qualified professionally as demonstrated by an applicable examination or educational requirements;

'''(4) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the seafarer's duties; and

'''(5) has satisfied any additional requirements established by the Secretary, including career patterns and service appropriate to the particular service, industry, or job functions the individual is engaged.';

''(2) in section 7307 by striking '3 years' and inserting '18 months';

''(3) in section 7308 by striking '18 months' and inserting '12 months';

''(4) in section 7309 by striking '12 months' and inserting '6 months';

''(5) in section 7313—

''(A) in subsection (b) by striking 'and coal passer'; and

''(B) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) CLASSIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The Secretary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued under subsection (a) based on—

''(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of vessels;

''(2) the waters on which vessels are to be operated; or

''(3) other appropriate standards.

''(d) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for a credential under this section, an applicant shall provide satisfactory proof that the applicant—

''(1) is at least 18 years of age;

''(2) has a minimum of 6-months service in the related entry rating;

''(3) is qualified professionally as demonstrated by an applicable examination or educational requirements; and

''(4) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the member's duties.'; and

''(6) by amending section 7315 to read as follows:

''§ 7315. Training

''(a) NAUTICAL SCHOOL PROGRAM.—Graduation from a nautical school program may be substituted for the sea service requirements under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title.

''(b) OTHER APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The satisfactory completion of a training program approved by the Secretary may be substituted for not more than one-half of the sea service requirements under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title in accordance with subsection (c).

''(c) TRAINING DAYS.—For purposes of subsection (b), training days undertaken in connection with training programs approved by the Secretary may be substituted for days of required sea service under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title as follows:

''(1) Each shore-based training day in the form of classroom lectures may be substituted for 2 days of sea service requirements.

''(2) Each training day of laboratory training, practical demonstrations, and other similar training, may be substituted for 4 days of sea service requirements.

''(3) Each training day of full mission simulator training may be substituted for 6 days of sea service requirements.

''(4) Each training day underway on a vessel while enrolled in an approved training program may be substituted for 1½ days of sea service requirements, as long as—

''(A) the structured training provided while underway on a vessel is—

''(i) acceptable to the Secretary as part of the approved training program; and

''(ii) fully completed by the individual; and

''(B) the tonnage of such vessel is appropriate to the endorsement being sought.

''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''training day'' means a day that consists of not less than 7 hours of training.'.

''(n) IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall implement the requirements under subsection (c) of section 7306 of title 46, United States Code (as amended by this section), without regard to chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note).

''(2) SECTION 7315.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall implement the requirements of section 7315 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this subsection, without regard to chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) and 14094 (88 Fed. Reg. 21879).

''(o) REPEAL.—Section 7314 of title 46, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 73 of such title, are repealed.

''(p) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7306 and inserting the following:

''7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck departments.'.

''(q) AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 75.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(1) in section 7507 by adding at the end the following:

''(d) RENEWAL.—With respect to any renewal of an active merchant mariner credential issued under this part that is not an extension under subsection (a) or (b), such credential shall begin the day after the expiration of the active credential of the credential holder.'; and

''(2) in section 7510(c)—

''(A) in the subsection heading by striking 'EXAM REVIEW' and inserting 'WORKING GROUP';

''(B) in paragraph (1)—

''(i) by striking '90 days' and inserting '180 days';

''(ii) by striking 'Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016' and insert 'Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025';

''(iii) by striking 'new questions for inclusion in' and inserting 'questions, content, and relevancy of';

''(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (G), (H), and (I), respectively; and

''(v) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) at least 2 individuals that have taken and passed the examination in the 5 years before the commissioning of the working group;

''(F) at least 1 representative from the United States Merchant Marine Academy; ';

''(C) in paragraph (4)—

''(i) in the paragraph heading by striking 'BASELINE REVIEW' and inserting 'REVIEW';

''(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

''(I) by striking 'Within 1 year' and inserting 'Not later than 270 days';

''(II) by striking 'Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016' and inserting 'Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025';

''(III) by striking 'Secretary' and inserting 'Commandant';

''(IV) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) as clauses (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vii), respectively;

''(V) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking '; and' and inserting a semicolon;

''(VI) by inserting before clause (ii) the following:

''(i) industry standards, practices, and technology to be considered in the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination; '; and

''(VII) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

''(v) the relevancy of examination topics and contents;

''(vi) any redundancy of core competencies between the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination and Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchingkeeping competencies; and';

''(iii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) REPORT TO COMMANDANT.—Upon completion of the review under this paragraph, a report shall be provided to the Commandant which shall include findings of the review with recommendations for updates to the Merchant Marine Credentialling Examination. ';

''(D) by striking paragraphs (3), (5), and (8);

''(E) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (9) as paragraphs (5) and (8), respectively; and

''(F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) MEETING OF WORKING GROUP.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall convene the working group annually or at the creation of new examination questions, whichever occurs sooner.

''(B) REMOTE PARTICIPATION.—The Commandant shall allow any member of the working group to participate remotely if the member of the working group does not have the means to participate in person.

''(4) USE OF QUESTIONS.—The Commandant may not use questions developed for use in the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination until such questions are reviewed and approved by the working group.'.

''(r) PLAN.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the completion of the review under paragraph (4) of subsection (c), the Commandant shall develop a plan to update and modernize the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination and implement the recommendations developed by the review under such paragraph.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall not diminish demonstrated competency standards and shall include—

''(A) the elimination of redundant topics between the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination and other examinations required to obtain a Merchant Mariner Credential;

''(B) the elimination or updating of outdated topics, contents, core competencies, or questions covered by the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination;

''(C) the modernization of testing procedures consistent with contemporary procedures for standardized testing administration and evaluation; and

''(D) the development of methods to analyze examination data related to the effectiveness of questions in determining competency.

''(3) COORDINATION.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall develop such plan in consultation with the working group and individuals with expertise in modern best practices for relevant standardized testing.

''(4) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the review and plan developed under this subsection.

''(s) AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 77.—Section 7702(d)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(1) in subparagraph (B) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as subclauses (I) through (IV), respectively (and by conforming the margins accordingly);

''(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by conforming the margins accordingly);

''(3) by striking 'an individual if—' and inserting the following: 'an individual—

''(A) if—';

''(4) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(IV), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting '; or'; and

''(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) if there is probable cause to believe that the individual has violated company policy and is a security risk that poses a threat to other individuals on the vessel.'.

''(t) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

''(1) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

''(A) in section 2101(47)(B) by striking ''; and' and inserting ''; or'';

''(B) in section 2113(3) by striking 'section 2101(53)(A)' and inserting 'section 2101(55)(A)';

''(C) in section 3202(a)(1)(A) by striking 'section 2101(29)(A)' and inserting 'section 2101(31)(A)';

''(D) in section 3507(k)(1) by striking 'section 2101(31)' and inserting 'section 2101(33)';

''(E) in section 4105(d) by striking 'section 2101(53)(A)' and inserting 'section 2101(55)(A)';

''(F) in section 12119(a)(3) by striking 'section 2101(26)' and inserting 'section 2101(28)'; and

''(G) in section 51706(c)(6)(C)(ii) by striking 'section 2101(24)' and inserting 'section 2101(26)'.

''(2) OTHER LAWS.—

''(A) Section 3(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(3)) is amended by striking '2101(30) of title 46' and inserting '2101 of title 46'.

''(B) Section 1992(d)(7) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking 'section 2101(31) of title 46' and inserting 'section 2101 of title 46'.

''(C) Section 311(a)(26)(D) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)(26)(D)) is amended by striking 'section 2101(23)' and inserting 'section 2101'.

''(D) Section 1101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking 'Section 2101(23)' and inserting 'Section 2101(24)'.''.

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

SEC. 302. NONOPERATING INDIVIDUAL.

Section 8313(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is amended by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2029''.

Subtitle B—Vessel Safety

SEC. 311. GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATIONS OF A VESSEL.

Section 2302(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATION.—

''(1) MISDEMEANOR.—A person operating a vessel in a grossly negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of a person commits a class A misdemeanor.

''(2) FELONY.—A person operating a vessel in a grossly negligent manner that results in serious bodily injury, as defined in section 1365(h)(3) of title 18—

''(A) commits a class E felony; and

''(B) may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than $35,000.''.

SEC. 312. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN EXAMINATION SCHEDULE.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 3714 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (c), the Secretary'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN EXAMINATION SCHEDULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to examinations of foreign vessels to which this chapter applies, and subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may adopt a performance-driven examination schedule to which such vessels are to be examined and the frequency with which such examinations occur, including the frequency of examinations for each vessel. Such schedule shall be consistent with the Secretary's assessment of the safety performance of such vessels, including each vessel participating in the performance-driven examination schedule, in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing an examination schedule under paragraph (1) and subject to paragraph (3), with respect to each vessel in determining eligibility to participate in the performance based examination schedule—

''(A) the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) certificate of compliance and examination history, to include those conducted by foreign countries;

''(ii) history of violations, vessel detentions, incidents, and casualties;

''(iii) history of notices of violation issued by the Coast Guard;

''(iv) safety related information provided by the flag state of the vessel;

''(v) owner and operator history;

''(vi) historical classification society data, which may include relevant surveys;

''(vii) cargo-specific documentation;

''(viii) data from port state control safety exams; and

''(ix) relevant repair and maintenance history; and

''(B) the Secretary may consider—

''(i) data from relevant vessel quality assurance and risk assessment programs including Quality Shipping for the 21st Century (QUALSHIP 21);

''(ii) data from industry inspection regimes;

''(iii) data from vessel self assessments submitted to the International Maritime Organization or other maritime organizations; and

''(iv) other safety relevant data or information as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—In developing an examination schedule under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not consider a vessel eligible to take part in a performance-driven examination schedule under paragraph (1) if, within the last 36 months, the vessel has—

''(A) been detained by the Coast Guard;

''(B) a record of a violation issued by the Coast Guard against the owners or operators with a finding of proved; or

''(C) suffered a marine casualty that, as determined by the Secretary, involves the safe operation of the vessel and overall performance of the vessel.

''(4) RESTRICTIONS.—The Secretary may not adopt a performance-driven examination schedule under paragraph (1) until the Secretary has—

''(A) conducted the assessment recommended in the Government Accountability Office report submitted under section 8254(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283);

''(B) concluded through such assessment that a performance-driven examination schedule provides not less than the level of safety provided by the annual examinations required under subsection (a)(1); and

''(C) provided the results of such assessment to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CAREER INCENTIVE PAY FOR MARINE INSPECTORS.—Subsection (a) of section 11237 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (37 U.S.C. 352 note) is amended as follows:

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSIGNMENT PAY OR SPECIAL DUTY PAY.—For the purposes of addressing an identified shortage of marine inspectors, the Secretary may provide assignment pay or special duty pay under section 352 of title 37, United States Code, to a member of the Coast Guard serving in a prevention position that—

''(1) is assigned in support of or is serving as a marine inspector pursuant to section 312 of title 14, United States Code; and

''(2) is assigned to a billet that is difficult to fill due to geographic location, requisite experience or certifications, or lack of sufficient candidates, as determined by the Commandant, in an effort to address inspector workforce gaps.''.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually for 2 years after the implementation of a performance-driven examination schedule program under section 3714(c) of title 46, United States Code, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the status of utilizing the performance-driven examination schedule program, including the quantity of examinations conducted and duration between examinations for each individual vessel examined under the performance-driven examination schedule;

(2) an overview of the size of the Coast Guard marine inspector workforce, including any personnel shortages assessed by the Coast Guard, for inspectors that conduct inspections under section 3714 of such title; and

(3) recommendations for the inspection, governance, or oversight of vessels inspected under section 3714 of such title.

SEC. 313. FISHING VESSEL AND FISHERMAN TRAINING SAFETY.

Section 4502 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) to conduct safety and prevention training that addresses behavioral and physical health risks, to include substance use disorder and worker fatigue, facing fishing vessel operators and crewmembers; and'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking '', in consultation with and based on criteria established by the Commandant of the Coast Guard''; and

(ii) by striking ''subsection on a competitive basis'' and inserting the following: ''subsection—

''(A) on a competitive basis; and

''(B) based on criteria developed in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard''; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking ''$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''to the Secretary of Health and Human Services $6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, and 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029''; and

(2) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting '', and understanding and mitigating behavioral and physical health risks, to include substance use disorder and worker fatigue, facing members of the commercial fishing industry'' after ''weather detection'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking '', in consultation with and based on criteria established by the Commandant of the Coast Guard,''; and

(ii) by striking ''subsection on a competitive basis'' and inserting the following: ''subsection—

''(A) on a competitive basis; and

''(B) based on criteria developed in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard''; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking ''$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''to the Secretary of Health and Human Services $6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 , and 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029''.

SEC. 314. DESIGNATING PILOTAGE WATERS FOR THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9302(a)(1)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in waters'' and inserting ''in the Straits of Mackinac and in all other waters''.

(b) DEFINITION OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.—Section 9302 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DEFINITION OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.—In this section, the term 'Straits of Mackinac' includes all of the United States navigable waters bounded by longitudes 84 degrees 20 minutes west and 85 degrees 10 minutes west and latitudes 45 degrees 39 minutes north and 45 degrees 54 minutes north, including Gray's Reef Passage, the South Channel, and Round Island Passage, and approaches thereto.''.

SEC. 315. STUDY OF AMPHIBIOUS VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall conduct a study to determine the applicability of current safety regulations that apply to commercial amphibious vessels.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An overview and analysis that identifies safety regulations that apply to commercial amphibious vessels;

(2) An evaluation of whether safety gaps and risks exist associated with the application of regulations identified in subsection (b)(1) to the operation of commercial amphibious vessels;

(3) An evaluation of whether aspects of the regulations established in section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (46 U.S.C. 3306 note) should apply to amphibious commercial vessels; and

(4) Recommendations on potential regulations that should apply to commercial amphibious vessels.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the study required under subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITION OF AMPHIBIOUS VESSEL.—In this section, the term ''amphibious vessel'' means a vessel which is operating as a small passenger vessel in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and is operating as a motor vehicle as defined in section 216 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7550) and that is not a DUKW amphibious passenger vessel as defined in section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (46 U.S.C. 3306 note).

SEC. 316. ST. LUCIE RIVER RAILROAD BRIDGE.

Regarding Docket Number USCG–2022–0222, before adopting a final rule, the Commandant shall conduct an independent boat traffic study at mile 7.4 of the St. Lucie River.

SEC. 317. LARGE RECREATIONAL VESSEL REGULATIONS.

Section 3529(a)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) is amended by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025''.

Subtitle C—Ports

SEC. 321. PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8343 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (46 U.S.C. 70034 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2-year pilot program'' and inserting ''pilot program'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) AUTHORIZATION.—The pilot program under subsection (a) is authorized for fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029.''.

(b) WATERFRONT SAFETY.—Section 70011(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by inserting '', including damage or destruction resulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats'' after ''adjacent to such waters''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or harm resulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats'' after ''loss''.

(c) FACILITY VISIT BY STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—Section 70011(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) prohibiting a representative of a government of country that the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism under section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371) from visiting a facility for which a facility security plan is required under section 70103(c).''.

(d) GREAT LAKES AND SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY NAVIGATION.—Section 70032 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70032. Delegation of ports and waterways authorities in Saint Lawrence Seaway

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the authority granted to the Secretary under sections 70001, 70002, 70003, 70004, and 70011 may not be delegated with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to any agency other than the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Any other authority granted the Secretary under subchapters I through III and this subchapter shall be delegated by the Secretary to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to the extent the Secretary determines such delegation is necessary for the proper operation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, after consultation with the Secretary or the head of an agency to which the Secretary has delegated the authorities in subsection (a), may—

''(1) issue and enforce special orders in accordance with section 70002;

''(2) establish water or waterfront safety zones, or other measures, for limited, controlled, or conditional access and activity when necessary for the protection of any vessel structure, waters, or shore area, as permitted in section 70011(b)(3); and

''(3) take actions for port, harbor, and coastal facility security in accordance with section 70116.''.

(e) REGULATION OF ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—Section 70051 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or cyber incidents, or transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats,'' after ''threatened war, or invasion, or insurrection, or subversive activity,''.

(f) GREAT LAKES AND SAINT LAWRENCE RIVER COOPERATIVE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue or amend such regulations as are necessary to address any applicable arrangements with the Canadian Coast Guard regarding vessel traffic services cooperation and vessel traffic management data exchanges within the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

(g) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 70032 and inserting the following:

''70032. Delegation of ports and waterways authorities in Saint Lawrence Seaway.''.

SEC. 322. STUDY ON BERING STRAIT VESSEL TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE POSTURE AT PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, under which the Marine Board of the Transportation Research Board (in this section referred to as the ''Board'') shall conduct a study to—

(1) analyze commercial vessel traffic that transits through the Bering Strait and projections for the growth of such traffic during the 10-year period beginning after such date of enactment; and

(2) assess the adequacy of emergency response capabilities and infrastructure at the Port of Point Spencer, Alaska, to address navigation safety risks and geographic challenges necessary to conduct emergency maritime response operations in the Arctic environment.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the volume and types of domestic and international commercial vessel traffic through the Bering Strait and the projected growth of such traffic, including a summary of—

(A) the sizes, ages, and flag states of vessels; and

(B) the oil and product tankers that are—

(i) in transit to or from Russia or China; or

(ii) owned or operated by a Russian or Chinese entity.

(2) An assessment of the state and adequacy of vessel traffic services and oil spill and emergency response capabilities in the vicinity of the Bering Strait, including its approaches.

(3) A risk assessment of the projected growth in commercial vessel traffic in the Bering Strait and higher probability of increased frequency in the number of maritime accidents, including spill events, and the potential impacts to the Arctic maritime environment and Native Alaskan village communities in the vicinity of the Bering Strait.

(4) An evaluation of the ability of the Port of Point Spencer, Alaska, to serve as a port of refuge and as a staging, logistics, and operations center to conduct and support maritime emergency and spill response activities.

(5) Recommendations for practical actions that can be taken by the Congress, Federal agencies, the State of Alaska, vessel carriers and operators, the marine salvage and emergency response industry, and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate risks, upgrade infrastructure, and improve the posture of the Port of Point Spencer, Alaska, to function as a strategic staging and logistics center for maritime emergency and spill response operations in the Bering Strait region.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Board shall consult with—

(1) the Department of Transportation;

(2) the Corps of Engineers;

(3) the National Transportation Safety Board;

(4) relevant ministries of the government of Canada;

(5) the Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer; and

(6) non-government entities with relevant expertise in monitoring and characterizing vessel traffic in the Arctic.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the study under subsection (a), the Board shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations of the study.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARCTIC.—The term ''Arctic'' has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

(2) PORT COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR THE PORT OF POINT SPENCER.—The term ''Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer'' means the Council established under section 541 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–120).

SEC. 323. IMPROVING VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MONITORING.

(a) PROXIMITY OF ANCHORAGES TO PIPELINES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall implement the November 2021 proposed plan of the Vessel Traffic Service Los Angeles-Long Beach for restructuring the Federal anchorages in San Pedro Bay described on page 54 of the Report of the National Transportation Safety Board titled ''Anchor Strike of Underwater Pipeline and Eventual Crude Oil Release'' and issued January 2, 2024.

(2) STUDY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall conduct a study to identify any anchorage grounds other than the San Pedro Bay Federal anchorages in which the distance between the center of an approved anchorage ground and a pipeline is less than 1 mile.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study required under paragraph (2).

(B) CONTENTS.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a list of the anchorage grounds described under paragraph (2);

(ii) whether it is possible to move each such anchorage ground to provide a minimum distance of 1 mile; and

(iii) a recommendation of whether to move any such anchorage ground and explanation for the recommendation.

(b) PROXIMITY TO PIPELINE ALERTS.—

(1) AUDIBLE AND VISUAL ALARMS.—The Commandant shall consult with the providers of vessel monitoring systems to add to the monitoring systems for vessel traffic services audible and visual alarms that alert the watchstander when an anchored vessel is encroaching on a pipeline.

(2) NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall develop procedures for all vessel traffic services to notify pipeline and utility operators following potential incursions on submerged pipelines within the vessel traffic service area of responsibility.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually for the subsequent 3 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 324. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ONBOARD VESSELS.

Section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''While on board a covered vessel, an'' and inserting ''An'';

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) manufacture or distribute, possess with intent to manufacture or distribute, or place or cause to be placed with intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance on board a covered vessel;'';

(3) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''on board a covered vessel'' before the semicolon; and

(4) in paragraph (3) by inserting ''while on board a covered vessel'' after ''such individual''.

SEC. 325. CYBER-INCIDENT TRAINING.

Section 70103(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The Secretary may conduct no-notice exercises in Captain of the Port Zones (as described in part 3 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) involving a facility or vessel required to maintain a security plan under this subsection.''.

SEC. 326. NAVIGATIONAL PROTOCOLS.

The Commandant, in consultation with the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall examine the navigational protocols used for foreign allied nations governing port and vessel operations in fog and low visibility operations and how those nations utilize advanced navigation technologies such as remote sensing, radar, tracking, and unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor visibility and manage port and vessels operations.

SEC. 327. ANCHORAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall suspend the establishment of new anchorage grounds on the Hudson River between Palisades, New York, and Germantown, New York, under section 7 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1915 (33 U.S.C. 471) or chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code.

(b) PORT OF NEW YORK BOUNDARY POINTS.—The boundary points for the Port of New York existing prior to the issuance of Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletin 2023-001 shall remain in place for a period of 20 years.

Subtitle D—Matters Involving Autonomous Systems

SEC. 331. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS MARITIME SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

''(b) FUNCTION.—The Committee shall advise the Secretary on matters relating to the regulation and use of Autonomous Systems within the territorial waters of the United States.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary in accordance with this section and section 15109.

''(2) EXPERTISE.—Each member of the Committee shall have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience in matters relating to the function of the Committee.

''(3) REPRESENTATION.—Each of the following groups shall be represented by at least 1 member on the Committee:

''(A) Marine safety or security entities.

''(B) Vessel design and construction entities.

''(C) Entities engaged in the production or research of uncrewed vehicles, including drones, autonomous or semi-autonomous vehicles, or any other product or service integral to the provision, maintenance, or management of such products or services.

''(D) Port districts, authorities, or terminal operators.

''(E) Vessel operators.

''(F) National labor unions representing merchant mariners.

''(G) Maritime pilots.

''(H) Commercial space transportation operators.

''(I) Academic institutions.

''(J) National labor unions representing longshore workers.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for chapter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.''.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish the Committee under section 15110 of title 46, United States Code (as added by this section).

SEC. 332. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF SMALL UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment, small uncrewed maritime systems owned, operated, or chartered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or that are performing specified oceanographic surveys on behalf of and pursuant to a contract or other written agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall not be subject to any vessel inspection, design, operations, navigation (except for chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code), credentialing, or training requirement, law, or regulation, that the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration determines will harm real-time operational extreme weather oceanographic and atmospheric data collection and predictions.

(b) OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, if there is an immediate safety or security concern regarding small uncrewed maritime systems.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SMALL UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS.—The term ''small uncrewed maritime systems'' means unmanned maritime systems

(as defined in section 2 of the CENOTE Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4101)), that—

(A) are not greater than 35 feet overall in length;

(B) are operated remotely or autonomously; and

(C) exclusively perform oceanographic surveys or scientific research.

(2) UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''uncrewed system''—

(A) means an uncrewed surface, undersea, or aircraft system and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the uncrewed system) that are required for the operator to operate the system safely and efficiently; and

(B) includes an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

SEC. 333. COAST GUARD TRAINING COURSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 3 years after such date of enactment, the Commandant, or such other individual or organization as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on small uncrewed maritime systems and offer such training course at least once each year for Coast Guard personnel working with or regulating small uncrewed maritime systems.

(b) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training course developed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide an overview and introduction to small uncrewed maritime systems, including examples of those used by the Federal Government, in academic settings, and in commercial sectors;

(2) address the benefits and disadvantages of use of small uncrewed maritime systems;

(3) address safe navigation of small uncrewed maritime systems, including measures to ensure collision avoidance;

(4) address the ability of small uncrewed maritime systems to communicate with and alert other vessels in the vicinity;

(5) address the ability of small uncrewed maritime systems to respond to system alarms and failures to ensure control commensurate with the risk posed by the systems;

(6) provide present and future capabilities of small uncrewed maritime systems; and

(7) provide an overview of the role of the International Maritime Organization in the governance of small uncrewed maritime systems.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SMALL UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS.—The term ''small uncrewed maritime systems'' means unmanned maritime systems (as defined in section 2 of the CENOTE Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4101)), that—

(A) are not greater than 35 feet overall in length;

(B) are operated remotely or autonomously; and

(C) exclusively perform oceanographic surveys or scientific research.

(2) UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''uncrewed system''—

(A) means an uncrewed surface, undersea, or aircraft system and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the uncrewed system) that are required for the operator to operate the system safely and efficiently; and

(B) includes an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

SEC. 334. NOAA MEMBERSHIP ON AUTONOMOUS VESSEL POLICY COUNCIL.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, with the concurrence of the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish the permanent membership of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employee to the Automated and Autonomous Vessel Policy Council of the Coast Guard.

SEC. 335. TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 319(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2 or more'' and inserting ''up to 4''.

SEC. 336. UNCREWED SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that outlines a plan for establishing an uncrewed systems capabilities office within the Coast Guard responsible for the acquisition and development of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies and to expand the capabilities of the Coast Guard with respect to such technologies.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A management strategy for the acquisition, development, and deployment of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(B) A service-wide coordination strategy to synchronize and integrate efforts across the Coast Guard in order to—

(i) support the primary duties of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 102 of title 14, United States Code; and

(ii) pursue expanded research, development, testing, and evaluation opportunities and funding to expand and accelerate identification and transition of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(C) The identification of contracting and acquisition authorities needed to expedite the development and deployment of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(D) A detailed list of commercially available uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies with capabilities determined to be useful for the Coast Guard.

(E) A cross-agency collaboration plan to engage with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to identify common requirements and opportunities to partner in acquiring, contracting, and sustaining uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system capabilities.

(F) Opportunities to obtain and share uncrewed system data from government and commercial sources to improve maritime domain awareness.

(G) The development of a concept of operations for a data system that supports and integrates uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies with key enablers, including enterprise communications networks, data storage and management, artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, and information sharing and dissemination capabilities.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTER-UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''counter-uncrewed system''—

(A) means a system or device capable of lawfully and safely disabling, disrupting, or seizing control of an uncrewed system; and

(B) includes a counter-UAS system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

(2) UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''uncrewed system''—

(A) means an uncrewed surface, undersea, or aircraft system and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the uncrewed system) that are required for the operator to operate the system safely and efficiently; and

(B) includes an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

SEC. 337. MEDIUM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of expanding the National Security Cutter's medium unmanned aircraft system capabilities to Medium Endurance Cutters and Offshore Patrol Cutters.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written report that contains the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—In submitting the study under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall determine—

(A) the feasibility of equipping Offshore Patrol Cutters and Medium Endurance Cutters with medium unmanned aircraft systems;

(B) the missions capabilities that would be strengthen by the use of such systems; and

(V) projected procurement and operational costs for acquiring such systems.

SEC. 338. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON COAST GUARD ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF UNMANNED SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Senate the first of multiple reports of the use and acquisition of the Coast Guard of unmanned systems, with subsequent reports submitted after the first report.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The reports required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An inventory of the current unmanned systems of the Coast Guard, including the missions and assets on which such systems are deployed.

(2) Cost, schedule, and performance status of the unmanned system acquisition programs of the Coast Guard.

(3) The extent to which the Coast Guard has assessed how the use of such systems support the primary duties of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 102 of title 14, United States Code.

(4) An evaluation of the acquisition strategy of the Coast Guard for unmanned systems, including the extent to which the Coast Guard has evaluated the benefits and costs of acquiring—

(A) commercially available systems; and

(B) autonomous capabilities.

(5) An evaluation of the progress of the Coast Guard in establishing an unmanned systems capabilities office responsible for the acquisition and development of unmanned system technologies, and the effectiveness of such office, including the ability to—

(A) support the acquisition, development, leasing, and deployment of unmanned systems technologies, including autonomous capabilities;

(B) execute a service-wide coordination strategy to synchronize and integrate efforts across the Coast Guard;

(C) pursue expanded research, development, experimentation, testing, and evaluation opportunities and funding to expand and

accelerate identification and transition of unmanned system technologies; and

(D) execute cross-agency collaboration to engage with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and other relevant agencies to identify common requirements and opportunities to partner in acquiring, contracting, and sustaining unmanned system capabilities.

(6) Recommendations to improve the ability of the Coast Guard to evaluate, acquire, and deploy unmanned systems technologies.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General may consult with—

(1) the maritime and aviation industries;

(2) Federal Government agencies familiar with the use and deployment of unmanned systems; and

(3) any relevant—

(A) federally funded research institutions;

(B) nongovernmental organizations; and

(C) manufactures of unmanned systems.

SEC. 339. NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES REPORT ON UNMANNED SYSTEMS AND USE OF DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall prepare an assessment of available unmanned, autonomous, or remotely-controlled maritime domain awareness technologies for use by the Coast Guard.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In carrying out the assessment under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall—

(1) describe the potential benefits and limitations of current and emerging unmanned, autonomous, or remotely controlled systems used in the maritime domain for—

(A) ocean observation;

(B) vessel monitoring and identification;

(C) weather observation;

(D) search and rescue operations;

(E) to the extent practicable for consideration by the Academy, intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and

(F) communications;

(2) assess how technologies described in paragraph (1) can help prioritize Federal investment by examining—

(A) affordability, including acquisition, operations, maintenance and lifecycle costs;

(B) reliability;

(C) versatility;

(D) efficiency; and

(E) estimated service life and persistence of effort;

(3) analyze whether the use of new and emerging maritime domain awareness technologies can be used to—

(A) effectively carry out Coast Guard missions at lower costs and reduced manpower needs;

(B) expand the scope and range of Coast Guard maritime domain awareness; and

(C) allow the Coast Guard to more efficiently and effectively allocate Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and personnel;

(4) evaluate the extent to which such systems have moved from the research and development phase to effective operations since the National Academy of Sciences published the study titled ''Leveraging Unmanned Systems for Coast Guard Missions'' and issued in 2020; and

(5) identify adjustments that would be necessary in Coast Guard authorities, policies, procedures, and protocols to incorporate unmanned technologies to enhance efficiency.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after entering into an arrangement under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment prepared under this section.

(d) USE OF INFORMATION.—In formulating costs pursuant to subsection (b), the National Academy of Sciences may utilize information from other Coast Guard reports, assessments, or analyses regarding existing Coast Guard manpower requirements or other reports, assessments, or analyses for the acquisition of unmanned, autonomous, or remotely-controlled technologies by the Federal Government.

SEC. 340. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 565. Use of unmanned aircraft systems

''With respect to any unmanned aircraft system procured by the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall ensure that such system be used to support the primary duties of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 102.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''565. Use of unmanned aircraft systems.''.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 341. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 904. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATES.

''Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon request by any State, the District of Columbia, any Indian Tribe, or any territory of the United States, provide all data possessed by the Coast Guard for a ballast water management system with a type approval certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to subpart 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 pertaining to—

''(1) challenge water (as defined in section 162.060–3 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) quality characteristics;

''(2) post-treatment water quality characteristics;

''(3) challenge water (as defined in section 162.060–3 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) biologic organism concentrations data; and

''(4) post-treatment water biologic organism concentrations data.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 903 the following:

''Sec. 904. Information on type approval certificates.''.

SEC. 342. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(a)) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting ''Notwithstanding section 888(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(b)), the Secretary shall have the authority to issue regulations to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to subsection (a) thereof.''.

(b) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—Section 5 of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LEAD AGENCY.—In this subsection, the term 'lead agency' has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

''(2) LEAD AGENCY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For all applications, the Maritime Administration shall be the Federal lead agency for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(B) EFFECT OF COMPLIANCE.—Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall fulfill the requirement of the Federal lead agency in carrying out the responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) pursuant to this Act.''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall transfer the authorities provided to the Coast Guard in part 148 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), except as provided in paragraph (2), to the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY.—The Commandant shall retain responsibility for authorities pertaining to design, construction, equipment, and operation of deepwater ports and navigational safety.

(3) UPDATES TO AUTHORITY.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue such regulations as are necessary to reflect the updates to authorities prescribed by this subsection.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, may be construed to limit the authorities of other governmental agencies previously delegated authorities of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or any other law.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any application submitted before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 343. AMENDMENTS TO PASSENGER VESSEL SECURITY AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES THAT PREVENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.—Section 3507(d)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''(taking into consideration the length of the voyage and the number of passengers and crewmembers that the vessel can accommodate)'' after ''a sexual assault''.

(b) CREW ACCESS TO PASSENGER STATEROOMS; PROCEDURES AND RESTRICTIONS.—Section 3507(f) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) a system that electronically records the date, time, and identity of each crew member accessing each passenger stateroom; and''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ensure that the procedures and restrictions are—

''(A) fully and properly implemented;

''(B) reviewed annually; and

''(C) updated as necessary.''.

SEC. 344. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH A CETACEAN DESK FOR PUGET SOUND REGION.

Section 11304(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (16 U.S.C. 1390 note) is amended by striking ''4 years'' and inserting ''6 years''.

SEC. 345. SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF USE OF DEVICES BROADCASTING ON AIS FOR PURPOSES OF MARKING FISHING GEAR.

Section 11320 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4092) is amended by striking ''during the period'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''until December 31, 2029.''.

SEC. 346. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES.

Section 3316(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2)(B)(i) to read as follows:

''(i) the government of the foreign country in which the foreign society is headquartered—

''(I) delegates that authority to the American Bureau of Shipping; or

''(II) does not delegate that authority to any classification society; or''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a delegation under paragraph (2) to a classification society from the People's Republic of China.''.

SEC. 347. ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSEL REMOVALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading by striking ''**BARGES**'' and inserting ''**VESSELS**'';

(2) by inserting before section 4701 the following:

''SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES''; AND

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

''§ 4710. Definitions

''In this subchapter:

''(1) ABANDON.—The term 'abandon' means to moor, strand, wreck, sink, or leave a covered vessel unattended for longer than 45 days.

''(2) COVERED VESSEL.—The term 'covered vessel' means a vessel that is not a barge to which subchapter I applies.

''(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian organization' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

''§ 4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator of a covered vessel may not abandon such vessel on the navigable waters of the United States.

''(b) DETERMINATION OF ABANDONMENT.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a covered vessel that appears to be abandoned, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

''(i) attempt to identify the owner using the vessel registration number, hull identification number, or any other information that can be reasonably inferred or gathered; and

''(ii) notify such owner—

''(I) of the penalty described in subsection (c); and

''(II) that the vessel will be removed at the expense of the owner if the Commandant determines that the vessel is abandoned and the owner does not remove or account for the vessel.

''(B) FORM.—The Commandant shall provide the notice required under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) if the owner can be identified, via certified mail or other appropriate forms determined by the Commandant; or

''(ii) if the owner cannot be identified, via an announcement in a local publication and on a website maintained by the Coast Guard.

''(2) DETERMINATION.—The Commandant shall make a determination not earlier than 45 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the notification required under paragraph (1) of whether a covered vessel described in such paragraph is abandoned.

''(c) PENALTY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may assess a civil penalty of not more than $500 against an owner or operator of a covered vessel determined to be abandoned under subsection (b) for a violation of subsection (a).

''(2) LIABILITY IN REM.—The owner or operator of a covered vessel shall also be liable in rem for a penalty imposed under paragraph (1).

''(3) LIMITATION.—The Commandant shall not assess a penalty if the Commandant determines the vessel was abandoned due to major extenuating circumstances of the owner or operator of the vessel, including long term medical incapacitation of the owner or operator.

''(d) VESSELS NOT ABANDONED.—The Commandant may not determine that a covered vessel is abandoned under this section if—

''(1) such vessel is located at a federally approved or State approved mooring area;

''(2) such vessel is located on private property with the permission of the owner of such property;

''(3) the owner or operator of such vessel provides a notification to the Commandant that—

''(A) indicates the location of the vessel;

''(B) indicates that the vessel is not abandoned; and

''(C) contains documentation proving that the vessel is allowed to be in such location; or

''(4) the Commandant determines that such an abandonment determination would not be in the public interest.

''§ 4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and relevant State agencies, shall establish and maintain a national inventory of covered vessels that are abandoned.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The inventory established and maintained under subsection (a) shall include data on each vessel, including geographic information system data related to the location of each such vessel.

''(c) PUBLICATION.—The Commandant shall make the inventory established under subsection (a) publicly available on a website of the Coast Guard.

''(d) REPORTING OF POTENTIALLY ABANDONED VESSELS.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall develop a process by which—

''(1) a State, Indian Tribe, Native Hawaiian organization, or person may report a covered vessel that may be abandoned to the Commandant for potential inclusion in the inventory established under subsection (a);

''(2) the Commandant shall review any such report and add such vessel to the inventory if the Commandant determines that the reported vessel is abandoned pursuant to section 4711.

''(e) CLARIFICATION.—Except in a response action carried out under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321) or in the case of imminent threat to life and safety, the Commandant shall not be responsible for removing any covered vessels listed on the inventory established and maintained under subsection (a).''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall issue regulations with respect to the procedures for determining that a vessel is abandoned for the purposes of subchapter II of chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code (as added by this section).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 4701—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter''; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter'';

(2) in section 4703 by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter'';

(3) in section 4704 by striking ''chapter'' each place it appears and inserting ''subchapter''; and

(4) in section 4705 by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 4701 the following:

''SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES''; AND

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

''4710. Definitions.

''4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited.

''4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels.''.

SEC. 348. OFFSHORE OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3702(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''offshore drilling or production facilities in the oil industry'' and inserting ''exploration, development, or production of offshore drilling or production facilities in the oil industry and non-mineral energy production''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''oil exploitation'' and inserting ''exploration, development, or production of offshore energy resources''.

(b) OIL FUEL TANK PROTECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall amend section 125.115(b) of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on such date of enactment), to reflect the amendment made in subsection (a).

(2) APPLICATION.—If the Commandant fails to amend the section described in paragraph (1) by the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, then, in lieu of the application of such section, the Secretary shall allow vessels to which section 3702 of title 46, United States Code, applies to transfer fuel from the fuel supply tanks of such vessel to offshore facilities in support of exploration, development, or production of offshore energy resources.

(c) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall amend section G6.3.a of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual, Volume II titled ''Materiel Inspection: Outer Continental Shelf Activities'', issued September 20, 2021 (COMDTINST M16000.76) (as in effect on such

date of enactment), to reflect the amendment made in subsection (a).

(2) APPLICATION.—If the Commandant fails to amend the section described in paragraph (1) by the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, then the Secretary shall in lieu of such section not apply section 3702 of title 46, United States Code, to a documented vessel transferring fuel from the fuel supply tanks of such vessel to an offshore facility if such vessel is not a tanker and is in the service of exploration, development, or production of offshore energy resources.

SEC. 349. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Section 9(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended by striking '', of which not more than 5 percent is authorized for each fiscal year for administrative costs''.

SEC. 350. BRIEFING ON DEPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE CRAFT – HEAVY WEATHER SECOND GENERATION (SPC-HWX II) VESSELS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on—

(1) the status of the acquisition and procurement of second-generation Special Purpose Craft – Heavy Weather (SPC–HWX II) vessels;

(2) the timeline for the deployment of such vessels to stations in the Pacific Northwest previously served by the first-generation Special Purpose Craft – Heavy Weather vessels; and

(3) any outstanding barriers to the timeliness of such deployment.

TITLE IV—OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE

SEC. 401. VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS.

(a) SALVAGE AND MARINE FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE CAPABILITY.—Section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) SALVAGE AND MARINE FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE CAPABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating unless otherwise delegated by the President, may require—

''(i) periodic inspection of vessels and salvage equipment, firefighting equipment, and other major marine casualty response equipment on or associated with vessels;

''(ii) periodic verification of capabilities to appropriately, and in a timely manner, respond to a marine casualty, including—

''(I) drills, with or without prior notice;

''(II) review of contracts and relevant third-party agreements;

''(III) testing of equipment;

''(IV) review of training; and

''(V) other evaluations of marine casualty response capabilities, as determined appropriate by the President; and

''(iii) carrying of appropriate response equipment for responding to a marine casualty that employs the best technology economically feasible and that is compatible with the safe operation of the vessel.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) MARINE CASUALTY.—The term 'marine casualty' means a marine casualty that is required to be reported pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), or (5) of section 6101 of title 46, United States Code.

''(ii) SALVAGE EQUIPMENT.—The term 'salvage equipment' means any equipment that is capable of being used to assist a vessel in potential or actual danger in order to prevent loss of life, damage or destruction of the vessel or its cargo, or release of its contents into the marine environment.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(A) the state of marine firefighting authorities, jurisdiction, and plan review; and

(B) other considerations with respect to fires at waterfront facilities (including vessel fires) and vessel fires on the navigable waters (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)).

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) examine—

(i) collaboration among Federal and non-Federal entities for purposes of reducing the risks to local communities of fires described in paragraph (1);

(ii) the prevalence and frequency of such fires; and

(iii) the extent to which firefighters and marine firefighters are aware of the dangers of lithium-ion battery fires, including lithium-ion batteries used for vehicles, and how to respond to such fires;

(B) review methods of documenting and sharing best practices throughout the maritime community for responding to vessel fires; and

(C) make recommendations for—

(i) preparing for, responding to, and training for such fires;

(ii) clarifying roles and responsibilities of Federal and non-Federal entities in preparing for, responding to, and training for such fires; and

(iii) other topics for consideration.

SEC. 402. USE OF MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 6308 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''initiated'' and inserting ''conducted''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) For purposes of this section, an administrative proceeding conducted by the United States includes proceedings under section 7701 and claims adjudicated under section 1013 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2713).''.

SEC. 403. TIMING OF REVIEW.

Section 1017 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2717) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) TIMING OF REVIEW.—Before the date of completion of a removal action, no person may bring an action under this Act, section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), or chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, challenging any decision relating to such removal action that is made by an on-scene coordinator appointed under the National Contingency Plan.''.

SEC. 404. ONLINE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Response Center shall submit to Congress a plan to design, fund, and staff the National Response Center to develop and maintain a web-based application by which the National Response Center may receive notifications of oil discharges or releases of hazardous substances.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a), the National Response Center shall—

(1) complete development of the application described in such subsection; and

(2) allow notifications described in such subsection that are required under Federal law or regulation to be made online using such application.

(c) USE OF APPLICATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the National Response Center may not require the notification of an oil discharge or release of a hazardous substance to be made using the application developed under such subsection.

SEC. 405. INVESTMENT OF EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL COURT RECOVERY IN HIGH YIELD INVESTMENTS AND MARINE RESEARCH.

Section 350 of Public Law 106–113 (43 U.S.C. 1474b note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) as subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and indenting the subsections appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the provisions of paragraphs (5) and (7)'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CONSENT DECREE.—The term 'Consent Decree' means the consent decree issued in United States v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–082 CIV) and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–083 CIV).

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund established pursuant to title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992 (43 U.S.C. 1474b).

''(3) OUTSIDE ACCOUNT.—The term 'outside account' means any account outside the United States Treasury.

''(4) TRUSTEE.—The term 'Trustee' means a Federal or State natural resource trustee for the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

''(b) DEPOSITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (g)'';

(4) in subsection (b)(1) (as so designated)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''issued in United States v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–082 CIV) and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–083 CIV) (hereafter referred to as the 'Consent Decree'),'';

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) the Fund;

''(B) an outside account; or''; and

(C) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''the Federal and State natural resource trustees for the Exxon Valdez oil spill ('trustees')'' and inserting ''the Trustees''; and

(ii) by striking ''Any funds'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENT FOR DEPOSITS IN OUTSIDE ACCOUNTS.—Any funds'';

(5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) by striking ''(C) Joint'' and inserting the following:

''(c) TRANSFERS.—Any joint'';

(6) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) by striking ''(D) The transfer'' and inserting the following:

''(d) NO EFFECT ON JURISDICTION.—The transfer'';

(7) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking ''**(E)** Nothing herein shall affect'' and inserting the following:

''(e) EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this section affects''; and

(B) by striking ''trustees'' and inserting ''Trustees'';

(8) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking ''(F) The Federal trustees and the State trustees'' and inserting the following:

''(f) GRANTS.—The Trustees''; and

(B) by striking ''this program'' and inserting ''this section, prioritizing the issuance of grants to facilitate habitat protection and habitat restoration programs''; and

(9) in subsection (g) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''Upon the expiration of the authorities granted in this section all'' and inserting the following:

''(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—On expiration of the authority provided in this section, all''; and

(B) by striking ''(G) The authority'' and inserting the following:

''(g) EXPIRATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority''.

SEC. 406. ADDITIONAL RESPONSE ASSETS.

(a) EXEMPTION AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3302 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) ADDITIONAL RESPONSE ASSETS.—

''(1) VESSELS EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a qualified vessel engaged in a qualified oil spill response shall not be subject to inspection if the qualified vessel—

''(A) has—

''(i) an agreement by contract or other approved means with an oil spill removal organization to support a response plan under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)), including training and exercises related to oil spill response activities; or

''(ii) been approved by the Secretary to respond to a discharge of oil or to participate in training and exercises related to oil spill response activities;

''(B) is normally and substantially involved in activities other than, and not adapted to, spill response;

''(C) complies with all applicable laws for the use of such vessel in the activities for which such vessel is normally and substantially operated, including any inspection requirement under this title for such use; and

''(D) has at least 1 crewmember possessing certifications for, or who are in training for, applicable hazardous waste operations and emergency response.

''(2) ALLOWANCES.—A qualified vessel under paragraph (1) may—

''(A) unless otherwise inspected as a towing vessel under this title, tow only—

''(i) another vessel or a device, including a bladder, designed to carry oil or oil residues with the capacity of less than 250 barrels; or

''(ii) oil spill response equipment, including boom, skimmers, or other response equipment;

''(B) carry—

''(i) temporary storage containers on board for recovered oil or oil-contaminated materials collected during an oil spill response, including bags, drums, and totes as approved by the Secretary;

''(ii) oil spill response equipment; or

''(iii) no more than 6 passengers for hire in support of a response plan under Section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)) approved by the Secretary unless the vessel has been inspected under paragraph (4) or (8) of section 3301 or is authorized by the Secretary to carry more than 6 passengers for hire;

''(C) if the qualified vessel is a tank vessel, be used for storage of recovered oil only if not carrying oil as cargo at the time of an oil spill response; or

''(D) conduct any other operation, or engage in training or exercises, in support of a response plan under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)) approved by the Secretary.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) QUALIFIED VESSEL.—The term 'qualified vessel' means a vessel operating in any part of the area of responsibility—

''(i) of the Western Alaska Captain of the Port Zone as in effect of the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025; or

''(ii) the Prince William Sound Captain of the Port Zone as in effect of the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.

''(B) QUALIFIED OIL SPILL.—The term 'qualified oil spill' means an oil spill occurring in any part of the area of responsibility—

''(i) of the Western Alaska Captain of the Port Zone as in effect of the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025; or

''(ii) the Prince William Sound Captain of the Port Zone as in effect of the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 11316 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) is repealed.

SEC. 407. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME OIL SPILL RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, review and update the Canada-US Joint Maritime Pollution Contingency Plan.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Commandant shall—

(1) review each geographic annex within the contingency plan;

(2) analyze the vessel traffic patterns, including the types of vessels transiting the area, and assess the risks of a pollution incident; and

(3) determine if any of the areas should be expanded or modified.

(c) EXERCISES.—The Commandant, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall conduct a joint training exercise not less than once a year to determine emergency response capabilities and identify other types of support necessary to effectuate a successful oil spill response, in accordance with the Canada-US Joint Maritime Pollution Contingency Plan.

TITLE V—SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESPONSE

SEC. 501. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COAST GUARD REFORMS.

(a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the efforts of the Coast Guard to mitigate cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment within the service.

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

(A) evaluate—

(i) the efforts of the Commandant to implement the directed actions from enclosure 1 of the memorandum titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'' dated November 27, 2023;

(ii) whether the Commandant met the reporting requirements under section 5112 of title 14, United States Code; and

(iii) the effectiveness of the actions of the Coast Guard, including efforts outside of the actions described in the memorandum titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'' dated November 27, 2023, to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard, and how the Coast Guard is overcoming challenges in implementing such actions;

(B) make recommendations to the Commandant for improvements to the efforts of the service to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard; and

(C) make recommendations to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Coast Guard and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard, including proposed changes to any legislative authorities.

(b) REPORT BY COMMANDANT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General completes all actions under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes the following:

(1) A plan for Coast Guard implementation, including interim milestones and timeframes, of any recommendation made by the Comptroller General under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Commandant concurs.

(2) With respect to any recommendation made under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Commandant does not concur, an explanation of the reasons why the Commandant does not concur.

SEC. 502. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON RETENTION AND ACCESS TO EVIDENCE AND RECORDS RELATING TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND OTHER MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 955. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct

''(a) ISSUANCE OF POLICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, shall issue a comprehensive policy for the Coast Guard on the retention of and access to evidence and records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard.

''(b) OBJECTIVES.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall revise existing policies and procedures, including systems of records, as necessary to ensure preservation of such evidence and records for periods sufficient—

''(1) to ensure that members of the Coast Guard who were victims of covered misconduct are able to pursue claims for veterans benefits;

''(2) to support administrative processes, criminal proceedings, and civil litigation conducted by military or civil authorities; and

''(3) for such other purposes relating to the documentation of an incident of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(c) ELEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing the comprehensive policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

''(A) identify records relating to an incident of covered misconduct that shall be retained;

''(B) with respect to records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard that are not records of the Coast Guard, identify such records known to or in the possession of the Coast Guard, and set forth procedures for Coast Guard coordination with the custodian of such records for proper retention of the records;

''(C) set forth criteria for the collection and retention of records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard;

''(D) identify physical evidence and nondocumentary forms of evidence relating to covered misconduct that shall be retained;

''(E) set forth the period for which evidence and records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including Coast Guard Form 6095, shall be retained, except that—

''(i) any physical or forensic evidence relating to rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), shall be retained not less than 50 years, and for other covered misconduct not less than the statute of limitations of the alleged offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

''(ii) documentary evidence relating to rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), shall be retained not less than 50 years;

''(F) consider locations in which such records shall be stored;

''(G) identify media and methods that may be used to preserve and ensure access to such records, including electronic systems of records;

''(H) ensure the protection of privacy of—

''(i) individuals named in records and status of records under section 552 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the 'Freedom of Information Act') and section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the 'Privacy Act'); and

''(ii) individuals named in restricted reporting cases;

''(I) designate the 1 or more positions within the Coast Guard that shall have the responsibility for such record retention by the Coast Guard;

''(J) require education and training for members and civilian employees of the Coast Guard on record retention requirements under this section;

''(K) set forth criteria for access to such records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including whether the consent of the victim should be required, by—

''(i) victims of covered misconduct;

''(ii) law enforcement authorities;

''(iii) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

''(iv) other individuals and entities, including alleged assailants;

''(L) require uniform collection of data on—

''(i) the incidence of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard; and

''(ii) disciplinary actions taken in substantiated cases of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard; and

''(M) set forth standards for communications with, and notifications to, victims, consistent with—

''(i) the requirements of any applicable Department of Defense policy; and

''(ii) to the extent practicable, any applicable policy of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(2) RETENTION OF CERTAIN FORMS AND EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH RESTRICTED REPORTS AND UNRESTRICTED REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall require all unique or original copies of Coast Guard Form 6095 filed in connection with a restricted or unrestricted report on an alleged incident of rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), involving a member of the Coast Guard to be retained for the longer of—

''(i) 50 years commencing on the date of signature of the covered person on Coast Guard Form 6095; or

''(ii) the time provided for the retention of such form in connection with unrestricted and restricted reports on incidents of sexual assault involving members of the Coast Guard under Coast Guard policy.

''(B) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any Coast Guard form retained under subparagraph (A) shall be retained in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the member of the Coast Guard concerned in accordance with Coast Guard policy.

''(3) RETENTION OF CASE NOTES IN INVESTIGATIONS OF COVERED MISCONDUCT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) REQUIRED RETENTION OF ALL INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall require, for all criminal investigations relating to an alleged incident of covered misconduct involving a member of the Coast Guard, the retention of all elements of the case file.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—The elements of the case file to be retained under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) the case activity record;

''(ii) the case review record;

''(iii) investigative plans; and

''(iv) all case notes made by any investigating agent.

''(C) RETENTION PERIOD.—All elements of the case file shall be retained for not less than 50 years for cases involving rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), and not less than the statute of limitations of the alleged offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for other covered misconduct, and no element of any such case file may be destroyed until the expiration of such period.

''(4) RETURN OF PERSONAL PROPERTY UPON COMPLETION OF RELATED PROCEEDINGS IN UNRESTRICTED REPORTING CASES.—Notwithstanding the records and evidence retention requirements described in paragraphs (1)(E) and (2), personal property retained as evidence in connection with an incident of rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), involving a member of the Coast Guard may be returned to the rightful owner of such property after the conclusion of all legal, adverse action, and administrative proceedings related to such incident, as determined by the Commandant.

''(5) RETURN OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN RESTRICTED REPORTING CASES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe procedures under which a victim who files a restricted report of an incident of sexual assault may request, at any time, the return of any personal property of the victim obtained as part of the sexual assault forensic examination.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures required by subparagraph (A) shall ensure that—

''(i) a request by a victim for the return of personal property described under subparagraph (A) may be made on a confidential basis and without affecting the restricted nature of the restricted report; and

''(ii) at the time of the filing of the restricted report, a Special Victims' Counsel, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, or Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate—

''(I) informs the victim that the victim may request the return of personal property as described in such subparagraph; and

''(II) advises the victim that such a request for the return of personal property may negatively impact a subsequent case adjudication if the victim later decides to convert the restricted report to an unrestricted report.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except with respect to personal property returned to a victim under this paragraph, nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the requirement to retain a sexual assault forensic examination kit for the period specified in paragraph (2).

''(6) VICTIM ACCESS TO RECORDS.—With respect to victim access to records after all final disposition actions and any appeals have been completed, as applicable, the comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall provide that, to the maximum extent practicable, and in such a manner that will not jeopardize an active investigation or an active case—

''(A) a victim of covered misconduct in a case in which either the victim or alleged perpetrator is a covered person shall have access to all records that are directly related to the victim's case, or related to the victim themselves, in accordance with the policy issued under subsection (a) and subject to required protections under sections 552 and 552a of title 5;

''(B) a victim of covered misconduct who requests access to records under section 552 or 552a of title 5 concerning the victim's case shall be determined to have a compelling need, and the records request shall be processed under expedited processing procedures, if in the request for such records the victim indicates that the records concerned are related to the covered misconduct case;

''(C) in applying sections 552 and 552a of title 5 to the redaction of information related to a records request by a victim of covered misconduct made under such sections after all final disposition actions and any appeals have been completed—

''(i) any such redaction shall be applied to the minimum extent possible so as to ensure the provision of the maximum amount of unredacted information to the victim that is permissible by law; and

''(ii) any such redaction shall not be applied to—

''(I) receipt by the victim of the victim's own statement; or

''(II) the victim's information from an investigation; and

''(D) in the case of such a records request for which the timelines for expedited processing are not met, the Commandant shall provide to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing that explains the reasons for the denial or the delay in processing, as applicable.

''(d) DEFINITION OF COVERED PERSON.—In this section, the term 'covered person' includes—

''(1) a member of the Coast Guard on active duty;

''(2) a member of the Coast Guard Reserve with respect to crimes investigated by or reported to the Secretary on any date on

which such member is in a military status under section 802 of title 10 (article 2 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(3) a former member of the Coast Guard with respect to crimes investigated by or reported to the Secretary; and

''(4) in the case of an investigation of covered misconduct conducted by, or an incident of covered misconduct reported to, the Coast Guard involving a civilian employee of the Coast Guard, any such civilian employee of the Coast Guard.

''(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section authorizes or requires, or shall be construed to authorize or require, the discovery, inspection, or production of reports, memoranda, or other internal documents or work product generated by counsel, an attorney for the Government, or their assistants or representatives.''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 956. Requirement to maintain certain records

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain all work product related to documenting a disposition decision on an investigation by the Coast Guard Investigative Service or other law enforcement entity investigating a Coast Guard member accused of an offense against chapter 47 of title 10.

''(b) RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.—Work product documents and the case action summary described in subsection (c) shall be maintained for a period of not less than 7 years from the date of the disposition decision.

''(c) CASE ACTION SUMMARY.—Upon a final disposition action for cases described in subsection (a), except for offenses of wrongful use or possession of a controlled substance under section 912a of title 10 (article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), where the member accused is an officer of pay grade O–4 and below or an enlisted member of pay grade E–7 and below, a convening authority shall sign a case action summary that includes the following:

''(1) The disposition actions.

''(2) The name and command of the referral authority.

''(3) Records documenting when a referral authority consulted with a staff judge advocate or special trial counsel, as applicable, before a disposition action was taken, to include the recommendation of the staff judge advocate or special trial counsel.

''(4) A reference section listing the materials reviewed in making a disposition decision.

''(5) The Coast Guard Investigative Service report of investigation.

''(6) The completed Coast Guard Investigative Service report of adjudication included as an enclosure.

''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'work product' includes—

''(1) a prosecution memorandum;

''(2) emails, notes, and other correspondence related to a disposition decision; and

''(3) the contents described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (c).

''(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section authorizes or requires, or shall be construed to authorize or require, the discovery, inspection, or production of reports, memoranda, or other internal documents or work product generated by counsel, an attorney for the Government, or their assistants or representatives.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Sec. 955. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct.

''Sec. 956. Requirement to maintain certain records.''.

SEC. 503. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF A CADET AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY WHO IS THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RELATED OFFENSE.

Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF CADET WHO IS THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RELATED OFFENSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide for timely consideration of and action on a request submitted by a cadet appointed to the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of an alleged sexual assault or other offense covered by section 920, 920c, or 930 of title 10 (article 120, 120c, or 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) for transfer to another military service academy or to enroll in a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish policies to carry out this subsection that—

''(A) provide that the Superintendent shall ensure that any cadet who has been appointed to the Coast Guard Academy is informed of the right to request a transfer pursuant to this subsection, and that any formal request submitted by a cadet who alleges an offense referred to in paragraph (1) is processed as expeditiously as practicable through the chain of command for review and action by the Superintendent;

''(B) direct the Superintendent, in coordination with the Superintendent of the military service academy to which the cadet requests to transfer—

''(i) to take action on a request for transfer under this subsection not later than 72 hours after receiving the formal request from the cadet;

''(ii) to approve such request for transfer unless there are exceptional circumstances that require denial of the request;

''(iii) upon approval of such request for transfer, to take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the transfer of the cadet to the military service academy concerned as expeditiously as possible, subject to the considerations described in clause (iv); and

''(iv) in determining the transfer date of the cadet to the military service academy concerned, to take into account—

''(I) the preferences of the cadet, including any preference to delay transfer until the completion of any academic course in which the cadet is enrolled at the time of the request for transfer; and

''(II) the well-being of the cadet; and

''(C) direct the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, in coordination with the Secretary of the military department that sponsors the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at the institution of higher education to which the cadet requests to transfer—

''(i) to take action on a request for transfer under this subsection not later than 72 hours after receiving the formal request from the cadet;

''(ii) subject to the cadet's acceptance for admission to the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer, to approve such request for transfer unless there are exceptional circumstances that require denial of the request;

''(iii) to take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the cadet's enrollment in the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer and to process the cadet for participation in the relevant Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program as expeditiously as possible, subject to the considerations described in clause (iv); and

''(iv) in determining the transfer date of the cadet to the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer, to take into account—

''(I) the preferences of the cadet, including any preference to delay transfer until the completion of any academic course in which the cadet is enrolled at the time of the request for transfer; and

''(II) the well-being of the cadet.

''(3) REVIEW.—If the Superintendent denies a request for transfer under this subsection, the cadet may request review of the denial by the Secretary, who shall take action on such request for review not later than 72 hours after receipt of such request.

''(4) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that all records of any request, determination, transfer, or other action under this subsection remain confidential, consistent with applicable law and regulation.

''(5) EFFECT OF OTHER LAW.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection may retain the cadet's appointment to the Coast Guard Academy or may be appointed to the military service academy to which the cadet transfers without regard to the limitations and requirements set forth in sections 7442, 8454, and 9442 of title 10.

''(6) COMMISSION AS OFFICER IN THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon graduation, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy who transferred to that academy under this subsection is entitled to be accepted for appointment as a permanent commissioned officer in the Regular Coast Guard in the same manner as graduates of the Coast Guard Academy, as set forth in section 2101 of this title.

''(B) COMMISSION AS OFFICER IN OTHER ARMED FORCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy and indicates a preference pursuant to clause (ii) may be appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated.

''(ii) STATEMENT OF PREFERENCE.—A cadet seeking appointment as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated under clause (i) shall, before graduating from that academy, indicate to the Commandant that the cadet has a preference for appointment to that armed force.

''(iii) CONSIDERATION BY COAST GUARD.—The Commandant shall consider a preference of a cadet indicated pursuant to clause (ii), but may require the cadet to serve as a permanent commissioned officer in the Regular Coast Guard instead of being appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated.

''(iv) TREATMENT OF SERVICE AGREEMENT.—With respect to a service agreement entered into under section 1925 of this title by a cadet who transfers under this subsection to the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy and is appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with that academy,

the service obligation undertaken under such agreement shall be considered to be satisfied upon the completion of 5 years of active duty service in the service of such armed force.

''(C) SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education is entitled upon graduation from the Senior Reserve Officers' Training program to commission into the Coast Guard, as set forth in section 3738a of this title.''.

SEC. 504. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR EXPERTISE IN MILITARY JUSTICE OR HEALTHCARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare

''(a) SECRETARY DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may designate a limited number of officers of the Coast Guard as having particular expertise in—

''(1) military justice; or

''(2) healthcare.

''(b) PROMOTION AND GRADE.—An individual designated under this section—

''(1) shall not be included on the active duty promotion list;

''(2) shall be promoted under section 2126; and

''(3) may not be promoted to a grade higher than captain.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2131 the following:

''2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2102(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence by striking ''and officers of the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy'' and inserting ''officers of the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy, and officers designated by the Secretary pursuant this section''.

(2) Subsection (e) of section 2103 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(e) SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE NUMBERS FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS.—The Secretary shall prescribe the number of officers authorized to be serving on active duty in each grade of—

''(1) the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy;

''(2) the officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section; and

''(3) the officers of the Reserve serving in connection with organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components.''.

(3) Section 2126 of title 14, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''and as to officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section'' after ''reserve components''.

(4) Section 3736(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by striking ''promotion list and the'' and inserting ''promotion list, officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section, and the officers on the''; and

(B) in the second sentence by striking ''promotion list or the'' and inserting ''promotion list, officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section, or the officers on the''.

SEC. 505. SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY FOR COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1909. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, establish and maintain a safe-to-report policy described in subsection (b) that applies with respect to all members of the Coast Guard (including members of the reserve and auxiliary components of the Coast Guard), cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, and any other individual undergoing training at an accession point of the Coast Guard.

''(b) SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY.—The safe-to-report policy described in this subsection is a policy that—

''(1) prescribes the handling of minor collateral misconduct, involving a member of the Coast Guard who is the alleged victim or reporting witness of a sexual assault; and

''(2) applies to all such individuals, regardless of—

''(A) to whom the victim makes the allegation or who receives the victim's report of sexual assault; or

''(B) whether the report, investigation, or prosecution is handled by military or civilian authorities.

''(c) MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—In issuing the policy under subsection (a), the Commandant shall specify mitigating circumstances that decrease the gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline and aggravating circumstances that increase the gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline for purposes of the safe-to-report policy.

''(d) TRACKING OF COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT INCIDENTS.—In conjunction with the issuance of the policy under subsection (a), the Commandant shall develop and implement a process to anonymously track incidents of minor collateral misconduct that are subject to the safe-to-report policy.

''(e) MINOR COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'minor collateral misconduct' means any minor misconduct that is potentially punishable under chapter 47 of title 10 that—

''(1) is committed close in time to or during a sexual assault and directly related to the incident that formed the basis of the allegation of sexual assault allegation;

''(2) is discovered as a direct result of the report of sexual assault or the ensuing investigation into such sexual assault; and

''(3) does not involve aggravating circumstances (as specified in the policy issued under subsection (a)) that increase the gravity of the minor misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1908 (as added by this Act) the following:

''1909. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 506. MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON COVERED MISCONDUCT IN COAST GUARD.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF POLICY ON COVERED MISCONDUCT.—Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking ''**Policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence**'' and inserting ''**Academy policy and report on covered misconduct**''; and

(2) by striking subsections (c) through (e) and inserting the following:

''(c) ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy to conduct at the Coast Guard Academy during each Academy program year an assessment to determine the effectiveness of the policies of the Academy with respect to covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(2) BIENNIAL SURVEY.—For the assessment at the Academy under paragraph (1) with respect to an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year, the Superintendent shall conduct a survey of cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy—

''(A) to measure the incidence, during such program year—

''(i) of covered misconduct events, on or off the Academy campus, that have been reported to an official of the Academy;

''(ii) of covered misconduct events, on or off the Academy campus, that have not been reported to an official of the Academy; and

''(iii) of retaliation related to a report of a covered misconduct event, on or off the Academy campus; and

''(B) to assess the perceptions of the cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy with respect to—

''(i) the Academy's policies, training, and procedures on covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy;

''(ii) the enforcement of such policies;

''(iii) the incidence of covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy; and

''(iv) any other issues relating to covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(d) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, and each March 1 thereafter through March 1, 2031, the Commandant shall direct the Superintendent to submit to the Commandant a report on incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military and civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(i) Information and data on all incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in paragraph (1) reported to the Superintendent or any other official of the Academy during the preceding Academy program year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident'),

''(ii) The number of reported incidents committed against a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(iii) The number of reported incidents committed by a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(iv) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(v) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system, including the number of such incidents that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(vi) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(vii) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(I) a brief description of the nature of the incident;

''(II) whether the accused cadet or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy had previously been convicted of sexual assault; and

''(III) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(viii) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(I) conviction and sentence by court-martial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(II) acquittal of all charges at court-martial;

''(III) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(IV) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(V) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(VI) whether the accused cadet or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of court martial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the military member upon separation or resignation.

''(ix) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military and civilian personnel of the Academy reported to the Superintendent or any other official of the Academy during the preceding Academy program year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(I) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(II) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(III) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(x) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(I) whether the investigation is in open or completed status;

''(II) an identification of the investigating entity;

''(III) whether a referral has been made to outside law enforcement entities;

''(IV) in the case of an investigation that is complete, a description of the results of such an investigation and information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; and

''(V) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(B) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(3) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (f), beginning on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of trends in incidents described in paragraph (1), as applicable, since the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(4) RESPONSE.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include, for the preceding Academy program year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives, investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in paragraph (1) involving a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(5) PLAN.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the Academy program year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(6) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response carried out by the Academy during the preceding Academy program year.

''(7) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include, for incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy—

''(A) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(B) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such Academy program year; and

''(C) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(8) BIENNIAL SURVEY.—Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year shall include the results of the survey conducted under subsection (c)(2) in such Academy program year.

''(9) FOCUS GROUPS.—For each Academy program year with respect to which the Superintendent is not required to conduct a survey at the Academy under subsection (c)(2), the Commandant shall require focus groups to be conducted at the Academy for the purpose of ascertaining information relating to covered misconduct issues at the Academy.

''(10) SUBMISSION OF REPORT; BRIEFING.—

''(A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the Commandant receives a report from the Superintendent under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112—

''(i) the report of the Superintendent;

''(ii) the comments of the Commandant with respect to the report; and

''(iii) relevant information gathered during a focus group under subparagraph (A) during the Academy program year covered by the report, as applicable.

''(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant submits a report under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall provide a briefing on the report submitted under subparagraph (A) to—

''(i) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

''(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(e) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—To the extent that information collected or reported under the authority of this section, such information shall be provided in a form that is consistent with applicable privacy protections under Federal law and does not jeopardize the confidentiality of victims.

''(f) CONTINUITY OF DATA AND REPORTING.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall ensure the continuity of data collection and reporting such that the ability to analyze trends is not compromised.''.

(b) COVERED MISCONDUCT IN COAST GUARD.—Section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 5112. Covered misconduct in Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 each year, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on incidents of covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including recruits and officer candidates, and claims of retaliation related to the reporting of any such incident.

''(b) CONTINUITY OF DATA AND REPORTING.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall ensure the continuity of data collection and reporting such that the ability to analyze trends is not compromised.

''(c) CONTENTS.—

''(1) INCIDENTS INVOLVING MEMBERS.—

''(A) INFORMATION AND DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, information and data on—

''(I) incidents of covered misconduct; and

''(II) incidents of retaliation against a member of the Coast Guard related to the reporting of covered misconduct, disaggregated by type of retaliation claim.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The information and data on the incidents described in clause (i) shall include the following:

''(I) All incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in clause (i) reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident').

''(II) The number of reported incidents committed against members of the Coast Guard.

''(III) The number of reported incidents committed by members of the Coast Guard.

''(IV) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(V) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system, including the number of such incidents that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(VI) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(VII) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(aa) a brief description of the nature of the incident;

''(bb) whether the accused member has previously been convicted of sexual assault; and

''(cc) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(VIII) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(aa) conviction and sentence by court-martial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(bb) acquittal of all charges at court-martial;

''(cc) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(dd) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(ee) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(ff) whether the accused member was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of courtmartial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the member upon separation or resignation.

''(IX) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(aa) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(bb) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(cc) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(X) The disposition of or action taken by the Coast Guard or any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal entity with respect to a substantiated reported incident.

''(XI) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(aa) the status of the investigation or information relating to any referral to outside law enforcement entities;

''(bb) the official or office of the Coast Guard that received the complaint;

''(cc) a description of the results of such an investigation or information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; or

''(dd) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(iii) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under clause (i), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(B) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required by subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, an analysis or assessment of trends in the occurrence, as applicable, of incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i), since the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(C) RESPONSE.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives, investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving a member of the Coast Guard.

''(D) PLAN.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving members of the Coast Guard.

''(E) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response activities related to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) carried out by the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year.

''(F) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(i) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(ii) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such year; and

''(iii) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(2) INCIDENTS INVOLVING RECRUITS AND OFFICER CANDIDATES.—

''(A) INFORMATION AND DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), each report required under subsection (a) shall include, as a separate appendix or enclosure, for the preceding calendar year, information and data on—

''(I) incidents of covered misconduct involving a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May or an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School; and

''(II) incidents of retaliation against such a recruit or officer candidate related to the reporting of covered misconduct, disaggregated by type of retaliation claim.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The information and data on the incidents described in clause (i) shall include the following:

''(aa) All incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in clause (i) reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident').

''(bb) The number of reported incidents committed against recruits and officer candidates described in clause (i)(I).

''(cc) The number of reported incidents committed by such recruits and officer candidates.

''(dd) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(ee)(AA) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system.

''(BB) Of such reported incidents entered into such system, the number that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(ff) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(gg) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(AA) a brief description of the nature of the incident; and

''(BB) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(hh) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(AA) conviction and sentence by courtmartial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(BB) acquittal of all charges at courtmartial;

''(CC) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(DD) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(EE) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(FF) whether the accused member was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of courtmartial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the member upon separation or resignation.

''(ii) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct involving recruits or officer candidates reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(AA) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(BB) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(CC) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(jj) The disposition of or action taken by the Coast Guard or any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal entity with respect to a substantiated reported incident.

''(kk) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(AA) the status of the investigation or information relating to any referral to outside law enforcement entities;

''(BB) the official or office of the Coast Guard that received the complaint;

''(CC) a description of the results of such an investigation or information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; or

''(DD) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(II) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under clause (i), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(B) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required by subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, an analysis or assessment of trends in the occurrence, as applicable, of incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i), since the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(C) RESPONSE.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives, investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving—

''(i) a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May; or

''(ii) an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School.

''(D) PLAN.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May or an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School.

''(E) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required

under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response activities related to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph carried out by the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year.

''(F) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(i) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(ii) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such year; and

''(iii) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(3) IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REVIEW DIRECTED ACTIONS.—Each report required under subsection (a) submitted during the 5-year period beginning on March 1, 2025, shall include information on the implementation by the Commandant of the directed actions described in the memorandum of the Coast Guard titled 'Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency', issued on November 27, 2023, including—

''(A) a description of actions taken to address each directed action during the year covered by the report;

''(B) the implementation status of each directed action;

''(C) in the case of any directed action that has not been implemented—

''(i) a detailed action plan for implementation of the recommendation;

''(ii) an estimated timeline for implementation of the recommendation;

''(iii) description of changes the Commandant intends to make to associated Coast Guard policies so as to enable the implementation of the recommendation; and

''(iv) any other information the Commandant considers appropriate;

''(D) a description of the metrics and milestones used to measure completion, accountability, and effectiveness of each directed action;

''(E) a description of any additional actions the Commandant is taking to mitigate instances of covered misconduct within the Coast Guard;

''(F) any legislative change proposal necessary to implement the directed actions; and

''(G) a detailed list of funding necessary to implement the directed actions in a timely and effective manner, including a list of personnel needed for such implementation.

''(d) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—To the extent that information collected under the authority of this section is reported or otherwise made available to the public, such information shall be provided in a form that is consistent with applicable privacy protections under Federal law and does not jeopardize the confidentiality of victims.

''(e) SUBSTANTIATED DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'substantiated' has the meaning given the term under section 1631(c) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CHAPTER 19.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1902 and inserting the following:

''1902. Academy policy and report on covered misconduct.''.

(2) CHAPTER 51.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5112 and inserting the following:

''5112. Covered misconduct in the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 507. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OFFICER INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROCESS.

(a) REVIEW OF RECORDS.—Section 2158 of title 14, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''may at any time convene a board of officers'' and inserting ''shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures''.

(b) BOARDS OF INQUIRY.—Section 2159(c) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''send the record of its proceedings to a board of review'' and inserting ''recommend to the Secretary that the officer not be retained on active duty''.

(c) REPEAL OF BOARDS OF REVIEW.—Section 2160 of title 14, United States Code, is repealed.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 2161 by striking ''section 2158, 2159, or 2160'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 2158 or 2159'';

(B) in section 2163, in the first sentence by striking ''board of review under section 2160 of this title'' and inserting ''board of inquiry under section 2159 of this title''; and

(C) in section 2164(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''or 2160''.

(2) The analysis at the beginning of chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2160.

SEC. 508. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2519. Review of discharge characterization

''(a) DOWNGRADE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The decision to conduct a case review under this section shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(2) BOARD OF REVIEW.—In addition to the requirements of section 1553 of title 10, a board of review for a former member of the Coast Guard established pursuant to such section and under part 51 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025), may upon a motion of the board and subject to review by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, downgrade an honorable discharge to a general (under honorable conditions) discharge upon a finding that a former member of the Coast Guard, while serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces, committed sexual assault or sexual harassment in violation of section 920, 920b, or 934 of title 10 (article 120, 120b, or 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(3) EVIDENCE.—Any downgrade under paragraph (2) shall be supported by clear and convincing evidence.

''(4) LIMITATION.—The review board under paragraph (2) may not downgrade a discharge of a former member of the Coast Guard if the same action described in paragraph (2) was considered prior to separation from active duty by an administrative board in determining the characterization of discharge as otherwise provided by law and in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(b) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A review by a board established under section 1553 of title 10 and under part 51 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025), shall be based on the records of the Coast Guard, and with respect to a member who also served in another one of the armed forces, the records of the armed forces concerned and such other evidence as may be presented to the board.

''(2) EVIDENCE BY WITNESS.—A witness may present evidence to the board in person or by affidavit.

''(3) APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD.—A person who requests a review under this section may appear before the board in person or by counsel or an accredited representative of an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.

''(4) NOTIFICATION.—A former member of the Coast Guard who is subject to a downgrade in discharge characterization review under subsection (a) shall be notified in writing of such proceedings, afforded the right to obtain copies of records and documents relevant to the proceedings, and the right to appear before the board in person or by counsel or an accredited representative of an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall initiate a rulemaking to implement this section.

(2) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall take effect not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant promulgates a final rule pursuant to such paragraph.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''2519. Review of discharge characterization.''.

SEC. 509. CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER AS GROUNDS FOR DENIAL.

Section 7511(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''or'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''State, local, or Tribal law'' and inserting ''Federal, State, local, or Tribal law'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) section 920 or 920b of title 10 (article 120 and 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice); or''.

SEC. 510. DEFINITION OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2520. Covered misconduct defined

''In this title, the term 'covered misconduct' means—

''(1) rape and sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(2) sexual harassment, as described in Executive Order 14062 dated January 26, 2022, and enumerated under section 934 of title 10 (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(3) abusive sexual contact and aggravated sexual contact, as described in sections 920(c) and 920(d) of title 10 (articles 120(c) and 120(d) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(4) wrongful broadcast, dissemination, or creation of content as described in sections 917 and 920c of title 10 (articles 117a and 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(5) the child pornography offenses as described in section 934 of title 10 (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(6) rape and sexual assault of a child, other sexual misconduct, and stalking, as described in sections 920b, 920c(a), and 930 of title 10 (articles 120b, 120c, and 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice); and

''(7) domestic violence, as described in section 928b of title 10 (article 128b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''2520. Covered misconduct defined.''.

SEC. 511. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE OR MANUAL FOR COURTS MARTIAL RELATING TO COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5117. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct

''Beginning on March 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with respect to each of the following:

''(1) Whether the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10) has been amended—

''(A) to add any sex-related offense as a new article; or

''(B) to remove an article relating to covered misconduct described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 301.

''(2) Whether the Manual for Courts Martial has been modified—

''(A) to add any sex-related offense as an offense described under an article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; or

''(B) to remove as an offense described under an article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice covered misconduct described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 301.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5117. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice Or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct.''.

SEC. 512. COMPLAINTS OF RETALIATION BY VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RELATED PERSONS.

Section 1562a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary of Defense shall'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) COAST GUARD.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall designate the Commandant of the Coast Guard to be responsible for carrying out the requirements of this section with respect to members of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''and the Commandant of the Coast Guard'' after ''Secretary'';

(B) in paragraph (8) by inserting before the period at the end ''or with respect to the Coast Guard, the component designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard''; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking ''Department of Defense''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting '', the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security,'' before ''or any other inspector general'';

(B) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''military'' and inserting ''armed force''; and

(C) in subparagraph (E) by inserting ''or department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy for members of the Coast Guard'' after ''Department of Defense''.

SEC. 513. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES ON MILITARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue updated policies of the Coast Guard relating to military protective orders that are consistent with the law and policies of the Department of Defense.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The policies developed under paragraph (1) shall require—

(A) that any denial of a request for a military protective order shall include a written explanation for the denial, which shall be—

(i) forwarded to the next flag officer in the chain of command of the commanding officer or other approving authority who denied the request; and

(ii) provided to the member who submitted the request; and

(B) the recusal of an approving authority from participating in the granting or denying of a military protective order, if such authority was, at any time—

(i) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation filed by the member requesting the military protective order or the member who is the subject of the military protective order; or

(ii) associated with the member requesting the military protective order or the member who is the subject of the military protective order in a manner that presents as an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Commandant shall develop a policy to ensure that sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, and other appropriate personnel shall inform victims of the process by which the victim may request an expedited transfer, a no-contact order, or a military or civilian protective order.

SEC. 514. COAST GUARD IMPLEMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADDRESSING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall review the report of the Independent Review Commission titled ''Hard Truths and the Duty to Change: Recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military'' referred to in the memorandum of the Department of Defense titled ''Memorandum for Senior Pentagon Leadership Commanders of the Combatant Commands Defense Agency and DoD Field Activity Directors'', dated September 22, 2021, (relating to commencing Department of Defense actions and implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Review Commission to address sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military).

(b) STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.—On completion of the review required under subsection (a), and not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a strategy and action plan that—

(1)(A) identifies any recommendation set forth in the report by the Independent Review Commission described in subsection (a) that addresses a matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, does not apply to the Coast Guard, or otherwise would not be beneficial to members of the Coast Guard, as determined by the Commandant; and

(B) includes a brief rationale for such determination; and

(2) with respect to each recommendation set forth in such report that is not identified under paragraph (1), includes—

(A)(i) a detailed action plan for implementation of the recommendation;

(ii) a description of changes the Commandant will make to associated Coast Guard policies so as to enable the implementation of the recommendation;

(iii) an estimated timeline for implementation of the recommendation;

(iv) the estimated cost of the implementation;

(v) legislative proposals for such implementation, as appropriate; and

(vi) any other information the Commandant considers appropriate; or

(B) in the case of such a recommendation that the Commandant is unable to implement, an explanation of the reason the recommendation cannot be implemented.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter through 2028, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the status of the implementation of this section and any modification to the strategy and plan submitted under subsection (b).

SEC. 515. POLICY RELATING TO CARE AND SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue Coast Guard policy relating to the care and support of members of the Coast Guard who are alleged victims covered misconduct.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall require, to the maximum extent practicable, that—

(1) a member of the Coast Guard who is an alleged victim of covered misconduct and discloses such covered misconduct to the appropriate individual of the Coast Guard responsible for providing victim care and support—

(A) shall receive care and support from such individual; and

(B) such individual shall not deny or unreasonably delay providing care and support; and

(2) in the case of such an alleged victim to whom care and support cannot be provided by the appropriate individual contacted by the alleged victim based on programmatic eligibility criteria or any other reason that affects the ability of such appropriate individual to provide care and support (such as being stationed at a remote unit or serving on a vessel currently underway) the alleged victim shall receive, with the permission of the alleged victim—

(A) an in-person introduction to appropriate service providers, for which the alleged victim is physically present, which shall occur at the discretion of the alleged victim; and

(B) access to follow-up services from the appropriate 1 or more service providers.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The policy issued under subsection (a) shall apply to—

(1) all Coast Guard personnel responsible for the care and support of victims of covered misconduct; and

(2) any other Coast Guard personnel the Commandant considers appropriate.

(d) REVISION OF POLICY RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue or revise any Coast

Guard policy or process relating to domestic abuse so as to define the term ''intimate partner'' to have the meaning given such term in section 930 of title 10, United States Code.

(e) TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All Coast Guard personnel responsible for the care and support of members of the Coast Guard who are alleged victims of covered misconduct shall receive training in accordance with professional standards of practice to ensure that such alleged victims receive adequate care that is consistent with the policy issued under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The training required by paragraph (1)—

(A) shall include—

(i) instructions on specific procedures for implementing the policy issued under subsection (a); and

(ii) information on resources and personnel critical for the implementation of such policy; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, shall be provided in person.

(f) COVERED MISCONDUCT.—In this section, the term ''covered misconduct'' shall have the meaning given such term in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code (as added by this Act).

SEC. 516. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL VICTIM CAPABILITIES TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS OF CERTAIN SPECIAL VICTIM OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 573 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) by striking ''Secretary of each military department'' and inserting ''Secretary concerned'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''or Air Force Office of Special Investigations'' and inserting '', Air Force Office of Special Investigations, or Coast Guard Investigative Services'';

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''or the Commandant of the Coast Guard'' after ''Secretary of a military department''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or the Coast Guard'' after ''within the military department'';

(B) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or the Coast Guard'' after ''within a military department''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) TIME FOR ESTABLISHMENT FOR COAST GUARD.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing all the items described in subsections (e) and (f) as applied to the Coast Guard.''.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the Commandant's assessment and implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations included in the Center for Naval Analyses report titled ''Assessing the USCG's Special Victims' Counsel Program'', issued in June 2024, including—

(1) the implementation status of each adopted recommendation, as appropriate;

(2) for each adopted recommendation, a description of actions taken to implement such recommendation;

(3) in the case of an adopted recommendation that has not been fully implemented—

(A) a description of actions taken or planned to address such recommendation;

(B) an estimated completion date; and

(C) a description of the milestones necessary to complete the recommendation;

(4) a description of any recommendation that will not be adopted and an explanation of the reason the recommendation will not be adopted;

(5) a description of the metrics and milestones used to ensure completion and effectiveness of each adopted recommendation;

(6) a description of any additional actions the Commandant is taking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Special Victims' Counsel program of the Coast Guard;

(7) any legislative change proposal necessary to implement the adopted recommendations; and

(8) an overview of any funding or resource necessary to implement each adopted recommendation in a timely and effective manner, including a list of personnel needed for such implementation.

SEC. 517. MEMBERS ASSERTING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Section 2516 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''or has been sexually assaulted during the preceding 2-year period''; and

(ii) by striking ''or based on such sexual assault, the influence of'' and inserting ''the signs and symptoms of either'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL, OR EMOTIONAL DISORDER.—A member of the Coast Guard who has been sexually assaulted during the preceding 5-year period and who alleges, based on such sexual assault, the signs and symptoms of a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described within the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association—

''(A) is provided the opportunity to request a medical examination to clinically evaluate such signs and symptoms; and

''(B) receives such a medical examination to evaluate a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described within the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.'';

(D) in paragraph (3) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''or a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder'' before ''under this subsection'';

(ii) by inserting ''performed by'' after ''shall be''; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) a board-certified psychiatrist;

''(B) a licensed doctorate-level psychologist;

''(C) any other appropriate licensed or certified healthcare professional designated by the Commandant; or

''(D) a psychiatry resident or board-eligible psychologist who—

''(i) has completed a 1-year internship or residency; and

''(ii) is under the close supervision of a board-certified psychiatrist or licensed doctorate-level psychologist.'';

(2) in subsection (b) by inserting ''or a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder'' after ''traumatic brain injury''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REQUEST MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the Coast Guard who receives a notice of involuntary administrative separation shall be advised at the time of such notice of the right of the member to request a medical examination under subsection (a) if any condition described in such subsection applies to the member.

''(2) POLICY.—The Commandant shall—

''(A) develop and issue a clear policy for carrying out the notification required under paragraph (1) with respect to any member of the Coast Guard described in that paragraph who has made an unrestricted report of sexual assault; and

''(B) provide information on such policy to sexual assault response coordinators of the Coast Guard for the purpose of ensuring that such policy is communicated to members of the Coast Guard who may be eligible for a medical examination under this section.''.

SEC. 518. PARTICIPATION IN CATCH A SERIAL OFFENDER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy, acting through the Commandant, shall ensure the participation of the Coast Guard in the Catch a Serial Offender program (referred to in this section as the ''CATCH program'') of the Department of Defense established in accordance with section 543 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Defense shall finalize a memorandum of agreement to facilitate Coast Guard access to and participation in the CATCH program.

SEC. 519. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST SENIOR LEADERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating section 2521 as section 2531.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST SENIOR LEADERS.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2521. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary shall establish a policy to improve oversight, investigations, accountability, and public transparency regarding alleged misconduct of senior leaders of the Coast Guard.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection (a)—

''(1) shall require that—

''(A) any allegation of alleged misconduct made against a senior leader of the Coast Guard shall be reported to the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating not later than 72 hours after the allegation is reported to the Coast Guard or the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

''(B) the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the head of the Coast Guard office in which the senior leader is serving with respect to the receipt of such allegation, or, in a case where the senior leader is the head of such Coast Guard office, the next in the chain of command, as appropriate, except in a case in which the Inspector General determines that such notification would risk impairing an ongoing investigation, would unnecessarily compromise the anonymity of the individual making the allegation, or would otherwise be inappropriate; and

''(2) to the extent practicable, shall be consistent with Department of Defense directives, including Department of Defense Directive 5505.06.

''(c) FIRST RIGHT TO EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION.—The Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating—

''(1) shall have the first right to investigate an allegation described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

''(2) in cases with concurrent jurisdiction involving an allegation described in subsection (b)(1)(A), may investigate such an allegation to the exclusion of any other Coast Guard criminal or administrative investigation if the Inspector General determines that an exclusive investigation is necessary to maintain the integrity of the investigation.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND BROAD DISSEMINATION.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall be made available to the public and incorporated into training and curricula across the Coast Guard at all levels to ensure broad understanding of the policy among members and personnel of the Coast Guard.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.—The term 'alleged misconduct'—

''(A) means a credible allegation that, if proven, would constitute a violation of—

''(i) a provision of criminal law, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10); or

''(ii) a recognized standard, such as the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation or other Federal regulation, including any other Department of Defense regulation and any Department of Homeland Security regulation; or

''(B) could reasonably be expected to be of significance to the Secretary or the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, particularly in a case in which there is an element of misuse of position or of unauthorized personal benefit to the senior official, a family member, or an associate.

''(2) SENIOR LEADER OF THE COAST GUARD.—The term 'senior leader of the Coast Guard' means—

''(A) an active duty, retired, or reserve officer of the Coast Guard in the grade of O–7 or higher;

''(B) an officer of the Coast Guard selected for promotion to the grade of O–7;

''(C) a current or former civilian member of the Senior Executive Service employed by the Coast Guard; or

''(D) any civilian member of the Coast Guard whose position is deemed equivalent to that of a member of the Senior Executive Service, as determined by the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in concurrence with the Secretary acting through the Commandant.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 2521 and inserting the following:

''2531. Advisory Board on Women in the Coast Guard.''; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 2520 (as added by this Act) the following:

''2521. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders.''.

SEC. 520. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

Section 1561b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) by inserting ''or the Commandant'' after ''Secretary of a military department'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''departments or the Commandant'' after ''Secretaries of the military''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORTS FOR THE COAST GUARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 30, 2025, and April 30 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing data on the complaints of sexual harassment alleged pursuant to the process under subsection (a) during the previous 2 calendar years.

''(2) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—Any data on complaints described in paragraph (1) shall not contain any personally identifiable information.''.

SEC. 521. REPORT ON POLICY ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the policy of the Coast Guard on whistleblower protections.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A discussion of the policy of the Coast Guard as of the date of enactment of this Act with respect to—

(A) whistleblower protections;

(B) accountability measures for reprisal against whistleblowers;

(C) the applicable professional standards and potential types of support provided to whistleblowers by members of the Coast Guard personnel, such as the members in the Coast Guard Investigative Service; and

(D) the content and frequency of training provided to members of the Coast Guard on active duty, members of the Coast Guard Reserve, and civilian personnel of the Coast Guard with respect to the applicable professional standards and potential types of support offered to whistleblowers.

(2) A description of the responsibilities of commanders and equivalent civilian supervisors with respect to whistleblower complaints and measures used by the Coast Guard to ensure compliance with such responsibilities, such as—

(A) the mechanisms to ensure that—

(i) any such commander complies with section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, including subsection (a)(1) of that section;

(ii) any such equivalent civilian supervisor complies with section 2302 of title 5, United States Code; and

(iii) any such commander or supervisor protects the constitutional right of whistleblowers to speak with Members of Congress;

(B) actions to be taken against any a commander or equivalent civilian supervisor who fails to act on a whistleblower complaint or improperly interferes with a whistleblower after a complaint is filed or during the preparation of a complaint;

(C) the role of Coast Guard attorneys in ensuring that such commanders comply with responsibilities under section 1034 of title 10, United States Code; and

(D) the role of Coast Guard civilian attorneys and administrative law judges in ensuring that such civilian supervisors comply with responsibilities under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) A discussion of the availability of Coast Guard staff, including civilian staff, assigned to providing, in accordance with professional standards or practice, behavioral health care to whistleblowers, including—

(A) the number and type of such staff;

(B) a description of the specific care responsibilities of such staff;

(C) an identification of any limitation existing as of the date of enactment of this Act to the provision of such care;

(D) a description of any plan to increase capacity of such staff to provide such care, as applicable; and

(E) a description of any additional resources necessary to provide such care.

(4) An assessment of the manner in which the policies discussed in paragraph (1), the responsibilities of commanders and civilian supervisors described in paragraph (2), and the availability of Coast Guard staff as discussed in paragraph (3) apply specifically to cadets and leadership at the Coast Guard Academy.

(5) Recommendations (including, as appropriate, proposed legislative changes and a plan to publish in the Federal Register not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act a request for information seeking public comment and recommendations) of the Commandant regarding manners in which Coast Guard policies and procedures may be strengthened—

(A) to prevent whistleblower discrimination and harassment;

(B) to better enforce prohibitions on retaliation, including reprisal, restriction, ostracism, and maltreatment, set forth in section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, and section 2302 of title 5, United States Code; and

(C) to hold commanding officers and civilian supervisors accountable for enforcing and complying with prohibitions on any form of retaliation described in such section.

SEC. 522. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF COAST GUARD ACADEMY POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy (referred to in this section as the ''Superintendent'') shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, commence a review of the Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence established in accordance with section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, that includes an evaluation as to whether any long-standing Coast Guard Academy tradition, system, process,

or internal policy impedes the implementation of necessary evidence-informed best practices followed by other military service academies in prevention, response, and recovery relating to sexual harassment and sexual violence; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) complete such review; and

(B) modify such policy in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO POLICY.—In modifying the Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence referred to in subsection (a), the Superintendent shall ensure that such policy includes the following:

(1) Each matter required to be specified by section 1902(b) of title 14, United States Code.

(2) Updates to achieve compliance with chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(3) A description of the roles and responsibilities of staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program, including—

(A) the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator;

(B) the Victim Advocate Program Specialist;

(C) the Volunteer Victim Advocate; and

(D) the Primary Prevention Specialist, as established under subsection (c).

(4) A description of the role of the Coast Guard Investigative Service with respect to sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response, and recovery at the Coast Guard Academy.

(5) A description of the role of support staff at the Coast Guard Academy, including chaplains, with respect to sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response, and recovery.

(6) Measures to promote awareness of dating violence.

(7) A delineation of the relationship between—

(A) cadet advocacy groups organized for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual harassment and sexual violence, including Cadets Against Sexual Assault; and

(B) the staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program.

(8) A provision that requires cadets and Coast Guard Academy personnel to participate in not fewer than one in-person training each academic year on the prevention of, responses to, and resources relating to incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence, to be provided by the staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program.

(9) The establishment, revision, or expansion, as necessary, of an anti-retaliation Superintendent's Instruction for cadets who—

(A) report incidents of sexual harassment or sexual violence;

(B) participate in cadet advocacy groups that advocate for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual harassment and sexual violence; or

(C) seek assistance from a company officer, company senior enlisted leader, athletic coach, or other Coast Guard Academy staff member with respect to a mental health or other medical emergency.

(10) A provision that explains the purpose of and process for issuance of a no-contact order at the Coast Guard Academy, including a description of the manner in which such an order shall be enforced.

(11) A provision that explains the purpose of and process for issuance of a military protective order at the Coast Guard Academy, including a description of—

(A) the manner in which such an order shall be enforced; and

(B) the associated requirement to notify the National Criminal Information Center of the issuance of such an order.

(c) PRIMARY PREVENTION SPECIALIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall hire a Primary Prevention Specialist, to be located and serve at the Coast Guard Academy.

(d) TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Superintendent shall ensure that the Academy's policy regarding a cadet who has made a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual harassment to request a leave of absence from the Coast Guard Academy is consistent with other military service academies.

(e) BOARD OF VISITORS.—The Board of Visitors of the Coast Guard Academy shall reguarly review—

(1) the implementation of this section; and

(2) the state of morale and discipline at the Coast Guard Academy, including with respect to prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual assault and sexual harassment.

SEC. 523. COAST GUARD AND COAST GUARD ACADEMY ACCESS TO DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT DATABASE.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to enable the criminal offender case management and analytics database of the Coast Guard to have system interface access with the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (referred to in this section as the ''Database'') established by section 563 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note).

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after entering into the memorandum of understanding required under subsection (a), the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan to carry out the terms of such memorandum.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures to ensure that authorized staff of the Coast Guard have system interface access to the Database, and a description of any barrier to such access.

(B) Measures to ensure that authorized staff of the Coast Guard Academy have system interface access to the Database, and a description of any barrier to such access that is unique to the Coast Guard Academy.

(C) Measures to facilitate formal or informal communication between the Coast Guard and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the Department of Defense, or any other relevant Department of Defense component, to identify or seek a resolution to barriers to Database access.

(D) A description of the steps, measures, and improvements necessary to remove any barrier encountered by staff of the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Academy in accessing the Database, including any failure of system interface access necessitating manual entry of investigative data.

(E) An assessment of the technical challenges, timeframes, and costs associated with providing authorized staff of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Academy with system interface access for the Database that is substantially similar to such system interface access possessed by other branches of the Armed Forces.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 524. DIRECTOR OF COAST GUARD INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 327. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

''(b) CHAIN OF COMMAND.—The Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service shall report directly to and be under the general supervision of the Commandant, acting through the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 326 the following:

''327. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service.''.

SEC. 525. MODIFICATIONS AND REVISIONS RELATING TO REOPENING RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by inserting ''a'' before ''competent authority'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (F) through (H), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) substantial evidence comes to light that, during the commissioned service of the officer, the officer failed to carry out applicable laws, with an intent to deceive or defraud;

''(D) substantial evidence comes to light after the retirement that the officer committed rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) at any time during the commissioned service of the officer;

''(E) substantial evidence comes to light after the retirement that the commissioned officer knew of and failed to report through proper channels, in accordance with existing law at the time of the alleged incident, any known instances of sexual assault by a member of the Coast Guard under the command of the officer during the officer's service;''.

(b) ISSUANCE AND REVISION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO GOOD CAUSE TO REOPEN RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue or revise, as applicable, and at the discretion of the Secretary consistent with this section, regulations of the Coast Guard to do the following:

(1) Define what constitutes good cause to reopen a retired grade determination referred to in subparagraph (H) of section 2501(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), to ensure that the following shall be considered good cause for such a reopening:

(A) Circumstances that constitute a failure to carry out applicable laws regarding a report of sexual assault with an intent to deceive by a commissioned officer, that relate to a response made to a report of sexual assault, during the commissioned service of the officer.

(B) Substantial evidence of sexual assault by the commissioned officer concerned, at

any time during the commissioned service of such officer, or such evidence that was not considered by the Coast Guard in a manner consistent with law.

(2) Identify the standard for making, and the evidentiary showing required to support, an adverse determination on the retired grade of a commissioned officer.

(c) REVISION OF LIMITATIONS ON REOPENING RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall revise applicable guidance in section K.10 of chapter 3 of Commandant Instruction 1000.4A to remove any restriction that limits the ability to reopen the retired grade of a commissioned officer based on—

(1) whether new evidence is discovered contemporaneously with or within a short time period after the date of retirement of the officer concerned; and

(2) whether the misconduct concerned was not discoverable through due diligence.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—No provision of this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to permit a review of conduct that was not in violation of law or policy at the time of the alleged conduct.

SEC. 526. INCLUSION AND COMMAND REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON COVERED MISCONDUCT IN PERSONNEL SERVICE RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2522. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records

''(a) INFORMATION ON REPORTS ON COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a complaint of covered misconduct is made against a member of the Coast Guard and the member is convicted by court-martial or receives nonjudicial punishment or punitive administrative action for such covered misconduct, a notation to that effect shall be placed in the personnel service record of the member, regardless of the grade of the member.

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the inclusion of information in personnel service records under paragraph (1) is to alert supervisors and commanders to any member of their command who has received a court-martial conviction, nonjudicial punishment, or punitive administrative action for covered misconduct in order—

''(A) to reduce the likelihood that repeat offenses will escape the notice of supervisors and commanders; and

''(B) to help inform commissioning or promotability of the member;

''(3) LIMITATION ON PLACEMENT.—A notation under paragraph (1) may not be placed in the restricted section of the personnel service record of a member.

''(4) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit or limit the capacity of a member of the Coast Guard to challenge or appeal the placement of a notation, or location of placement of a notation, in the personnel service record of the member in accordance with procedures otherwise applicable to such challenges or appeals.

''(b) COMMAND REVIEW OF HISTORY OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under policy to be prescribed by the Secretary, the commanding officer of a unit or facility to which a covered member is assigned or transferred shall review the history of covered misconduct as documented in the personnel service record of a covered member in order to become familiar with such history of the covered member.

''(2) COVERED MEMBER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered member' means a member of the Coast Guard who, at the time of assignment or transfer as described in paragraph (1), has a history of 1 or more covered misconduct offenses as documented in the personnel service record of such member or such other records or files as the Commandant shall specify in the policy prescribed under subparagraph (A).

''(c) REVIEW OF PERSONNEL SERVICE RECORD TO DETERMINE SUITABILITY FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.—Under policy to be prescribed by the Secretary, the Commandant shall establish procedures that are consistent with the law, policies, and practices of the Department of Defense in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 to consider and review the personnel service record of a former member of the Armed Forces to determine the suitability of the individual for civilian employment in the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2521 (as added by this Act) the following:

''2522. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records.''.

SEC. 527. FLAG OFFICER REVIEW OF, AND CONCURRENCE IN, SEPARATION OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE REPORTED SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

(a) POLICY TO REQUIRE REVIEW OF CERTAIN PROPOSED INVOLUNTARY SEPARATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall establish, with respect to any proposed involuntary separation under chapter 59 of title 10, United States Code, a Coast Guard policy to review the circumstances of, and grounds for, such a proposed involuntary separation of any member of the Coast Guard who—

(1) made a restricted or unrestricted report of covered misconduct (as such term is defined in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code);

(2) within 2 years after making such a report, is recommended for involuntary separation from the Coast Guard; and

(3) requests the review on the grounds that the member believes the recommendation for involuntary separation from the Coast Guard was initiated in retaliation for making the report.

(b) RECUSAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall set forth a process for the recusal of commanding officers and the flag officer described in subsection (c)(2) from making initial or subsequent decisions on proposed separations or from reviewing proposed separations.

(2) CRITERIA.—The recusal process established under paragraph (1) shall specify criteria for recusal, including mandatory recusal from making a decision on a proposed separation, and from reviewing a proposed separation, if the commanding officer or the flag officer described in subsection (c)(2) was, at any time—

(A) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation, filed by the member of the Coast Guard described in subsection (a) who is the subject of a proposed involuntary separation or whose proposed separation is under review; or

(B) associated with the individual suspected or accused of perpetrating the incident of covered misconduct reported by such member.

(c) CONCURRENCE OF FLAG OFFICER REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall require the concurrence of the flag officer described in paragraph (2) in order to separate the member of the Coast Guard described in such subsection.

(2) FLAG OFFICER DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the flag officer described in this paragraph is—

(i) the Commandant; or

(ii) a designee of the Commandant who is in a grade not lower than O–7.

(B) CHAIN OF COMMAND EXCEPTION.—In the case of a member of the Coast Guard described in subsection (a) who is in the immediate chain of command of the Commandant or the designee of the Commandant that oversees personnel policy, the flag officer described in this paragraph is a flag officer outside the chain of command of such member, as determined by the Commandant consistent with the policy established under subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Any member of the Coast Guard who has made a report of covered misconduct and who receives a proposal for involuntary separation shall be notified at the time of such proposal of the right of the member to a review under this section.

SEC. 528. EXPEDITED TRANSFER IN CASES OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) EXPEDITED TRANSFER POLICY UPDATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update Coast Guard policy as necessary to implement—

(1) an expedited transfer process for covered individuals consistent with—

(A) Department of Defense policy on expedited transfers of victims of sexual assault or domestic violence in place on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) subsection (b); and

(2) a process by which—

(A) a covered individual, the commanding officer of a covered individual, or any other Coast Guard official may initiate a request that a subject be administratively assigned to another unit in accordance with military assignments and authorized absence policy for the duration of the investigation and, if applicable, prosecution of such subject;

(B) the Coast Guard shall ensure that any administrative assignment action in response to a request under subparagraph (A) will be taken not as a punitive measure, but solely for the purpose of maintaining good order and discipline within the unit of the covered individual or the subject; and

(C) protection of due process for the subject is preserved.

(b) RECUSAL.—The expedited transfer process implemented under this section shall require the recusal of any official involved in the approval or denial of an expedited transfer request if the official was, at any time—

(1) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation, or any other type of complaint, filed by the covered individual; or

(2) associated, beyond workplace interactions, with the subject in a manner that may present an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—With respect to a member of the Coast Guard who makes an unrestricted report of sexual assault or a report of domestic violence, the updated policy required under subsection (a) shall specify the appropriate officials of the Coast Guard who shall provide such member with information regarding expedited transfer authority.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of the year that is not less than 1 year after the date on which the updates required under

subsection (a) are completed, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, a report on such updates that includes—

(A) a copy of the updated policies of the Coast Guard relating to expedited transfers;

(B) a summary of such updated policies;

(C) for the preceding year, the number of covered individuals who have requested an expedited transfer, disaggregated by gender of the requester and whether the request was granted or denied;

(D) for each denial of an expedited transfer request during the preceding year, a description of the rationale for the denial; and

(E) any other matter the Commandant considers appropriate.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the Commandant submits the report required under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, a report on the updates required under subsection (a) that includes—

(A) any policies of the Coast Guard relating to expedited transfers that have been updated since the previous report submitted under this subsection;

(B) a summary of any such updated policies; and

(C) the information described under subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means—

(A) a member of the Coast Guard who is a victim of sexual assault in a case handled under the Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program or the Family Advocacy Program;

(B) a member of the Coast Guard who is a victim of domestic violence (as defined by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating in the policies prescribed under this section) committed by the spouse or intimate partner of the member, regardless of whether the spouse or intimate partner is a member of the Coast Guard; and

(C) a member of the Coast Guard whose dependent is a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence.

(2) SUBJECT.—The term ''subject'' means a member of the Coast Guard who is the subject of an investigation related to alleged incidents of sexual assault or domestic violence and is stationed at the same installation as, or in close proximity to, the covered individual involved.

SEC. 529. ACCESS TO TEMPORARY SEPARATION PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF ALLEGED SEX-RELATED OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update the Coast Guard policy relating to temporary separation of members of the Coast Guard who are victims of alleged sex-related offenses as required under subsection (b).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The updated policy required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a provision that allows a member of the Coast Guard to request to participate in the temporary separation program if the member has reported, in an unrestricted format or to the greatest extent practicable, a restricted format, being the victim of an alleged sex-related offense on a date that is during—

(A) the 5-year period preceding the requested date of separation; and

(B) the military service of the member;

(2) a provision that provides eligibility for a member of the Coast Guard to request temporary separation if the member has reported being the victim of an alleged sex-related offense, even if—

(A) the member has had a previous temporary separation including a previous temporary separation as the victim of a previous unrelated alleged sex-related offense; or

(B) the enlistment period of the member is not nearing expiration or the tour or contract of the member is not nearing completion;

(3) an updated standard of review consistent with the application of, and purposes of, this section; and

(4) the establishment of a process—

(A) for eligible members to make requests for temporary separation under this section; and

(B) that allows the Commandant to consider whether to allow a member granted temporary separation under this section to fulfill the enlistment period or tour or contract obligation of the member after the end of the temporary separation period.

(c) EXCEPTION FROM REPAYMENT OF BONUSES, INCENTIVE PAY, OR SIMILAR BENEFITS AND TERMINATION OF REMAINING PAYMENTS.—For any temporary separation granted under the updated policy required under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may conduct a review to determine whether to exercise discretion in accordance with section 373(b)(1) of title 37, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) SEX-RELATED OFFENSE.—The term ''sex-related offense'' has the meaning given such term in section 1044e(h) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 530. POLICY AND PROGRAM TO EXPAND PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall develop and issue a comprehensive policy for the Coast Guard to reinvigorate the prevention of misconduct involving members and civilians of the Coast Guard that contains the policy elements described in section 1561 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) PROGRAMS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the issuance of the policy required under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall develop and implement for the Coast Guard a program to reinvigorate the prevention of misconduct involving members and civilians of the Coast Guard.

SEC. 531. CONTINUOUS VETTING OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

Section 1564(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting '', and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct an investigation or adjudication under subsection (a) of any individual described in paragraph (3),'' after ''paragraph (2)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)(iv) by striking ''the Secretary'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as the case may be,'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''(other than an individual described in paragraph (3))'' after ''is an individual'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who has a security clearance and is—

''(A) a flag officer of the Coast Guard; or

''(B) an employee of the Coast Guard in the Senior Executive Service.''; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking ''Secretary'' and all that follows through ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting the following: ''Secretary of Defense, in the case of an individual described in paragraph (2), and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the case of an individual described in paragraph (3), shall ensure that relevant information on the conviction or determination described in paragraph (1) of such an individual''.

SEC. 532. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.

(a) MODIFICATION OF CURRICULUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall revise the curriculum of the Coast Guard with respect to covered misconduct prevention and response training—

(A) to include—

(i) information on procedures and responsibilities with respect to reporting requirements, investigations, survivor health and safety (including expedited transfers, no-contact orders, military and civilian protective orders, and temporary separations), and whistleblower protections;

(ii) information on Department of Veterans Affairs resources available to veterans, active-duty personnel, and reserve personnel;

(iii) information on the right of any member of the Coast Guard to seek legal resources outside the Coast Guard;

(iv) general information regarding the availability of legal resources provided by civilian legal services organizations, presented in an organized and consistent manner that does not endorse any particular legal services organization; and

(v) information on the capability, operations, reporting structure, and requirements with respect to the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard; and

(B) to address the workforce training recommendations set forth in the memorandum of the Coast Guard titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'', issued on November 27, 2023.

(2) COLLABORATION.—In revising the curriculum under this subsection, the Commandant shall solicit input from individuals outside the Coast Guard who are experts in sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention and response training.

(b) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TRAINING AND EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that all members and civilian employees of the Coast Guard are provided with annual covered misconduct prevention and response training and education for the purpose of strengthening individual knowledge, skills, and capacity relating to the prevention of and response to covered misconduct.

(2) SCOPE.—The training and education referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be provided as part of—

(i) initial entry and accession training;

(ii) annual refresher training;

(iii) initial and recurring training courses for covered first responders;

(iv) new and prospective commanding officer and executive officer training; and

(v) specialized leadership training; and

(B) shall be tailored for specific leadership levels, positions, pay grades, and roles.

(3) CONTENT.—The training and education referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(c) COVERED FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that—

(A) training for covered first responders includes the covered misconduct prevention and response training described in subsection (b); and

(B) such covered misconduct prevention and response training is provided to covered first responders on a recurring basis.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the initial and recurring covered misconduct prevention and response training for covered first responders shall include information on procedures and responsibilities with respect to—

(A) the provision of care to a victim of covered misconduct, in accordance with professional standards or practice, that accounts for trauma experienced by the victim and associated symptoms or events that may exacerbate such trauma; and

(B) the manner in which such a victim may receive such care.

(d) TRAINING FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that training for prospective commanders and executive officers at all levels of command includes the covered misconduct prevention and response training described in subsection (b).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the covered misconduct prevention and response training for prospective commanding officers and executive officers shall be—

(A) tailored to the responsibilities and leadership requirements of members of the Coast Guard as they are assigned to command positions; and

(B) revised, as necessary, to include information on—

(i) fostering a command climate—

(I) that does not tolerate covered misconduct;

(II) in which individuals assigned to the command are encouraged to intervene to prevent potential incidents of covered misconduct; and

(III) that encourages victims of covered misconduct to report any incident of covered misconduct;

(ii) the possible variations in the effect of trauma on individuals who have experienced covered misconduct;

(iii) potential differences in the procedures and responsibilities, Department of Veterans Affairs resources, and legal resources described in subsection (a)(1)(A) depending on the operating environment in which an incident of covered misconduct occurred;

(iv) the investigation of alleged incidents of covered misconduct, including training on understanding evidentiary standards;

(v) available disciplinary options, including administrative action and deferral of discipline for collateral misconduct, and examples of disciplinary options in civilian jurisdictions; and

(vi) the capability, operations, reporting structure, and requirements with respect to the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard.

(e) ENTRY AND ACCESSION TRAININGS.—

(1) INITIAL TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide for the inclusion of an initial covered misconduct prevention and response training module in the training for each new member of the Coast Guard, which shall be provided not later than 14 duty days after the date of accession.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the initial training module referred to in subparagraph (A) shall include a comprehensive explanation of Coast Guard—

(i) policy with respect to covered misconduct; and

(ii) procedures for reporting covered misconduct.

(2) SUBSEQUENT TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide for the inclusion of a detailed covered misconduct prevention and response training module in the training for each new member of the Coast Guard, which shall be provided not later than 60 duty days after the date on which the initial training module described in paragraph (1)(A) is provided.

(B) CONTENT.—The detailed training module referred to in subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ''covered first responder'' includes sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, Coast Guard medical officers, Coast Guard security forces, Coast Guard Investigative Service agents, judge advocates, special victims' counsel, chaplains, and related personnel.

(2) COVERED MISCONDUCT.—The term ''covered misconduct'' has the meaning given such term in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 533. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT SEXUAL OFFENSES.

Section 10104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking ''harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual assault in violation of employer policy or law'' and inserting ''sexual harassment or sexual assault in violation of employer policy or law and harassment''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) HARASSMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'harassment' means—

''(1) unwelcome remarks about an individual's characteristics as protected in title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, or other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct based on 1 or more of these categories, if—

''(A) submission to such remarks or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment, pay, career, benefits, or entitlements of the individual;

''(B) submission to or rejection of such remarks or conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting that individual's job, pay, career, benefits, or entitlements; or

''(C) such remarks or conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; and

''(2) such remarks or conduct is so severe or pervasive that a reasonable person would perceive, and the individual does perceive, the work environment as hostile, intimidating or abusive.

''(i) RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to impede the ability of the responsible entity of the vessel to take immediate personnel action in response to an incident described in subsection (a)(1) to preserve the safety and security of individuals on the vessel.''.

TITLE VI—COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS

SEC. 601. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON COAST GUARD RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the state of the research, development, and innovation program of the Coast Guard during the 5-year period ending on such date of enactment.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An evaluation and description of the process for selecting projects to be carried out under the research, development, and innovation program of the Coast Guard.

(2) An analysis of the manner in which funding needs are determined and requested for such program, and for the activities and projects of such program, in alignment with the appropriate fiscal year.

(3) An assessment of the manner in which the Coast Guard determines desired outcomes, and measures the impact, of successful projects on the execution of the operations and mission of the Coast Guard.

(4) An assessment of the manner in which the Coast Guard evaluates impacts and benefits of partnerships between the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense and other entities, and a description of the extent to which and manner in which the Coast Guard is leveraging such benefits and identifying and managing any potential challenge.

(5) An analysis of the manner in which the Commandant is working with partners to accelerate project transition from research, testing, evaluation, and prototype to production.

(6) An assessment of the manner in which the authority to enter into transactions other than contracts and grants pursuant to sections 719 and 1158 of title 14, United States Code, has been exercised by the Commandant, and a description of any training or resources necessary (including additional agreements for officers and training) to more fully exercise such authority.

(7) An evaluation of the role of the Blue Tech Center of Expertise established in section 302 of the Coast Guard Blue Technology Center of Expertise Act (Public Law 115–265).

(8) Recommendations regarding authorization, personnel, infrastructure, and other requirements necessary for the expeditious transition of technologies developed under such program from prototype to production in the field.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General may consult with—

(1) the maritime and aviation industries;

(2) the Secretary of Defense;

(3) the intelligence community; and

(4) any relevant—

(A) federally funded research institutions;

(B) nongovernmental organizations; and

(C) institutions of higher education.

SEC. 602. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF COAST GUARD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND RESOURCES FOR PERSONNEL WELLNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a review of the quality and availability of behavioral health care and related resources for Coast Guard personnel at the locations described in subsection (b).

(b) LOCATIONS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) first review the practices and policies relating to the availability of behavioral health care and related resources at Training Center Cape May; and

(2) review such practices and policies at—

(A) the Coast Guard Academy, including Officer Candidate School; and

(B) other Coast Guard training locations, as applicable.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under subsection (a) shall include, for each location described in subsection (b), an assessment, and a description of available trend information (as applicable) for the 10-year period preceding the date of the review, with respect to each of the following:

(1) The nature of Coast Guard resources directed toward behavioral health services at the location.

(2) The manner in which the Coast Guard has managed treatment for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel who may be experiencing a behavioral health crisis at the location (including individuals who have transferred to other buildings or facilities within the location).

(3) The extent to which the Coast Guard has identified the resources, such as physical spaces and facilities, necessary to manage behavioral health challenges and crises that Coast Guard personnel may face at the location.

(4) The behavioral health screenings required by the Coast Guard for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at the location, and the manner in which such screenings compare with screenings required by the Department of Defense for military recruits, service academy cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at military service accession points.

(5) Whether the Coast Guard has assessed the adequacy of behavioral health resources and services for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, and other personnel at the location, and if so, the additional services and resources (such as resilience and life skills coaching), if any, needed to address any potential gaps.

(6) The manner in which the Coast Guard manages care transfers related to behavior health at the location, including command and other management input and privacy policies.

(7) The extent to which the Coast Guard has evaluated contributing factors or reasons for behavioral health crises experienced by newly enlisted personnel, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at the location.

(8) The extent to which the Coast Guard has addressed, at the location, provider care staffing standards and credentialing deficiencies identified in the report of the Comptroller General titled ''Coast Guard Health Care: Improvements Needed for Determining Staffing Needs and Monitoring Access to Care'', issued on February 4, 2022.

(d) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(1) as soon as practicable but not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report relating to the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) relating to Training Center Cape May, including any recommendations the Comptroller General considers appropriate; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) relating to—

(i) the Coast Guard Academy, including Officer Candidate School; and

(ii) other Coast Guard training locations, as applicable; and

(B) any recommendations the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

SEC. 603. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD EFFORTS TO REDUCE PREVALENCE OF MISSING OR INCOMPLETE MEDICAL RECORDS AND SHARING OF MEDICAL DATA WITH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OTHER ENTITIES.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study assessing the efforts of the Commandant—

(1) to reduce the prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records;

(2) to share medical data of members of the Coast Guard with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(3) to ensure that electronic health records are provided in a format that is user friendly and easy to access.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review the following:

(1) The steps the Commandant has taken to reduce the prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records of members of the Coast Guard.

(2) How implementation of an electronic health record system has affected the ability of the Commandant to manage health records of members of the Coast Guard, including—

(A) how the Commandant adds records from private medical providers to the electronic health record system;

(B) the progress of the Commandant toward implementing the electronic health record system in shipboard sick bays of the Coast Guard;

(C) how the Coast Guard shares medical records with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(D) any other matter the Comptroller General considers appropriate with respect to medical record storage, use, and sharing and the associated consequences for member health and well-being.

(3) The ability of members of the Coast Guard, medical professionals of the Coast Guard and of the Department of Defense, personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other personnel to access and search, as appropriate, the electronic health records of individuals, including the ability to search or quickly find information within electronic health records.

(c) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study under subsection (a).

SEC. 604. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD TRAINING FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study on Coast Guard training facility infrastructure, including the specific needs of the Coast Guard training facilities described in subsection (c).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to each Coast Guard training facility described in subsection (c)—

(A) a summary of capital needs, including construction and repair;

(B) a summary of equipment upgrade backlogs;

(C) an assessment of necessary improvements, including improvements to essential training equipment (including swimming pools, operational simulators, and marksmanship training ranges) to enable the Coast Guard to achieve all operational training objectives;

(D) a description of the resources necessary to fully address all training needs;

(E) an assessment of any security deficiency, including with respect to base access, training facility access, and trainee berthing area access;

(F) an identification of any exposed hazard that does not serve a training purpose;

(G) an identification of the presence of hazardous or toxic materials, including—

(i) lead-based paint;

(ii) asbestos or products that contain asbestos;

(iii) black mold;

(iv) radon; and

(v) contaminated drinking water; and

(H) an assessment of the need for, and estimated cost of, remediation of such toxic materials.

(2) An evaluation of the process used by the Coast Guard to identify, monitor, and construct Coast Guard training facilities.

(c) COAST GUARD TRAINING FACILITIES DESCRIBED.—The Coast Guard training facilities described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

(2) The Leadership Development Center in New London, Connecticut.

(3) Training Center Cape May, New Jersey.

(4) Training Center Petaluma, California.

(5) Training Center Yorktown, Virginia.

(6) The Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, South Carolina.

(7) The Special Missions Training Center at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

(8) The Gulf Regional Fisheries Training Center (GRFTC) in New Orleans, Louisiana.

(9) The North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center (NPRFTC) in Kodiak, Alaska.

(10) The Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center (NRFTC) at Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

(11) The Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center (SRFTC) in Charleston, South Carolina.

(12) The Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center (PRFTC) in Alameda, California.

(13) The National Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment, Washington.

(14) The Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

(15) The Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study.

SEC. 605. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Department of Defense issues the report on the Fourteenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study of Coast Guard involvement in, and efforts to support, the determination of the cost of adequate housing and the calculation of the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include, to the extent practicable, the following:

(1) An identification of Coast Guard duty locations in which there is a misalignment between the basic allowance for housing rate and the prevailing housing cost for members of the Coast Guard such that the basic allowance for housing is less than 95 percent of the monthly cost of adequate housing for such members in the corresponding military housing area.

(2) An analysis of each of the following:

(A) Anchor points, including—

(i) the methodology for the establishment of anchor points; and

(ii) with respect to housing provided as part of a public-private venture and Government-owned and Government-leased housing, the disparities between established anchor points and housing standards across the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code).

(B) Existing military housing boundary areas that affect the Coast Guard.

(C) Actions taken by the Commandant to comprehensively monitor basic allowance for housing rates for Coast Guard duty locations.

(D) The frequency of reviews conducted by the Commandant of the site visits used by the Department of Defense to inform military housing area boundaries.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the study required under subsection (a) commences, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Commandant a report on the findings of the study, including any recommendation the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the report required by subsection (c) is submitted to the Commandant, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(1) an implementation plan, including timeframes and milestones, addressing any recommendation made by the Comptroller General in such report, as the Commandant considers appropriate; and

(2) with respect to any recommendation set forth in such report that the Commandant declines to implement, a written justification for the decision.

(e) ANCHOR POINT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''anchor point''—

(1) means the minimum housing standard reference benchmark used to establish the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code; and

(2) includes housing type and size based on pay grade and dependent status.

SEC. 606. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON SAFETY AND SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

(a) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the safety and security infrastructure at the Coast Guard Academy.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of each of the following:

(A) Existing security infrastructure for the grounds, buildings, athletic facilities, and any other facility of the Coast Guard Academy, including access points, locks, surveillance, and other security methods, as appropriate.

(B) Coast Guard policies with respect to the management, data storage and access, and operational capacity of the security infrastructure and methods evaluated under subparagraph (A).

(C) Special security needs relating to events at the Coast Guard Academy, such as large athletic events and other widely attended events.

(D) Coast Guard policies and procedures with respect to access to Coast Guard Academy grounds by—

(i) current or former members of the Coast Guard;

(ii) current or former civilian employees of the Coast Guard;

(iii) Coast Guard personnel that reside at the Academy and families of cadets; and

(iv) members of the public.

(E) Existing processes by which the Commandant, the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, or a designated individual may prohibit or restrict access to Coast Guard Academy grounds by any current or former member or civilian employee of the Coast Guard who—

(i) has been subject to court-martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for sexual misconduct; or

(ii) has been administratively disciplined for sexual misconduct.

(F) Enforcement processes regarding access to Coast Guard Academy grounds for individuals (including current and former cadets, members, and civilian employees of the Coast Guard) who are or have been subject to a no-contact order relating to—

(i) a cadet or member of the faculty of the Academy; or

(ii) any other individual with access to Academy grounds.

(G) Recommendations to improve—

(i) the security of the Coast Guard Academy; and

(ii) the safety of—

(I) cadets at the Coast Guard Academy; and

(II) members of the Coast Guard stationed at, and civilian employees of, the Coast Guard Academy.

(b) ACTIONS BY COMMANDANT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) a detailed plan to improve the security of, and the safety of cadets at, the Coast Guard Academy; and

(B) a detailed timeline for implementation of—

(i) the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in such report; and

(ii) any other safety improvement the Commandant considers appropriate.

(2) POLICY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (a), the Commandant, in a manner that maintains good order and discipline, shall update Coast Guard policy relating to access to the Coast Guard Academy grounds to include procedures by which individuals may be prohibited from accessing the Coast Guard Academy—

(A) as the Commandant considers appropriate; and

(B) consistent with the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in such report.

SEC. 607. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY AND REPORT ON PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION PROCESS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the permanent change of station process of the Coast Guard.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study.

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

(A) A description of the permanent change of station policies of the Coast Guard.

(B) A description of Coast Guard spending on permanent change of station moves and associated support costs.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of using contracted movers for permanent change of station moves, including the estimated costs associated with—

(i) lost or damaged personal property of members of the Coast Guard;

(ii) delays in scheduling such a move through a contracted mover;

(iii) delayed delivery of household goods; and

(iv) other related challenges.

(D) A review of changes to permanent change of station policies implemented during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, and the costs or savings to the Coast Guard directly associated with such changes.

(E) Recommendations to improve the permanent change of station process of the Coast Guard.

(F) Any additional information or related matter arising from the study, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

TITLE VII—AMENDMENTS

SEC. 701. AMENDMENTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ENTRY AND OPERATION.—Section 70022(b)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Federal Register'' and inserting ''the Federal Register''.

(b) PORT, HARBOR, AND COASTAL FACILITY SECURITY.—Section 70116(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''terrorism cyber'' and inserting ''terrorism, cyber''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting a comma after ''acts of terrorism''.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE AND LOCAL OFFICERS.—Section 70118(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917 (chapter 30; 50 U.S.C. 191)'' and inserting ''section 70051''; and

(2) by striking ''section 7(b) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))'' and inserting ''section 70116(b)''.

(d) CHAPTER 701 DEFINITIONS.—Section 70131(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917 (50 U.S.C. 191)'' and inserting ''section 70051''; and

(2) by striking ''section 7(b) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))'' and inserting ''section 70116(b)''.

(e) NOTICE OF ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

(1) PREPARATORY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 70001 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively.

(2) TRANSFER OF PROVISION.—Section 704 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 46 U.S.C. 70001 note) is—

(A) amended by striking ''of title 46, United States Code,'';

(B) amended by striking ''(33 U.S.C. 1223 note)'' and inserting ''(46 U.S.C. 70001 note)'';

(C) transferred to appear after 70001(k) of title 46, United States Code; and

(D) redesignated as subsection (l).

(f) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 2101(2) is amended by striking ''section 1'' and inserting ''section 101''.

(2) Section 2116(b)(1)(D) is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 504(c)''.

(3) In the analysis for subtitle VII by striking the period after ''70001'' in the item relating to chapter 700.

(4) In the analysis for chapter 700 by striking the item relating to section 70006 and inserting the following:

''70006. Establishment by Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating of anchorage grounds and regulations generally.''.

(5) In the heading for subchapter IV in the analysis for chapter 700 by inserting a comma after ''DEFINITIONS''.

(6) In the heading for subchapter VI in the analysis for chapter 700 by striking ''OF THE UNITED''and inserting ''OF UNITED''.

(7) Section 70052(e)(1) is amended by striking ''section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. App. 91)'' and inserting ''section 60105''.

(g) OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990.—The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 1001 (33 U.S.C. 2701) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (32)(G) by striking ''pipeline'' and all that follows through ''offshore facility'' and inserting ''pipeline, offshore facility'';

(B) in paragraph (39) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(i)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(i)'';

(C) in paragraph (40) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(ii)'';

(D)) in paragraph (41) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(iii)'';

(E) in paragraph (42) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(iv)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(iv)'';

(F) in paragraph (43) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(v)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(v)''; and

(G) in paragraph (44) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(vi)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(vi)''.

(2) Section 1003(d)(6) (33 U.S.C. 2703(d)(6)) is amended by striking ''this paragraph'' and inserting ''this subsection''.

(3) Section 1016 (33 U.S.C. 2716) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(B), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)''.

(4) Section 1012(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 2712(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''section 1016(f)(1)'' and inserting ''section 1016(e)(1)''.

(5) Section 1005(b)(5)(B) (33 U.S.C. 2716(b)(5)(B)) is amended by striking ''section 1016(g)'' and inserting ''section 2716(f)''.

(6) Section 1018(c) (33 U.S.C. 2718(c)) is amended by striking ''the Act of March 3, 1851 (46 U.S.C. 183 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 305 of title 46, United States Code''.

(7) Section 7001(h)(1) (33 U.S.C. 2761(h)(1)) is amended by striking ''subsection (c)(4)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(4)''.

(h) HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.—Section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''this title''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''this title''; and

(B) by striking ''subchapter VI of chapter 10'' and inserting ''chapter 11''.

(i) CHAPTER 5.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second section 548 (relating to Marking anchorage grounds by Commandant of the Coast Guard) as section 551.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 550 the following:

''551. Marking anchorage grounds by Commandant of the Coast Guard.''.

(j) SECTION 807.—Section 807 of the Frank Lobiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (14 U.S.C. 313 note) is amended by striking ''District 9'' and inserting ''Great Lakes District''.

(k) SECTION 324.—Section 324 of title 14, United States Code, as so redesignated, by striking ''Seventeenth Coast Guard District'' and inserting ''Coast Guard Arctic District'' each place it appears.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 4275.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275 which is the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2025. The bill before us provides the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard with the authorities and resources that they need to carry out their missions which are critical to ensuring maritime safety, enforcing the United States laws at sea, and protecting our Nation's borders.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 authorizes Coast Guard funding for the fiscal years 2025 through 2029. The bill will support Coast Guard operations and enable the service to continue its efforts to recapitalize its cutter fleet, shoreline facilities, and IT capabilities. The legislation builds upon the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which was signed into law by President Trump earlier this month which provides historic investments for new air and sea assets and upgraded shoreside infrastructure.

Additionally, the legislation establishes a Coast Guard service secretary providing the Coast Guard parity with other military services and ensuring the service has a voice to advocate for its needs.

The bill also advances the administration's vision to strengthen our domestic maritime sector by facilitating an increase in the pool of qualified United States merchant mariners.

I very much appreciate Ranking Member LARSEN, Subcommittee Chair EZELL, and Subcommittee Ranking Member CARBAJAL for working to reach a bipartisan agreement on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2025.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: I write concerning H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 4275 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this resolution so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4275 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

This legislation contains provisions that may require further modification prior to final consideration to ensure the support of the House Committee on Armed Services.

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

Sincerely,

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2025.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I write regarding H.R. 4275, the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025*, which was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Armed Services will not seek an additional referral on the bill and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction of the subject matter contained.

I am pleased to support your request to name Members of the Committee on Armed

Services to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2025.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Graves: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, which was favorably reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I concur that certain provisions fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security and agree to forgo action on this bill. The Committee on Homeland will not seek an additional referral on the bill. The Committee on Homeland Security does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation.

I would respectfully request appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference on relevant provisions. Finally, I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4275.

Sincerely,

ANDREW R. GARBARINO,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2025.

Hon. ANDREW GARBARINO,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GARBARINO: I write regarding H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, which was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Homeland Security will not seek an additional referral on the bill and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction of the subject matter contained.

I am pleased to support your request to name Members of the Committee on Homeland Security to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.

This bill is a prime example of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's bipartisanship under the leadership of Chairman GRAVES, Ranking Member LARSEN, and Chairman EZELL.

As ranking member of the subcommittee, I am proud of all the good work that we have done on this bill to ensure that we reauthorize, enhance, and support the critical missions of the U.S. Coast Guard to save lives, protect our maritime environment, and prioritize servicemembers both in and out of the workplace.

These significant investments in the service signal our confidence in the capability of the Coast Guard to conduct each of their diverse missions to better serve the American people.

This bill puts coasties first by addressing the need for more affordable and quality housing. It also provides enhancement of our coasties' quality of life, such as family leave policies, career flexibility, tuition assistance incentives, and behavioral healthcare.

Equally important, this bill capitalizes on the extensive work that former Commandant, Admiral Fagan, did to make institutional changes to address sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Our coasties deserve better, and this legislation provides oversight and the tools needed for the Coast Guard to prevent these crimes, protect victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Moreover, I am proud that this bill includes several provisions that I sponsored regarding U.S. merchant mariners. This bill tackles long outdated methods for processing mariner credentials by investing in and revamping the Coast Guard's process.

This bill also improves merchant mariner credentialing tests by ensuring the most relevant and technologically critical elements are included. We want the best mariners in the industry, and by removing outdated entry barriers, we will help ensure steady, long-term employment opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I, once again, thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership and bipartisan collaboration in crafting this bill. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on this important legislation, and I look forward to seeing it pass into law.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) who is also the chair of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Mr. EZELL. Madam Chairman, I rise today to support this legislation which was introduced by Chairman GRAVES along with myself and Ranking Members LARSEN and CARBAJAL.

This bill supports the efforts of the Coast Guard to protect the United States' waters, interdict drugs, stop human trafficking, and promote maritime safety.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 authorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2029 and makes critical investments to enable the service to meet its growing mission demands.

As the Coast Guard works to implement the service's future vision of Force Design 2028 and procure new vessels, aircraft, and shoreside infrastructure with the historic investments made in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, this legislation includes accountability for those investments and modernizes the contracting process within the service.

As the Coast Guard looks to grow its forces, this legislation will support the Coast Guard's efforts to boost recruiting and retention while supporting President Trump's vision to strengthen the domestic maritime base and boost the pool of qualified United States merchant mariners who can mobilize during times of crisis to operate sealift assets.

The legislation also gives the service an important voice by establishing a Coast Guard service secretary, as envisioned in my legislation, H.R. 2546, the Secretary of the Coast Guard Act of 2025.

This measure also makes important reforms following the revelations of Operation Fouled Anchor, which was a report detailing improper handling of sexual assaults within the service. As a sheriff and a firsthand law enforcement officer, I have seen the harmful effects that happens to these victims.

I am pleased that the bill before us strengthens protections for members of the Coast Guard from sexual assault, provides support to victims, and increases transparency within the service about the manner in which such cases are handled.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the work of Chairman GRAVES on this legislation along with Ranking Member LARSEN and Subcommittee Ranking Member CARBAJAL, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.

This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes funding for the U.S. Coast Guard through 2029, updates and restructures Coast Guard programs and policies, and supports the commercial maritime industry. It is the result of good faith, bipartisan negotiations between Chair GRAVES and Chair EZELL, myself, and Ranking Member CARBAJAL, and it includes important contributions from members on and off the committee.

□ 1410

This bill is the latest example of bipartisanship on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and I am very proud to support it.

Coast Guard operational readiness is at risk due to years of underfunding. A lack of investment has led to a $3 billion shoreside infrastructure backlog, a lack of icebreaking capacity in the

Arctic and Great Lakes, and reduced capacity across several essential missions, such as mariner safety and mariner credentialing.

The committee recognized this need, and H.R. 4275 begins to address the shortfall by authorizing the Coast Guard far beyond the administration's request. It increases Coast Guard funding levels to $21 billion by 2029, ensuring that the Coast Guard remains ''always ready''; ''semper paratus.''

These funding levels will give the Coast Guard the resources needed to execute its missions and deliver a basic standard of living for its servicemembers.

In addition, the bill increases procurement, construction, and improvements funding by 100 percent over current funding levels. These new resources should enable the Coast Guard to maintain its ongoing recapitalization programs, including Polar Security Cutters and Offshore Patrol Cutters.

Last Congress, we enacted substantial improvements to safety for mariners and passengers aboard vessels. This legislation builds upon that work by addressing additional safety risks on vessels and increasing the penalties for bad actors.

This bill fights oil spill pollution by bolstering vessel response plans and ensuring timely, robust firefighting responses when vessel incidents do occur.

It also requires the Coast Guard to evaluate international oil spill coordination and ensures robust protections and response capacity in environmentally sensitive locations like the Puget Sound. Maritime commerce cannot come at the expense of the environment.

This bill includes provisions that begin addressing the mariner shortage by updating mariner requirements, updating the merchant mariner credentialing exam, and expanding the pool of eligible mariners.

Finally and importantly, the bill includes numerous provisions to address sexual assault and sexual harassment within the Coast Guard. These new requirements, directives, and oversight were developed because the Coast Guard deliberately hid Operation Fouled Anchor and decades of sexual misconduct within the Coast Guard.

Former Commandant Admiral Fagan worked hard to repair that lost confidence that resulted from Operation Fouled Anchor, and this legislation builds on her work.

Again, I thank Chair GRAVES, Chair EZELL, Ranking Member CARBAJAL and others for their cooperation in crafting this critical legislation. I look forward to our continued collaboration as this legislation moves forward, and I urge all Members to support this bill.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER).

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to support H.R. 4275 to ensure that the Coast Guard has the authorities and resources needed to meet the vital missions that they have.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides the Coast Guard a much-needed and historic downpayment of $24 billion for new operational assets and systems.

This bill is still needed to support the important work of the Coast Guard, which does protect our waters through drug interdiction, stops human trafficking, and promotes maritime safety.

It also establishes a Secretary of the Coast Guard, an important step in the right direction to ensure that the Coast Guard men and women remain a priority for many administrations to come.

The other armed services have this position, and they also do much better and they have a better track record in getting the assets necessary to carry out their missions.

I am thrilled that President Trump and Secretary Noem have focused on the Coast Guard, and I am hopeful that this year the Senate also will move to pass this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time. I acknowledge the leadership of the chair and the ranking member of the full committee and the subcommittee for their great, bipartisan work on this initiative.

One of the Coast Guard's primary missions is search and rescue. In fiscal year 2025 alone, their efforts saved more than 2,200 people and $40 million in property. To keep up this important work, they need robust funding and support, which is just what this bill delivers.

With the administration's aggressive funding and staffing cuts, however, at the National Weather Service and FEMA and the increasing severity and frequency of natural disasters due in my opinion to climate change, the risks associated with those disasters continue to rise.

Unfortunately, we don't have to look any further than recent floods and devastating storms to know how important the Coast Guard can be in responding to these emergencies and disasters, but they need their partners at FEMA and NOAA.

I strongly support this bill and the great work the Coast Guard does to protect our citizens and waters, including in and around the district I represent in the San Francisco Bay Area. I also ask my colleagues to continue to endeavor to invest not just in the Coast Guard but in their partner agencies like FEMA and the National Weather Service to ensure safety and mission readiness.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCDOWELL).

Mr. MCDOWELL. Madam Speaker, today and every day the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard carry out a critical mission: securing our borders, patrolling our waters, and saving American lives.

As vice chair of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand how vital their service is to our national security and to our prosperity.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act gives our guardsmen the tools, the resources, and the support that they need to meet today's threats, whether it is stopping fentanyl at sea, stopping illegal migrants, or responding to natural disasters.

This bill is about backing the Coast Guard the same way that they back us every single day.

I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. GILLEN).

Ms. GILLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275, the bipartisan Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, which includes my provision to improve navigation in the East Rockaway Inlet off the South Shore of Long Island and to strengthen maritime drug enforcement in our waters.

Madam Speaker, East Rockaway Inlet is a critical Federal navigation channel, which Long Islanders rely on for both commercial and recreational boating and fishing. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for maintenance dredging of the inlet, the Coast Guard maintains the markers and the buoys to aid in navigation and to keep boaters safe.

Unfortunately, I have heard from many of my constituents that due to shoaling, the water is too shallow in many parts of the inlet, and the buoys there are missing or misplaced, making it difficult for boaters and fishermen to safely navigate the channel. Incorrectly placed buoys and markers could cause boats to run aground in the sand, threaten commercial towing through the channel, and undermine safe navigation for all.

My amendment, which is included in section 283 of this bill, would require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to examine this issue and report to Congress with concrete recommendations to address hazards in the East Rockaway Inlet and present a plan to update the aids to navigation there to keep boaters safe.

I am grateful to Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for including this amendment, and I look forward to working together with the Coast Guard on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, this bill will also strengthen our national security and support the men and women I met at the Coast Guard Station in Jones Beach. This bipartisan bill will ensure

that the Coast Guard has the resources that it needs to keep our shores and our communities secure.

I am especially glad that this legislation includes a commonsense, bipartisan bill I cosponsored with my Republican colleague from North Carolina, Representative ADDISON MCDOWELL, to help the Coast Guard respond to opioid overdoses.

Our brave Coast Guardsmen are the first line of defense against illegal drug trafficking on our waters, and this legislation will ensure that they have the tools that they need to combat opioid overdoses and close loopholes that drug traffickers seek to exploit.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

□ 1420

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I don't have any further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025. I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

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

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

Madam Speaker, this legislation provides support for the men and women of the Coast Guard to be able to do their jobs. As we know, these servicemembers often go above and beyond the call of duty, including when responding to emergencies and disasters.

That fact was clearly demonstrated during the response to the tragic flooding in Texas over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Petty Officer Scott Ruskan and the Rescue 6553 aircrew were first on the scene at Camp Mystic, the historic girls' camp that was caught in the catastrophic flooding, and helped save 165 lives.

The men and women who serve in the Coast Guard carry out heroic acts each and every day, and it is our responsibility to make sure that they have the resources that they need to carry out their missions.

I will take just a moment to thank my subcommittee staff who worked tirelessly on this legislation: John Rayfield, Reed Linsk, Lindsay Sakal, Spencer Thompson, Nicole Bredariol, as well as Matt Dwyer and the ranking member's team.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the bill on both sides of the aisle, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1549) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1549

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Secretary of State, shall conduct a study and issue a report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China that includes—

(1) an assessment of the effects of significant risks in the financial sector of the People's Republic of China on the United States and global financial systems;

(2) a description of the policies the United States Government is adopting to protect the financial stability of the United States and the global economy from any risks described under paragraph (1);

(3) a description and evaluation of the transparency, completeness, and reliability of Chinese economic data; and

(4) recommendations for additional actions the United States Government, including United States representatives at relevant international organizations, should take to strengthen international cooperation to monitor and mitigate such financial stability risks and protect United States interests.

(b) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transmit the report required under subsection (a) to the Committees on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Foreign Relations of the Senate, and to the United States representatives at relevant international organizations, as appropriate.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be unclassified, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) PUBLICATION OF REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall publish the report required under subsection (a) (other than any classified annex) on the website of the Department of the Treasury not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1549, the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act.

The Chinese Communist Party's track record of interference and aggression toward the American financial system is a serious and growing threat. The CCP has a well-documented history of abusing international financial norms, jeopardizing both our national and economic security in the process.

From manipulating currency and distorting markets to propping up state-owned industries and weaponizing finance for geopolitical gain, the CCP's actions are not just unfair but are also downright dangerous. These predatory practices harm American businesses, erode trust in global markets, and risk empowering China to pressure developing nations and destabilize debt markets for its own benefit.

We cannot afford to sit back and take our eyes off the ball. We must be prepared. That is why I introduced the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act. This bill is a proactive measure that requires the Department of the Treasury to identify financial risks posed by the Chinese economy and offer recommendations for strengthening international cooperation to monitor and counter these threats.

Our top priorities should always be to defend Western values, promote American interests, and hold bad actors accountable. This legislation is a critical step in confronting the CCP's abuse of the financial system head-on.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) for co-leading this important effort with me, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1549.

In God We Trust.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1549, the China Financial Threat Mitigation Act, sponsored by Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey.

The People's Republic of China continues to pose a significant challenge to America's economy and financial system. This doesn't mean that China is simply an economic competitor. Rather, China has taken an aggressive adversarial posture toward American

influence and power globally, leveraging its growing economic strength to do so.

To address concerns raised by China's conduct in this regard, American policymakers, including Members of Congress, need accurate data about the potential risks posed. This includes information about trade, both legal and illegal investments, demographics, subsidies for domestic industries, and demand for oil and economic growth.

Unfortunately, despite these needs, the economic data available directly from China is generally limited and unreliable. Even China's gross domestic product figures are regarded as questionable.

Madam Speaker, this bill asks for a detailed study on these issues. The bill would also require recommendations for additional actions to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate risks and protect U.S. interests.

The House previously passed this bill four times in the last three Congresses, and I hope we can finally pass it into law.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

H.R. 1549, CHINA FINANCIAL THREAT MITIGATION ACT OF 2025, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON MARCH 21, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2030	2025–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (−) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1	**

* = between −$500,000 and $500,000.
** = not estimated.

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 1549 would require the Secretary of the Treasury, within one year of enactment, to study and report on the financial exposure of the United States and the global economy to China. The bill also would direct the Secretary to consult with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Department of State for the study.

Using information about the cost of similar requirements, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1549 would cost federal agencies $1 million over the 2025–2030 period. Any spending by those agencies would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Costs incurred by the Federal Reserve reduce remittances to the Treasury, which are recorded in the budget as revenues. CBO estimates that the reduction in remittances attributable to implementing H.R. 1549 would not be significant over the 2025–2035 period.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal agencies) and Nathaniel Frentz (for the Federal Reserve). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative WILLIAMS of Texas and Representative GOTTHEIMER for sponsoring this bill. Their bipartisan work resulted in a unanimous vote during our Committee on Financial Services markup earlier this year, reflecting our shared concerns about the aggressive economic and commercial activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, for the reasons I explained earlier, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank Congressman GOTTHEIMER and my good friend, Ms. WATERS, for their support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1549, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) at 3:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3357; and

H.R. 4275.

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

ENHANCING MULTI-CLASS SHARE DISCLOSURES 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. 3357) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers with a multi-class stock structure to make certain disclosures in any proxy or consent solicitation material, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 31, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 217]

YEAS—381

Adams	Cole	Fulcher
Aderholt	Comer	Garamendi
Aguilar	Conaway	Garbarino
Alford	Correa	Garcia (CA)
Allen	Costa	García (IL)
Amo	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Amodei (NV)	Craig	Gill (TX)
Ansari	Crawford	Gillen
Arrington	Crenshaw	Gimenez
Auchincloss	Crockett	Golden (ME)
Babin	Crow	Goldman (NY)
Bacon	Cuellar	Goldman (TX)
Baird	Davids (KS)	Gomez
Balderson	Davidson	Gonzales, Tony
Balint	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez, V.
Barr	Davis (NC)	Gooden
Barragán	De La Cruz	Goodlander
Baumgartner	Dean (PA)	Gottheimer
Beatty	DeGette	Graves
Begich	DeLauro	Gray
Bell	DelBene	Green, Al (TX)
Bentz	Deluzio	Griffith
Bera	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Bergman	DesJarlais	Guest
Beyer	Dexter	Guthrie
Bice	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Bilirakis	Dingell	Haridopolos
Bishop	Doggett	Harris (MD)
Bonamici	Donalds	Hayes
Bost	Downing	Hern (OK)
Boyle (PA)	Dunn (FL)	Hill (AR)
Bresnahan	Edwards	Himes
Brown	Elfreth	Hinson
Brownley	Ellzey	Horsford
Buchanan	Emmer	Houchin
Budzinski	Escobar	Houlahan
Bynum	Espaillat	Hoyer
Calvert	Estes	Hoyle (OR)
Cammack	Evans (CO)	Hudson
Carbajal	Evans (PA)	Huffman
Carey	Ezell	Huizenga
Carson	Fallon	Hunt
Carter (GA)	Fedorchak	Hurd (CO)
Carter (LA)	Feenstra	Issa
Carter (TX)	Fields	Ivey
Casar	Figures	Jack
Case	Finstad	Jackson (IL)
Casten	Fischbach	Jacobs
Castor (FL)	Fitzgerald	James
Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jayapal
Cherfilus-McCormick	Fleischmann	Jeffries
	Fletcher	Johnson (SD)
Chu	Flood	Johnson (TX)
Ciscomani	Fong	Jordan
Cisneros	Foster	Joyce (OH)
Clark (MA)	Foushee	Joyce (PA)
Clarke (NY)	Foxx	Kamlager-Dove
Cleaver	Frankel, Lois	Kaptur
Clyburn	Franklin, Scott	Kean
Clyde	Friedman	Kelly (IL)
Cohen	Frost	Kelly (MS)

Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (NC)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steil
Stevens
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—31

Barrett
Bean (FL)
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Brecheen
Burchett
Cline
Cloud
Collins
Crane
Crank
Fine
Fry
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harrigan
Harris (NC)
Higgins (LA)
Jackson (TX)
Knott
Massie
McCormick
Miller (IL)
Mills
Moore (AL)
Norman
Onder
Perry
Roy
Self
Spartz

NOT VOTING—18

Boebert
Burlison
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harshbarger
Johnson (GA)
Keating
LaMalfa
Lofgren
Moore (UT)
Scanlon
Sherrill
Stefanik
Steube
Strickland
Swalwell
Timmons
Van Orden

□ 1558

Messrs. JACKSON of Texas, MOORE of Alabama, CRANK, BARRETT, ROY, NORMAN, ONDER, CLINE, BURCHETT, FINE, HARRIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. DONALDS changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 217.

REPUBLICANS WIN RECORD-SETTING GAME

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Satchel Paige, a great Hall of Fame baseball player, in 1948 won two games of a doubleheader. When he was in the locker room talking to the press, the press said: Satchel, you won both games today. What was your best pitch, your fast ball or your curve ball?

He says: Neither. It was my be-ball.

They said: Your be-ball, what is that?

He said: My be-ball, when I throw it, it goes where I want it to be.

I can't think of anyplace that I would rather be than here right now representing the Congressional Baseball Game and our team.

The Congressional Baseball Game was played on June 11, and I am proud to say that we raised $2.7 million for charity right here, a record. We sold almost 40,000 tickets and had 34,000 in attendance, another record.

The Republican team, the USA team, Team USA is on a 5-year winning streak. We won 13–2 this year, and I am proud to coach these guys. They really do a great job, and I am proud to be able to coach this team.

The Democrats have a good team. They have good coaching, and we welcome playing them again next year in next year's game and setting records.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Manager SÁNCHEZ for her comments.

□ 1600

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I congratulate Coach ROGER WILLIAMS and the Republican team on their victory in this year's Congressional Baseball Game.

I have to say that I was very proud of the hard work and dedication of the Democratic team. We came out, and we played hard. More importantly, we raised a record amount of money for local charities here in the Washington, D.C., area.

The Congressional Baseball Game is probably my favorite time of the year, not the least of which is because every morning I get to yell at 15 men and tell them what to do. It is also because we can put partisanship aside and play a good game for a good cause.

Together, we raised a whopping $2.8 million which will go toward sports scholarships, local girls' and boys' clubs, and other youth charities. That is something I think we can all be proud of.

Again, I congratulate Coach WILLIAMS and his team. I would say to my friend, we are coming for that trophy next year.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend across the aisle, she is not going to find it.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 12, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 218]

YEAS—399

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (NC)

Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—12

Biggs (AZ)
Brecheen
Burlison
Crane
Davidson
Grothman
Harris (MD)
Massie
Norman
Perry
Roy
Self

NOT VOTING—19

Boebert
Ciscomani
Cohen
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Keating
Leger Fernandez
Lofgren
Neal
Pressley
Scanlon
Sherrill
Stefanik
Steube
Swalwell
Timmons
Van Orden
Waters
Zinke

□ 1608

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 218.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

Censuring Representative LAMONICA MCIVER and removing her from the Committee on Homeland Security.

Whereas, on May 9, 2025, Representative MCIVER took part in an incident at the Delaney Hall Federal Immigration Facility located in Newark, New Jersey;

Whereas Representative LAMONICA MCIVER of New Jersey, as a result of her actions on May 9, 2025, has been charged in a three-count indictment by a Federal grand jury for assaulting, resisting, impeding, and interfering with Federal officers;

Whereas Representative MCIVER is alleged to have challenged guidance from a Federal officer regarding access to the secure detention facility;

Whereas Representative MCIVER is alleged to have interfered with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) officials from making an arrest of an unauthorized visitor;

Whereas Representative MCIVER is alleged to have ''slammed her forearm into the body'' and ''restrain'' an HSI officer by ''forcibly grabbing him'';

Whereas Representative MCIVER is alleged to have further interfered with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement Deportation Officer engaged in the performance of his official duties;

Whereas body camera and other video evidence support the allegations made within the Federal indictment;

Whereas such actions constitute a violation of section 111(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, relating to assaulting, resisting, impending, and interfering with a Federal officer;

Whereas clause 1 of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides, ''A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.'';

Whereas such actions of a Member of the House of Representatives do not reflect creditably on the House; and

Whereas Representative MCIVER's continued service on the Committee on Homeland Security, which is charged with oversight of Federal immigration enforcement and other national security matters, would represent a significant conflict of interest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CENSURE OF REPRESENTATIVE LAMONICA MCIVER.

Representative LAMONICA MCIVER—

(1) is censured;

(2) shall forthwith present herself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and

(3) is censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL FROM COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.

The following named Member be, and is hereby, removed from the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Homeland Security: Mrs. MCIVER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Louisiana will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1620

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4401

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) as cosponsor of H.R. 4401.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 120th anniversary.

In 1905, the chamber was founded as the Milton Board of Trade. Over the last 120 years, the chamber has grown and expanded its reach and membership into Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties, and 120 years later, the mission of

the chamber remains the same as when it was founded: ''To be the partner of choice to enable economic and business development by partnering with businesses, schools, communities, and individuals in Central Pennsylvania.''

As a proud member of the chamber, I recognize its vital role in driving regional economic growth, fostering job creation, and supporting businesses of all sizes as they innovate and invest in America's future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the board members, staff, membership, and partners who have worked together to promote and improve our region. They have fostered a commitment to free enterprise that enables our local communities to unlock their true economic potential.

I congratulate the chamber on this milestone occasion.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL ATOMICS

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General Atomics, a world-leading technology company headquartered in the district I represent, and their historic achievement of completing the ITER Central Solenoid. This giant custom-designed magnet, 60 feet tall, 14 feet wide, and weighing over 1,000 tons, is the largest pulsed superconducting electromagnet ever built, and it is a major step in the long journey toward commercial fusion energy.

General Atomics was one of the early trailblazers of both nuclear fission and fusion. Under the leadership of their chairman and CEO, Neal Blue, General Atomics has pioneered many new innovations, from groundbreaking advances in nuclear technology to remotely operated aircraft, and electromagnetic systems.

Fusion energy will provide a source of virtually limitless baseload power and a clean and safe pathway for true energy security. It is no wonder countries across the globe are racing to achieve fusion first, and San Diego is leading the way with the leadership of companies like General Atomics and others.

I look forward to celebrating many more accomplishments with my friends at General Atomics.

RECOGNIZING KENLEY JUILLERAT

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenley Juillerat. Kenley is a member of the Premier Showmen 4–H Club in Hillsboro, Ohio.

For her 4–H project, Kenley gave back to veterans by thanking them for their service with stars, stripes, and smiles buckets. With help from her community, she assembled goodie buckets to disperse to veterans in her area.

Included were cards that thanked them for their service. Freedom has never been free, and our brave servicemen and -women and their families sacrifice so much to keep us safe. It is great to see heroes being recognized, and it is my honor to advocate on their behalf in Congress.

Outstanding operations like 4–H teach our young people the values of patriotism and hard work. Programs just like this one represent the best America has to offer, and it is great to see them focusing their efforts on honoring our Nation's heroes.

I and all of southern Ohio are proud of Kenley.

I congratulate Kenley.

IRMGARD HERMANN DAVIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 90th birthday of Irmgard Hermann Davis.

Irmgard grew up in Germany during World War II. After the war, she came to visit her sister in Garden Grove, California, my district, where her life changed forever.

She met Wally Davis. They got married and had seven beautiful children. She never returned to Germany. Wally Davis was one of Orange County's first Hispanic attorneys and a civil rights icon. Irmgard was always there for him, and she was the story behind Wally's success.

I wish Irmgard a happy birthday. We love her and look forward to her next few birthdays.

PROTECTING MEDICAID

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight how the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will strengthen and protect Medicaid for those who need it the most. This legislation focuses on eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse that have historically plagued this system, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Contrary to the misinformation spreading, there are roughly 1.4 million illegal immigrants who are receiving Medicaid, crowding out benefits meant for American citizens.

What is more, this bill invests billions of dollars in long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities by establishing a new pathway for States to offer community-based services. This will help preserve Medicaid for the most vulnerable populations who rely on it: pregnant mothers, children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities and low-income families.

NURSING HOMES

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania nearly 65 percent of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid.

In my district outside Philadelphia, it is a lifeline for more than 15,000 seniors who have worked and earned access to affordable, high-quality care and who deserve to age with grace and dignity.

President Trump and the Republicans' big, ugly bill will cut Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, known as Pennie, by about $53 million over the next decade.

What will happen to our parents and to our grandparents?

Some facilities may be forced to make impossible decisions like reducing staff or raising prices for those who don't qualify for Medicaid. Others simply will not survive.

I know how worrisome it is to watch aging parents need to leave the home they loved. I know how critical it is to find them the best possible care. I saw it with my own in-laws, Joan and Bill Cunnane.

After all, through Medicaid, think about it, Mr. Speaker: I was disabled and you offered me aid; I was infirm and you offered me care; I was aging and you offered me dignity.

That is what Republicans voted in lockstep to tear away. Shame.

□ 1630

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARLA REYNOLDS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude as I pay tribute to a true hometown hero, Carla Reynolds of Bristol Borough.

Carla was more than an advocate. She was a force of nature, a woman of uncommon compassion, relentless purpose, and a rare gift for bringing people together.

Through her signature event, Unity Day, Carla united law enforcement and neighbors, children and elders, in a shared celebration of kindness, community, and respect. She believed that our greatest strength lies in our ability to stand together, and she proved that year after year, day after day.

Through her Boots on the Ground Foundation, Carla offered not just food and essentials to those in need, but her time, her energy, and her heart. She gave selflessly, always showing up for those in crisis, always finding a way to help, and never asking for a thing in return for herself.

She also championed young people, creating initiatives to spotlight Bucks County youth who excelled in academics, service, and sports because, as she would say, our kids need to know that we see them.

Mr. Speaker, over the many years I had the privilege to work alongside Carla, I came to not only know her mission but her soul.

May God bless Carla Reynolds, and may we each do our part to honor her by continuing the work she believed in so deeply.

DEMANDING ANSWERS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, Virginia Federal employees are still being fired, RIF'd, and harassed by this administration.

Last week, I heard from a constituent who received a termination letter from the Department of Health and Human Services just hours before it went into effect with no access to their equipment, no offboarding information, and no details about their severance. This is one of the many, many stories that I get at my office every week.

Civil servants who dedicate their career to serving this government deserve transparency, clarity, and respect. But across agencies, this administration continues to blindly and abruptly fire Federal workers. What do we have to show for it? A complete and total brain drain.

We are losing talent and expertise in our Federal Government, all while the administration prioritizes tax cuts and handouts to the biggest corporations.

To my constituents impacted by these cuts, I will continue to demand answers, and I will continue to fight to hold this administration accountable.

RECOGNIZING MARK MURPHY

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy and esteemed career of Green Bay Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy, who is set to retire at the end of this week after serving in the role for more than 17 years.

Mark Murphy is a Green Bay Packers legend and a highly respected figure throughout Wisconsin and among NFL fans across the country.

During his tenure as president and CEO, the Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl in 2011, made 5 NFC Championship Game appearances, secured 8 NFC North division titles, earned 13 playoff appearances, and posted a 172–101 regular season record, which was the second best in the league over that span.

Off the field and under his guidance, the Green Bay Packers invested more than $700 million in the Lambeau Field campus and Titletown development without the use of public money and increased charitable giving across Wisconsin.

Most recently, the Packers hosted the immensely successful 2025 NFL Draft, which drew an official attendance of 605,000 and delivered a major economic boost in our region in northeast Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative from northeastern Wisconsin and as a lifelong Packers fan, I want to thank Mark Murphy for his many years of dedicated leadership with the Green Bay Packers and wish him the very best in his retirement.

DISASTROUS FLOODS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, disastrous floods, horrific floods are devastating the lives of our residents in southeast Michigan and across the Nation.

The dangers don't stop when the flooding ends. Too many of our families are denied FEMA assistance because current rules and policies don't cover repairs and reconstruction for most basements where floods are the most destructive.

Without Federal assistance, Mr. Speaker, they are forced to live in extremely unsafe conditions, being exposed to serious health risks like mold and mildew and moisture damage.

One of my residents, a 90-year-old woman, had no hot water, a broken furnace, and toxic mold in her basement.

There are people recovering from disasters, and many of them are on a fixed income. They are seniors who cannot afford the thousands of dollars in repairs to their basement.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Fix Our Flooded Basements Act to make sure that Federal disaster assistance finally covers those costs.

We must make this change so that our residents, our constituents, live in a safe home after a flood. They need to be able to rebuild their lives from these disastrous floods.

SIX MONTHS OF AMERICA FIRST LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 6 months of the America First leadership under President Trump Donald Trump.

He has had innumerable accomplishments over the first half of this year and has kicked off a new golden age for our country. His strong leadership has single-handedly added over half a million jobs to the U.S. economy. Many of these jobs came back to my home State of Indiana, like the announcement from General Motors about increasing its production in the Fort Wayne truck plant.

He has brought gas prices to their lowest point since 2021 by unleashing American energy independence.

Outside of the economic impacts that have saved money for everyday Americans, President Trump has kept his commitment to protect American children and families by halting so-called gender-affirming care for children in this country.

As another testament to his impressive pace, President Trump has also signed 27 bills into law, the greatest of which, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, delivers tax cuts to American families, solidifies funding for America's Golden Dome, and defunded Planned Parenthood.

Over the past 6 months, President Trump has delivered on his promise to restore America's strength and dominance, and I look forward to continuing the fight with President Trump leading the way to ensure America's golden age lasts for decades to come.

RELEASE THE EPSTEIN FILES

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, in February of this year, Attorney General Pam Bondi went on national TV and told the American people that Jeffrey Epstein's client list was ''sitting on my desk right now.''

Why won't she release that client list?

Why won't House Republicans vote to release that list?

In fact, House Republicans are shutting down Congress early. Shortly after my speech, Congress is going to shut down until September because House Republicans want to avoid voting on releasing the Epstein files.

Why? I will tell you why.

The Wall Street Journal just confirmed that in May of this year the Department of Justice told Donald Trump to his face that he is in the unreleased Epstein files.

House Republicans are facilitating a coverup of epic proportions.

Release the Epstein files.

HONORING LINDA KVASAGER

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a notable North Dakotan, Linda Kvasager, who recently retired after 50 years of dedicated service at Valley Senior Living.

Linda began her career in elder care as a high school student at the age of just 15 and devoted five decades to helping seniors stay active, healthy, and connected.

Her work as a restorative aide supported not only the physical well-being of her residents but their dignity and independence. Colleagues describe her as a compassionate, reliable, and deeply committed person, a steady presence in a field where continuity makes the difference.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years in a role is rare, and 50 years of meaningful care is extraordinary.

Linda's legacy is a testament to the power of faithful service. She has touched countless lives, and she has made her community proud.

I congratulate Linda.

□ 1640

HONORING DETECTIVE ANDREW WOODS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness to mourn the passing of Detective Andrew Woods of the Union County Sheriff's Office who passed away following his heroic battle against stage IV cancer.

Andrew spent his career with the Union County Sheriff's Office, starting in patrol and working his way up to detective. He was known as a man who always showed up with a smile and served as a mentor to the younger officers. He was a friend to all in the department and the community.

Andrew spent his time as a volunteer firefighter while also mentoring kids in the community who wanted to be involved in public service and law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, in his free time, Andrew spent time with his family, fishing, golfing, or watching Tennessee Vols whoop up on Alabama. Too many times, that didn't happen, Mr. Speaker.

Andrew was a person who all Americans should strive to be like. He was dedicated to serving his community. He was a good family man. He committed his time to helping children achieve their dreams of becoming law enforcement.

Andrew is truly a hero of Tennessee, Mr. Speaker.

I personally extend my condolences to Andrew's family and friends; my dear friend, Sheriff Breeding; and the entire Union County Sheriff's Department.

Our prayers go out to all of them, and may the Lord bless Andrew Woods.

RECOGNIZING USCG PETTY OFFICER SCOTT RUSKAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our country's heroes, Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer Scott Ruskan.

Scott Ruskan hails from New Jersey and was an accountant at KPMG before enlisting to serve in the Coast Guard in 2021.

After joining the U.S. Coast Guard, Scott participated in and completed rescue swimmer training and was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In the early morning of July 4, Scott, along with other local and Federal first responders, was dispatched to aid in rescue efforts at Camp Mystic in Kerr County as flooding from the nearby Guadalupe River hit the camp.

Scott, while leading the Coast Guard triage at Camp Mystic, was able to save over 160 people through his efforts, including my twin granddaughters, whose birthday is today.

Scott's selflessness and bravery in the face of danger is something that we should all strive to embody.

I thank Scott for his courage and for changing the course of many families' lives, including my family. May God bless him.

REMEMBERING WALLACE ''WALLY'' CLARK RONEY

(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, I rise in sadness to remember a personal friend from home in the district. Wallace Clark Roney, who everyone knows as Wally Roney, passed recently due to health issues.

Wally was a fifth-generation cattle rancher, lifelong steward of the land, and, indeed, a towering, imposing figure—a big guy in California agriculture.

Yet, that big guy, as imposing as he was, was also like a big bear cub. He loved what he did. He loved helping his neighbors. He loved helping the cattle industry and sticking up for agriculture. You won't find a better friend.

Wally and his wife, Billie Jean, are good friends of mine. As we remember him today and feel that sadness, know that his spirit of fighting for agriculture, as a fellow Cal Poly Mustang graduate, will also be remembered and appreciated.

Wally was a respected leader, of course, in his field in all those areas, blending old-school ranching with a sharp business sense and a deep understanding of land management.

Wally grew up alongside seasoned hands, learning the value of grit, responsibility, and persistence. He trained horses, rodeoed, raised cattle, and never hesitated to speak up when it was important to help preserve his industry and preserve a lifestyle not just for him but for his neighbors and everybody who depends on us as a food supply, making America stronger.

God bless Wally and his wife, Billie Jean. We will miss him. He was a good friend, and he will never be replaced but will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING USAF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JASON Q. SHAFFER

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a warrior of the United States Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant Jason Q. Shaffer.

Chief Shaffer embodies the mindset and diligence that is needed to defend our Nation. He entered the Air Force in March 2000 as a security forces member and has been serving for 25 years.

During his time in the Air Force, he developed an impressive background, which includes experience at varying levels in the Security Forces. He has participated in operations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Pacific region. He is now retiring after all of that time.

Being a servicemember is tough. It is demanding, and the time spent away from your family is even harder. Yet, we can never forget to thank those who make that sacrifice.

I thank him; his wife, Tawny; and his children, Dallas, Ashlynn, and Teagan, for making sacrifices so our Nation can prosper.

Chief Jason, Aim High and have a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SWIFTWATER RESCUE TEAM

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave members of the Virginia Beach Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team, who were recently deployed to Texas Hill Country to support the flood rescue efforts there.

The specialized team is uniquely qualified to respond to natural disasters, having recently assisted in the rescue efforts from the October floods that occurred in western Virginia.

On July 4, the team drove 1,700 miles through the night from Virginia Beach to Texas to aid in the flood rescue efforts. In the face of tragedies like the floods in Texas, we are incredibly fortunate to have brave first responders who choose to run toward danger instead of away from it.

I will continue to pray for the safety of our first responders, as well as the victims and families affected by this horrific disaster. I am grateful that this team was able to put their expertise to use and assist in saving lives.

I am happy to hear the news that they are coming home.

KICKOFF OF HOOSIER HEARTLAND TOUR

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to kick off my Hoosier Heartland Tour. As this Chamber adjourns, I eagerly look forward to beginning my first summer district work period.

As I move about Indiana's Sixth District over the weeks to come, I am eager to share this time with our hardworking Hoosiers.

For 7 months, I have been working to deliver for our communities. I look forward to sharing my work and bringing details of our wins back home.

Most importantly, this time will focus on listening. I look forward to touring our local businesses, meeting with our 11 county sheriffs, visiting the many district airports I represent, and hearing from our family farmers.

This Hoosier Heartland Tour promises to encompass many meaningful conversations that will inform my work as we return in September, and I eagerly undertake it.

RECOGNIZING BRYCEN PHILLIPS

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

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, eastern Washington and Spokane are home to many heroes and champions, but I would like to speak today of one particularly exceptional young man, Brycen Phillips of Mt. Spokane High School.

Brycen was named a two-time U.S. Paralympics Track and Field High School All-American, and he is somebody who has overcome tremendous challenges.

After suffering a stroke at age 3, Brycen was left with paralysis on his right side, a condition called hemiplegia. Despite having to relearn how to walk, talk, and perform daily tasks, he never gave up.

Brycen found his competitive spirit on the track. Representing Mt. Spokane, he has won multiple State titles and competed on the national stage, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Brycen Phillips is a total stud, and the entire Congress and the entire Republic deserve to hear his story, and they now have.

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,
Wahington, DC, July 23, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1(k) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, and section 4(d) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, I transmit to you notification that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Conduct:

Ana Mikaela Aaland.
Heejung A. Cho.
Jody B. Hice
Cheryl L. Johnson.

Copies of the signed agreements will be retained by the Office of the Clerk as part of the records of the House.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Wednesday, July 23, 2025, through Monday, September 1, 2025, as a ''district work period'' under clause 13 of Rule I.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

□ 1650

BENEFITS OF ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on July Fourth, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law. This historic legislation delivered the largest tax cuts to working-and middle-class Americans in U.S. history and will revitalize rural America.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act made permanent the 199A small business tax credit, providing certainty to small businesses and ensuring Main Street can thrive.

This legislation also saves 2 million family farms, including over 6,800 family farms in my district, from facing a death tax increase. This will protect the generational transfer of family farms.

This bill also cuts down on the waste, fraud, and abuse in our Federal agencies that have made it harder and more expensive for our American people.

This bill is a win for our farmers, small businesses, and Americans in every income bracket.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize some of the impacts the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will have on my State.

By passing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the House Republican majority kept its promise to preserve the 2017 tax cuts and provided further relief for American families.

The White House's Council of Economic Advisers estimates the bill will raise Utah wages between $4,300 and $7,700 over the next 4 years, putting more money in the pockets of our hardworking Americans. Typical families with two children can also expect to see higher take-home pay in the range of $7,900 to $11,400.

Utah is one of the fastest-growing States in the Nation and has the highest average household size. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act increases the child tax credit to $2,200, which will help our Utah families as they continue to grow. Without the bill's passage, the child tax credit would have dropped to just $1,000 per child. I am glad this bill invests in the future of our families, not just in Utah but all over the country.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act also helps hardworking Americans by cutting taxes on overtime pay. Around 22 percent of all employees in Utah regularly work overtime and could benefit from this tax break.

The bill also cuts taxes on tips. Whether you are a waitress earning tips or a nurse working overtime, this legislation will make sure that your hard-earned money stays where it belongs: in your pocket.

The legislation also benefits those who give to charitable causes, including tithes or religious contributions, allowing individuals who do not itemize their deductions to claim charitable deductions.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act delivers historic tax relief for seniors. This legislation ensures that nearly 90 percent of Social Security beneficiaries will no longer pay Federal income taxes on their benefits.

In Utah alone, around 400,000 seniors could benefit from the no taxes on Social Security provision of this bill. Our seniors have spent their lifetimes contributing to our Nation's economy, and House Republicans are glad to provide them relief through this bill.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act will also help Utahns in ways beyond tax credits. It will help rural Utah by boosting Utah's energy sector due to provisions slashing the bureaucratic red tape associated with permitting delays and by restarting oil, gas, and coal leases. This will create thousands of jobs in Utah.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act also helps Utahns by reauthorizing the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, also known as RECA, for another 2 years following its expiration last year. RECA authorization will compensate Utahns who were exposed to radiation after the aboveground atomic testing

at the Nevada Test Site. It will also extend compensation to uranium miners and expand eligibility for downwinders across the State of Utah. This will help relieve burdens for Utahns who were harmed during active nuclear weapons testing.

The bill will provide funding for technological advancement for our military and enhance the quality of life for our military personnel by allocating up to $7.4 billion in benefits for servicemembers across the country.

Under this bill, the budget will provide for restoration and renovation of barracks, more funding for the Defense Health Program, aid to military families by adding to the childcare fee assistance, and bonuses for members of the military.

This policy reflects our commitment to honoring the sacrifices of our military by investing directly in servicemembers and the infrastructure that supports their well-being. It demonstrates our commitment to putting America first by ensuring our servicemen and -women in Utah and across the world receive the care and support they deserve.

This legislation is designed to put hardworking Americans, families, and small businesses first, including my constituents in Utah's Third District. By passing this bill, Republicans have delivered on the promises we made to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. Fedorchak), my distinguished colleague.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KENNEDY for yielding and for leading this important Special Order tonight to talk about all the wins in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important promise President Trump made to the American people that the one big, beautiful bill fulfills.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act delivers a long list of wins for families, seniors, small businesses, farmers, energy producers, and our military. It prevents the largest tax increase in U.S. history, putting $4.5 trillion in Americans' pockets instead of in the government's coffers. It delivers permanent tax relief, begins to rein in Washington's out-of-control spending, makes historic investments in border security and national defense, and restores the kind of commonsense priorities people in my State of North Dakota live by every single day.

There are so many wins in this bill that we need to break them apart and highlight them separately.

Today, I will focus on a provision that many think is too good to be true. In fact, in talking to people, they think, ''How can this actually happen?'' but it will, and that is no tax on tips and overtime.

During my time back home recently, I visited with folks across North Dakota, including those working in construction, law enforcement, and service industries. This bill is great news for them and the hundreds of professions that regularly put in overtime to get the job done.

In fact, around 30 percent of all employees in North Dakota regularly work overtime and could benefit from the no tax on overtime provision in this bill.

According to the Council of Economic Advisers, an even larger 65 percent of workers in North Dakota are in occupations that are likely eligible for overtime and could also benefit.

We cut taxes on up to $12,500 of overtime pay for more than 80 million hourly workers. This is estimated to increase yearly take-home pay by more than $1,400.

The bill also eliminates Federal taxes on up to $25,000 of tips for America's 4 million tipped workers. As a former waitress, I know how valuable this provision would be. This applies to all tips, whether they are tips that are cash or on credit. All tips qualify for the no tax on tips. This is estimated to boost incomes by an average of $1,300 per year.

With these policies, we are rewarding everyday Americans' hard work, and we are not waiting. These provisions are retroactive, meaning that people will see the benefits of no taxes on tips and overtime this year, even for hours worked prior to this bill passing.

I was very proud to join my colleagues in delivering on this commitment to the American people, and I can't wait to see how it benefits them all.

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

□ 1700

RISK OF CONFLICT WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address one of the most serious issues of our time, the risk of conflict with nuclear weapons. It is a threat that challenges our conscience. It is a threat not just for Americans but for all humanity. It is a threat not just to humans, but to all species of life on our planet.

We raise this issue in the context of a series of important anniversaries. One week ago, July 16 marked the 80th anniversary of the Trinity test, the first detonation of a nuclear weapon in New Mexico. We still live with the legacy of above-ground nuclear tests.

Two years ago, the Defense Department awarded the Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal to the still-surviving veterans of that era and their family members.

We must also honor the downwinders, civilians whose health and land suffered from the effects of radiation from these tests. Many were in the State of Nevada. In addition, we cannot forget the Pacific Islanders who have not been able to return to their home islands or the Uyghurs and others whose homeland in Xinjiang was the location of China's nuclear tests. They, too, have suffered long-term health consequences.

In 2 weeks, we will commemorate the first use of a nuclear weapon in a conflict—and that was the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945—and the second, the bombing of Nagasaki, on August 9. Let us pray that Nagasaki will be the last. Let us work to make sure that it is.

Sadly, the threat from nuclear weapons is only increasing. There are estimated to be 13,400 nuclear weapons in the world today. Some 90 percent of these are in the arsenals of the United States and Russia. The rest belong to the U.K., France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.

Russia has threatened to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and even against NATO nations. North Korea uses its nuclear weapons program to intimidate the United States, Japan, and Korea. China continues to build up its nuclear arsenal. It has some 600 warheads today and is expected to pass 1,000 by 2030, according to the Pentagon.

The question of Iran's nuclear program has been at the top of our concerns. The military strikes by Israel and the United States were, as stated, designed to degrade or eliminate Iran's nuclear development capabilities. However, as The Washington Post reported last week, U.S. intelligence agencies assess that only one of Iran's three principal nuclear facilities was destroyed by the U.S. attacks. This tells us that military action is not a reliable way to counter nuclear threats. In 80 years of the nuclear era, the only proven, demonstrated way to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict and to lessen the scale of its destruction is through diplomacy and negotiations.

If not for past arms control agreements, Mr. Speaker, today's arsenals would be larger and more dangerous. If not for limitation on above-ground and atmospheric testing, many more people would suffer from radiation and contamination.

However, our challenge is made harder by the fact that there is only one arms control agreement remaining in force between the United States and Russia. The New START Treaty limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads for each party to 1,550. The treaty expires in February 2026. There are scant signs that either government is interested in extending it.

President Donald Trump can and should take forward steps on nuclear arms control. He can follow in the footsteps of other Republican Presidents. President Eisenhower, in his ''Atoms for Peace'' speech, expressed the moral imperative to warn Americans and the

world of the destructiveness of atomic weapons.

President Reagan in his second term negotiated the INF Treaty with the Soviets. He spoke privately with Gorbachev about the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Earlier this year, President Trump said from the Oval Office: ''There is no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons, we already have so many. You could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over. And here we are building new nuclear weapons, and they're building nuclear weapons.''

He added: ''We're all spending a lot of money that we could be spending on other things that are actually, hopefully much more productive.''

On this point, Mr. Speaker, President Trump is right. President Trump has the opportunity to make nuclear threat reduction a part of his legacy.

As a smart first step, he and Putin can strike a deal to respect New START's central limits and set the stage for a more comprehensive nuclear arms control framework agreement.

Next, President Trump can put nuclear weapons on the agenda when he meets with Xi Jinping. He expressed a willingness to do this in his Oval Office comments.

Even talking about negotiations in itself can help reduce tensions. A deal requires a first step, and I encourage the President to take it and to take it soon.

We, in Congress, can use our voice. Along with our colleague, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), I am the proud sponsor of H. Res. 317, a resolution that calls on the U.S. Government to return to the negotiating table on nuclear disarmament and to lead a global effort to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. It reaffirms our country's moral and strategic obligation to prevent nuclear war and pursue a world free of nuclear weapons as a national security imperative.

This call is in the spirit of Presidents Eisenhower and Reagan and Presidents Carter and Obama, and we hope President Trump. I am pleased to report that Senators MARKEY, MERKLEY, SANDERS, WELCH, and VAN HOLLEN have all introduced a version of our resolution. I urge the foreign policy committees of both bodies to consider these resolutions promptly.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, activity in House committees is taking us in the wrong direction. Last week, the Appropriations Committee approved an energy and water bill that cuts the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account by $412 million. That is 17 percent. These activities help the U.S. stop the spread of nuclear weapons, detect hidden nuclear activities, and support arms control efforts. Why would anybody think it is a good idea to cut that account?

Also last week, the Armed Services Committee approved the National Defense Authorization Act. It authorizes $62 billion for the nuclear enterprise, which represents a 26 percent increase over President Biden's request last year. Unfortunately, the Committee rejected an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) to restrict funding to create a new land-based nuclear delivery system, the Sentinel missile, a $180 billion boondoggle he has called an endless money pit.

The threat of nuclear war is an existential one. We have a moral imperative to address it and address it urgently. Debates over the utility and morality of nuclear weapons are as old as the nuclear age. Notably, many of the people who helped make atomic weapons turned out to be some of the most powerful voices against their use and for the reduction in their arsenals.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago this week, the film ''Oppenheimer'' premiered. It told the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the theoretical physicist who helped create the atomic bomb but then pushed against the development of more powerful weapons. For that position of moral courage, he paid a political price.

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, Dr. Richard Garwin passed away at the age of 97. He is best known as the author of the first hydrogen bomb. Less widely known is that he spent decades working tirelessly in arms control and disarmament, as well as scientific panels, conferences, and government boards.

In a 2018 interview, Dr. Garwin said: ''There is a myth, and you saw it operate many times in the past, that if there is a perceived security problem, well, no difficulty, we will just buy more nuclear weapons. But that doesn't improve our security. What we want is less nuclear weapons and less cause for using them on the other side.''

When I was a staffer for the late Congressman Joe Moakley in the 1980s, I recall going to hear Dr. Garwin and Dr. Carl Sagan give a talk on nuclear weapons and the Strategic Defense Initiative. Dr. Sagan, of course, is the physicist who helped us understand the idea of a nuclear winter, which is the hemisphere-wide Dark Age caused by the radioactive ash sent into the atmosphere following multiple nuclear detonations. It would wipe out food supplies and cause untold deaths from starvation, even beyond the millions killed by the blasts.

For us today, the dynamic Dr. Garwin identifies isn't in the past. It is in the present. Our inboxes are full of policymakers expressing fears about the growth of China's nuclear arsenal or Vladimir Putin's intentions or Iran's plans.

Too often, policymakers have a reflexive response. They are building more. Then we should build more. Mr. Speaker, this is so shortsighted. It is a dangerous reaction. It is very, very dangerous. We know firsthand the harm that such devastating weapons can have.

On the 80th anniversaries, people of many generations will gather at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Very few survivors of those atomic bombings remain with us, but their stories endure. The disturbing photos of the burns and the radiation sickness endure.

In those cities, those gathered will recommit to preserving the memory of the destruction, and to plead with current and future generations to work to ensure that such horrors never ever, ever happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I regret I cannot be with them in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That is why I have organized this Special Order on the House floor today so that Members can share their message from the floor of the House.

To our colleagues, to the President, and to the American people, this is a crucial moment in world history. We have a moral responsibility to speak out and to do more.

When we return to Washington after the anniversaries and after the August break, let us commit to raising more awareness. Let us commit to more congressional hearings and more debate on the floor. Let us commit to more encouragement for scientists, civil society, and regular citizens to raise their voices. Let us commit to legislation to contain the growth of nuclear weapons. Let us commit ourselves to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for holding this Special Hour to discuss the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, when I first entered Congress, I was the third Ph.D. physicist elected to this body. We had at the time Vern Ehlers, a nuclear physicist and a conservative, religious Republican representing western Michigan.

We had Rush Holt, a plasma fusion physicist, a progressive Democrat representing Princeton.

We had me, a sort of garden-variety Democrat who spent the last 25 years smashing protons and antiprotons together to make particles that have not been around since the big bang.

Although our politics were quite different, we were united by a special responsibility to join the discussion about nuclear weapons and ask what we could do to strengthen global nuclear security and maintain U.S. leadership in trying to prevent nuclear war.

One area where we were always in violent agreement was to stop wasting money on Star Wars, which was then rebranded as the SDI, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and has now been rebranded Golden Dome.

For more than 45 years, scientists have been patiently explaining to policymakers that this is never going to work. It is easy to overwhelm with a trivial response to it.

We have spent over $200 billion on it. We have never tested it once against the kind of countermeasures that we know any competent opponent would deploy. Even if we succeed at stopping ballistic missiles, there are, unfortunately, many other ways to deliver nuclear weapons that we can never stop.

This thing is deeply—I guess ''stupid'' is not too strong a word. We explain something to someone in a variety of terms again and again, and they don't want to hear it because they think it messages so well.

Wouldn't it be great if we had this magic Golden Dome, or whatever we want to call it, to stop nuclear weapons? Yeah, it would be great.

If it is an impossibility to do the fundamental physics of it, then we should stop talking about it, and we should certainly stop wasting money on it.

Another place where we were always in strong agreement was how we should be strengthening the nonproliferation efforts at our national laboratories.

Our national labs create an underlying foundation for all of our nuclear security efforts including the nonproliferation and national security priorities that we are talking about here today. In order to ensure that current and future arms control efforts are properly fulfilling their mission, we have to invest in our scientific workforce to maintain our leadership and verification efforts.

It is certainly not well-known among Members of Congress, but when the IAEA sends inspectors into Iran and into countries of concern, those have been largely trained by the national labs in the United States. When we gut the nonproliferation capacities of our national labs or simply allow them to retire, as has been happening, we risk putting aside one of the most powerful tools we have to actually enforce any deal that we may get.

The President is very fond of talking about this deal he is going to get on Iran nuclear. We listened to him talk about how he was going to get North Korea. I support efforts to try to do that.

If we ever succeed in getting one of these deals, for sure we are going to need to have experts we trust that can go in there and make sure nobody is cheating. Unfortunately, what we are seeing is the gutting of those budgets in that capacity. I guess it doesn't satisfy the MAGA worldview.

Over the years, I have focused my attention on a few specific areas to strengthen our nuclear security architecture. One of them is what is called nuclear—well, it has a number of names. If for some reason a nuclear weapon is detonated somewhere in the United States or anywhere around the world, the President will come under huge pressure to say: Who did that? Whose weapon was it?

There is a lot of very detailed knowledge that we have had in the past in our national labs to be able to go in there and do what is called nuclear forensics and find out whether that was a bomb from X, Y, or Z. That capacity has been under duress for a long time. It seems like it is every single time the appropriations budgets come up, we end up having to try to defend that.

That is something that is completely irrelevant until it is the most important question in the world. Who did that? Who let off this nuclear weapon? How do we make sure we don't retaliate against the wrong person or entity that did that?

There are a number of other things I have been working on. First and foremost is H. Res. 100. It is a resolution I introduced in the House with 19 other Members. It supports arms control and condemns Russia's purported suspension of its participation in the New START Treaty.

The current extension of the New START Treaty is set to expire in under a year, and anyone who remembers previous arms control negotiations will know that there is almost no time left to negotiate a subsequent treaty.

Additionally, any negotiations, whether with Russia, China, or any other country, will require partners who are willing to have discussions on arms control, which is something that is far easier said than done.

This is not something where the two great men leading great nations can come together and strike a deal. The details matter. We have to have technical experts that we trust to go deep down into the weeds to have an agreement so they can come back and say this is a solid agreement we can trust.

It is a time when traditional channels of dialogue on arms control and strategic stability have been closed or quiet, and we are going to rely more than ever on keeping alternative channels open and keeping the expertise in place. Then when the time comes for these agreements, we have people we trust who can carry them out.

□ 1720

Mr. Speaker, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, and research institutions have kept this dialogue open even during the worst parts of the Cold War, and we are going to need to rely on them to fulfill these roles again.

Another crucial institution that we must continue to support in these times is the IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency. We have already seen the incredibly hard work that Director General Grossi and his staff are putting in to responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine with its many nuclear reactors and the myriad of other crises on their doorstep.

Mr. Speaker, that brings us to Iran. One of the proudest moments in my career was standing alongside Dr. Richard Garwin, who, as Representative MCGOVERN mentioned, was often pointed to as the father of the hydrogen bomb and a strong advocate for nuclear nonproliferation. He stood by my side, along with Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz, as I announced my support for the Iran nuclear deal.

One of the tragedies of the recent past has been this President's abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal, which has gotten us into a heck of a pickle, as predicted by the people who actually understood what our true options were in that negotiation.

After the U.S. bombing of Iran, there has been an immense amount of debate about whether or not Iran's nuclear program was set back by a certain amount of time, whether it is years or whatever. The level of technical ignorance that has been displayed by this administration is, frankly, frightening. They have access to the best weapons designers in the world, and they are either not listening to them or not asking questions.

When you hear Secretary Rubio, for example, saying not to worry about their 60 percent enriched uranium inventory because they are going to have to convert it to metal and that will take years, anyone with knowledge of the history of the Manhattan Project knows that is not a major activity. Iran has done it for a long time. They know how to do it.

If you are only interested in converting from uranium hexafluoride to metal, a few tens of kilograms, which is what you need for your first set of weapons, this happens in a laboratory. It can happen in a congressional office. You don't need a big space for this.

The conversion of the uranium hexafluoride to what is called green salt, and the green salt to metal, is something that happens in a small industrial building. It can happen anywhere in any city in Iran, and it will be really hard to tell. We have not prevented them from doing what they have to do.

The enrichment level is another thing where we are seeing, frankly, technically ignorant statements made. We have three levels of uranium. Less than 20 percent is generally regarded as relatively safe and can be used in reactors without a lot of safeguards. When you get about 90 percent enriched uranium, that is the good stuff for really high-performance weapons.

What about in between? They have 60 percent uranium. Guess what? That is not weapons-grade, but it is weapons-usable. For example, the Hiroshima bomb was made with a mixture of 50 percent enriched uranium and higher enriched uranium.

The 60 percent enriched uranium that Iran has a significant inventory of is perfectly usable even for a simple Hiroshima-style gun-type device. Our leadership speaks in apparent ignorance of that fact, beating their chest and saying we set them back by decades, when that is not the case.

Just to give a sense of the scale, the 400 kilograms of uranium hexafluoride that the IAEA watched them enrich to 60 percent is stored conventionally in the United States in about 25 scuba tank-sized pressurized containers. Any five of those containers have enough uranium to make a Hiroshima-style nuclear weapon.

These things are not hard to smuggle. We will have a hard time convincing ourselves, in fact, that the Iranians haven't already done it.

Pretending like Iran does not have a credible threat and has no leverage is a dangerous and ignorant position for our government to be taking and one of the scariest things about the many threats that we face right now.

Those who don't know should go look at the Wikipedia article on the Hiroshima Little Boy bomb and the references in it. It is, unfortunately, very well-documented over the years because it is not the best weapon you can make, by far. You can make much more complex and efficient weapons, but the Iranians don't have to do that.

If they simply want to replicate what was done, they would get an old 155-millimeter howitzer, replace the explosive shell with some enriched—60 percent enriched will work just fine—uranium, shoot it into the right-shaped target, and they have something that is as effective as the Hiroshima weapon.

This is not a trivial risk. The only answer to this is negotiations, and we have to get very serious about that.

It is not something that the Iranians even have to test. We did not test the Hiroshima weapon. It was obviously going to work. The physics hasn't changed in the 80 years since then, so we are at a very uncertain position on that, and we shouldn't pretend otherwise.

We have also recently been hearing a lot of calls about the resumption of nuclear testing. This is particularly worrying because the move away from nuclear testing has been really one of the cornerstone successes of nonproliferation and nuclear security.

Just think of all the attention Donald Trump could get by giving the order that he wants to blow up a nuclear weapon just to make sure it works, or whatever it is. Yes, he would get a lot of attention that way.

Our country has a tremendous amount to lose if everyone begins nuclear testing again. The U.S., during the Cold War, conducted over 1,000 nuclear tests, far more than any other country, and we had much better instrumentation, knowing exactly what happened in those explosions.

The knowledge that we gained has allowed our Nation to maintain the safety, security, and effectiveness of our nuclear stockpile without any further testing. If we were to resume testing, the rest of the world would resume testing. I am sure they all have bomb designers that are just champing at the bit to get more data on exactly what happens if they explode one of their untested weapons.

If we do this, we would be giving away the most significant strategic advantage that our country has, which is this huge database of exactly what works and what does not work in detailed and very technologically aggressive designs for our nuclear weapons.

If we open that Pandora's box, every country that is nuclear-capable will say this is their opportunity to become coequal with the United States in knowledge of nuclear weapons. That will be yet another disaster for the proliferation regime.

The next few years are going to be crucial to making sure that the world we live in remains safe from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCGOVERN for bringing us together to discuss this.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for his thoughtful remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues and reinforce their warning and urgent call to action.

Mr. Speaker, today, we stand at a crossroads. The world is once again drifting toward a future where nuclear weapons are not just tools of deterrence but urgent threats hanging over every human life.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to look away, not when the lessons of the past are still very visible amongst us. Look to the people of the Marshall Islands. Many of them are living in my district, part of our Hawaii ohana, whose lands became sacrifice zones in the name of power. Entire communities were displaced, and generations were scarred by radiation. The Bikini Atoll, once a paradise, became a proving ground for devastation.

These are not just theoretical consequences, lines on paper, assumptions, and equations. They were real, and they are very real still.

The United States and its allies conducted 318 nuclear tests in the Pacific islands. The people who lived on the islands lost their ancestral homes, now uninhabitable, and the people who were exposed to fallout were immediately sickened with ongoing, long-term impacts for human health, including increased rates of birth defects, genetic disorders, and secondary cancers.

The nuclear age taught us that while bombs may drop in seconds, their impact crosses centuries and generations, and now, instead of learning from history and learning from the mistakes of our past, we are poised to repeat it with greater risk, fewer safeguards, and far more at stake.

Today, the United States, Russia, and China inched closer to an unrestrained three-way arms race as we collectively spend well over $1 trillion on updated and new nuclear warheads and means of delivery. Just one of these programs, as was mentioned, the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile, will cost $141 billion according to the Department of Defense.

Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that is not even the bottom line. Their cost estimates keep growing and growing. A new arms race is a race with no finish line. Let us be clear: There are no winners, only losers in this race.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We must urgently renew and expand nuclear arms control treaties with both Russia and with China. The path to security lies not in new warheads or Golden Domes but in dialogue, transparency, and mutual restraint. We must invest as much into diplomacy and prevention as we do into silos and interceptors.

Let us be clear. All it takes is one bomb, one miscalculation, and one moment of madness, and everything—everything—will end.

The clock is ticking, but the future is still ours to shape. Let us choose wisdom over fear, peace over peril, and life over annihilation.

Mahalo to my colleague, Congressman MCGOVERN, for organizing this Special Order hour.

I ask on August 6 and August 9, let us take a moment to pause and remember we do have a choice.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to, once again, call on the United States to join the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and for all of the world's nuclear armed powers to adopt policies of mutual disarmament and abolition.

In a few short weeks we will mark the 80th anniversary of the only time nuclear weapons have been used in combat by the United States in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The fact is in 80 years since, we have only avoided nuclear war by sheer luck. As long as countries possess massive arsenals of world-destroying weapons, the risk of miscalculation and the risk of escalation is eternal.

In the last few years, we have seen multiple situations that remind us of the extent of this fragility and of the danger. Nuclear-armed India exchanged fire with nuclear-armed Pakistan just this year. Cooler heads prevailed, this time.

Nuclear-armed Israel conducted unilateral strikes on facilities in Iran. That war didn't go nuclear this time.

Nuclear-armed Russia continues its brutal war of conquest in Ukraine. We are avoiding escalations that increase the threats of nuclear war between Russia and the West so far.

The truth is, the era of nuclear weapons will only end in one of two ways. Either we will abolish these horrific weapons from the face of the Earth, or we will use them and abolish humanity instead.

The only sane position and the only legitimate position for anyone who values human life is abolition.

In addition, more than one-half of the countries in the world have now formally agreed signing on to the TPNW. We should join them.

That is because just as we have gotten terrifyingly close to nuclear war in

these past 80 years, we have gotten close to disarmament. It is not a pipe dream. Reagan and Gorbachev also did it. South Africa unilaterally dismantled their arsenal. Other countries have stopped developing nuclear weapons before they got the bomb.

It is possible to disarm, and it is possible to abolish nuclear weapons. We only need the political will, and we need the urgency.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, you will note that I said the bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the only nuclear weapons used in combat, but they were not—we must be absolutely clear—the only times nuclear weapons have been used.

In fact, nuclear weapons have been used thousands of times, and their primary targets have been Americans. We also mark this month the 80th anniversary of the Trinity test in New Mexico. So we should remember that entire communities have been poisoned by these weapons right here in the United States. Entire generations have seen their families, their friends, and their classmates die of rare cancers caused by radiation exposure. They have been forced to drink poisoned water and breathe poisoned air.

The effects on the communities known as the downwinders have been catastrophic, and their suffering is still, sadly, mostly unknown in this country. We have made some small steps toward providing overdue compensation to these Americans, the first and the most consistent victims of our nuclear weapons program, but we still are a long way from justice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for hosting this Special Order hour tonight and for his years of principled leadership on this issue.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks. We are living in a time when there is great polarization in our politics, but the issue that we are talking about here today is how to bring Democrats and Republicans together, because as Democrats and Republicans and liberals and conservatives we do have a mutual interest in survival. If nuclear weapons are ever used in this current day, then nobody wins.

What we are talking about is the salvation or the destruction of our civilization from nuclear death. The stakes could not be higher, and yet what is shocking to many of us is the lack of urgency and the lack of attention to this subject.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. That is right, Mr. Speaker. There is a lack of urgency, and we need to move with urgency because a nuclear war cannot be won and would have catastrophic human consequences.

One warhead—one—has the power to wipe out an entire city. A full-scale nuclear war would devastate life as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, 80 years ago, the horrific U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused unimaginable death and immense human suffering, and survivors to this day face long-term health issues and radiation poisoning.

So 80 years after these atrocities, we must, as a Chamber, recommit our efforts to finally achieving the complete and total abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide. We must ensure these war crimes are never repeated anywhere.

Nuclear weapons are tools of death and destruction. They cannot be used without disastrous consequences that violate international law and our shared humanity.

The White House and Congress need to immediately work to negotiate new constraints to cap and reduce nuclear arsenals, especially with Russia and China. We must do everything in our power to prevent an unrestrained nuclear arms race.

It is absolutely terrifying that in the United States the President has the power to unilaterally decide to launch a nuclear weapon.

Think about that for one moment, Mr. Speaker. The use of just a fraction of the nuclear weapons we possess, most of which are ready to launch within minutes of an order from any President, including the current one, would lead to mass destruction of unprecedented global scale.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle should back commonsense efforts to prioritize nuclear disarmament and adopt measures to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

We must continue to work toward international agreements, Mr. Speaker, with all nine countries that possess nuclear weapons through comprehensive nuclear test ban treaties, as well as the treaty on prohibiting a nuclear weapon.

Again, we must come together. I cannot say this enough: The devastation and the consequences of any nuclear launch could be, again, life-changing around the world. We must continue to strive for a world free from the threat of nuclear war.

I cannot thank enough my colleague, Mr. MCGOVERN, as he commits to banning nuclear weapons and, again, tries to save us from any kind of life-changing devastation to our world.

□ 1740

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TLAIB and all of my colleagues who have been here today because this is the most important issue, quite frankly, facing our planet.

Mr. Speaker, we can never ignore the fact that behind the conference room discussions about the utility of nuclear weapons, behind the corporate lobbying for nuclear modernization spending, this is a story of human suffering.

The Nobel Committee awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize to the organization Nihon Hidankyo for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

Nihon Hidankyo is a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors form Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 2 weeks, members of this organization along with activists and citizens from Japan and around the world will gather in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings. They will amplify this clear and existential message: that nuclear weapons must never ever be used again.

This organization keeps alive the testimony of the ''survivors''; ''Hibakusha'' of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They are the witnesses to the indescribable, the unthinkable, the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons.

Nihon Hidankyo highlights the nuclear taboo, the concept that nuclear weapons should never be used, an idea that is under threat from the growth in nuclear arsenals around the world.

Among the organization's aims is an international treaty for nuclear disarmament. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or TPNW, was adopted on July 7, 2017, and entered into force on January 22, 2021. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination. Mr. Speaker, 73 nations are party to the treaty. The United States is not. Neither are the other eight nuclear powers.

We won't get there overnight, but we should not abandon the goal. My resolution, coauthored with the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), H. Res. 317, calls for good faith negotiations with the other eight nuclear arms states to halt any further buildup of nuclear arsenals and to aggressively pursue a verifiable and irreversible agreement or agreements to verifiably reduce and eliminate their nuclear arsenals according to a negotiated timetable. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution and join us in our efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN, for yielding. I thank him and the CPC for organizing this very important Special Order hour.

Next month marks 80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These were the only times nuclear weapons have ever been used in war.

I have to say that this memorial, this memory, this 80th anniversary milestone is not just historical, it is somewhat personal and unexpectedly so, say, beginning in 2001, 2002 when at the age of 40, 41 I made my first visit to Japan.

I grew up as an American, a Japanese American. One of my grandparents, my only grandparent, my grandfather, Isao Takano, immigrated to the United States around 1916. He was born in 1898 in Japan, and he came from the environs of Hiroshima.

Growing up, we would go to his niece, my second cousin or I don't know how to kind of appropriate the right sort of familial designation of who is a cousin, a second cousin, but Kikue Takagi was my grandfather's niece who married an American and lived in Anaheim and worked at Disneyland.

We knew some facts, but we never in our times when we would get together for our family gatherings would we ever discuss what happened in Hiroshima. It wasn't until I was well into my adulthood on my first trip to Japan visiting Hiroshima and visiting Kikue, who was there taking care of her mother, that I learned that she was a ''survivor''; ''Hibakusha,'' that is the Japanese word for survivor, of the atom bomb.

She lived in the outskirts of Hiroshima. If you have been there, it is mountainous. It is a place, a delta, with five different rivers converging, and she lived in the outskirts. She was a middle school student. On the day that the bomb dropped, she was still ill, so much so that her mother said she didn't need to go into the city center to do her public service work. The middle schoolchildren were needed to clean up the debris of the area around the downtown of Hiroshima. They were doing an urban renewal project to widen the streets.

They knew, the people of Hiroshima, the political class knew that Hiroshima was a target because it was an industrial city. But little did they know that the teachers, the middle schoolteachers and the 13-year-olds who were there at the city center doing this public service work were all going to perish that day. My cousin survived because she stayed home at the behest of her mother.

She had not visited any of the memorials until I had arrived in the early 2000s. And I felt a tinge of guilt for asking her to do this because she had never really sort of delved into this history by visiting the memorial museum.

Riding over the bridge of one of the rivers to the museum the day that Kikue and I decided to go, she told me about how the river was not visible during the day that the bomb was dropped and the days afterward because of the number of bodies that just covered the surface of that water.

When you arrive at the memorial location, you can see bottles of water that many people who attend these memorials will leave for the thirsty souls of those who perished and those who were thirsty from the August heat.

I feel a deep obligation and responsibility to carry this memory forward. I remember as I crossed the bridge thinking to myself how I was personally connected by family to this historical event, that it was not something abstract. It was a moment that who I was, my identity, somewhat shifted and changed.

More than 200,000 people were killed, most of them civilians. Some died instantly. Others suffered for months or years from burns, radiation, and grief.

Mr. Speaker, 80 years after the erasure of two cities we have still not learned the lessons of these terrible bombings.

There are an estimated 13,400 nuclear warheads on Earth today. The United States and Russia hold more than 90 percent of them. Together, we control more than 12,000 warheads, and that is more than enough to end human civilization. While the United States and Russia maintain the largest stockpiles, China is rapidly building.

According to the Department of Defense, China's arsenal already has 500 operational warheads, and if current trends continue, it could surpass 1,000 by the year 2030.

This growth adds to global instability and makes the case for urgent diplomacy and arms control even stronger. Yet, the most important arms control treaty still in force between the United States and Russia is set to expire in less than 200 days.

If we let the New START Treaty expire, we will be left with no legal limits on the size of the two largest nuclear arsenals in the world. At the same time, we are seeing headlines about strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

These actions revive a dangerous question: Can we stop the spread of nuclear weapons through military force? I believe the answer is no. We cannot destroy knowledge with a bomb. We cannot erase a nuclear program by targeting one facility.

Strikes might delay a program, but they almost always provoke retaliation and harden resolve. They do nothing to build the kind of long-term trust and transparency that actually reduces nuclear risk.

□ 1750

That is why we need a strategy based on diplomacy, prevention, and protection. We know that this strategy can work because it did in the past. Iran's nuclear weapons program development ground to a halt under the Iran nuclear deal. It was only after President Trump ripped up the accord that Iran set itself on the pathway that it is on today.

The recent strikes reinforce the military theocracy's paranoia that the only pathway to secure the regime's long-term survival is through the development of a nuclear program. Like I said before, if a nation has enough willpower and know-how, they will develop a nuclear weapon. That means that the United States' national security cannot solely rest on deterrence. We should lead by example.

That means modernizing verification tools, supporting the international inspectors, and investing in the diplomatic capacity to negotiate real agreements. It also means rethinking how we can make decisions about the use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a role to play. We cannot stay silent while the risks grow and the guardrails fall away. The American people deserve transparency about how nuclear launch decisions are made and who is involved in making them. This is not just a matter of policy. It is a matter of survival.

Mr. Speaker, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not mere tragedies. They were warnings. The people who died there cannot speak for themselves, but we can speak for the future they were denied. We can choose a path that avoids repeating the worst mistake in human history.

Let us honor the lives lost not only with remembrance but with responsibility. Let's choose diplomacy over destruction, prevention over provocation, and peace over peril.

Let me return back to that scene of riding over that bridge over the river with my cousin Kikue and the thought that I had that every world leader who has some control over a nuclear arsenal should make a commitment to visit Hiroshima, to walk the grounds and understand what happened there and in Nagasaki. I think that is the only way that one has the moral stature and authority to be a leader of a country that has a nuclear arsenal.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his eloquent remarks. There is so much more that needs to be said, yet our time is coming to a close.

Let me end by saying that when I was in college in the late 1970s, I interned for Senator George McGovern, no relation, but a leader on arms control issues. I was able to accompany him to a debate with William F. Buckley at Yale University titled ''Resolved: That the SALT Talks Are in the Interests of U.S. National Security.'' Of course, the SALT talks were the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

George McGovern closed the debate—and I remember this like it was yesterday—I thought very powerfully. He said that he recalls that when he was a young Senator in 1963, they were debating the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and Senator Everett Dirksen, who was the Republican Senate minority leader at the time, ''took to the floor to close the debate. He said that he had just reread John Hersey's 'Hiroshima,' the description of what happened to that great city, the morning after—the scene of one family sitting charred around the breakfast table; out in the yard, bits and pieces of children's clothing; the broken arm of a doll; toys and debris scattered over the landscape. And he said: 'I thought about that scene, and I said that someday Everett Dirksen will be buried in Illinois, and when that happens, I don't want them to put on my gravestone: 'He knew about this, and he didn't care.' ''

Mr. Speaker, we all know the realities of nuclear weapons and their devastation, and the fact that if they were ever used, it would result in the total annihilation of our planet.

The question for all of us is: Are we going to do anything about it?

I said earlier that one of the most troubling factors in this whole topic is the lack of urgency here in Congress. We don't talk about this. We are not pushing for arms control. We are not setting goals for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. Instead, we are, just out of habit, voting in favor of military budgets that contribute to the problem.

I think, at this moment, as we approach the 80th anniversaries of these horrible events, this is a time for us to step up and to do something before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commemorate and have moments of silence to remind their constituencies of the anniversaries of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I urge them to join with us in a bipartisan way in doing something about it.

George McGovern ended his debate with William Buckley at Yale by saying this: ''Many years ago, in ancient wisdom, it was said: I have set before thee two choices, life or death. Therefore, choose life that thee and thy seed may live.''

Mr. Speaker, that is the choice I want the United States to make at this moment. I hope that we are up to the task, and I hope that we don't just continue to ignore the perils of nuclear warfare.

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

DISMANTLING CALIFORNIA'S CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, California voters overwhelmingly voted to establish the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The voters said that they wanted to take the process of drawing district lines out of the hands of politicians. They said that voters should choose their politicians, that politicians shouldn't choose their voters.

That commission has drawn our district lines through the last two rounds of redistricting. Yet, the Governor of California has now announced a plan to abolish the Citizens Redistricting Commission and to seize its powers for himself. He initially proposed simply ignoring the commission, ignoring the constitution, and overriding his maps with those that he and the legislature drew. Yet, apparently, someone told him that that would get immediately struck down in court.

What they are now plotting is a special election where they will use confusing ballot language and other means of deception to try to convince voters—to fool voters—into dismantling the very independent commission that they recently established.

The point of this is that the Governor would like to reduce the representation of Republicans in Congress in our State to 3 Members out of 52, so that Republicans will hold 6 percent of the seats even though Republicans typically get over 40 percent of the vote in statewide elections. It could be the single most egregious act of corruption in the history of our State.

Mr. Speaker, you don't need to take my word for that. You can take the word of Common Cause, which is a group that typically, almost always, aligns with Democrats on elections and voting issues. Its executive director said: ''Point blank, it is a dangerous move.''

Or take the word of Patricia Sinay, a Democrat sitting on the Citizens Redistricting Commission, who said: ''The very purpose of the State's independent redistricting commission is to protect voters from partisan power grabs like this. If this were to succeed, it would set a dangerous precedent for suppressing voters across the Nation.''

Mr. Speaker, this is a moment for every Californian and every American of decency, regardless of party affiliation, to speak out against the abject corruption that our Governor is attempting.

RECOGNIZING TEVIS CUP WINNERS HEATHER AND JEREMY REYNOLDS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather and Jeremy Reynolds, the first- and second-place winners of the 69th Annual Tevis Cup, a grueling 100-mile endurance trail ride from Robie Park to Auburn, held on July 12 of this year.

This year's competition proved even more challenging than usual, with the heat and rocky road providing unforgiving conditions for all competitors.

□ 1800

Of the 105 entrants, only 43 were able to complete the ride to Auburn. However, the couple persevered through, crossing the finish line in 17 hours 45 minutes.

Over the span of more than 20 years of competitive riding, the two have accumulated countless awards, including eight Tevis Cups and five Haggin Cups. Despite their many accolades, the one challenge they had never conquered was crossing the finish line together. In this year's competition, they did, crossing the finish line with their hands joined together, marking an astounding new achievement that has been a goal of theirs for over two decades.

Together, Heather and Jeremy Reynolds embody perseverance, teamwork, and competitive excellence. Their achievement serves not just as personal fulfillment but also as an inspiration to their peers, fellow competitors, and our community at large.

It is an honor to represent remarkable individuals such as Heather and Jeremy in Congress. Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I proudly extend my heartfelt congratulations to Heather and Jeremy Reynolds for their exceptional athletic achievement at the 69th annual Tevis Cup and commend them for their unwavering dedication to the tradition and sport of equine endurance riding.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California for his remarks, and as I always say to Californians, don't take Arizona's water.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN). The gentleman from Arizona has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to do a run-through of a couple things here. I am going to try to walk through some economics. Then I am going to actually try to walk through some warnings that are in the documents that are around us that very few people seem to bother to read. Then I am going to actually do some things that are hopeful because I think sometimes I am a bit dour, and I don't do enough of this.

First off, in August, Republicans are going to go out and tell the morality of people's taxes not going up next year. What we did in the reconciliation budget: incentives to invest in America, to build new plants of equipment, for working people to have some things to actually draw them back into the labor force, no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, some of these things.

If you actually look at one of the reasons those things are in there, and we are actually starting to see some of the models of the economic side, seeing some very optimistic things that we think are going to change labor force participation, small changes.

The left will actually sort of do a bit of schizophrenia such as you cut spending over here, but too much of this money is borrowed. I agree too much is borrowed. I want to cut more spending, but then you attack us when we try to actually point out misalignment, bad acts.

What was the report that just came out a couple days ago, where we found 2.8 million of our brothers and sisters enrolled in subsidized ACA plans as well as Medicaid plans.

They don't want to talk about that because it screws up their pitch when you actually walk through what we see in the math. We know the American people believe and understand the morality and the great economics of encouraging those that are able-bodied, able to work to participate in society.

If anyone is a geek out there—it is probably 4 or 5 years old—the University of Chicago, four of their Ph.D. economists wrote a brilliant paper talking about: If you actually ask people to participate in society, in the economy, to take a job, even if you give them welfare or government subsidies, because they have an attachment to the economy, to work, at the

end of 10 years, those who had the work requirements actually end up much wealthier and off of government support. It is the morality of learning to get up, building an attachment, learning skills, and moving up in an organization.

There was a time when it was actually the left's ethos, that the argument of work is moral. Somehow that left the Democratic Party.

Let's walk through a couple things. I have used this board for months now. It will probably be the last time I use it. Understand baseline over the next 10 years, according to Congressional Budget Office, we are going to spend $86 trillion. Think of the screaming and gnashing of teeth and protests that are all ginned up, you cut $800 billion from this, and a little bit from a couple other things, it was less than 2 percent of that spending.

Are you telling me that the left doesn't believe that if you are spending $86 trillion as your baseline spending, and understand—I am going to show you some of the charts and how much of this is basically demographics. We got old. Our healthcare costs money.

I am going to show you a couple charts that I really want folks to understand. But for the American people, when you see someone from the Democratic Party behind a microphone saying, they cut spending. It is this off of the base of this. It is the lack of understanding.

One of the points that you keep trying to make over and over again is, was it the Democrats' plan that they wanted to raise taxes on everyone? Because that was automatic; that was coming at the end of this year.

Your taxes were going up back to the pre-2017 tax reform. Every once in a while, you will get someone who says, well, you shouldn't have extended the tax policy for the highest income. Okay. That is a tiny, tiny portion of the total dollar amount. When they had control of everything, they didn't do it.

But just from a point—and this is more for everyone to understand, particularly even staff. You see the blue here, nondefense/defense, every dime of that is borrowed. I think this year we will probably borrow, let's call it, $400 billion for Medicare. We are going to actually hold a contest shortly to see who can guess the final borrowing for this year.

The economy has actually been pretty good. We are tracking customs receipts. Many of you think of it as tariffs. We may have another $70 billion on top of baseline. It is probably going to come at $2.2 trillion of borrowing this year.

This doesn't have the tax reform, many of those things built into that base. How do I help folks understand? Here is where we are already at, and this will make sense in a little while.

For every dollar we take in in tax receipts, we spend $1.39. We spend $1.39 for every dollar we take in tax receipts. If you saw that previous chart, you would have noticed that only about 24 to 26 percent is in discretionary, what we really get to vote on. That is why we end up having to use what we call these reconciliation budgets.

The 1974 Budget Control Act allows us to move a bill, if it has certain fiscal properties to it, through the Senate without having to get 60 votes. It is all a dance to deal with the 60 votes. If we were actually a little more honest about math, maybe we wouldn't have to do this dance.

Why this is important is—I am a little freaked out because this is the MedPAC report. I know every Member of Congress has read every word of it because it is really important. There is a chart in here that if you actually read the footnotes—now, look, for anyone that is paying attention, I am trying to bring Medicare Advantage back where the incentives actually are about helping populations be healthier and not about risk scoring them that—it is a concentration of illness, but the incentives are that if populations are healthier, the plans can make more money.

But inside here is also a great data point, Mr. Speaker. This year, we are going to spend, let's call it, a trillion dollars on Medicare.

□ 1810

How many of you would guess what we are going to spend in 7 years? The model in here says in 7 years, we go from $1 trillion a year on Medicare to $2 trillion. We double Medicare spending in 7 years.

Now, part of that is demographics. Starting, functionally, 30 years ago, we started having a lot fewer children. So if we took today and stepped back 20 years ago, we had about 35 million of our brothers and sisters who were 65 years old, 30 years ago. Today, we are approaching about 70 million of our brothers and sisters who are 65 and up, so more than double.

Go back 20 years ago, the number of 18 years olds we had is pretty much the same as the number of 18 year olds we have today. Next year, the number of 18 year olds goes down, the year after that it goes down, and the year after that it goes down.

Is that Republican or Democrat or is it just demographics? It is a little hard to campaign on that. It is a little hard to attack the other side, but the fact of the matter is, if we all read our data, we don't have a choice.

This is the Social Security Medicare actuary report, another thing I know every Member here has actually read. Seven years from now, the Medicare part A trust fund, which is about 38 percent of Medicare spending—the rest comes out of the general fund and members' participation, I think is about 15 percent, the fees they pay—but that 38 percent, that trust fund is gone in 7 years, meaning hospitals, surgery centers will have an 11 percent cut, but I know we are all going to talk and work on how we are going to revolutionize the cost of healthcare.

One of the classic problems around here, Mr. Speaker, is for some reason the left—and many of us on the right—we talk about healthcare as a finance problem. The ACA was a finance bill. It was who had to pay, who got subsidized. Medicare for All is a finance bill. I would argue the Republican alternative from a few years ago was a finance bill. It had a little better actuarial curve, but it was a finance bill: who got subsidized, who has to pay.

I beg of our brothers and sisters around here, open up your brain. We live in a time of miracles. We are going to have some conversations about how you change the view of healthcare. It is all about what we pay. Can we change the cost by doing it better, faster, cheaper with technology and our brothers and sisters being healthier?

If we don't, we will have problems like what is shown on this chart. Today, 16 percent of all tax receipts go just to interest. In 9 budget years, actually 9 years straight up, in 9 years, 30 percent of all U.S. tax receipts go just to interest. Heaven forbid, if we had a 1 point movement in interest rates, my math is 45 percent of all tax receipts would go to interest.

When you see people come behind these microphones, how many people are saying: Hey, how do we convince the bond markets? The bond markets are basically on the edge of running this country now because when you borrow $6 billion a day—next year, I think we borrow $6.5, maybe $7 billion a day. In 9 years, we are over $10 billion a day. Let's see. That is, what, $70,000 to $72,000 a second.

I have this aggregator on my news, and there are some crazy articles. A couple leftwing economists are saying: Borrowing doesn't matter, people are always willing to buy U.S. debt.

Okay. Let's pretend these leftwing economists are right. We can continue to borrow and borrow and borrow. They purposely sort of forget the punch line. Let's say we could borrow forever. At what point are there no more services, purchases, government helping our brothers and sisters because it is all covering the interest costs on the bonds?

So let's say—I think you are a little insane—you believe we can just borrow forever, you are a monetarist, but even the fragility in the monetarists, you saw in the previous few years of inflation that their model didn't work. Also, in addition to that, we are going to pay the interest. In 9 years, baseline under a favorable interest rate model, 30 percent of all U.S. tax receipts go to interest and, Heaven forbid, if interest rates were to come up 1 percent because we have to—this coming year, I think we are going to refinance $11 trillion, the year after that I think it is $13 trillion because we stay so short on the financing term, we sell short-term debt instead of longer-term debt because it turns out there is not as big an appetite. We are in this world where in 9

budget years, it will be $10 billion a day.

I am just going to run through a number of these things fairly quickly just to sort of get to the point. National health expenditures as a percentage of GDP, this will make sense in a moment. In 2033—so functionally, what, 8 years from now—over 20 percent of the economy will just be healthcare. Why?

The Joint Economic Committee 2 years ago wrote a report—and I thought I was going to get the crap kicked out of me, but we spent months and months and months grabbing every bit of literature and saying: Can someone tell me what obesity costs America? What it costs society? What it costs family formation? What does it cost? We came up with a number 2 years ago of $9.1 trillion in additional healthcare costs. We had some mortality statistics, the number of multiple chronic conditions, the misery out there.

What is fascinating is we have some articles right now talking about that we may have actually hit something crazy, and it is an odd way to phrase it, but it is what the researchers think, we may have already hit what we call peak obesity.

When we published the report 2 years ago, we still had about 4 or 5 more years of growth of obesity. In some States, actually approaching 50 percent of their population are technically obese under the BMI calculations.

It looks like in the last 12 months we may have started to bend the curve. We are trying to recalculate. Is this a sign of incredible hope that we know so much misery in our society—because there is a brilliant paper from about 7 years ago saying the leading contributor to income inequality in America, it turns out, isn't education. It turns out it is health.

When you think about it, the cascade of costs of someone with severe diabetes, when we already know diabetes is 33 percent of U.S. healthcare. What if things like this actually could help our brothers and sisters? Is this Republican or Democrat? It is just good policy. It has just always been uncomfortable to talk about.

Maybe society is starting to open up, saying, hey, maybe a healthier society actually is a really good, really moral thing.

Look, as we walk through these, I want to come back and sort of hit a punch line here. These charts have been available to us for years. The curve keeps getting steeper. When you have someone say they are a protector of Medicare, that is great. I am with you. It is an earned benefit. We made a societal promise, are they telling the truth about its financing? Oh, David, we can't do that, someone will say something mean about us.

In 7 years, what else will also be empty? The Social Security trust fund.

I am sure you all dove into the Social Security Medicare actuary report and saw the point in there where it says in 2032, 2033—actually we think it is 2032—our brothers and sisters on Social Security will take a 24 percent cut. Our model says we double senior poverty in America. That is absolutely immoral.

Have you also read the papers, the scale of tax hikes, of policy? Now, is the left offering to work with those of us on the right who are willing to step on the third rail and do the moral thing to actually take these on? Hell, no.

□ 1820

Mr. Speaker, I have talked to so many people on the Committee on Ways and Means and other committees who basically look at me in terror and run out of the room.

The political consultants care more about the power of the politics than the fact that in 7 years, Medicare is $2 trillion a year. In 7 years, the Medicare trust fund is empty. In 7 years, the Social Security trust fund is empty.

In the first full year, if we want to backfill that shortfall on Social Security, one of the rough numbers we have is $618 billion. Basically, what is that? It is two-thirds of what the entire defense budget is.

There is a lack of understanding of the scale of almost the dystopianism that comes from what happens when these trust funds are empty.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will learn to talk faster.

To the poor person trying to take my words down, I apologize.

I am going to skip over some of the other charts.

Mr. Speaker, you get the punch line. In the next decade, the vast majority of debt is driven by interest and healthcare costs. We are often very uncomfortable talking about it.

Let's actually talk about things that are great and that if we would get the policy right, we could lower that healthcare cost. It is not just an argument about who gets subsidized and who gets financed. It is what would be really good for society and really good for the budget.

We all saw The Economist article the last couple of days that talked about the miracle of how much the statistical benefits were having on the number of cures for cancer, particularly lung cancer and blood cancers, and their model that we are on the cusp of having major breakthroughs.

We saw this article a couple of days ago about a Microsoft platform. I didn't even know they were specializing in this. What was stunning about the datasets they had in here was that AI systems diagnosed patients four times more accurately than a human doctor.

I just upset some of my brothers and sisters in the doc caucus, but the data is the data. Mr. Speaker, should we legalize technology? If I have something I can blow into called a Breath Biopsy and if it is statistically as accurate or more accurate than a human and knows what I have, should it be allowed to prescribe?

It is uncomfortable, but it would help crash the cost of healthcare. It would actually help us with the fact that we have a shortage of medical professionals.

We are on the cusp of these things. As a matter of fact, that technology has been around for 5 years except it is functionally illegal. We don't reimburse it, and we don't allow it to prescribe. We are on the cusp.

An hour ago, Sam Altman with OpenAI was down the hallway. He and I had a few minutes of conversation about a new healthcare stat that is going to go public in about a month. He seemed incredibly optimistic that its accuracy will be off the charts.

Should we legalize the use of technology to help our society be healthier? Should we allow it to prescribe? It is uncomfortable because this place is a protection racket. We have to understand. Congress is mostly about one thing. It is about money. The left pretends it isn't. The right pretends it isn't. It is about money.

When we start to say maybe we can use technology as a competition to help our brothers and sisters be healthier and, therefore, change the cost of healthcare, somebody is going to say: I make money on that. You are now going to have me compete against a data system that is more accurate than I am?

We see it over and over. A new Apple Watch AI model can reveal hidden health conversations. Here are a couple things I have been most interested in the last couple of years. There is a great article. I did a whole speech on it a couple of years ago.

AI discovered a whole new categories of antibiotics. Remember we were all panic-stricken that we had diseases and bacterial infections that we didn't have antibiotics for. The antibiotics weren't working. AI discovered a whole new category of antibiotics that the literature said it would take humans 20 years to develop.

Instead of being afraid of the technology, maybe we should get our heads straightened up. In our society we have a shortage of young people. Baby boomers like me with gray hair are getting older, and we are going to consume a lot more healthcare. Can we embrace the technology? That technology sets us free when we start to realize the things that are going on.

We just had a doctor of radiology in our office. He walked us through the statistical abstract of breast cancer and the scans and showed that his AI platform was remarkably more accurate. It is cheaper, faster, and more accurate. Why wouldn't we embrace it? We don't reimburse it.

The barriers to entry here are protection rackets saying we are not fighting

for what is fastest, best, and cheapest. We are often here because we know our incumbency.

We really are on the edge of miracles. How do I get the left and the right to understand the math is the math? Demographics are the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt. It is hard to campaign against the other side. Maybe we can take a couple of months off and actually do good, quality policy and legalize properly vetted and properly certified AI to prescribe.

This August, with the wearables, I am going to do an experiment with this Oura Ring. I am buying some Dexcoms to manage my glucose. Have we all seen the app where we can take a picture of food and it calculates glucose and calories?

How can we create the incentives? Maybe we should look at the ACA. Instead of just smoking in three age categories, we can add a fifth category that is an incentive for our brothers and sisters to manage their health.

Mr. Speaker, 16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending is people who are not taking their drugs for hypertension and are not taking their statin. Mr. Speaker, 16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending is over $600 billion a year.

There are solutions. We can make a difference. Embrace the technology. Change the cost. Have a healthier society. It is the most powerful thing we can do for U.S. sovereign debt.

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

TRUMP'S RECKLESS TARIFF POLICIES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact that President Trump's reckless tariff policies are having on our American automotive industry and its workers.

The latest financial figures from Jeep Stellantis, for example, the proud maker of Jeep and Ram vehicles—and they are so popular—paints a deeply disturbing picture. Nearly $2.7 billion in losses are tied directly to these tariffs. That translates into plant shutdowns, canceled programs, and over 900 American workers already laid off.

Similarly, the General Motors chief executive officer said tariffs cost GM $1.1 billion this quarter and that the next quarter will be worse. This is real money.

In an industry that America has been striving to bring back to full production in this country, we have lost so many jobs abroad to cheap labor and places that have no labor rights. This is what happens with tariffs when we lead with flashy headlines instead of well-thought-out trade strategy.

Tariffs without a plan don't punish China. They don't balance our trade accounts. Our trade accounts get worse. They punish Toledo. Bad tariff policy punishes manufacturing America.

These tariffs punish Ohio. They punish Michigan. They punish Indiana. They punish Illinois, America's manufacturing heartland. Tariffs punish Missouri. They punish Wisconsin.

They punish every worker on the line who is just trying to build a better life for themselves. The families and the workers who work in these plants do hard work. They deserve to earn a fair wage with good working conditions and benefits, including health and retirement benefits.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, American workers need real trade reform, balanced trade accounts, and sensible tariff policies, not gimmicks. I urge the Trump administration to stop the damage now before the bleeding gets worse.

Our chief trading partner in northern Ohio is Canada. We like Canada. Our industry is integrated. Parts pass over the border sometimes six or seven times. Tariffs make no sense in an integrated economy.

The American automotive industry needs investment here at home, on our continent, not more outsourcing. We don't need that. We need job insourcing before more jobs disappear and more families pay the price.

Our communities need economic certainty, not higher prices, not pink slips, not utter chaos, and not tariff regimes that change every couple of days. America needs a trade and tariff regime that yields good jobs, well-paid workers, and prices for cars, trucks, and consumer goods that Americans can afford to buy.

I urge Members of this House and the Trump administration to take a look at what is happening in the real economy. Let's fix it before it gets much worse. America doesn't need that.

ADVANCING GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the new horizons of advancing geothermal energy.

Geothermal energy is one of the most fascinating, promising, yet underused clean energy sources in our country. The problem with it? You can't see it.

You can't see it, so a lot of people, when they are walking, when they are in the woods, when they are going to work, they never think about the power of the Earth. Beneath our feet, due to the temperature differentials between the air we breathe and the temperatures in the soil, lies a constant supply of heat from the Earth's core.

In developed communities, we have vast subterranean water and wastewater lines that have been built over the last hundred years. Not just in this country but all over the world where we have more developed societies, there is waste energy that is renewable, reliable, and constantly available in those vast, underground, big pipes that run through all of our cities and towns.

Geothermal energy doesn't depend on the weather. It doesn't depend on the season or geographical conditions. It exists as a consistent and dependable source for a clean energy grid. When you go underground, generally, you have a 45- to 75-degree constant temperature all year long.

The United States has enormous untapped geothermal potential, enough to power millions of homes while slashing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering energy bills. We estimate—just think about this—Cleveland, Ohio, a big city—I had the privilege of representing part of it for a long time. There, their water and wastewater purification systems are the highest cost for that city.

The energy cost of wastewater processing is the largest cost in any city. Think about that. Every year, the purified water is thrown back into the lake when it leaves the plant. That city throws into Lake Erie the equivalent of a waste heat load of nearly 400,000 barrels of oil annually. Think about that. That is waste heat that we, as a country, could be capturing.

That is just one untapped location along just one great lake, Lake Erie. Imagine if we could add in Cleveland, Lorain, Avon Lake, Sandusky, Oregon, and Toledo in Ohio. That doesn't even count going north up into Detroit and, on the north side of Lake Erie, the cities in Canada.

There is a whole lot of energy wasted, being dumped into the lake. We have to capture it.

By investing in geothermal technology, communities across our country and the world can strengthen energy security; reduce reliance on dirty fuels; create good-paying jobs in engineering, drilling, and maintenance; and lower energy costs for industry, public facilities, neighborhoods, and all kinds of companies.

Geothermal energy has a small land footprint. It can even be co-located with other renewables or energy-hungry data centers, which so need it.

If we are serious about building a resilient energy-independent future, we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy, including unpacking the power that is already beneath us in the Earth and being wasted.

Check out Vancouver, Canada, and what it has accomplished with geothermal energy since the 2010 Olympics. They have really had a plan and strategy that is remarkable.

Check out a city in Europe called Szeged, in Hungary. That is Toledo, Ohio's sister city for 40 years.

The good news is the Trump administration appears ready to posture across America to draw forth geothermal power, and we are interested in doing exactly that, particularly in manufacturing America.

I am privileged to also represent a vast agricultural region in grain drying. It is so expensive when we have to dry corn, soybeans, and so forth. The agricultural community uses huge amounts of energy.

Let's create new jobs. Let's lower the consumer's energy bills. Let's

strengthen America's energy security. Geothermal energy holds the potential to achieve all of those goals. Let's get it done and move America to an affordable and energy-independent future for the decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for letting me put on the record the future for this country in energy, including geothermal energy.

HONORING MARIGENE VALIQUETTE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Ohio State Senator Marigene Valiquette, a towering figure in Ohio's politics and history and a trailblazer for women across Ohio and our Nation.

Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, Marigene broke barriers as the longest serving woman in the history of the Ohio Legislature. With her intelligence, fierce conviction, and unmatched oratory—she was a tough lawyer—she served our community for 24 consecutive years, often as the only woman in the Ohio Senate. Can you imagine that?

She was a champion for working families and labor rights, a defender of women's rights, and an early advocate for the equal rights amendment. Her work helped create the Ohio Lottery to support education. She never wavered in her fight for fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Though she chose a quiet retirement, her impact will echo for years and generations to come. She was always present. She always cared. She took her family's experience and moved it into the highest levels of lawmaking in the State of Ohio.

May she rest in peace, and may her courage, her grit, and her fierce dedication inspire us all. We miss her, and we know that her work in Ohio has made a difference in the lives of our 12 million people.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am unwell today, so I am going to make this speech short. I am going to cover three short topics.

The first topic is, 5 years ago yesterday, there was a horrific incident that happened in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bernell Trammell, who was holding a Donald Trump sign, was assassinated.

Somebody came out on a bicycle with a mask over his head. We don't even know if he was a Black man or a White man, but he had a mask over his head. He saw a guy named Bernell Trammell holding a sign for Trump, and that person came up and killed Bernell Trammell.

□ 1840

Bernell Trammell was kind of an iconoclast. Bernell Trammell was a Rastafarian. He was for Black Lives Matter and frequently endorsed Democrat politicians, but for whatever reason, Bernell Trammell was in the very liberal east side of Milwaukee or the Riverwest neighborhood in Milwaukee, very, very leftwing. Bernell Trammell swam upstream and decided to carry a Donald Trump sign, and he was assassinated.

This is the type of thing that, as we see America decline, we ought to be talking more about. It is the type of thing that happens in Mexico. It is the type of thing that happens in Honduras where during elections you can expect that somebody will be assassinated. You wouldn't think it was happening in the United States, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things we have to take into account when we look at this situation is it is not only something you would expect to happen in a Third World country, Mr. Speaker, but I felt at the time the liberal establishment in Milwaukee didn't treat it differently from any other murder. When we begin to shoot people for carrying a yard sign of people we don't like, then we are in new territory, but shot he was.

I went down and saw his neighborhood. We cannot allow this to go on. We cannot allow these people to do such a thing. I don't like talking or describing people as Black or White, but, in my opinion, at that time in 2020, the Democratic Party was afraid of some Black people voting for Trump. I wondered if that is one of the reasons why they decided to target Bernell Trammell.

They shot him dead. The establishment in Milwaukee at that time implied that perhaps the reason he was shot had nothing to do with politics. We don't know his politics, just because he was carrying a Trump sign doesn't mean that he was shot for carrying a Trump sign. Of course, he was shot for carrying a Trump sign in this very liberal neighborhood. They have pictures of it. The guy came up on a bicycle.

Mr. Speaker, you hear about people being shot when somebody shoots out of a car, but here he was shot by somebody on a bicycle, so it had to be somebody in the neighborhood.

I will say this: There was a time when Republicans stepped up and put up a given amount for available people if somebody could turn in the person who shot Bernell Trammell. I will say right now, I intend to, tomorrow and next Monday, find some people to put together and put out a $30,000 bonus to anybody who can do something that leads to the conviction of the person who shot Bernell Trammell. I am contacting the Milwaukee Police Department there. I am told sometimes in cold cases people could be making a little more progress if $30,000 was thrown out there.

I expect that, hopefully, we will make some sort of a difference. Like I said, this is a guy on a bicycle. It is not like somebody did a drive-by out of a car and was gone right after. Apparently, this guy lived within a few blocks of where Bernell was shot.

Bernell Trammell, by the way, owned a print shop, so he had a commercial property there that people were aware of. Somebody has to know more. Somebody had to see where this bicyclist went.

Presumably somebody told the bicyclist: We have to kill this guy. We can't have him elevating the number of people who are voting for Donald Trump in this radical, liberal area that 15 to 20 percent saw.

In any event, let's not forget about it. The Republican Party should never forget about Bernell Trammell.

The next thing I want talk about here that kind of bothers me is when I think of the conservative Republican movement, of which I consider myself one, which aims so low below the target.

A couple of weeks ago we had a newspaper article dealing with the U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court is allowing parents to opt their children out of graphic LGBTQ books in Montgomery County, Maryland.

This was supposed to be a great conservative victory that a second grade child did not have to read books that were clearly designed to promote a sexual lifestyle, and Republicans considered this a great victory.

It really bothers me that Republicans consider this a great victory.

Was this a great victory?

Because of the Supreme Court decision, we wind up having maybe, I don't know, maybe 1 out of 20 parents who are on the ball enough to say that parents are not going to be forced into a situation in which their children have to read LGBTQ books.

That is preposterous. It never should have happened in the first place, but, instead, they are pretending that this is a great victory.

Another thing about this so-called great victory is that three of the nine Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that this was no big deal and that, in fact, parents shouldn't be able to object to their children reading books of a sexual nature in first or second grade or up to fifth grade, apparently.

That is almost beyond belief how far down we have come as a society. The conservative news media, FOX News, that type of thing, thought this was a victory.

Mr. Speaker, can you believe that?

We are handing out LGBTQ books to first and second graders, and the Supreme Court rules, with three Justices dissenting, that we don't have to have children go here, and if 5 percent or 4 percent of the parents opt out, that is a great victory?

Is that what America has come down to?

I would hope the comatose clergy in this country would wake up and demand that schools not do any of this stuff and begin to put elementary

schools back where they were when I was a child, talking about reading and writing, not talking about LGBTQ and not saying it is a great victory if 1 out of 20 parents say that they don't have to give this to their kids.

So let's dial it up, America.

Let's dial it up, conservative news media.

This was a horrific sign that three Supreme Court Justices would have the nerve to say that parents shouldn't be able to object to this, much less the idea it is even in the schools in the first place, to be objected to or otherwise.

So there is your second issue of the day, Mr. Speaker.

The conservatives should wake up.

The comatose people should wake up.

The comatose clergy should say: We do not have to have LGBTQ books in fifth grade, fourth grade, third grade, and down to second grade.

Now, my third topic tonight is that we passed a great big, beautiful bill. I voted for the great big, beautiful bill. There were a lot of things in the great big, beautiful bill, and there were things that were highly questioned.

There is no question the number one defeat that I had in the great big, beautiful bill was spending money on what they call low-income housing tax credits in which a property developer was, with some conditions, given tax credits equal to 70 percent of the cost of a building.

In other words, he got to build the building, but the government would pay for 70 percent of the building. That is preposterous.

□ 1850

Prior to us increasing the amount of credits, I felt that I was in good shape. We had the Heritage Foundation editorialize against it. The Wall Street Journal editorialized against it. The Cato Institute editorialized against it. I thought it was all just completely common sense. Not to mention, the average Congressman should say it is not up to the government to pay 70 percent of a private citizen's building.

But that is what we have. The Republicans—when the bill left the House at that point about $12 billion a year was spent on this. The Republicans—and we were told and given pep talks about how we are going to cut spending: Man, we are going to cut spending. Wow, this is historic. Actually, increased spending on low-income housing tax credits in the House. That is preposterous.

Then we sent it over to the Senate, and I was hoping that a couple buddies over there were on my side so that at least we would go back to where we started in the Senate. But no, in the Senate, the free-spending Republicans went up again. It is something we ought to spend a little bit more time looking at, how this was able to happen here. With all the conservative think tank types explaining this train wreck why—anybody with an ounce of common sense realizes it is a train wreck—the Republicans went ahead and upped spending on this program first in the House and then in the Senate.

I hope the press corps is not going to forget about this program and hope they continue to follow it. The Washington Post, of all newspapers, pointed out, looking at about four or five different projects in the Washington, D.C., area they found that the cost of some of these was over $1.2 million a unit. Is that possible that at the time we had this supposedly tight budget we are going to spend over $1.2 million per unit? It is just unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to give you a bonus on something I noticed when I was back home. My good friend from Ohio decided to talk a little bit about all the wonderful things we could do with gambling proceeds.

When I was first involved in politics gambling was considered a sin, and it was against the law because we knew we were taking money from the poorest people. Now, at least in Wisconsin we have gone from I believe one small casino to it has to be 15 casinos, including some huge casinos. In Wisconsin they have separate slot machines in many bars. And in helpful Wisconsin, they sell scratch-offs in gas stations throughout the district.

The reason it was brought up to me is because I notice that in some of these convenience stores they are now selling $50 scratch-offs. Can you believe the horrible State of Wisconsin is selling $50 scratch-offs? My goodness, they are just shameful, the way they take advantage of the poor and the dumb. It is just horrible. I don't think we would have put up with that when I first got into politics, but apparently Tony Evers thinks it is a great way to get more State money and to take advantage of people who are buying $50 lottery tickets.

In any event, it is not maybe the biggest problem in America, but the number of people who are losing money at these slot machines and scratch-offs is not a small number. It is not something we should be proud of. I guess I shouldn't be surprised that the Democratic Party feels it is a great way to increase funding for schools and take advantage of people, but I don't think it is a good thing. I wish my brothers and sisters in the State legislatures would get rid of some of these ridiculous machines and ridiculous scratch-offs and stop taking advantage of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Mr. Speaker, there are four different topics for you to remember. We covered the increased gambling pushed by State governments, as they want to have government play a bigger and bigger role in life.

We covered the ridiculous Republicans who think it is a victory that three Supreme Court judges ruled that you have to allow LGBTQ books in second and third grade.

We covered Bernell Trammell, the poor guy who was assassinated for carrying a Trump sign 5 years ago yesterday.

And we covered the low-income housing tax credits, which is I think the most questionable program in our Internal Revenue Code and probably in Federal law all together.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 201.—An act to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 423.—An act to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, July 25, 2025.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, July 25, 2025, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1509. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) 2023 and 2024 [Docket ID: FSA-2025-0005] (RIN: 0560-AI73) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–1510. A letter from the Manager, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf From the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2019-0081; FXES11130900000-234-FF09E22000] (RIN: 1018-BD95) received July 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1511. A letter from the Regional Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [SATS No.: PA-172-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2020-0001; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000256S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 25XS501520] received July 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1512. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries Management [Docket No.: 220919-0193] (RIN: 0648-BI08) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-

121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1513. A letter from the Branch Chief, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final specifications — Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2023 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits [Docket No.: 230607-0144; RTID: 0648-XC461) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1514. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 220216-0049] (RTID: 0648-XC462) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1515. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 220216-0049; RTID: 0648-XC553) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1516. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2022 Management Area 1A Possession Limit Adjustment [Docket No.: 210325-0071; RTID: 0648-XC508] received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1517. A letter from the Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2022 Recreational Management Measures [Docket No.: 220829-0175] (RIN: 0648-BL40) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1518. A letter from the Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Greater Atlantic Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; 2023 Blueline Tilefish Commercial Quota Harvested [Docket No.: 221026-0227] (RTID: 0648-XD324) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1519. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Southeast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Revised Reporting Requirements Due to Catastrophic Conditions for Federal Seafood Dealers, Individual Fishing Quota Dealers, and Charter Vessels and Headboats in Portions of Florida [Docket Nos.: 090206140-91081-03, 120405260-4258-02, 200706-0181, and 200127-0032; RTID 0648-XC518] received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1520. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2021-2022 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 201204-0325] (RIN: 0648-BL85) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1521. A letter from the Branch Chief, Pacific Islands Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fish Aggregating Device Design Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries, IMO Number Requirements, and Bycatch Restrictions [Docket No.: 230504-0121] (RIN: 0648-BI79) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1522. A letter from the Research Director, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting Recommendations Adopted at the 83rd Plenary Session of the Administrative Conference of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1523. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Restricted Area R-6606 and Establishment of Restricted Area R-6606A and R-6606B; Pendleton, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0933; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AEA-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1524. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Green 6 (G-6) and Alaskan Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airways V-459 and V-496 in Alaska [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2679; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AAL-110] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1525. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1359; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00155-R; Amendment 39-23082; AD 2025-14-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1526. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1352; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00812-T; Amendment 39-23078; AD 2025-13-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1527. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1702; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00067-T; Amendment 39-23076; AD 2025-13-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1528. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1356; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00834-T; Amendment 39-23080; AD 2025-14-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1529. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0484; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00690-T; Amendment 39-23077; AD 2025-13-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1530. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DG Aviation GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by DG Flugzeugbau GmbH) Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1119; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00914-G; Amendment 39-23074; AD 2025-13-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1531. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0617; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00331-R; Amendment 39-23075; AD 2025-13-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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–1532. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Class E Airspace; Sunbury, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0271; Airspace Docket No.: 25-AEA-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1533. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ekalaka Airport, Ekalaka, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0099; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ANM-124] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1534. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of E2 and Removal of Class E4 Airspace Over Jacksonville, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0931; Airspace Docket No.: 25-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1535. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E2, Amendment of Class E4, and Amendment of Class E5 Airspace Over New Bern, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0769; Airspace Docket No.: 25-ASO-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1536. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Petersburg James A. Johnson Airport, Petersburg, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0183; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-66] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1537. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Wrangell Airport, Wrangell, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0182; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-75] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 21, 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–1538. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0467; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00873-R; Amendment 39-23065; AD 2025-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 21, 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.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JACK (for himself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 4624. A bill to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to establish requirements for unified boxing organizations, to further enhance the well-being of professional boxers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 4625. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the construction of submarine cable laying and repair ships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4626. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 4627. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to modify treatment activities for assistance to combat HIV/AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. MORRISON):

H.R. 4628. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit AI-based impersonation of Federal officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 4629. A bill to codify Executive Order 14260 (relating to protecting American energy from State overreach); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 4630. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore wagering loss limitation rules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 4631. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include additional ZIP Codes with respect to claims relating to Manhattan Project waste; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 4632. A bill to establish the use of ranked choice voting in elections for Senators and Representatives in Congress, to require each State with more than one Representative to establish multi-member congressional districts, to require States to conduct congressional redistricting according to nonpartisan criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 4633. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish procedures for post offices that suspend operations due to an emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4634. A bill to provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CAREY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. RULLI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Mr. FIGURES, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 4635. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 890 East 152nd Street in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''Technical Sergeant Alma Gladys Minter Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 4636. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage practices that benefit both soil and wildlife habitat by increasing payments to producers for such practices under the environmental quality incentives program and the conservation stewardship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 4637. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for certain benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans rated totally disabled at death to certain surviving spouses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. RULLI, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 4638. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien who has been convicted of harming animals used in law enforcement is inadmissible and deportable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 4639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for the costs of infertility treatments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASAR (for himself and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 4640. A bill to prohibit certain uses of algorithmic decision systems to inform individualized prices and wages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. TRAN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 4641. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for continuous eligibility for certain children under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BERGMAN, and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 4642. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to examine the ability of the Federal Government to respond to potential fiscal shocks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 4643. A bill to require certain grant recipients of transit and highway transportation projects to establish and contribute to a business uninterrupted monetary program fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to contribute to ABLE accounts in lieu of retirement plan contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 4645. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to modify the authorities of the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 4646. A bill to clarify that whistleblower protections described in section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, apply to any contract funded from amounts appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4647. A bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut, as the ''Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 4648. A bill to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for fertility treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4649. A bill to promote the use of smart technologies and systems in communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4650. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a repatriation grant program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4651. A bill to require immigration enforcement staff to wear body cameras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 4652. A bill to enhance penalties for the unauthorized use and sale of Immigration and Customs Enforcement apparel and insignia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 4653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for first-time parents; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. TRAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM):

H.R. 4654. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby sleep items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINE (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 4655. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 4656. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Florida Springs National Park in Central and North Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. RILEY of New York):

H.R. 4657. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify limitations on access to farm ownership loans for beginning farmers and ranchers; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 4658. A bill to amend chapter 1511 of title 36, United States Code, to impose certain requirements on the National Education Association, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 4659. A bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track overly burdensome land use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mr. LICCARDO):

H.R. 4660. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to reclassify the application of certain requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for housing-related activities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FONG:

H.R. 4661. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the preemption of State laws requiring a human occupant in an automated driving systems-equipped commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. FRIEDMAN (for herself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. KIM, Mr. ISSA, Ms. CHU, Mr. FONG, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 4662. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6444 San Fernando Road in Glendale, California, as the ''Paul Ignatius Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 4663. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to veterans service organizations for facility and technology improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CORREA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. OMAR, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 4664. A bill to safeguard the humane treatment of pregnant and postpartum women by ensuring the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling, restraining, and other inhumane treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 4665. A bill to establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. TRAN, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4666. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby clothing items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself, Ms. CHU, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 4667. A bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. MACE, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROY, Mr. SELF, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 4668. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to end the liability shield

for vaccine manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 4669. A bill to authorize and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency and reform Federal disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 4670. A bill to subject emergency legislation enacted by the District of Columbia Council to expedited congressional disapproval procedures; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 4671. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 4672. A bill to extend the break-in-service consideration for firefighter retirements, and other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BOST, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. WIED, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 4673. A bill to ensure the free movement of livestock-derived products in interstate commerce; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. TRAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4674. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby hygiene items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 4675. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Columbia River Basin Restoration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 4676. A bill to prohibit the imposition of requirements that handguns have certain features generally absent from firearms in common use, and to restore the civil and natural rights of Americans in States hostile to liberty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SELF, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4677. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 505 East 9th Avenue in Amarillo, Texas, as the ''Mayor Jerry H. Hodge Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 4678. A bill to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to limit the admissibility of evidence of a defendant's creative or artistic expression against such defendant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 4679. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a biennial survey of tactical infrastructure along the southern border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4680. A bill to require multifamily borrowers with federally backed multifamily mortgage loans to submit positive rental payments to certain consumer reporting agencies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 4681. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program to encourage specialty medicine physicians to serve in rural communities experiencing a shortage of specialty medicine physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALINT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. FROST, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 4682. A bill to end the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in all Federal agencies and entities with which Federal agencies contract; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY of New York (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 4683. A bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 4684. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a special use permit with respect to the maintaining of a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States at Kyhv Peak Lookout Point, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 4685. A bill to pause development of the new Sentinel program, extend the life of the Minuteman III, and redirect savings from Sentinel toward the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FINE, Mr. SHREVE, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 4686. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to expand Beyond Visual Line of Sight operations for unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 4687. A bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 4688. A bill to provide for a 3-day waiting period before a person may receive a handgun, with exceptions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BOST, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 4689. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the ''Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. RULLI, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. HARRIGAN, and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas):

H.R. 4690. A bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. LAWLER:

H.R. 4691. A bill to require the Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism to develop and maintain written counterterrorism

strategies for countries and regions where there is a significant terrorist threat or ongoing United States counterterrorism engagement; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 4692. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on the potential impacts of public grocery stores, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 4693. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 4694. A bill to require that all new washing machines sold or offered for sale in the United States contain a microfiber filtration system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 4695. A bill to regulate law enforcement use of facial recognition technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BALINT, Ms. ROSS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CHU, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4696. A bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 4697. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, by adding an additional aggravating factor to be considered in determining whether a sentence of death is warranted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 4698. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the Director of the National Institutes of Health from conducting or funding research that causes significant pain or distress to a dog or cat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 4699. A bill to amend section 405 of title 23, United States Code, to permit a State to use grant funds for the purpose of providing on-bicycle education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. PERRY, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SELF, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. CLINE, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. LEE of Florida, Ms. MACE, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. MILLS, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. MALOY, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 4700. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 4701. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to reissue the solicitation and award the contract relating to the Charting My Path for Future Success project; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BELL, Mr. CASE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HOYER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. OLSZEWSKI):

H.R. 4702. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to require annual reports to Congress regarding courses and programs offered by the Academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 4703. A bill to establish a system to track, record, and report all instances in which a United States citizen or individual lawfully admitted for permanent resident was, for the purpose of immigration enforcement, detained or removed by the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BACON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 4704. A bill to direct the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among military rotary wing pilots and aviation support personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 4705. A bill to place a moratorium on the issuance and renewal of certain Federal authorizations for mountaintop removal coal mining until a health study is conducted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ONDER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. WIED, Mr. RULLI, and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 4706. A bill to prohibit the acquisition and ownership of agricultural land and residential real property by certain foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 4707. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1019 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa, as the ''Martin L. Graber Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 4708. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include spotted lanternfly control research and development as high-priority research and extension initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MORRISON (for herself, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 4709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. ONDER, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4710. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for group health plans and health insurance issuers for practices that violate balance billing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. GILL of Texas):

H.R. 4711. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure the timely completion of all removal proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. COLE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. BAUMGARTNER):

H.R. 4712. A bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 4713. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to enhance school and community safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CASAR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 4714. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Appropriations, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ONDER:

H.R. 4715. A bill to designate the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as the ''Donald J. Trump Center for the Performing Arts''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 4716. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land in Saratoga Springs, Utah, from the Secretary of the Interior to the United States Postal Service for construction of a post office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. TRAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4717. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a first-time homebuyer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 4718. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to minimum participation standards for pension plans and qualified trusts; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SIMON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 4719. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a grant program to support efforts to provide fare-free transit service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RILEY of New York:

H.R. 4720. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to provide for stricter prohibitions on price gouging of certain materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 4721. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 4722. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for urban Indian organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4723. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4724. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 4725. A bill to strengthen requirements related to nutrient information on food labels; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4726. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby toy items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4727. A bill to codify Executive Order 14235 relating to restoring public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4728. A bill to codify Executive Order 14280 relating to reinstating commonsense school discipline policies; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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. SELF:

H.R. 4729. A bill to codify Executive Order 14292 relating to improving the safety and security of biological research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4730. A bill to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4731. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MFUME, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 4732. A bill to expand the definition of ''severe forms of trafficking in persons'' to include the recruitment, harboring, transportation, transfer, or receipt of orphaned, abandoned, or minors living in public or private residential facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SORENSEN (for himself, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 4733. A bill to authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 4734. A bill to protect Social Security benefits and ensure the continued effective operation of the Social Security Administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 4735. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4736. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to modify the authority of the Trade Representative to take actions with respect to certain foreign trade practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 4737. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require the disclosure of certain product coatings used on fruits and vegetables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. TRAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4738. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby safety items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 4739. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of tax for corporations that maintain a plan for distributing equity to employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 4740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for certain overtime compensation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 4741. 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 4742. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to allow certain participants in the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children to elect to be issued a variety of types of milk, including whole milk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 4743. A bill to repeal section 14(g)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 4744. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promote mental wellness and resilience and prevent and heal mental health, behavioral health, and psychosocial conditions through developmentally and culturally appropriate community programs, and award grants for the purpose of establishing, operating, or expanding community-based mental wellness and resilience programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4745. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a higher Federal matching rate for increased expenditures under Medicaid for behavioral health services (including those related to mental health and substance use), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TRAN (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4746. A bill to prohibit the imposition of duties on certain baby food items pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 4747. A bill to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to adjust the boundary of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 4748. A bill to provide eligibility for certain aliens performing agricultural labor or services to apply for agricultural worker nonimmigrant status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CASAR, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4749. A bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Disaster Relief Fund in response to the severe flooding events in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 4750. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 4751. A bill to amend the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act to reauthorize certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 4752. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide hereditary cancer genetic testing for individuals with a history of a hereditary cancer gene mutation in a blood relative or a personal or ancestral history suspicious for hereditary cancer, and to provide coverage of certain cancer screenings or preventive surgeries that would reduce the risk for individuals with a germline (inherited) mutation associated with a high risk of developing a preventable cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4753. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to address arms export controls for certain unmanned aircraft systems and items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.J. Res. 109. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.J. Res. 110. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GRAY, Mr. OGLES, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mr. GOODEN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. LUNA, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Barred Owl Management Strategy''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Con. Res. 45. Concurrent resolution recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy climate for future generations, and thus to restoring the climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H. Res. 601. A resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to lead the world in biomedical research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 602. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in work and community life; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, 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. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. MULLIN):

H. Res. 603. A resolution reaffirming the principles of the United States Constitution, including separation of powers and the rule of law, and condemning efforts to undermine the same; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CALVERT):

H. Res. 604. A resolution a resolution unequivocally condemning nationwide violent attacks on Federal agents enforcing America's immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H. Res. 605. A resolution establishing the Select Subcommittee to Investigate the Remaining Questions Surrounding January 6, 2021; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H. Res. 606. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Drowning Prevention Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Ms. MCBRIDE):

H. Res. 607. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of August 25 through August 29, 2025, as the third annual ''National Community Health Worker Awareness Week''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H. Res. 608. A resolution recognizing the importance of the Interstate Highway System and supporting the development of an interstate through southern Ohio; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H. Res. 609. A resolution expressing support for the designation of August 2026 as Veterans Appreciation Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself and Mr. OLSZEWSKI):

H. Res. 610. A resolution expressing the approval of Congress for the 72d anniversary celebration of the Small Business Administration and in recognition of America's entrepreneurs and job creators for their important contributions to the United States economy; to the Committee on Small Business.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rule of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JACK:

H.R. 4624.

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. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 4625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 12, clause 13, and clause 14 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. ANSARI:

H.R. 4627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. ANSARI:

H.R. 4628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 4629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 4630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 4631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Congress finds authority for this legislation in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 4632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

article 1 section 8

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 4633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 4635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 4636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 4637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 4638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 4639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. CASAR:

H.R. 4640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 , Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 4641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare'' of Americans.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 4642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 4643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The legislation is submitted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 4644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 4645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional citation: Article 1, Section 8: Congress shall have the power. . .to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 4646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 4649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4651.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .
By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4652.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .
By Mr. FIGURES:
H.R. 4653.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. FIGURES:
H.R. 4654.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3
By Mr. FINE:
H.R. 4655.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Spending Clause
By Mr. FINE:
H.R. 4656.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, the Spending Clause
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause
By Mr. FINSTAD:
H.R. 4657.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. FITZGERALD:
H.R. 4658.
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. FLOOD:
H.R. 4659.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mr. FLOOD:
H.R. 4660.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. FONG:
H.R. 4661.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. FRIEDMAN:
H.R. 4662.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1. Section 8.
By Mr. GARBARINO:
H.R. 4663.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:
H.R. 4664.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:
H.R. 4665.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. GOMEZ:
H.R. 4666.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:
H.R. 4667.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 4668.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. GRAVES:
H.R. 4669.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).
By Ms. HAGEMAN:
H.R. 4670.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. HARDER of California:
H.R. 4671.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. HARDER of California:
H.R. 4672.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mrs. HINSON:
H.R. 4673.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. HORSFORD:
H.R. 4674.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Con. Art 1. Sec. 8. Cl. 1 and Cl. 3
By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:
H.R. 4675.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 4676.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the US Constitution.
By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:
H.R. 4677.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 4678.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 4679.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4680.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Necessary and Proper Clause—Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 4681.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 Clause 3—Commerce clause
By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:
H.R. 4682.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.
By Mr. KENNEDY of New York:
H.R. 4683.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:
H.R. 4684.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 4685.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:
H.R. 4686.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article one Section eight
By Mrs. KIM:
H.R. 4687.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:
H.R. 4688.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 ''The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .''
By Mr. LAHOOD:
H.R. 4689.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. LANGWORTHY:
H.R. 4690.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. LAWLER:
H.R. 4691.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. LAWLER:
H.R. 4692.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 4694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 4695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. 1. Sec. 8

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a ''uniform rule of Naturalization.''

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 4697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. To make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 4698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 4699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mrs. McBATH:

H.R. 4701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the US Constitution—Interstate Commerce Clause

By Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY:

H.R. 4702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Ms. McCLELLAN:

H.R. 4703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. McCORMICK:

H.R. 4704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 4705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 4706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 4707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 4708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MORRISON:

H.R. 4709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1 of Article 1 of the Constitution: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 4710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 4711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 4712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 4713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Goverment of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 4714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ONDER:

H.R. 4715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 4716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 4717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. PETTERSEN:

H.R. 4718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. RILEY of New York:

H.R. 4720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 4721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill would amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal Medical Asssistance Percentage of 100 percent for Urban Indian Organizations

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 4723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 4724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 4726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4728.

Congress has the power to regulate activities affecting the receipt and use of federal funds pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants authority to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts and to provide for the common defense pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 4730.

Congress has the power 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, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 4731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I. Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SORENSEN:

H.R. 4733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Ms. STANSBURY:

H.R. 4734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 4735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: ''To regulate commerce with

foreign nations and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes . . .''

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 4737

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:

H.R. 4738

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 4739

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 4740

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 4741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4742

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 4743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4744

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4745

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. TRAN:

H.R. 4746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. TURNER of Ohio:

H.R. 4747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 4748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 4749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the constitutional authority for this legislation is provided by article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, specifically:

The power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States; and

The power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

This legislation appropriates funds to respond to and recover from major flooding disasters in Texas, consistent with Congress's authority to support national disaster relief and resilience efforts under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 4750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 4753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.J. Res. 109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MORAN:

H.J. Res. 110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.J. Res. 111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this joint resolution pursuant to the powers granted under Article 1, Section 8, and Article I, Section 1 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. 32: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 40: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 142: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 227: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 247: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 309: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 429: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 503: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 553: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 644: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 740: Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 793: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 860: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 865: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 909: Ms. WATERS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 913: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 979: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 1055: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1056: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1076: Ms. GOODLANDER.
H.R. 1105: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1106: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1138: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1144: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 1151: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1192: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1229: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 1232: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1256: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1262: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1266: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1269: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1345: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 1410: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1415: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 1493: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1518: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1521: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 1551: Ms. LETLOW, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1564: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 1631: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1662: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 1695: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 1725: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1993: Ms. POU and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 2031: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 2086: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 2089: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2092: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2094: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 2137: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 2138: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2152: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 2166: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 2189: Mr. MORAN and Mr. GOODEN.
H.R. 2257: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2353: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 2381: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 2402: Ms. SIMON.
H.R. 2436: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2477: Ms. GILLEN.
H.R. 2509: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 2547: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 2600: Mr. RILEY of New York and Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 2605: Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. WIED, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2627: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2692: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 2736: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2777: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 2784: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2853: Mr. MORAN and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 2872: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2904: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2913: Mr. NADLER, Mr. BELL, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 3028: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 3031: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3037: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 3045: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3054: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3112: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3131: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 3169: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 3180: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3273: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 3274: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 3295: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3447: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 3481: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3509: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3514: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 3526: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3604: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3644: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 3688: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 3694: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3699: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 3701: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 3706: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3723: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3767: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3835: Mr. BARRETT.
H.R. 3857: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3876: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3958: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3981: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4004: Ms. CHU and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4070: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 4093: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 4104: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4146: Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 4176: Ms. CHU, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4186: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4212: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 4231: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4242: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4245: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4253: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4293: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 4311: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
H.R. 4325: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4329: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4336: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 4348: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4350: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 4355: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4367: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 4382: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4397: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 4398: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4405: Ms. NORTON, MR. MFUME, MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON, AND MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS.
H.R. 4407: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4409: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 4420: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4433: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4434: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4435: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4436: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4443: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 4454: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4456: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 4461: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 4464: Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KILEY of California, and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 4470: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. GILLEN.
H.R. 4473: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 4474: Mr. FALLON and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 4475: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4482: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. RANDALL, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4495: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 4505: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4510: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 4519: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 4577: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4588: Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4593: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. RULLI.
H.R. 4601: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4605: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 4611: Ms. POU and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4620: Mr. FALLON.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
H.J. Res. 108: Mr. BEYER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. STEIL.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Con. Res. 40: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H. Con. Res. 44: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H. Res. 459: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 473: Ms. RANDALL.
H. Res. 515: Ms. POU.
H. Res. 539: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SELF, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 551: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 564: Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. Res. 581: Ms. TITUS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H. Res. 588: Mr. SHREVE.
H. Res. 589: Mr. FRY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H. Res. 594: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 4401: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *119th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 *No. 126*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the fountain of all wisdom, we bring our fragmented lives into Your presence, seeking Your wholeness and seeking Your peace. We bring our restless spirits to You, seeking Your calm, strength, and everlasting purpose. We bring You our transient thoughts, seeking the permanence of Your gracious providence.

Lord, remind our lawmakers that only as we lose ourselves in something higher can we truly find ourselves. To this end, give them great causes to embrace and a great faith to energize their work.

Lead them to a confidence that in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You who are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in Your wonderful 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 (Mrs. MOODY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3944, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, every year, we get what is called Medicare's ''Trustees Report.'' I come to the floor to comment on that.

We all know that Medicare is very much a part of America's social fabric. For decades, Medicare has provided seniors and people with disabilities access to routine and lifesaving care at their local hospital, doctor's office, and pharmacy.

The trustees reported, as they do every year, that the Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is expected to be depleted by 2033. This is 3 years ahead of the projections that came out in last year's report.

This results from higher than expected expenditures, the growth in inpatient hospital and hospice spending.

Also, for now, the eighth year in a row, the Trustees have issued what they call a funding warning. This is because Medicare's outlays for its two trust funds are expected to exceed its dedicated revenue by 45 percent.

When Congress established this combined funding warning report in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act, we intended—here in the Senate—for Congress and the President to respond with solutions.

We should listen to this actuarial report, get on the job, and do something to preserve the Medicare program. Now, we all know that we talk more often about Social Security running out of money.

I want to preserve and strengthen the Medicare program for future generations, just like I would say the same thing about the Social Security program. The only way to make these critical programs sustainable is to follow the Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill model.

This goes back to 1983, when the Social Security system was running out of money. Ronald Reagan—a Republican—Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House—a Democrat—got together and said: We can't let that happen.

And they made sure it didn't happen. And what they devised that I had a chance to vote for in 1983 or 1984—whenever it was—they fixed it for 50 years because that is 50 years coming to 2033 when Social Security, likewise, will run out of money.

Now, I have come to the conclusion that when you have a President Biden and a Candidate Trump both running in 2024, that they aren't going to do anything to fix Social Security.

Why isn't it being done? I have come to the conclusion that it is not being done because we don't have any Ronald Reagans or Tip O'Neills in Washington, DC, or in our government anymore.

So they did it in a bipartisan way, and Congress should step up the same way to deal with this Medicare issue that I am talking about. But there is no reason to leave Social Security out of that debate as well.

So I get back to some role that I played in the Medicare issues of 2003 when I led the effort to modernize Medicare by establishing the prescription drug program, because prior to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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2003—since 1965—Medicare never covered prescription drugs. So since 2003, we have had a prescription drug program under Medicare.

In the first decade of the Medicare Part D program, the Federal Government spent—can you believe it—36 percent less than what was projected to be spent as we wrote this legislation. And it also improved access to prescription drugs for millions of seniors.

Separately, Senate Republicans, through the One Big Beautiful Bill, strengthened Medicare. We did that by ensuring that Medicare resources are going to Americans instead of illegal immigrants and those not here permanently.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that we will save the Medicare system $5 billion. Now, that is a spit in the ocean compared to what we face with this 45-percent overrun that the trustees talked about.

A step in the right direction, of course it is, but it is no substitute for what is really needed in this town—a bipartisan cooperation and Presidential leadership, either Republican or Democrat, that is needed to address our long-term Medicare funding challenges.

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. THUNE. Madam 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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, during the month of June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded a total of 9,306 encounters at our southern border—9,306 for the entire month of June.

It is difficult to overstate just how much progress this reflects. Under President Biden, monthly encounters at our southern border were often well over 200,000 per month. During December of 2023, Customs and Border Protection recorded a staggering 301,981 encounters at our southern border or 32 times as many as were encountered last month.

The previous three Junes under President Biden saw more than 130,000, more than 140,000, and more than 200,000 encounters. And now we are at 9,306—9,306—fewer individuals than the Biden administration sometimes saw in a day.

It is really incredible, and this isn't a one-off. During President Trump's first full 5 months in office, monthly numbers at the southern border have never exceeded 12,500 encounters.

What we are seeing here is a President committed to fulfilling his responsibilities; namely, enforcing the law. It is too bad the previous administration didn't see fit to try it.

But it is a new day. And Republicans in Congress are committed to supporting and continuing the administration's good work, and that starts with a generational investment in border security that we made this July in the One Big Beautiful Bill. That includes funding for border barriers and technology, including finishing the border wall. It includes funding for additional patrol agents, for additional detention space, for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The Acting ICE Director was on ''Face the Nation'' the other day, and he had this to say:

> Our ranks have really shrunk, and we really don't have enough to do the law enforcement mission. One of the big hampers for us is with the increase in sanctuary cities and sanctuary policies, we have to send more officers and agents out into the community, out on the street. Where it would only take us two agents, say, going into a secure facility or a police station, county jail to arrest a public safety threat, well, [now] we have to send out four to five agents, and with the increase of assaults on officers, we sometimes have to send out eight to ten just to provide security for those officers that are making the arrest.

Leaving aside the intolerable fact that ICE agents are facing such hostility for carrying out their essential public safety mission, it is not acceptable that we don't have enough ICE officers to do the job that they need to be doing, and our bill goes a long way toward ending that problem.

We also included Department of Justice funding to hire more immigration judges to address the massive backlog in immigration cases—a backlog made exponentially worse by the Biden administration's policies.

Immigration cases should be decided in weeks or months—not years, and our bill will help move toward that goal. One of the most basic responsibilities of the Federal Government is providing for our Nation's security, and border security is an essential part of national security.

The chaos at our southern border under the Biden administration was an invitation to terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals to enter our country. It placed an incredible burden on our Border Patrol agents, many of whom were pulled off the essential work of guarding the border to process the flood of illegal immigrants. And it placed a big burden on border cities and nonborder cities as well who struggled to deal with an influx of migrants.

President Trump has turned the situation around, and the One Big Beautiful Bill will ensure that his administration has the resources it needs to continue its work of enforcing the law and protecting our country. It will also ensure permanent improvements in our immigration system and border enforcement that will, I hope, last for long after President Trump leaves office.

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. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, we have a little over 20 legislative days left for Republicans to get serious about funding the government. That is not very much time. As always, the best way forward is this: bipartisan cooperation.

Senate Democrats, for our part, are working in good faith to counter the devastating actions of the Trump administration on the American people, and in this case, the bill reverses DOGE cuts to veterans. That is a very good thing. These DOGE cuts were so cruel to our veterans.

Ultimately, Senate Republicans will have to join us to save all of our constituents from the proposals we have seen from the administration and from the House Republicans.

Now, yesterday, the Senate took the first vote on the MILCON-VA bill. This bill is not perfect, but it is a good step forward. It reverses some of the terrible cuts from DOGE against our veterans—our veterans who defend us, who risk their lives for us, who volunteer to serve their country, and, then, when they need help, cut, cut, cut—cruel, mean, un-American. The Senate version, thank God, is significantly stronger than the House version in protecting our members.

My colleague from Georgia has done good work shepherding this legislation on the Democratic side. We hope to have a good process for this bill on the floor. Republicans should allow amendments and a robust floor process. This bill shows the process can still work, but much, much more needs to be considered.

But Senate Democrats know we can't take anything for granted and will expect our colleagues to show their commitment to bipartisanship on all future appropriations bills, because for weeks—for weeks—they have tainted the Senate with their partisan reconciliation tax bill and the rescissions package.

This process won't work if they listen more to Donald Trump and Russell Vought than to the needs of the American people back home.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, now, meanwhile, yesterday was truly a sorry sight in the House of Representatives. The ghost of the disgraced Jeffrey Epstein is haunting our Republican colleagues, so much so that Speaker JOHNSON decided to cut bait and send the House home to escape discussions about Epstein, instead of doing their jobs like grownups and making progress on appropriations.

By shutting Congress down early, Speaker JOHNSON has assured that August has become the ''Epstein recess,'' because this issue is going to grow and grow and grow the longer House Republicans dodge this issue. Now, maybe they declared the ''Epstein recess'' to give Trump time to prepare papers for the pardon of Ghislaine Maxwell. Speaker JOHNSON shouldn't be skedaddling out of town early. If the Speaker thinks he can make the Epstein escapade disappear by sending folks home early, he has got another thing coming. So, again, the Speaker should not send people home early to avoid dealing with the Epstein issue.

The American people have a right to know what happened, but, instead, Speaker JOHNSON created the ''Epstein recess.'' Speaker JOHNSON created that ''Epstein recess.'' It is an awful decision. It is derelict of their job in terms of keeping the government funded.

FEMA

Mr. President, now, on FEMA, after the heartbreaking tragedy in Texas, I called for accountability to determine if Donald Trump's cuts played any role in hindering the rescue effort. The White House reacted by calling us liars. They said it was a ''depraved lie''—Trump's words—to question if Donald Trump's actions harmed rescue efforts. But, sadly, the more we learn, the more we see that Donald Trump and Kristi Noem are the liars, and there is very little doubt DOGE cuts made things worse at FEMA and affected what happened in Texas.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that the head of FEMA's urban search and rescue unit resigned. The reason he stated is that Donald Trump has created chaos at the Agency. The former worker said Donald Trump's cuts, bureaucratic obstacles, and abysmal response to the flooding in FEMA influenced his decision. He specifically cites, as have many others, Kristi Noem's decision requiring her personal approval on every purchase of more than $100,000.

Remember, experts have said that this stupid policy was responsible for getting rid of hundreds of call center staff for 5 days after the Texas flood. Thousands of calls to FEMA from flood survivors went unanswered, according to internal documents. That is unacceptable. That is incompetent. But this is the consequence of Donald Trump's terrible policies.

So Donald Trump may have called those of us who criticized FEMA's cuts—FEMA's DOGE cuts and their effect on Texas—he may have called those of us who did that liars to avoid responsibility, but, in fact, he is the liar here. His actions at FEMA have caused chaos, staff shortages, delayed response. It puts people's lives in danger moving forward.

And, unfortunately, these DOGE cuts are going to have many other dire consequences for the American people. Donald Trump may try to deflect blame, but he is the one who implemented these horrible cuts across the board.

PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. President, let's get to a more general subject about how Trump operates.

By now, it is obvious that what Donald Trump uses as his MO, whenever he points the finger, whenever he launches insults at others—what he is really doing—is deflecting from something he knows he is guilty of himself.

I just said Donald Trump called us liars for asking about his role in cutting FEMA funding. It turns out he is the liar here.

And, yesterday, Donald Trump accused President Obama of treason, without any evidence, saying he tried to steal the 2016 election and tried to use the issue of Russia to smear him. This is delusional. Trump sounds unwell when he accuses Obama of treason.

But not only that, who was the one who we know tried to blackmail a foreign head of state to gain dirt against a political opponent? Who is the one? Donald Trump.

Who incited the violent insurrection against the U.S. Capitol to try and prevent the certification of the 2020 election? Donald Trump.

So when Donald Trump says President Obama tried to steal an election, we know Trump is lying. We know Trump is the one guilty of the crime, and he is trying to deflect from his own lawlessness by inciting a violent insurrection in the Capitol.

To accuse others of what he is guilty of doing is how Donald Trump operates. He has for decades. But the American people are seeing through it now that he is in the high position of President.

What he did with President Obama is not an isolated example. As I mentioned, Donald Trump recently called some of us liars for demanding transparency after the tragedy in Texas. But who spent months calling for the elimination of FEMA? Who has run thousands of FEMA staffers out the door? Who cut FEMA call center staff in the name of DOGE cuts? Donald Trump.

Donald Trump even recently called a Democratic Member of this Chamber a fraud and a crook and has threatened him with prosecution without any merit. But who was it that was found in court to have unlawfully inflated the value of his own properties? Who was the fraud? Who is the crook?

Who launched a fake university that was accused in multiple States of defrauding students with false claims about educational services? Who has built a reputation as a liar, a swindler, someone who always talks a big game but never seems to follow through? That is, of course, Donald Trump.

So we know the game here. When Trump points the finger, he is telling on himself for something he has been guilty of. That is his MO. This meritless accusation against President Obama is just another pathetic example.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, on tariffs, last night President Trump announced another trade ''deal,'' this time with Japan. Like most of the deals announced over the past month, it was big on promises, short on details, and, crucially, provided zero relief for American families and small businesses. Whether it is this agreement with Japan, where tariffs are increasing to 15 percent, or earlier ones with Indonesia or Vietnam, where tariffs are increasing to 19 to 20 percent, the Trump tariff taxes are going up, not down. That means one thing: higher costs for the American family. Ask an American family if increasing their costs by ''only'' 15 percent is OK.

In the meantime—and, by the way, the media, oh, they say: Well, it is a great deal because it wasn't as bad as Trump originally proposed but is still very bad for the American people and raises costs 15 percent.

American people aren't going to buy that this is a good deal at all—a good deal at all.

In the meantime, the Trump administration is granting greater access to advanced semiconductor technology, surrendering to China. Higher costs for families and small businesses—Trump's trade war has been and continues to be a huge failure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak about something critical to our Nation, and that is our Nation's security. And for me, national security demands and starts with border security.

We were through 4 years of open borders, high prices, pain for the American people. Well, with the signing of this Big Beautiful Bill into law, we are securing the border, we are finishing the wall, and we are supporting Federal law enforcement officers.

You know, we also passed, and President Trump signed into law, the HALT Fentanyl Act. It is now the law of the land, and, today, law enforcement finally has the tools that they need to crack down on drug traffickers. These policies are what will save lives here in America. These policies will make our Nation safer.

For 4 long years, Joe Biden and the Democrats flung open the border walls, and over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country as a result of their irresponsible behavior. This invasion raised costs for American families. People saw it all throughout their lives. They saw it when they went to the doctor's office. They found it at the grocery store, and they found it in the housing market.

This invasion made our communities less safe. Innocent Americans are still suffering the consequences. Just this week, in New York City, an off-duty Customs and Border Protection officer was ambushed—ambushed—by two illegal immigrant criminals. They shot him in the throat.

Both of these illegal immigrant criminals had long criminal records. You say: How can that be, in America, that somebody with a long criminal record is out there on the street, shooting an officer of the law?

Well, both of these illegal immigrant criminals entered the country illegally under Joe Biden. They were arrested multiple times in New York City, the minority leader's home city—arrested multiple times. Immigration judges ordered deportations, but what happens in New York City, in the minority leader's home city? They were released due to sanctuary city policies in his hometown.

President Trump and Republicans have now made it a priority to enforce the law. Since taking office, President Trump has deported hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrant criminals. ICE arrests in my home State of Wyoming as well as my neighboring State of Colorado are now five times higher than they were during the same time period under Joe Biden.

A July poll by Harvard-Harris shows that three out of four Americans support President Trump's efforts to deport illegal immigrant criminals. The message is clear: Keep making our communities safer.

Illegal border crossings are now at their lowest level ever recorded. Zero—zero—illegal immigrants were released into our country over the past 2 months. Hard to believe but true—the number is zero. President Trump has successfully ended catch-and-release. By contrast, under Joe Biden and the Democrats, 10,000 illegal immigrants crossed our southern border on a daily basis.

Republicans promised the American people we would secure the border, and we are keeping our word.

The law we passed finishes the wall. It provides $75 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That gives our agents the resources they need to continue deporting illegal immigrant criminals. Our law allows and helps them hire, train, and retain Border Patrol agents. It even gives the agents a bonus. That is what we need to do to enforce the law.

Republicans are committed to help fight back against child trafficking. This is why our law funds $300 million to vet those who sponsor children who show up at the border without an adult. And we know it happened routinely during the Biden administration. I was there on the border during the night as children would show up without an adult.

A recent report from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General is clarifying to all of us who have read it. It is disturbing, and it is frightening. The report found that the Biden administration lost track of hundreds of thousands of these unaccompanied children. In over 80 percent of the cases, the report says, the Biden administration didn't even have accurate contact information for the sponsors.

In all, our new law is the most comprehensive border security investment in American history. It has invested in immigration enforcement and border security. Not a single Democrat supported these policies.

Democrats continue today to be the party of open borders and unsafe communities. They made our country weaker, they made our country poorer, and they made our country less safe. Things have changed now. Across the country, ICE agents are doing excellent work enforcing the law and keeping our communities safe.

Earlier this month, ICE conducted a lawful raid of a Los Angeles facility that produces marijuana. Federal officers arrested 361 criminal illegal immigrants. Many were convicted rapists, kidnappers, and child predators. Federal agents also rescued 10 children from forced labor at that marijuana production facility. Eight of them were unaccompanied minors who had been trafficked into our country and exploited.

Last month, ICE arrested 1,361 illegal immigrant criminals in Houston, TX. Those criminals were in our communities because of Democrats' open border policies. Now they are off the streets thanks to an administration that is committed to our Nation's security.

As law enforcement does its job, they are increasingly under attack. They are under attack, amazingly, from criminals, and they are under attack from the radical left. ICE agents have been demonized, doxed, and demoralized. Attacks against ICE agents have soared over 800 percent in the last year.

In California, as ICE agents rescued children from forced labor, a violent mob of leftwing activists threw rocks and even opened fire on them. Now, some Democrats in Congress downplayed it; they dismissed it; they defended the violence, as the Democrats tend to do. One Democrat even said the operation was, in their words, a ''misuse of federal resources.''

Let me be clear. Rescuing trafficked children is not a misuse—never a misuse—of taxpayer money. If the Democrats believe otherwise, they have truly lost their moral compass.

Law enforcement deserves our support, especially as they are protecting children and when they are getting dangerous criminals off the street. This is common sense. It is exactly what Immigration and Customs agents are doing, and they are doing it very well.

The American people have been clear. They want secure borders. They want safer communities. And that is what Republicans are delivering.

Mr. President, I will assure you, Republicans will continue to protect our children, protect our communities, and protect our country.

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. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today as we are beginning the process for this fiscal year of considering appropriations bills.

As this process works, there are 12 subcommittees in the Appropriations Committee. We report out 12 bills, presumably, and we are doing that. The first four are potentially being considered this week for consideration by the full Senate.

Sometimes there is criticism about the appropriations process, and people who are not members of the committee feel left out. I am pleased that we are on the Senate floor today, where every Member—all 100 Senators—has the opportunity to add their thoughts by offering amendments, certainly making comments—offering amendments, taking votes. We ought to make certain that every Senator has the sense that they are engaged in the process of determining how taxpayer dollars are spent.

I commend the majority leader Senator THUNE for his commitment and his keeping of a commitment that appropriations bills would be considered on the Senate floor in his tenure as the majority leader. We are off to a start today, and I am pleased that is happening.

The subcommittee report—the appropriations bill that I want to speak just a moment about before we commence a vote at 11 is the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. It is one of the bills that fund a number of segments of the Federal Government.

As the name of the subcommittee suggests, it funds the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, and it has the word ''science'' in its title—Commerce-Justice-Science.

Science is generally thought of as NASA, NOAA, and NSF, the National Science Foundation.

Our legislation that has been reported out of the subcommittee and reported now out of the full committee passed with every member of the committee on the Republican side voting in favor of it and about four—I think the number is four—members of the minority party, Democrats, voting for this bill as well.

The attempt has been made to—as it takes 60 votes to pass a piece of legislation on the Senate floor by our rules—the attempt has been made to make certain that this is a bill that has bipartisan support, and it does.

This legislation is important to the country for a number of reasons, but I would highlight a few.

The Department of Justice in particular is where law enforcement—our battle against fentanyl, for example, our battle against crime that is rampant in many cities across the country,

and our efforts to defeat the battle against violence in our country are directed at the Federal level by the Department of Justice. They do so with the various Federal agencies—the DEA, the ATF, U.S. Marshals, and the FBI. But they often work—and I am glad they do—in conjunction with our local sheriffs and police departments across our country.

This bill funds law enforcement at the Federal level and continues to encourage and provide resources for law enforcement—police departments in our local communities, sheriffs' departments in our local counties—for their efforts to work together with the Federal Agencies—the DEA, the FBI. That is the way we fight crime and have success in this country, is State, local, and Federal law enforcement working together.

This bill also funds the efforts at the Department of Commerce, particularly in this case related to trade, as President Trump is negotiating with various countries for resolution of tariff issues. The Department of Commerce—and we know that Secretary Lutnick has been engaged in those negotiations—the Department of Commerce houses the Agencies that are responsible for trade policy and trade legislation in this country, including the actual trade Ambassador who negotiates trade agreements on an ongoing basis.

So this bill funds the Department of Commerce in a number of ways, but I highlight for my colleagues the importance of trade, learning just this morning—yesterday—that the United States—President Trump—and Japan have come together in an agreement with regard to tariffs.

It also invests in science. It helps us meet our mission to get to the Moon, the Artemis Program. We have a goal of making certain the United States of America is on the Moon before the Chinese—returns to the Moon before the Chinese. This legislation funds NASA in a way to continue the efforts to support the Artemis Program and then reach further, as the President has indicated his desire to see the United States travel to Mars and explore further regions of outer space.

I highlight and offer my concerns and condolences to my colleagues from Texas in particular but across the country who have had weather-related circumstances that have caused tragedy across our Nation.

This Commerce-Justice-Science bill, in the science category, funds NOAA. We are making certain they have the resources to make certain we preserve and save life.

This all was done in a way that was designed to make certain that we met our responsibilities to the American taxpayer and that we were fiscally responsible.

Overall, with regard to the budget authority—the ability to obligate funds from the General Fund to the Treasury—what most Americans would consider to be Federal spending—because of offsetting credits and fee collections and rescissions—and we removed those. If they were there, we would have been able to spend at higher levels. But because we rescinded those opportunities, the decline in—let me say it differently.

Accordingly, as a result of those things being the case, the real increase in spending power at the Commerce-Justice-Science-funded Agencies is only a $270 million increase—or 0.037 percent—above the fiscal year 2025 levels. Almost all of the increase went to the census. Commerce-Justice-Science is responsible—the Department of Commerce is responsible for the decennial census, and we have begun our process of gearing up for the next census to take place, so we had to appropriate money for the census.

In addition to that, we found savings—reduced spending—by reducing bureaucratic and workforce funding at both the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice.

My point is that within the allocation that we were provided by the full committee—by the chairman and vice chairman of the committee—Commerce-Justice-Science is within its funding levels, of course, that they allowed us. While we prioritized the things we thought were most important, we also did so in a way that the increase in spending is less than 1 percent and certainly way less than last year and certainly less than the rate of inflation.

I know that the 11 o'clock hour has come. I am pleased to have conversations with my colleagues about moving this bill forward.

I yield the floor.

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 Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

VOTE ON ROTH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Roth nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 426 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fetterman	Moran	

NAYS—41

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Sanders
Baldwin	Kelly	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Booker	Markey	Slotkin
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warner
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warnock
Durbin	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hirono	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—7

Gallego	Luján	Warren
Heinrich	McConnell	
Hickenlooper	Mullin	

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

VOTE ON HURLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hurley nomination?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 427 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

McConnell	Mullin

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in the United States, we justly pride ourselves on being a nation of laws. This is one of the things that makes our country different from the rest of the world. Economists have written about the fact that, while there are many entrepreneurial or innovation societies and economies, it is the rule of law, the predictability, the enforcement of contracts, and the fundamental guarantees of rights that make us successful where other countries fail.

Unfortunately, we have seen the undermining of the rule of law, in the last 4 years, by President Biden's refusal to simply enforce our immigration laws. And my prediction is we will be paying the price not just in weeks and months but in years and decades for what has come to be known as the ''Biden border disaster.''

President Biden's policies betrayed the American people because of the lack of leadership in the face of a historic crisis—here, again, of his own making—at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Yesterday, I chaired a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary hearing entitled ''Biden's Border Betrayal: Criminal Aliens in America.'' At that hearing, we examined some of the false narratives that the mainstream media have peddled about President Trump's enforcement of our immigration laws.

We were honored to be joined by two Angel moms whose children were murdered by criminal aliens who never should have been in the United States in the first place.

Marie Vega joined us. Marie is the mother of Javier Vega, Jr., who went by the name ''Harvey.'' Harvey was a Border Patrol agent who was murdered by illegal aliens nearly 11 years ago. I am grateful to her for sharing her story, as painful as I know it must have been for her, and talking about the trauma that she, her grandchildren, and her entire family have experienced over her son's murder.

Our second guest was Tammy Nobles. Tammy was the mother of Kayla Hamilton, who was murdered by an illegal alien who was also a member of the MS–13 gang—one of the most violent gangs in the world. Kayla's murderer entered our country as an unaccompanied minor and was later released into the custody of an unvetted sponsor.

Mrs. Nobles' passion for ensuring this horrific tragedy won't happen again to more families was evident throughout the hearing. I am grateful to her, again, for sharing what had to be a very painful experience but one she did in honor of her daughter's memory.

Our third guest was Victor Avila, a former ICE Homeland Security Investigations agent who, along with his partner, was shot in the line of duty by Los Zetas. Los Zetas is a cartel operating in Mexico and in the United States occasionally.

Victor was seriously wounded that day, and his partner was killed. I have known Victor a long time, and he is a steadfast advocate of the rule of law and understands what is required if we are going to keep Americans safe.

These families and victims would never have had to suffer such devastating loss were it not for the criminal aliens who never should have been here in the United States in the first place.

It was a curious matter to me that our Democratic colleagues claim to be the party of compassion when it comes to immigration, but they would rather society and the media and Congress turn a blind eye to these victims of criminals who entered the country as a result of open border policies. That is not compassion. Some of the individuals ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is what the initials stand for, of course—some of the individuals ICE has apprehended recently include murderers, rapists, pedophiles, and sex traffickers.

Our fourth guest was Sheriff Roy Boyd of Goliad, TX, a small, South Texas county. He described the horrifying details of human trafficking and criminal activities carried out by the transnational criminal organizations—this is organized crime—the cartels he has witnessed in recent years. He said during his testimony:

> The border has always been a location for criminal activity, however, I never witnessed such an increase in blatantly open criminal activity as I did between 2021 and 2024.

It is truly shocking to think about the sheer number of illegal criminal aliens who are currently roaming free in the United States.

Now, you would think, listening to some of my Democratic colleagues, that ICE is arresting gardeners, cooks, housekeepers—people who are basically just trying to earn a living. But the truth is, there are 291,000—291,000—criminal aliens in the United States who are under final orders of removal. That means they have exhausted all potential legal remedies to be able to stay here, and they have been found not qualified to stay, and they have been ordered removed, but they simply ignored that order by a court.

For this fiscal year alone, 213,000 criminal aliens with final orders of removal have criminal convictions, while another 78,000 have pending criminal charges against them. Even more disturbing is the fact that 282,000 of these criminal aliens are still roaming free, not being held in ICE custody.

I know Tom Homan, who is the border czar who is heading up these efforts, is working to chip away at this list of criminal aliens who are still present in the United States who are under final orders of deportation. But, again, to listen to the news or listen to some of the political rhetoric, you would think, again, that Tom Homan and ICE are detaining gardeners and cooks and housekeepers, when 282,000 of these criminal aliens with final orders of deportation are still roaming free.

Most aliens with final orders of removal have been in the immigration system for almost a decade. They have been litigating their claims in immigration courts, some for almost a decade, and many, if not all, were given the opportunity to have their day in court. Many of them just neglected to show up. They were given a notice to appear in an immigration court and if they had a bona fide claim to asylum, to present that to an immigration judge. But many of these individuals simply did not show up, forfeiting any right they had to claim they could legally stay in the United States. But all of this doesn't stop our colleagues from across the aisle from claiming that illegal aliens detained by ICE are not being given ''due process.''

We are blessed to live in America, no doubt, and I think sometimes we take for granted all the privileges we are afforded and all the rights we have as citizens. So it is worth asking the question: What sort of process are these illegal aliens actually due?

While the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights apply to all individuals in the United

States, illegal aliens are not entitled to the same range of due process as U.S. citizens, especially when they neglect or refuse to show up in the first place when the notice to appear has been given, but they simply reject it.

The idea that someone could break our laws, enter our country illegally, and then be entitled to all the rights and privileges of an American citizen is awfully far-fetched, and it is not the law. Let me be clear about what the law actually says: Aliens who already have final orders of deportation, who are being detained for the purpose of removal, have already had their due process.

I would encourage my colleagues on the left to reflect on this before continuing to use the buzzwords ''due process'' to mislead the American people as they discuss cases that appear sympathetic but where the process these aliens were entitled to has simply been exhausted, and they lost or they refused to show up in the first place.

The American people know what Democrats fail to admit: Deterrence—deterrence—is a critical part of immigration enforcement and preventing the flow of aliens into the United States in the first place. In other words, if you know that it is likely that if you pay a coyote or a human smuggler $10,000 to smuggle you into the United States but you are unlikely to be able to stay, then you are probably not going to make the decision to make that dangerous trip in the hands of a criminal organization to come to the United States. That is part of what we talk about when we are discussing deterrence—the likelihood you would be unsuccessful, so you don't try in the first place.

I have been impressed by the way the State of Florida has stepped up to the plate by helping the administration open a detention facility known in the press as Alligator Alcatraz—well, whatever is necessary to provide detention facilities for people who have no legal right to remain in the United States because they have exhausted all of their legal remedies.

We have just provided significant additional resources in the One Big Beautiful Bill to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE to build those detention facilities like the one in Florida, as needed, in order to detain people before they are repatriated or removed from the United States.

I am hopeful other States will step up in a similar way, and I am strongly supportive of creating those necessary detention facilities in places like Texas.

The American people voted overwhelmingly on November 5 for a President who promised to enforce our immigration laws, so it is only right that our States would work together with the Federal Government to facilitate the enforcement of those laws, that the American people voted for. I know they are thankful to President Trump for keeping his promises, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and Governor Abbott to ensure that this work continues in my home State of Texas. Together, we are making our communities safer.

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. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW LOHMEIER

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to carefully consider their vote on the nomination of Mr. Matthew Lohmeier to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The Under Secretary is the second highest ranking official in the Air Force. This position is responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the Department and assisting the Secretary in leading the largest fleet of aircraft and space assets in the world. Most importantly, they are responsible for managing the hundreds of thousands of men and women who make up the Air Force and the Space Force.

I have deep concerns about Mr. Lohmeier's fitness to represent these men and women. While I appreciate his past military service, his record of troubling conduct in uniform, extreme partisanship, and animosity toward military members with whom he disagrees politically is, in my view, completely disqualifying to be Under Secretary.

His record of alarming behavior and statements is well-documented. In 2021, while serving as an Active-Duty Space Force officer in command of a large formation, he self-published a book titled: ''Irresistible Revolution: Marxism's Goal of Conquest & the Unmaking of the American Military.'' The book argued that Marxism is rampant within the ranks and leading to the collapse of our military and our society.

As he wrote:

> To be perfectly clear, the path we are on as a country leads us to fratricidal and genocidal warfare.

While still on Active Duty and command, he went on a far-right podcast which was known for spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories to advertise his book. All this was done without the knowledge or approval of the Department of Defense. Mr. Lohmeier was immediately relieved of command when his book and podcast were discovered.

After leaving the Space Force, he has continued to write and speak about his extreme beliefs. Among his controversial statements, Mr. Lohmeier called the January 6 attack a government-led ''false flag and hoax at the Capitol.''

I would ask all of my colleagues who were there that day and who were in danger if it were a hoax and a false flag operation. I think, honestly, they would admit, no, it was an attack on the constitutional responsibilities of Congress to certify the election of the President of the United States. In that hoax, police officers were injured and killed, and many, many of us were terribly concerned about our safety and the safety of our staffs.

So, if you believe it was a hoax, then you agree with Mr. Lohmeier. If you think it was and is an attack on our Constitution and on ourselves, this is not the gentleman to be the Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force.

He has appeared on dozens of podcasts and has made hundreds of social media posts about his distrust of American servicemembers, as he wrote in his book:

> In one respect, U.S. military servicemembers are no different than members of the People's Liberation Army.

That is an interesting comparison—equating American soldiers with the members of the People's Liberation Army.

He went on to say:

> Each is comprised of humans—
>
> U.S. Army, PLA—
>
> humans who share a common nature. Because we share the same nature, what Marxist ideology does to the Chinese military servicemember it will do to the American.

Now, that is absolutely absurd. I don't think anyone in the United States or in the U.S. military will believe that our military will be transformed into a Marxist fighting organization equivalent to the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Yet that is what he is talking about, and I have read a great deal of his writing.

I had the opportunity and the privilege not only to attend West Point but to teach at West Point. I would question his understanding of Marxism and his understanding, frankly, of the character of the American soldier, sailor, airman, marine, and guardian. It is profoundly not only deficient but insulting.

Let me make one point clear: I am concerned that he has a deeply misguided and biased opinion of American military servicemembers and their leaders. If confirmed, he would lead an organization that, like this country, represents a spectrum of individuals—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—of all races and creeds and sexualities. Yet his language suggests that he regards many of these men and women as adversaries to be rooted out and purged from the force. I am very skeptical that servicemembers and civilians who do not share his political opinions can trust that they will not be targeted under Mr. Lohmeier's tenure. This could be a revenge tour in the Department of the Air Force—to get even with those he feels did not treat him fairly. That is not the type of individual you want in the position of Under Secretary of the Air Force.

During his confirmation hearing before the Armed Services Committee,

my colleagues and I pressed him to explain his extreme positions. In particular, I urged him to pledge to not seek retribution against any military members or civilians whom he has publicly criticized in the past, especially as many of them would serve under him if he is confirmed. He refused. He refused to make such a commitment. That failure significantly increases my concerns that he will be out to purge, to seek revenge; not to serve the interests of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America but to work his own personal animosities out against those he distrusts.

Ultimately, the Under Secretary of the Air Force is a position that demands wisdom, composure, and character. Our military personnel and, indeed, the American people deserve nothing less. I do not believe that Mr. Lohmeier is qualified for this position, and I urge my colleagues to vote against the nominee.

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. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, as the Senate turns now to debate the bipartisan appropriations bill to resource military construction and the VA that Senator BOOZMAN and I have assembled, along with all of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I would like to highlight what is included in this legislation.

This bill represents bipartisan support for our military servicemembers and veterans and their families. It enhances our military readiness and the quality of life for servicemembers while funding the delivery of care and benefits for our Nation's veterans.

Military construction funds are included for infrastructure that supports our servicemembers' quality of life at home and abroad and for the construction of facilities vital to our national security.

In the State of Georgia, for example, this bill includes resources to build a brandnew elementary school at Fort Benning, where there is currently a wait-list of more than 200 families trying to get into school on the base; resources to construct a new barracks at Fort Stewart, where housing has desperately needed upgrades following alarming reports of mold and pest infestation; resources to bring the F–35A flight simulators to Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta and accelerate the arrival of those aircraft to South Georgia; resources to replace the control tower at Robins Air Force Base, where our servicemembers are currently working in a tower with a leaking roof, no air-conditioning, and a broken elevator; resources for major upgrades at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, where they are continuing to prepare for the arrival of Columbia-class submarines.

Across the country, family housing for servicemembers operated by private companies has long been a disaster, as evidenced by my investigation of conditions for families living on post at Fort Gordon.

That is why this bill rejects the administration's proposed cuts to oversight of privatized family housing and provides additional resources for construction of new family housing. These are young men and women, as you well know through your service, Mr. President—many of them 19, 21, 23 years old—who signed up to serve not for money or for glory but out of their love for our country. Their entire families make sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, and they should not have to sacrifice safe, clean housing, and high-quality schools.

For years, the Department has neglected quality of life, health, and safety for enlisted servicemembers, and that neglect extends to those servicemembers' families. But this bill provides necessary and overdue investments in military quality of life.

Now to the VA. Let's be clear that these programs, services, and benefits are not a giveaway; they are the Nation's obligation to those who have put their lives and health on the line and made tremendous sacrifices and family sacrifices in defense of the United States.

For the VA, this bill provides resources to support healthcare for more than 9.2 million veterans and disability benefits to nearly 7 million veterans, survivors, and their families.

Instead of continuing senseless mass firings of VA personnel, this bill provides funding so that the VA can recruit and hire to fill long-term clinical vacancies that are contributing to long wait times for care in Georgia and across the country.

Asserting our constitutional power of the purse, this bill mandates specific funding levels for rural health, women's health, caregivers, research, and veteran homelessness prevention programs, in some cases, including required spending levels for those programs for the first time in legislative history.

It also provides funding for the VA to address the claims backlog related to toxic exposures and the implementation of the PACT Act, to continue providing education benefits to veterans, and to help secure VA home loans. All of these critical resources will better ensure that our Nation's veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned through their service.

This bill also provides necessary funding for the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, and the Armed Forces Retirement Homes, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

As ranking member of the subcommittee, I was pleased to work closely with Chairman BOOZMAN to build a strong bipartisan bill that reflects input from colleagues on both sides of the aisle, not just on the Appropriations Committee but across the entire Senate. And I thank Senator BOOZMAN for his collaboration and for his bipartisan work in good faith, and I extend that gratitude to Senators Collins and Murray.

Every Senator, in both parties, has had the opportunity to advocate for their State's interests and priorities, and Chairman BOOZMAN and I have worked together to address, to the best of our ability, every Senator's needs and concerns.

Now, this bill earned bipartisan support in the Appropriations Committee because it equips the VA to make good on America's sacred promise that our servicemembers and veterans will have the resources and support they have earned through their service to our country. I encourage colleagues to come and speak with me directly about any questions or concerns with this legislation so that we can set up votes and get this bill passed in the Senate as swiftly as possible and ultimately enacted into law.

This is a bipartisan bill that was built through thoughtful deliberation, hard work, and compromise. That is how the appropriations process should work, not on the basis of party line but in the spirit of bipartisan collaboration and the national interest.

So let's deliver for the American people, the people of Georgia, our servicemembers, military families, and veterans, with the resources they need, on time, responsibly, and on a bipartisan basis.

I urge a ''yes'' vote to proceed to the bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA PANTHERS ON WINNING THE 2025 STANLEY CUP FINAL

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, today I rise to announce a resolution commending and congratulating the Florida Panthers on winning the 2025 Stanley Cup Final.

Last month, our State—the great State of Florida—along with loyal fans nationwide, came together to cheer on the Florida Panthers as they fought hard to secure a victory and bring home the cup to Florida.

And they cemented their place as back-to-back champions. This incredible effort marks the second cup won

by the Panthers in franchise history, and our Sunshine State is so very proud.

The whole Panthers' roster obviously contributed to this win, but we wanted to thank the staff and the coaches and all of those who supported the team on and off the ice. This success could not have been achieved without everybody who contributed.

We watched that team compete with resilience and grit to keep the Stanley Cup where it belongs, which is, of course, in the great free State of Florida. Our entire South Florida community celebrates with the entire State, who all kept faith in this team. Everyone's encouragement throughout the season ensured our Panthers were ready to bring home the championship when the time came. The win was well deserved, and it was a great end to an amazing year.

So with that, I thank the Presiding Officer for accommodating my request to pass a resolution on behalf of the Florida Panthers.

Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 333, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 333) commending and congratulating the Florida Panthers on winning the 2025 Stanley Cup Final.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MOODY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 333) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senators COLLINS and MURRAY, as well as my Democratic counterpart on the MILCON-VA Subcommittee Senator OSSOFF in presenting the fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Military Construction.

It is important to remember that we followed tradition in crafting the bill in a very open and a very bipartisan way. So it is built on a strong foundation and deserves the support of our colleagues.

This bill takes into consideration the needs of our veterans, their families, and our servicemembers. And within that framework, we have created a thoughtful path—a path forward for both Departments and their related Agencies.

This bill provides $153.5 billion of discretionary spending. Of that amount, the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided $133.3 billion in discretionary funding. When combined with the $49.8 billion from the Toxic Exposures Fund, veterans' medical care will be funded at a total of $163.6 billion in fiscal year 2026.

Our bill funds priority accounts to prevent veteran suicide as well as increase rural access to healthcare through significant investments for the Office of Rural Health.

Additionally, we allocated approximately $23 billion to support critical mental health issues and programs to prevent veterans' homelessness and provide funding for innovative medical research.

The bill also funds mandatory veterans' benefits, which are earned benefits that include disability pensions, employment training programs, and educational benefits.

We also make advanced appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for certain accounts, including $122.3 billion for veterans' medical care and $262.1 billion for mandatory veterans' benefits.

In addition, we are delivering $19.8 billion to support military construction and family housing units, which are important to both readiness and morale. Our bill will give the Department of Defense the resources it needs to project power globally, enhance our warfighting capabilities, and train our forces.

Importantly, we provide $1.9 billion to improve housing and quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

I also want to note that the bill includes robust funding for related Agencies, which include the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

Funding at these priorities at these levels represents solid bipartisan work to provide the resources necessary for our veterans, their families, and the servicemembers defending our Nation, which was evident with the passage of the measure in the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 26 to 3.

I want to again thank Senator OSSOFF as well as Chair COLLINS and Vice Chair MURRAY for their hard work and collaboration. And also a special thanks to our staff who worked so, so very hard to put the bill together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 229

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, America is a great nation. Just look at the record. When it comes to the discovery of new drugs and pharmaceuticals, we lead the world. But we also pay the highest prices in the world for the prescription drugs. The very same drugs made in the United States is for sale in Canada at a fraction of the cost. The same thing is true in Europe.

What is going on here?

Our country is producing drugs, paying more for them than other customers around the world—the problem is so glaring that even President Trump has identified fixing this issue as a priority. Bipartisan feeling—change it, reduce the price of drugs.

Why is the United States such an outlier? One of the major reasons—if you watch television, you see it every single day. The United States is one of only two industrialized countries in the world that allows people to advertise drugs on television.

This is a trivia quiz. What is the other country? New Zealand. Two countries in the world that allow advertising of prescription drugs on television—you know, the ads with the catchy jingles, flashy images of patients rock climbing, golfing, dancing, parading.

Big Pharma spends $6 billion a year to flood the airwaves with ads for the latest wonder drug—$6 billion.

Why? Why would they spend all this money to advertise drugs and say, Talk it over with your doctor? They spend such astronomical sums to promote their drugs because it increases their profit margins.

Big Pharma thinks if they hit you hard enough and often enough with ads on television, not only will you be able to pronounce but spell Xarelto, but you will also tell your doctor: That is my favorite blood thinner. I have seen that ad over and over again.

Don't take my word for it.

The American Medical Association said:

Direct to consumer advertising inflates demands for new and expensive drugs even when these drugs may not be appropriate for your health.

When President Biden announced 15 drugs that Medicare would negotiate for discounts, most Americans knew the names, maybe even knew the jingle: Ozempic, Trelegy, Ibrance, Otezla.

Sound familiar?

Pharma spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year so you are supposed to ''ask your doctor'' about these drugs.

The result, Medicare spent $22 billion last year alone on these four heavily advertised medications—$22 billion. With these advertisements, Big Pharma is betting they can squeeze every penny out of you and our healthcare system.

Just last week, I released a report about the new telehealth advertising scheme launched by Pfizer and Eli Lilly. With online promotions and new websites, Pharma is urging patients to ''click here'' if you want to speak with a doctor. But those telehealth doctors

are handpicked. They have been recruited and paid for by the drug companies.

Pharma is funneling patients to their chosen healthcare providers to influence prescriptions for costly drugs. This raises concerns about conflicts of interest and inappropriate prescribing of drugs. All of this is a result of Pharma's rampant advertising spree.

Since 2017, I have introduced bipartisan legislation to crack down on this TV advertising. Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY—now on the floor to join me—has been my partner in this effort. When you turn on the evening news, one-third—one out of every three—commercials you see are for drugs from prescription drug companies. It is the same when you stream your favorite show or scroll on social media.

Americans see an average nine pharmaceutical ads every single day. With billions in targeted spending, patients are bombarded with information—often at rapid machine gun pace—but kept in the dark about one crucial fact that is essential to this conversation: The drug companies want to tell you everything, including the warnings as fast as they say them, but they don't want you to know one thing. They don't want you to know the price.

Because of outrageous drug prices, millions of Americans are faced to ration doses, skip refills, making cost of transparency absolutely essential.

I want to put an ad up here, which some of you may recognize.

In 2023, Illinois company AbbVie spent $350 million on TV ads for Rinvoq, an eczema and arthritis drug. Nowhere in the commercial do they tell you the cost as publicized and released by the drug company—$6,100 a month for this drug.

A lot of good news, if you are going to go out canoeing and white water rafting, but they won't tell you it is $6,100 for Rinvoq.

It is time to end Big Pharma's secrecy. If they are going to advertise a drug, they need to also declare to the American public how much it costs.

It is basic. No gimmicks, no tricks, just the truth by advertising the very same drug that the drug companies publish at the fictional price.

Our commonsense plan to require price disclosures in direct-to-consumer drug ads has already passed the Senate one time before. Senator GRASSLEY and I worked together in 2018, because we knew that 88 percent of the American people support what we are doing—disclosure of price and reduction of the cost of drugs to consumers.

In fact, because of our work, President Donald Trump made a statement.

Big announcement . . .—

The President said—

Drug companies have to come clean about their prices in TV ads. Historic transparency for American patients is here. If drug companies are ashamed of those prices—lower them!

That is what the President said on May 8, 2019.

Vice President VANCE previously cosponsored the measure Senator GRASSLEY and I support, while Health Secretary Kennedy has railed against drug advertising and suggested our price disclosure policy has his support too. So this is a bipartisan undertaking.

Big Pharma hates being honest with patients about the price of drugs; they fear it is going to cut into their profits. Patients in America, American citizens and others, deserve lower drug prices.

The Trump administration has called on Congress to rein in these deceptive drug advertisements, but Big Pharma is looking for one Senator—if they can just get one Senator to come down here on the floor and object to the passage of this commonsense bill. I hope we can pass it right now to deliver real relief at the pharmacy counter.

I am now going to yield to my partner in this effort, Senator GRASSLEY, before I make a motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I want to thank Senator DURBIN for his leadership in this area the two or three times we have attempted to do this. One time, I think we were successful, but it is still not law.

I would like to put this in the simplest form I can by saying that watching television all the time, prices are showing up all the time for this product or that product. I don't know how many times I see that something costs $9.99 or $19.99 or that the price of an automobile is $26,000. But when it comes to prescription drugs, presumably there is something very sensitive about this that they don't want to tell us what it is going to cost. Of course that irritates me, but most importantly, it is not fair to the consumer.

Today, we have a President, we have a Vice President, and we have a Secretary of Health and Human Services all on record supporting this commonsense measure to require prescription drug ads to list the price of a drug. In fact, I discussed this with the HHS Secretary prior to his confirmation, and he told me he thought it could be done by regulation. It is my understanding they are studying doing it by regulation, and I would say hurry up and get it done because whether it is done by law or whether it is done by regulation, this is something that should be done.

I want to say that I think my colleagues know that lowering the cost of prescription drugs is a top priority of mine—no more than it is Senator DURBIN's. Without their prescription medication, millions of Americans would not survive.

As a nation, we are blessed to live in a country where investment and innovation unlock cures and treatments—some of them we even refer to as miracle cures. But the escalating prices of prescription drugs are a consuming concern for millions of Americans, including in my State of Iowa, where they bring up this very subject regularly at my county meetings.

There are many reasons for the high cost of prescription drugs. It could be the lack of competition and abusive practices. It could be opaque and powerful drug middlemen that we call pharmacy benefit managers and a lack of transparency on prices.

By the way, I just mentioned PBMs. There are at least 65 to 70 Senators that are cosponsors of 1 or more bills—at least 3 bills that exist out of 3 different committees—that want more transparency with PBMs, and somehow, we ought to be able to get that up. Hopefully, we will be successful before this year is out.

So I am working in all three of these areas I just told you about to advance bipartisan solutions. When voluntarily choosing to promote medications over the airways, manufacturers are already required to disclose safety and side effects. Yet, for many patients, price plays a primary role in clinical adherence.

There is a lot of value in knowing a prescription drug's list price. This is the most accessible and standardized price of a drug, which is set by the manufacturer itself.

Despite efforts by Big Pharma to stop our bill, I am confident that the American consumer will continue to demand the kind of price transparency that they deserve. President Trump, Vice President VANCE, and Secretary Kennedy will also continue to fight with us.

If critics have solutions to make our bill better, come to the table, present your ideas, and work with us.

Also, I want to thank the chairman of the Finance Committee. He is a friend. He may be against this bill today, but he is very much an advocate for PBM reforms.

I thank you, Senator, for doing that.

The Finance Committee, along with several other committees in the Senate, has a bipartisan PBM reform ready to pass the Senate.

The President made it clear that he wants to see PBM transparency and accountability, and we must tackle the cost of prescription drugs through more competition, PBM reform, and, of course, through the sunshine on drug prices that Senator DURBIN and I are proposing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Take a look at the agenda of the U.S. Senate. Tell me an issue that 88 percent of the American people agree with. Tell me an issue where you have bipartisan sponsorship: Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; I am ranking member of that committee—a Republican, a Democrat supporting it. Tell me an issue where you have President Trump supporting our position and a Democratic Senator like myself on the floor espousing the same position as the President of the United States. Tell me an issue that is more timely than the affordability of prescription drugs. I can't think of another issue that fits that mold.

I want to make a motion. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 229 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Reserving the right to object, I am the chairman of the Finance Committee, the committee they are trying to pull this bill out of. The fact is that I completely agree with the objective of my colleagues on the floor today that we need to get transparency in the prescription drug pricing system.

Americans deserve a transparent, affordable, and accessible prescription drug market. Far too often, the current system fails to meet those needs. It is not only, though, because we haven't got ads on TV saying the list price of the drug—I don't have an opposition to just doing something like that—but it is much more complex. Vertically integrated health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, and other intermediaries suppress competition, pocket valuable drug discounts, and increase prices for consumers—all unrelated to the list price of the drug.

Last Congress, the Senate Finance Committee, which I chair, advanced a number of our bipartisan proposals to reform our broken prescription drug supply chain. Senator GRASSLEY has just referenced those proposals, and he is a strong ally and advocate of those. These policies would ensure that patients, not middlemen, benefit from the negotiated price of drugs—not the price you see if you just look at the list price, the negotiated price of the drugs. With bipartisan support and cooperation, we can pass that package by the end of this year, but we need bipartisan support to move forward and do it.

While well-intended, the proposal before us today risks confusing patients further by requiring disclosure of list prices in advertisements that no consumer should pay—none. A drug's list price includes none of the discounts, rebates, or other price concessions found in net prices, which continue to decline even as other prices grow.

Rather than broadcast and validate a list price, Congress should ensure that patients can share in the savings reflected in the net pricing points, enabling both increased transparency and reduced out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter.

What I am saying is that this is complex, and we are working and have a working solution. I stand ready to work with the administration and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on an effective method to increase transparency and access to relevant information that patients need to make important choices about their own health but not to pull a bill out of our committee when we are already working in committee to get the right and most effective solution put into place.

For those reasons, I object to my colleague's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. The Senator from Idaho is my friend. We have worked together in the past; I am sure we will in the future. But I want to tell you something. He professes deep concern about whether senior citizens are going to get confused if we tell them the actual price given by the drug company itself. He thinks it is too confusing for them to understand that that price means anything at all.

Do you know who disagrees with him? The AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons. They represent American seniors, and they endorse the Grassley-Durbin bill. They believe that seniors can understand completely how much the cost of the drug is even if it can be discounted under the insurance coverage of your policy as well.

The list price is the proper method of disclosure because the drug companies create the list price. We are not imposing a price on them; it is a price they have to publish. It is an objective, factual figure. Many patients do indeed pay this price when they don't have copays.

Let me say a word about what it means in the real world. In 2022, 19,000 seniors in the State of Idaho paid an average of $570 out of pocket on a drug known as Eliquis—a pretty well-known drug. Another 6,000 seniors in Idaho paid on average $607 out of pocket for Xarelto—the one that is impossible to explain. Both of these blood thinners are among the most heavily advertised medications.

We are talking about a dose of transparency in the State of Idaho and every other State so that 25,000 seniors in Idaho can save money by knowing up front what costs they may face and make informed treatment choices.

Why are we afraid to ask the drug companies to disclose a price they publish in private—at least to some sources—and not tell the American consumer? If they had to do that, we think the American consumer would think twice about falling for these ads.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 6 minutes prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, I will be voting to move ahead with the first spending bill for fiscal year 2026.

Now, there is no doubt that the path forward on appropriations this year has been made extremely challenging by President Trump's flagrant lack of regard for Congress and our laws, and it has not been made any easier by the unprecedented partisan rescissions package that Republicans passed last week. But we cannot afford another slush fund, full-year CR, and we cannot accept the draconian cuts being pushed by Trump and House Republicans. So we do need to chart a different path forward and pass full-year, bipartisan spending bills that invest in folks back home and make sure Congress and our constituents have a say in Federal spending. The way, of course, to ensure that happens is through a bipartisan appropriations process.

So I am very glad that, thanks to the senior Senator from Georgia, working across the aisle with his partner, the senior Senator from Arkansas, we were able to negotiate and report out of committee a good bill to fund our military construction needs and the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 2026.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, the programs we fund in the MILCON-VA bill are very personal to me. Doing right by our vets and getting them the care they need and the support they were promised is a moral obligation, which is why I am pleased to say the MILCON-VA bill we are voting on delivers the funding needed to live up to our Nation's commitments to our veterans and makes crucial investments to support our servicemembers and our national security.

The bill includes essential funds for VA care, including rural health, women's health, medical research, and the caregivers program I have long championed, and for the first time, it puts funding levels for those important programs in statute. It also expands the pilot I started to make sure that childcare is not a barrier to any veteran who needs care and increases funding to address veteran homelessness and mental health needs.

When it comes to supporting our servicemembers and their families, there are investments for nearly 300 construction projects, including new family housing construction and child development centers.

There are also investments to bolster our footprint in the Pacific and support our NATO projects. These are incredibly important to our soldiers, to our veterans, and to our national security.

No doubt there is more I would like to see done in this bill. It is not, of course, the bill I would have written on my own. But I do hope Republicans will work with us now to consider critical amendments to improve the bill and make sure the administration actually delivers for veterans, something I think it has certainly failed to do on many fronts over the last few months.

There is also some discussion of adding two other funding bills that we have negotiated and reported out of committee to make this a minibus package. These are solid, compromised bills that reject the truly draconian cuts proposed by President Trump and

House Republicans, and I would like to see them considered by the full Senate.

Now, for that to happen, I hope Republicans will work with us to ensure, once again, that there is an opportunity to debate and amend all three bills.

So I am a ''yes'' vote on moving forward today with debate of the MILCON-VA bill, and I hope we can keep this process moving because passing our appropriations bills is the best way we can make sure Federal spending reflects the needs we are hearing about in our States and actually solves problems for people at home.

No one wants a shutdown, and the way we avoid that shutdown is by working together. That is not a secret, not a surprise; it is a reality we all know. As the majority leader noted recently, the math tells us that it takes 60. It takes bipartisan cooperation. Unfortunately, Republicans have been chipping away at that cooperation, especially with the rescissions vote last week.

But, to be clear, if Republicans continue cutting bipartisan deals with more rescissions, that is not cooperation. If Republicans try and jam through another slush-fund CR, that is not cooperation.

So for anyone considering the partisan route, you cannot write a bill without talking to Democrats and then act surprised when Democrats don't support it. You want our votes; you work with us. And this bill today that we are considering shows that is possible. So I want to applaud the bipartisan work of the senior Senators from Georgia and Arkansas to get us to this point, and I hope all of our colleagues can take that lesson to heart as we move forward with consideration of this bill and our work on bipartisan bills to fund the government and avoid a shutdown.

Let's stay focused on that instead of embracing Russ Vought's vision for a Congress that is more partisan, less powerful, and less able to make life better for the people we represent.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 428 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Banks	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hagerty	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Schatz
Britt	Husted	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kaine	Shaheen
Collins	Kelly	Sheehy
Coons	Kennedy	Slotkin
Cornyn	Kim	Smith
Cortez Masto	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Thune
Cramer	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Luján	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Van Hollen
Curtis	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McCormick	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Welch
Durbin	Moody	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fetterman	Moreno	Wyden
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—8

Hawley	Murphy	Schiff
Lee	Padilla	Warren
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—2

McConnell	Mullin

The motion was agreed to.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $2,447,609,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $446,388,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $268,650,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $5,906,524,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $613,213,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $144,390,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Department of the Air Force when designated by the Secretary of Defense to direct and supervise Military Construction projects in accordance with section 2851 of title 10, United States Code, and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $4,090,673,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $718,973,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $359,200,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $3,724,301,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That, of the amount, not to exceed $211,001,000 shall be available for study,

planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $32,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $271,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $78,380,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $112,050,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $292,546,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $73,646,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $95,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $46,239,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $6,013,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $4,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army Reserve'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $2,255,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $2,255,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $116,268,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $6,970,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $55,810,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $481,832,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $410,161,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $228,558,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $388,418,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $177,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $384,108,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $274,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $369,765,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $53,374,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $8,315,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, $497,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: Provided, That not more than $35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: Provided further, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of April 2021, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

''Military Construction, Army'', $45,000,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $15,500,000;

''Military Construction, Air National Guard'', $11,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $15,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction and cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2026 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force'', and ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2027 for fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2026 by a National Defense Authorization Act: Provided, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $76,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects specified in a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 129. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $241,947,603,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not to exceed $29,454,647 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2027 under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''Information Technology Systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and Pensions'' appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical Care Collections Fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $20,057,841,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, $97,893,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2026, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $266,736,842.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $45,428, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $1,394,442.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $507,254, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $6,865,235, as authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $75,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $5,845,241.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $3,879,000,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; $59,858,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided further, That of the $75,039,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $15,889,000,000 is hereby rescinded: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: Provided further, That nothing in section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $38,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $12,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided further, That, of the $12,700,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $610,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; $3,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2025; and, in addition, $11,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $943,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $497,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, $440,000,000, which shall be for the offices and in the amounts specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act, of which not to exceed 10 percent for each such office shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $277,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $5,908,000,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That $1,418,416,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided further, That $4,488,829,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which $118,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for the purpose of facility activations related to projects funded by the ''Construction, Major Projects'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''National Cemetery Administration'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''General Administration'' accounts: Provided further, That $755,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided further, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That amounts made available for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, $3,488,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: Provided further, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: Provided further, That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2026, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs providing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan by June 1, 2026, containing the following:

(1) an updated life-cycle cost estimate for the EHRM program based on the Department's acceleration of deployments announced in March 2025;

(2) an updated facility-by-facility deployment schedule for all facilities to receive the EHRM program;

(3) a certification that all VA facilities using the new EHR on or before April 1, 2024, have exceeded or met certain health care performance baseline metrics indicating they have returned to their service delivery levels in place prior to the deployment of the new EHR; and

(4) a description of the projected Federal VA staffing levels, contract support, and other relevant activities required, and the resources required to fund those activities, to meet the deployment goal as outlined in (2), including target Federal and contracted staffing levels at VA Central Office and, each local VA medical center with a slated deployment in 2026 and 2027, as well as contract support to provide technical and other change management support to carry out the deployments.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), $296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $1,394,000,000, of which $621,615,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $772,385,000 shall remain available until expended: Provided, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: Provided further, That funds provided for the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall be only for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process: Provided further, That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the ''General Administration'' account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2026, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2026; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2027: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations

are not incurred within the time limitations established above: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $709,000,000, of which $467,940,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $241,060,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, Minor Projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: Provided, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $171,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND

For investment in the delivery of veterans' health care associated with exposure to environmental hazards, the expenses incident to the delivery of veterans' health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards, and medical and other research relating to exposure to environmental hazards, as authorized by section 324 of title 38, United States Code, and in addition to the amounts otherwise available for such purposes in the appropriations provided in this or prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5), $52,676,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2026 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: Provided, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical Facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and Pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2026 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2026 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed $134,342,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, $7,607,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and $7,586,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: Provided, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: Provided further, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Provided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects''.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under ''Medical Services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Community Care'' accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled ''Quarterly reporting'', under the heading ''General Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', ''Board of Veterans Appeals'', ''General Administration'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2026 may be transferred to or from the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', and ''Information Technology Systems'', up to $654,954,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 220 of title II of division A of Public Law 118–42, as continued by section 1101(a)(10) of division A of Public Law 119–4, is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2026, for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', up to $739,918,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for ''Construction, Major Projects'' may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled ''Disability claims backlog'', under the heading ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed $1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, under the ''Board of Veterans Appeals'' and the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed a cumulative $7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term ''civil service'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term ''Executive action'' includes—
(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and
(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—
(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;
(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and
(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 232. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2027, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the ''Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance'' published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 233. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the ''Medical Services'' account may be used to provide—
(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or
(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:
(1) The term ''service-connected'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.
(2) The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.
(3) The term ''assisted reproductive technology'' means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of ''Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members'' issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—
(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and
(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.
(4) The term ''adoption reimbursement'' means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

SEC. 234. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 235. Section 842 of Public Law 109–115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 236. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue collecting and using Social Security account numbers to authenticate individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all individuals not later than September 30, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collect and use a Social Security account number to identify an individual, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is necessary to:
(1) obtain or provide information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;
(2) comply with a law, regulation, or court order;
(3) perform anti-fraud activities; or
(4) identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 237 of division A of Public Law 118–42.

SEC. 237. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for ''Medical Services'', section 239 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 238. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 239. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 for ''Medical Services'', funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111–163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 240. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 241. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 242. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 244. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2026 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2025 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 245. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 246. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary certifies that—
(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates and cannot be met using other animal models, in vitro models, computational models, human clinical studies, or other research alternatives;
(B) such scientific objectives are necessary to advance research benefiting veterans and are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1413(e);
(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document; and
(D) ethical considerations regarding minimizing the harm experienced by canines, felines, or non-human primates are included in evaluating the scientific necessity of the research.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the USDA pain category on the approved use;

(4) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates, and methods used to make such determination;

(5) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(6) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research, and animal welfare.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research;

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research; and

(5) the development and adoption of alternatives to canines, felines, or non-human primate research.

(e) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Department of Veterans Affairs must submit to voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of canine, feline, and non-human primate research facilities.

(f) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or other Department of Veterans Affairs policies related to oversight of animal research found during that quarter in VA research facilities;

(2) immediate corrective actions taken; and

(3) specific actions taken to prevent their recurrence.

(g) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 247. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 248. Amounts made available for the ''Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care'' account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 249. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the ''Medical Services'' account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the ''Medical Community Care'' account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 250. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities'', and ''Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund'', accounts, $1,429,181,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans; $697,800,000 shall be made available for suicide prevention outreach programs; $3,500,000,000 shall be made available for the Caregivers program; $42,000,000 shall be made available for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; $70,000,000 shall be made available for the Neurology Centers of Excellence; $342,455,000 shall be made available for rural health care; and, $3,459,121,000 shall be made available for veterans' homelessness programs.

SEC. 251. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2026 in the ''Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund'' established in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114–113, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, $900,000,000 shall be available for constructing, altering, extending, and improving medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, including all supporting activities and required contingencies, during the period of availability of the Fund: Provided, That prior to obligation of any of the funds provided in this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appropriated in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 252. Of the $75,039,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under the heading ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'' in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $2,030,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities''.

SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds made available in this Act and any available unobligated balances from prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5), for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund: Provided, That the budget resource categories supporting the Veterans Health Administration shall be reported by the subcategories ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical and Prosthetic Research'': Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary shall submit a quarterly report on the status of the funds, including, at a minimum, an update on obligations by program, project or activity.

SEC. 254. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 255. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a Department medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care.

SEC. 256. Unobligated balances available under the headings ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: Provided, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114–294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 257. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated, awarded, or expended to procure or purchase covered information technology equipment in cases where the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity, or parent company of an entity listed on any of the following:

(1) the Department of Defense's Chinese Military Company List;

(2) the Department of the Treasury's Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List;

(3) the Department of Commerce's Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List, if the entity is—

(A) an agency or instrumentality of the People's Republic of China;

(B) an entity headquartered in the People's Republic of China; or

(C) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an agency, instrumentality, or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(4) the Department of Homeland Security's Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''covered information technology equipment'' shall mean the following equipment used in an office environment: computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment used

in or by the Department of Veterans Affairs directly. ''Covered information technology equipment'' shall not refer to services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

SEC. 258. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with section 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

SEC. 259. The Department is directed to maintain staffing levels to facilitate the Department's own goals, including that benefits claims are adjudicated according to the 125 day goal, and that healthcare appointments and service are provided in the timeframes required by statute and regulation.

SEC. 260. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118–42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS] in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

SEC. 261. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

(1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;

(2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or

(3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $108,281,000 to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $49,000,000, of which $3,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That $4,256,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $118,780,450, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the ''Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies'' account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $79,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $2,072,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $27,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 407. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 411. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

SEC. 413. (a) Each department or agency funded in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 shall, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on funds that are allotted and available for obligation as of the end of the reporting period and on obligations as of the end of the reporting period: Provided, That such report shall be delineated by: (1) program,

project, and activity level; (2) public law making such funds available; and (3) period of availability: Provided further, That such reports shall be transmitted to the Committees monthly thereafter, on the fifteenth of each such month, during the period of availability of the relevant funds.

(b) The term ''reporting period'' as used in this section means the month that precedes the date on which the department or agency transmits the report to the Committees.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Bluestone, Szabo, Lohmeier, and Topping nominations; further, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 259, Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Chuck Grassley, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Ron Johnson, Ashley B. Moody, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, 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 Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) would have voted ''yea.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 429 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker
Curtis	Marshall	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

McConnell	Paul
Mullin	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

OREGON

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight a true example of what we at home call the Oregon Way. At a recent open-to-all townhall meeting—I have held more than 1,100 of them—and this one was in Union County, and I was pleased to run into my friend Tim Cook. He is the president of Clackamas Community College, over 250 miles away on the other side of our State from my hometown in Portland.

I was glad to see him, and still my curiosity got the better of me. I had to ask why he was so far from home. Here is Tim's story.

He has been in the process of running to every one of Oregon's 17 community colleges to raise awareness for community college students about how challenging it is for them to meet the basic needs that they have to address as students.

Tim kicked off his ''Running for Oregon Community College Students'' campaign at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario on the Idaho border. He plans to run 32 miles each day to reach each community college in our State.

He is on track to complete this 1,500 mile—let me repeat that—1,500 mile journey by August 11.

Tim told me he was inspired by so many students that have shared their stories with him about the hardships—particularly the financial hardships—they have endured while attending school.

That includes William Morehead, a Portland Community College student who said he has had virtually no family support, and he had no help as a young adult yearning for an education.

So there he was with zero support, and William decided he could make a better life for himself through training and education. He signed up for welding classes and attended regularly. He did that while living in his car.

Despite these roadblocks, he persevered and graduated with an associate's degree in welding and had a 3.9 GPA. He was nominated to serve as the student commencement speaker at graduation.

Now William is learning AI ethics, and he said recently:

> In welding you use metal and fire, and in computing you do the same thing but in a digital realm. I want to apply this degree to evaluating Artificial Intelligence systems that interface with the public and make sure it does it in a way that's beneficial and not harmful.

The story I tell about William isn't unique. Many young, promising Americans are not living up to their best potential and not for a lack of trying, but there has really been a lack of support.

When adults lecture young people to ''pull yourself up by your bootstraps,'' they often miss the point that some students were never even provided with the boots. They didn't have the boots to yank themselves up.

Getting any degree is expensive enough, but it is even further out of reach for so many young people when you factor in everything a student needs to succeed beyond tuition—things like transportation, housing, food, books, access to technology, and an array of other necessities.

Many talented and promising students can't fulfill their potential and suffer in a system that lacks the potential to see that and see it and get them the opportunity for them to get ahead.

And now, with deep cuts to programs like SNAP and Medicaid under the Republicans' disastrous recent budget bill, coupled with high housing costs and rising prices from the Trump tariffs, the safety nets for students who fly solo are being slashed.

Donald Trump and DOGE are even trying to take a sledgehammer to funding for key programs like JobCorps, which help young people get the resources they need to secure a degree and a good-paying job.

So President Tim Cook is running not for office, but he is running for his students. He is pounding the pavement in the summer heat to highlight that when students' basic needs are met, they can focus on their education and create a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

That is why I am here on the floor today. I want to be part of sending Tim a powerful message that Congress agrees with him and must not leave students behind. The world's next Einstein—and I say this to all my colleagues—may be in your town, scraping together a way to earn an education and make a positive impact on the community and the world.

Let's help light the beacon of opportunity for those students. For America to be great, we have got to make sure that everybody in our country gets a fair shot. So I will close by saying I am gratified by the passion and insight that Tim Cook and other Oregonians are bringing to this cause.

They understand the importance of investing in our kids because that draws a map to a brighter future for all of us. It may not be possible for everybody to run 32 miles a day for nearly 2 months, but as Senators, we can certainly make a difference.

This country needs more commonsense policies that put students first and prepare us all for a brighter tomorrow. That is what Tim Cook is bringing us.

Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to support these educators and others for helping students.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

CRIME VICTIMS FUND STABILIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I want to urge my colleagues—and I know there is this temptation of the upcoming summer break, and folks want to get home to their families, but we have the opportunity and the obligation right now to pass this legislation for the Crime Victims Fund. Are we really going to miss this opportunity and this obligation when, in my State, a quarter of the victims of domestic violence were turned away from services last year?

These are the organizations—the child advocacy centers, the domestic violence agencies, the rape crisis centers—that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, neglected, and abused people in our States.

We just spent last week defunding Big Bird. We spent an entire week defunding public television and public radio. And you mean to tell me that before we leave for the recess, we can't fund child advocacy centers, domestic violence agencies, and rape crisis centers? It is unacceptable. This has bipartisan support, and we should pass this legislation right now.

Here is what one organization in Georgia said if we fail to pass this bill. They said:

> Our organization would have to lay off approximately 50% of essential staff. We would not be able to support or meet the critical needs of victims in the community. The lack of support and services over time will negatively impact the community with an increase in crime and victimization.

Mr. President, another organization in Georgia said:

> Without our centers, states will see an increase in domestic injuries, child abuse, sexual assault, and even death in many cases.

Child abuse. Sexual assault. Death.

In the State of Georgia, where hundreds of foster children have been trafficked by sexual predators, these are the organizations that support them and women facing domestic violence.

This is a bipartisan bill led by Senators DURBIN and MURKOWSKI. It should have bipartisan support on the Senate floor right now. We should pass it before we leave for the summer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to deliver my maiden speech. This is a proud and personal moment for me to represent my home State of Michigan as a junior Senator, alongside GARY PETERS, and to follow in the footsteps of legendary Senators like Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin.

This maiden speech has been a longstanding tradition in the Senate. Every junior Member gets to deliver in their freshman year their vision for their States and what they plan to do in their time in office.

Thank you to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have joined me and to my great staff and my interns, even my niece who came in. If you remember nothing else, I want you to remember two things: First, nothing is more important to me than the State of Michigan. I am a third generation Michigander. For me, Michigan is where it all started. Everything I have done in my life, everywhere I have gone, everything I have done, everyone I have met, it all started in Michigan.

It is where I learned the values that still shape me today: community, putting your head down and working hard, taking care of your neighbors when they are in need.

Nothing matters more than my home State, so this speech is my love letter to the State of Michigan. To stand here and represent the State that I love on the floor of the U.S. Senate is the greatest privilege of my life.

Second, my goal for my time in office is to address what I believe to be the existential threat of our time to my State and to all Americans: the threat of a shrinking middle class.

Now, I am a national security person by training. I am what is called a 9/11 baby. I happened to be in New York City on my second day of graduate school when 9/11 happened.

I was recruited into the CIA right out of grad school, and I served three tours in Iraq, alongside our military, before serving at the Pentagon.

I served proudly under Presidents both Democrat and Republican. I have come face-to-face with some of the greatest threats facing our country, but I believe, in my bones, that the single greatest threat today to our national security is not coming from abroad but coming from the very real threats that come from that shrinking middle class.

So my goal as a Senator is to deliver for Michigan's middle class, to expand it, to secure it. That mission is personal. Michigan is where my family achieved that very American dream. My great-grandfather, at 13 years old, came through Ellis Island not speaking English. He ended up starting a meat company, moved to Michigan, and built an iconic hot dog that Michiganders have enjoyed for 60 years.

Michigan has been the place where hard work means something. It was where the middle class was literally invented, it was where you could work at an auto plant and afford the car that you were building. That was a revolutionary idea at the time; it shouldn't be revolutionary now.

So as a U.S. Senator, my highest priority is to help make Michigan a place where that American dream is achievable again. Today, too many Michiganders are falling out of that middle class; too many families can't get in at all. I lived on my family farm in Holly, MI. Growing up, I was surrounded by families whose path to the middle class ran through Michigan's factories, our farms, our small businesses.

We are people who build things and grow things; people proud of their role in manufacturing America's future, our cars, our tanks, our food; people who, like my great-grandfather, were prepared to work hard for success and often achieved it.

But over the years, I have watched younger generations of those same families live a very different story. Parents can't provide for their kids what was provided to them. That fishing cabin up north that dad had, the son can't have. A trip to Disneyland, can't do it.

Across Michigan, there are so many families who feel like hard work doesn't seem to be enough anymore. No matter what your political views are, it is just a fact that the middle class has shrunk over the last 40 years. And I have seen firsthand what happens next.

When people feel like they can't get ahead, when they can't provide for their kids what was provided for them, they feel anger, they feel shame. They lose their dignity, and they look for something or someone to blame.

In a multiracial, multi-ethnic experiment in democracy, people end up blaming people who don't look like them or speak like them or pray like them. I have seen this up close and personal how that kind of anger and suspicion can tear communities apart.

If you want to understand how we got to this moment in our politics—this angry, vitriolic, polarized moment in

American history—all you have to do is understand that shrinking middle class. So even among today's chaos, especially now, there are things we have to do, simple things, to bring back that middle class and make it thrive.

This is my North Star. It will guide my work in the Senate. OK, so how do we do that? Our government certainly needs to change. I don't think it is hard to understand that our government is not working for a majority of Americans—not just Republicans, Democrats as well. We have to hear that loud and clear.

Fundamentally, I believe that government needs to get back to the basics. No one cares about your trick plays if you don't have your fundamentals right. Government needs to set the conditions for success, and Michiganders and Americans need to work hard to achieve that success.

These basics are jobs that pay you enough to save every month, healthcare you can actually afford, a home you can call your own, schools that prepare our kids for the workforce, energy to power our lives, an environment we can pass on to our kids, and safety and security from fear. That is it.

First, on jobs, we need job creation for Michigan's middle class to create the jobs of the future. Imagine that the middle class is basically a ship at sea. For the better part of 40 years, it has been taking on water, and now we are about to hit a category 5 hurricane in the form of artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence has the potential to change our economy more than the internet did. Think about that.

Productivity will go up, jobs will be gained, but jobs will also be lost. Maybe not Michigan jobs at first. Entry-level college jobs like paralegals or accountants are probably first on the list, but change is coming, and we need to be ready.

Job creation in the era of artificial intelligence means supporting our small businesses. Small businesses employ half of all Americans. They are intrinsic to the American dream. It is about betting on yourself. And we need to own the fact that it is hard to start and succeed as a small business. We need to make life easier for Michigan's small businesses.

Second, we need to bring critical industries and critical supply chains back home to the United States. Michiganders understand this better than most because of what we do, our manufacturing, no foreign country should ever have a veto on our economic security. We should always make critical items here in the United States, and I want to bring as many of those jobs and industries back to Michigan.

And, finally, let us say it very clearly: We need an immigration system that actually works and is key to our economy. Immigrants are critical for our labor shortages in our factories, in our hospitals, in our firms. More than that, we are a nation of immigrants. I am standing here today because my great-grandfather left fear, persecution, and death at 13 years old and found a place in America.

So we need an immigration plan that brings legal, vetted immigrants into our countries, key to our economy, sometimes more, sometimes less; and we need to have border security that literally makes sense. Without immigrants, there is no America, and without immigrants, our economy will not thrive.

Second, on healthcare, is there anyone in America who thinks healthcare is working? Is there anyone in America who thinks we are paying too little for healthcare? Is there anyone in America who is missing the ground swell of anger because we cannot provide the healthcare we need to our parents and to our children?

Few things are as fundamental. There are just, in my mind, few systems as broken as healthcare in America in 2025. And we all know it.

This is, again, extremely personal to me. It is why I ran for office in the first place. Of all my time spent in war zones, in dangerous places, nothing was harder than my mom being diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer when she did not have insurance.

There is nothing worse than that desperate feeling when your parent, that first parent to get sick, needs emergency tests and emergency surgery, and the same moment that you are fighting to get those things, you are struggling just to fill out the paperwork so she won't go bankrupt.

We are at a breaking point. We must change our healthcare, and this is as good a time as any. Every American deserves access to healthcare they can afford, regardless of your job, regardless of your income or your age. So I support a nationwide public insurance plan at a reasonable price for every American.

Second, we have got to be able to afford the medicines that we are prescribed. Is there anyone who thinks that we are paying too little for our drug prices? We need, in every part of our healthcare system, to be able to negotiate the price of our drugs. It is like Costco; you buy in bulk, you get a lower per unit price, and we are prohibited from doing that across the country.

Why? Because I have never seen an issue in Washington more polluted by lobbyists and corporate PAC donations than this issue. I have never seen an industry with more control over elected leaders than on the issue of healthcare.

Right now, I am one of six Senators who doesn't take corporate PAC money, 6 out of 100. It should be 100 out of 100. The middle class does not have a lobbyist, but they sure have the leaders that they elected.

On housing, there is nothing more foundational to the American dream than having a home of your own. It is as fundamental to us as Americans as apple pie.

Right now, the average age of a first-time homeowner in America is 40 years old, completely different than in generations before us. This is not a good story. Today we could declare, in this body, a housing state of emergency. We need 4 million units of housing built in our country. That is a national strategy, yes, but I want Michigan to be ground zero for responding to the urgency of that need.

On education, we need schools that actually prepare our kids for the future. So much of what we were able to do as a middle class was because people could afford the education in front of them. If you wanted to go to college, you could, but in Michigan, if you wanted to work with your hands, succeed, go on, become rich, only if you had a high school diploma, you could do that. There were job options for you.

We need an obsessive focus and reorganization of our job training Federal programs. We have 17 different organizations doing job training. It is broken. We need to focus on trade schools and apprenticeships and an education system that prepares us for what is coming.

On energy, we all know we are using more energy. Every single one of us in this room right now are using more energy than we did 10 years ago. Modern life is demanding it, but supply isn't meeting demand. And Michiganders are seeing that hitting their wallets every single day. If you don't plan now, it is going to get worse, rolling blackouts and brownouts in a decade.

And what I am asking for is not a renewable energy plan or a fossil fuel plan, it is an ''all of the above'' energy plan. Natural gas, you can't do it without it. Nuclear, batteries, renewables, solar, hydropower, new stuff that is in creation right now, we need all of it. And we can't be willing to scrap certain energy because it is woke. Anyone who disagrees with that is just scoring political points and doesn't give a damn about people's electricity bills.

On the environment, I am committed to protecting the environment, especially our water. In Michigan, clean water and the Great Lakes are not partisan, it is our heritage. It is in our blood. No single Michigander lives more than 6 miles away from a lake or 82 miles from a Great Lake.

We all know the sound of water hitting the beach or how the light looks up north. Our water is why people raise their kids in Michigan. And sharing that legacy with our kids is the dream that every Michigander has. We have the responsibility of being the stewards of the Great Lakes.

So when our water is threatened, when our kids are poisoned, when they can't swim in contaminated lakes, it is not just a health issue, it is a security issue: Lead, PFAS, invasive species in our Great Lakes, these are threats to us as Michiganders, and it is my job to fight these threats.

And last, can we just say climate change is upon us? Twenty years ago it

was theoretical; now Michiganders understand that extreme weather is real, it is here, they feel it in their pocketbooks. We have to mitigate it. We have to accept it, and we have to be ready to prepare ourselves when we have these crazy ice storms, these crazy once-in-a-generation tornadoes and move on and not exclude people because they don't want to talk about woke policies.

Safety and security, finally. Every Michigander has the right to live free from fear, to feel safe in their own home, and in the country they love. That is what got me into public service in the very beginning right after 9/11. Shootings in our schools and our businesses are a threat to our lives. Our government and our computers, our personal data shouldn't be hacked—neither should our cars or our homes.

And we should get to know and understand always who is coming across our border. We are a border State in Michigan. Every country in the world has a right to know who is coming inside its borders.

So in the Senate, I am going to spend my time protecting American citizens, as I have always done. For that, we need the best military in the world, one that understands the threats that are coming around the corner, not just the threats of the past.

We need to be able to control our own fate. That means not letting our national debt be controlled by countries like China.

And we need to understand that, to make people safe in America, we need a strong leadership role in the world, because the next 100 years are either going to be dominated by the United States of America or by China.

And while we make mistakes every single day, and I will own that—I served in Iraq, and I saw it close up—I will take American leadership over Chinese leadership any day of the week.

So, in conclusion, let me just say that we all know—everyone here knows—that we are going through an extremely tough time in American politics. We know that, when people look back on this period in history, they are going to say: That was the moment that Americans were turned against each other, when neighbors turned against each other.

But it is not the end, and it is not always going to be this way. As Michiganders, we understand how to survive bad times by rallying together, by helping one another, by living up to our Midwestern values, and getting back into the fight.

As elected leaders, and certainly as a Senator, I have a responsibility to chart the path through the dark tunnel and into the light, not by just complaining and whinging that it is all bad but by charting a strategy from beginning to end on how we get through this moment.

And we will. For God's sake, people, the Detroit Lions are going to win the National Championship and the Superbowl, and they were in the toilet for years.

So it is my privilege to stand on behalf of my State here. It is the most important thing I have ever done. It is the most impactful thing I will ever do. It is my job, as that next generation of leader, to change the course of this place and this country, and I commit to you I will not let you down.

Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator from Hawaii.

HOUSING

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, when it comes to one of the most basic necessities in life for people—housing—both political parties have failed. Both political parties have failed.

Housing costs more than ever today, with the median home costing five times as much as the median income for your average American. First-time home buyers are fewer and older than ever. One in four renters is being forced to spend more than half of their income on rent, and homelessness is plaguing more people than ever before.

This crisis was not inevitable; it is a problem that the government has created. There is not enough housing in this country because we have made it virtually impossible to build housing. Ask anyone who has tried to build anything—a shed, a patio, an accessory dwelling unit for their in-laws. They will tell you that the moment you try to do something, there are endless procedural hurdles and regulatory barriers that immediately get in the way—exclusionary zoning; minimum lot sizes; height restrictions; requirements for multiple staircases; environmental reviews; dozens of public meetings, where the grouchiest people in your neighborhood can stop the most virtuous project in your neighborhood; extensive permitting paperwork; years-long battles with community organizations and boards. And if you want to expedite your permit, you can pay a permit expediter. If you have 10 grand, they will put your thing on the top of the pile.

Nobody should like this system.

I cannot think of something so essential to American life—housing, whether you rent or you want to own—so essential to American life where the government has created the shortage on purpose, and then it strokes its chin, confused as to why there is a shortage. There is a shortage because of us. There is a shortage because of the government itself making it hard to construct the thing we all say we want.

But the good news is this: If the government got us into this mess in the first place, it can help to get us out. Mainly, that means getting out of our own way and not preventing the very things we say we like.

A lot of progressives in my own party like to say ''We are for housing. We are for clean energy. We are for transit and infrastructure,'' but you can't be for something if you don't want it near you. If you are for housing, you have to see the housing. If you are for clean energy, you are going to see a windmill or wind farm or a nuclear powerplant somewhere.

As we envision a just and sustainable and wealthy country, we have to actually make the things that make us more sustainable and wealthy. There is nothing progressive about preventing a nurse or a firefighter or a teacher or a small business owner from actually living in the community in which they work. There is nothing progressive about making people drive an hour to work or, in Hawaii, forcing people to leave the State.

Lawn sizes and building heights don't make neighborhoods; people do. Yet you will often hear people who oppose new housing say things like: We want to preserve the unique character of the neighborhood.

And this is something that I am embarrassed to say I didn't know until I came to the U.S. Senate. I didn't understand what those words mean and where they came from. They are echoing a dark time in American history of the Jim Crow era. It was a time when communities specifically codified into law language that prohibited Black people and other racial minorities from moving into certain neighborhoods. The racial covenants would literally say:

> No lot covered by this indenture, or any part thereof, shall ever be sold, resold, conveyed, granted, devised, leased or rented to or occupied by, or in any other way used by, any person or persons not of the Caucasian Race.

That is from a covenant in St. Louis from 1949. And there were contracts just like that one in neighborhoods all across the country. Then, racial covenants were outlawed, but their legacy continues today because what happened was the racists, after this was outlawed, figured out a proxy for race. They figured out a way to keep people separated, figured out a way to keep people out of their neighborhoods, figured out a way to make housing more constrained. And that is exclusionary zoning. That is minimum lot sizes. That means you need interior staircases. All of these things that sound virtuous—safety, sanitation, environmental review, historic preservation—all of those things actually matter, but understand that they are being weaponized against the working class. They are being weaponized against the working class.

I am not sure if this is permissible under the rules, but I am looking at a bunch of Senate pages, all 16 years old, trying to figure out: Where am I going to live when I get a job? Do I have to live with my folks and for how long? Am I going to be able to move to a suburb or a city or stay in my hometown? Where am I going to live?

So how do we fix it? First of all, government has a role that is not just getting out of the way. On the financing

side, on the public housing stock side, on vouchers, on section 8, on HUD-VASH, there are lots of programs that work—on the low-income housing tax rate. There are a lot of government things that we do that have helped and can help more.

But the truth is that the throughput capacity of the system is being constrained by the government itself. We could allocate $3 trillion to affordable housing, and if it is still hard to build a house in an individual neighborhood, all that money would get stuck. Actually, the State of California tried that. They allocated an enormous amount of money to housing, and they didn't get very much built.

The county of Maui, many years ago, said: No new housing unless it is affordable—which kind of lands on the ears in a wonderful way, right? No new housing unless it is affordable. Do you know what happened? There was no new housing at all for a full decade.

So we just have to embrace, on the left—the reason I care about this is because I think it is the single most impactful economic policy that we could implement, to make it easier to build housing for working people, for students, for the disabled, for the elderly, for the entrepreneurs, for cities, for towns, for rural neighborhoods. This is important because I care about that.

Now, if you are a conservative, the basic principle is almost even more simple, which is: It is your damn property. You should be permitted to do what you want with your property within certain safety boundaries and all the rest of it.

But if it is your property and you have a quarter of an acre and you want to build an accessory dwelling unit for your kids because they are adults and they just had a baby, you should be allowed to do pretty much whatever you want with your property. But we have inverted the presumption so that it is your neighbors that get to decide what you get to do with your property.

So if you are a private property rights person, you should love the idea of deregulating the housing market. If you are a progressive and you see how much people are struggling right now, you should love the idea of deregulating the housing market.

We need to reform land-use laws for upzoning to allow higher density, reducing minimum lot sizes, deploying manufactured homes, enabling single-room occupancy development wherever multifamily housing is allowed. We know all this works because it is working in certain places.

It is hard to keep any issue out of the partisan crossfire. It really is. It is hard to keep anything out of the partisan crossfire. Everyone retreats to their own corner and starts talking past each other and trying to light the algorithm on fire.

Our ability to come together, use common sense, and find a way forward will affect how people live and succeed for generations to come.

Just this week, Senator BANKS and I introduced legislation to incentivize local governments to build more housing near federally funded transit projects. Senator YOUNG and I introduced the YIMBY Act, the Yes in My Backyard Act, which encourages localities to cut onerous regulations and adopt pro-housing policies.

We can and we do disagree about almost everything, but on this, we should all be able to agree that in the richest country in the history of the world, people should not have to worry about having a roof over their heads. We can fix this, and we must.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NOMINATION OF AARON SZABO

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the Trump corruption of the Environmental Protection Agency continues apace, so I am here today in opposition to the nomination of Aaron Szabo to serve as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation over at EPA.

The Constitution provides the President the power to nominate ministers and officers of the United States and the Senate advice and consent power over his nominees.

I think we probably agree that the Constitution means something, that advice and consent is not a mere rubberstamp. But when a nominee comes before your committee, they should provide straight answers to questions. Well, this nominee dodged our questions and then doubled down with more obfuscation when we gave him a chance to clarify through questions for the record. That alone should be sufficient reason to withhold consent until proper answers are obtained.

This character Szabo is credited by name as a contributor to the EPA chapter of Project 2025, the extremist, rightwing, fossil fuel-funded blueprint for dismantling the Federal Government, which President Trump is now dutifully implementing. Some of the environmental highlights from Project 2025? Weaken the Clean Air Act by reversing the endangerment finding. Purge the Agency and bring to its staff ''trauma.'' In case you aren't keeping score at home, EPA Administrator Zeldin is already hard at work on these.

Szabo was an advisor to the America First Policy Institute—the Trump-aligned think tank funded by fossil fuel and aligned with Big Oil interests. He worked as a lobbyist, pushing the interests of major polluters like members of the American Petroleum Institute. Well, chief on the wish list of his former clients is rescission of the EPA's endangerment finding. That is a 2009 evidence-based determination that greenhouse gases are, in fact, harmful to human welfare and the environment. When that rule was adopted back in 2009, it had actually already been settled scientific fact for decades that greenhouse gases harmed the public and the environment. Now, 16 years later, the evidence has only gotten stronger, and the looming economic dangers of climate collapse have only gotten more evident. The only people who benefit from repealing the endangerment finding are the planet's biggest polluters—Mr. Szabo's former clients.

To me, Mr. Szabo's recent work and professional affiliations should also render him unfit for the role to which he has been nominated. Is this really what we want for the EPA? Is this really how we protect clean air—by helping polluters rule the roost?

It gets worse.

When questioned at his hearing about his ties to Trump's donors' extreme anti-environmental agenda, Szabo provided obfuscatory answers. He acknowledged that he was a contributor to Project 2025, which he could hardly fail to do since his name was on it, but he stated that he kept no records—no records—of his contributions to that effort. He was asked whether he had no records because he never had any or because he had deleted them. He couldn't answer. He bumbled, stumbled, bobbed, weaved, dodged, and, ultimately, refused to answer, although he did concede that some of the advice he had provided was written advice.

Following up with subsequent QFRs on the topic, we got from Mr. Szabo a sudden response, albeit one that does not seem credible, particularly in light of his previous inability to answer the question.

He wrote:

> Like millions of other Americans, I have been the subject of attempts to steal personal information through electronic means. I, like many federal government employees, had their completed Standard Form 86, titled ''Questionnaire for National Security Positions,'' stolen in 2015 that included sensitive information. I periodically delete old messages and documents that are no longer necessary to help ensure privacy and security to my family, those I interact with, and myself.

Seriously? Szabo had plenty of time to provide that response during his confirmation hearing, but he never mentioned anything of the sort. His contribution to the anti-environmental portion of Project 2025 is hard to connect with any issues of family, privacy, and security.

To be clear, this is not entirely about whether you approve or disapprove of Project 2025. What is relevant here is the extreme degree of evasiveness in answering or, more exactly, not answering our questions. Senators are constitutionally obligated to provide advice and consent on the President's nominees. So we should demand better than this in the people we confirm to serve in the most senior positions in our government. The current status of ''dodge 'em'' in our nomination hearings is a disgrace.

Beyond Mr. Szabo's own questionable qualifications and his deceptiveness and his troublesome testimony, we also cannot ignore the full-on corruption of the EPA on behalf of Trump's polluting

fossil fuel donors—corruption well underway. I already mentioned the endangerment finding, but there is more. Proposed deregulatory efforts will make cars dirtier and less fuel-efficient. Why? So Trump's donors in the oil industry can sell more gasoline. They will let powerplants and oil and gas facilities spew more carbon dioxide and methane without limits. Why? So Trump's fossil fuel political donors can sell more oil and gas to those facilities. The EPA is even attempting to shut down the program that keeps track of how much carbon pollution industrial facilities emit.

See no evil. Hear no evil.

The Trump corruption train rolls on, and to allow one of the architects of the EPA section of that fossil fuel-funded Project 2025 free rein to dismantle an office that is so central to the Agency's core mission and to the protection of all our constituents will do nothing to help anyone except the interests of the polluters who fund President Trump and, if I may add, the Republican Party.

I will vote no on his nomination, and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same for a multiplicity of good reasons.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in November, President Trump and the Republicans really received a very powerful mandate from the American people. They wanted to make certain that our border was going to be secured and that we were going to strengthen the economy, get inflation under control, rein in wasteful government spending, get ourselves back on track, and make America great and prosperous and safe and secure once again.

By passing the One Big Beautiful Bill, we delivered on this mandate by securing the largest tax cut in U.S. history, including reduced taxes on tips and overtime, a $6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, and the permanent extension of President Trump's 2017 tax cuts. It also reduces the burden of the death tax for millions, providing critical relief for family-owned businesses and for so many of our Nation's farms and farmers. It bolsters our Armed Forces with a $150 billion increase in military spending. It provides the largest ever investment in border security so that we can, indeed, complete building the wall and also hire new Border Patrol agents and officers. It strengthens Medicaid by rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. It restores fiscal sanity by eliminating hundreds of billions of dollars in far-left spending, and the list goes on and on.

These are all enormous wins for Tennesseans, whom I represent, and, indeed, for all Americans, but our work here in this Chamber is far from over.

At the top of the list, we have the need to confirm President Trump's nominees. The President deserves to have his team in place to enact his agenda, but instead of working with us to carry out the will of the American people, our colleagues across the aisle have chosen to obstruct at any cost. Right now, we have 130 pending—pending—nominations of people who have been through committee. Their paperwork is in, and their questions are answered. All they need is a vote in this Chamber. There is absolutely no reason that we should have this backlog, especially when you look at the importance of these nominations: U.S. ambassadorships to the Vatican, the Netherlands, Chile, Greece, and the European Union; seven Federal judgeships; U.S. attorneys; Under Secretaries for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and the Navy; the Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission. That is just a brief, partial list.

Our Democratic friends are trying to slow down the process on these nominees as much as they possibly can. They lost at the ballot box. They have lost in the Halls of Congress. They have tried the courts, and they have lost in the courts. So obstruction and stalling are what they have left as they try to spite the President.

They might think that they are hurting just the Republicans or just the President, but, you know, what they are doing is hurting the people whom they are elected to represent. Every single day that goes by without these nominees being approved and getting to work on the job means those nominees are not able to work on behalf of the American people. Unfortunately, it is the people who suffer because Agencies are not fully staffed and can't make responses. You have individuals who need help with VA benefits or help with an Agency and an item of concern. At this point, they are understaffed.

With the recent disclosures from DNI Gabbard, we are learning even more about how President Obama and the Democrats manufactured the Russia hoax to try to derail President Trump's first term. I bring this up because their obstruction is nothing new. When they run out of different roadways and different avenues and different opportunities, they have got one thing left. As I have said, they have lost at the ballot box, here in Congress, and they have lost in the courts. So now what they do is try to obstruct.

We know from the documents that have been released concerning the Russia hoax that the Democrats were hard at work on this in 2016 and 2017 with President Trump's first term. For months, far-left activist judges undermined our Constitution by blocking lawful orders from the Trump administration in a brazen effort to decide nationwide policy. Their abuse of power only came to an end when the Supreme Court reined in those Federal district judges and said: No, you have no ability, and you have no right to issue nationwide injunctions.

More recently, we have seen Democrats try their best to obstruct a core part of the ''America First'' agenda, and that is securing our southern border. Americans want our border to be secure, and they want criminal illegal aliens removed from their communities. Across the country, ICE and Border Patrol agents have been hard at work in carrying out this mandate and arresting criminals who have absolutely no right to be here in our country.

Well, the Democrats are working to vilify and undermine our brave Federal law enforcement. We have seen congressional Democrats try to storm ICE facilities, including a House Member who faces Federal charges for assaulting a Federal ICE officer. They have smeared ICE agents who risk their lives to protect our country, comparing them to the secret police and Nazis. They push legislation that would prohibit officers from wearing masks, exposing them and their families to targeted harassment.

This is all happening as ICE officers face an 830-percent surge in assaults. That is correct—an 830-percent increase in assaults. Just this month, far-left criminals ambushed officers at an ICE facility in Texas, shooting one officer in the neck. Three days later, a man sent three people to the hospital after firing dozens of rounds at a separate Border Patrol facility in Texas.

These brave officers deserve our total and undivided support, and the American people deserve to have elected Representatives who protect their interests. That is what Republicans are working to do every single day. They are working to protect our Nation's citizens, and nothing—not even this obstruction that continues every single day by the Democrats—is going to stop us.

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. RICKETTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 81

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. This has been a redline for decades, going back to President Clinton.

The reason is because the results would be catastrophic. It would create an existential threat to our allies and partners in the region, such as Israel. Even worse, it would create a threat to our heroic servicemembers, at a time when Iran and its proxies have already shed blood and have that blood on their hands.

It would trigger a regional arms race, as countries threatened by Iran's persistent malign aggression seek their own nuclear deterrent. And it would lead to an even more assertive and aggressive Iran that would be emboldened

by its perceived security guarantees that come with a nuclear weapon.

That is why Israel's recent military campaign against Iran, which culminated in successful airstrikes ordered by President Trump on Iran's key nuclear facilities, is so important. Iran is now as weak as it has ever been since the 1980s, probably weaker. The strikes have delayed Iran's path to a nuclear weapon by a few years.

But in order to seize this moment, the United States and our allies must impose maximum pressure to the highest extent possible to force Iran to permanently and verifiably end its nuclear program, including its capacity to enrich uranium. This is why the snapback of U.N. sanctions is so important.

Ten years ago, Iran made commitments under JCPOA, including reducing its enriching of uranium and its uranium stockpile, limiting the enrichment of uranium and its centrifuges, and allowing intrusive monitoring. As a result, the U.N. passed U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA.

In exchange for Iran's compliance, it provided for the eventual termination of all previous U.N. sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear program after 10 years. It also sunset U.N. arms restrictions on Iran after 5 years and U.N. prohibitions on Iran's missile and drone activities after 8 years, both of which have now expired.

However, even before the prohibitions ended, Iran was blatantly violating them, sending suicide drones to Russia and weapons of terror to its proxies, like Hamas and the Houthis. These sanctions should not have been allowed to expire in the first place, especially when the price was destruction of European cities and the lives of American citizens threatened by Iranian weapons.

Under 2231, any signatory to the JCPOA—which includes the UK, France, and Germany—can trigger the snapback of these waived sanctions and restrictions if Iran is in ''significant non-performance of [its] commitments under the JCPOA.'' Not only has Iran blatantly violated these commitments, but it has done so repeatedly for 6 years, all without consequences from the U.N.

On top of that, in June, the IAEA, the world's nuclear watchdog, for the first time in two decades, declared that Iran had failed to comply with its IAEA safeguard obligations.

And how did Iran respond? By threatening Director General Grossi and effectively kicking out the IAEA's remaining inspectors and booting them out of the country.

From breaching the cap on its stockpile of uranium and enriching to 60 percent, to expanding its nuclear facilities, Iran has trampled on its obligations under the JCPOA.

So where does that leave us? The West has 87 days before we lose our ability to snap back tough U.N. sanctions on Iran. That opportunity permanently expires on October 18. But the real deadline is much sooner. The snapback process takes at least 30 days to fully complete.

Adding to the urgency, Russia is set to take over as President of the U.N. Security Council in October. This would allow Russia to use its position to delay the process and run out the clock. Iran knows this. Just yesterday, Iran held talks with Russia and communist China to discuss preventing the activation of the snapback. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Our European allies have said that they are prepared to trigger snapback by the end of August if no firm, tangible, and verifiable nuclear commitments from Iran are in place. This is being done in coordination with the Trump administration, which continues to pursue diplomatic talks with Iran.

I commend our allies for setting a deadline; however, this path is under a timeline that leaves little room for error. Unsurprisingly, the Iranian regime is resorting to its longstanding play book to delay, to delay, to delay and prevent snapback from happening.

Later this week, the Iranians are scheduled to meet with the E3 in Istanbul. There are rumors that discussions could center on under what conditions the E3 would postpone the snapback. But today, I stand to urge our European friends to hold the line and not to bend to Iranian threats or be fooled by Iranian assurances.

After 10 years, Iran does not need more time; it needs more pressure. A window now exists to completely change the trajectory of the Middle East for the better, but that window will close unless we convince Iran that its nuclear weapons program will never be tolerated, period. That is why this resolution urges the E3 to snap back sanctions as soon as possible. We must not let Iran off the hook.

At this point, I would certainly love to hear from my esteemed colleague from Idaho.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I thank Senator RICKETTS for those very clear remarks that demonstrate exactly why this needs to be done.

I myself for a long time have hoped to see our European partners wake up to the extreme threat that we all face from a nuclear Iran. Today, we are 10 years on from President Obama's failed nuclear deal with Iran. Over the last 10 years, Iran has enjoyed unwarranted sanctions relief, and time is short before the opportunity expires to snap back sanctions, as has been described by my colleague from Nebraska.

This resolution would make it clear that the U.S. Senate understands the threats we face from a nuclear Iran and urges our UK, French, and German partners to immediately trigger snapback sanctions pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231. We cannot afford to wait until the end of August. Initiating the snapback process would be right and a long-overdue move and would deny Iran the resources it uses for its terror agenda.

The 2015 deal flooded Iran with cash while allowing it low-level enrichment, a clock to simply wait out, no limitations on ballistic missiles, and nothing to rein in terror proxies. Years down the line, the sanctions relief Iran received from this deal directly funded Iran's terror proxies and led to Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

Iran's ejection of the International Atomic Energy Agency from its facilities marked the latest in a long chain of violations of Iran's nuclear commitments. These actions confirmed what we have known all along: The Iran nuclear program is not civilian, as they claim; it is the pursuit of a bomb to destroy Israel and threaten U.S. national security interests in the region.

The international community must not tolerate this activity any longer. The decision to initiate the snapback process is only the beginning. The U.N. Security Council must fully process and formally reinstate U.N. sanctions without delay. Furthermore, once sanctions are back in place, we must commit to their enforcement. Chinese purchases of Iranian oil and illicit oil smuggling through third countries have long violated existing U.N. sanctions. Once U.N. sanctions return, all member countries will have a duty to crack down on this illegal activity.

President Trump has once again instituted a maximum-pressure policy to bring Iran to the negotiating table. I hope our European friends will also take the next step to counter Iran's threat to regional and global security for good. This resolution will communicate with our European friends that it is the intent of this body to do so.

With that, I yield back to Senator RICKETTS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from Idaho's remarks because they are spot-on with regard to what is going on here.

Under previous administrations like the Obama administration and the Biden administration, the strategy was to try to buy off Iran, to try to give them enough money to be our friend. And that is a failed policy. It has been demonstrated to be a failed policy.

Under the Trump administration's first term, where they applied maximum sanctions, they were able to take Iran's foreign reserves down from $122.5 billion to under $14 billion. When that happened, Iran did not have the money to be able to fund terrorist organizations like the Houthis or Hamas or Hezbollah. When the Biden administration came in and opened up the valves for them to get their oil money again, that is when we saw this problem reoccurring.

To my colleague's point, if you look at what is going on, the enrichment

they are doing right now is not for civilian nuclear programs. Mr. President, 23 countries in this world today have civilian nuclear energy programs, and what they do is they get their enriched uranium from other sources; they don't enrich it themselves. This allows them to have a civilian program. This is what Iran needs to go to. They cannot be allowed to have an enrichment program.

Maximum pressure is what works. It has been demonstrated to work in the first Trump administration. The appeasement of the Biden administration only encouraged them to fund terrorism around the world. Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism.

So I believe that the European countries need to snap back these sanctions. This will help us in negotiations with Iran right now. As I mentioned, they are at their weakest state since the 1980s and may be weaker. So we must snap back these sanctions. This resolution will encourage our European allies to do that.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and as if in legislative session, the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 81. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the Ricketts amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, diplomacy cannot be all stick and no carrot. There is no question that the recent U.S. strikes dealt significant damage to Iran's nuclear program. Yet it is still unknown whether the use of military force will induce the Iranians to come to the table. Instead, our attack may lead to the opposite effect—hardening the regime's opposition to U.S. demands. From the perspective of Iran's leader Ayatollah Khamenei, submitting to U.S. demands now would be perceived by Iranians as surrender.

It is unknown yet whether the combined U.S. and Israeli bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities will lead to an end to their nuclear program or a sprint to the completion of a weapon. In fact, our attack on Iran may turn out to be a disaster. It is unknown. It may turn out that it could be the final catalyst for Tehran to double down on an effort to secure a nuclear deterrent to ensure that their country cannot be attacked with impunity again.

Now, we hear from the same voices in the establishment who were adamant that war would be a panacea that the imposition of more sanctions is the solution. The Washington establishment doesn't seem to be familiar with Einstein's famous definition of insanity.

Sanctions have been consistently ineffective at altering Iran's behavior in a manner favorable to U.S. interests. Repeatedly, as we put sanctions on, there has been no change in Iran's behavior.

Sanctions are often counterproductive. Sanctions immiserate the civilian population to such an extent that they rally around the regime in opposition to foreign interference. Some in this body maintain that sanctions will prompt the Iranian people to rise up and overthrow the despotic regime that rules over them. That would be great, but history suggests otherwise. Instead, we may stoke the flames of nationalism by directing the ire of the people away from the Ayatollah and toward the United States.

Additionally, this resolution's purpose—to urge the United Kingdom, France, and Germany to invoke sanctions—is rich given that it was the United States that unilaterally withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. So it is a bit inconsistent for us to be arguing that Europe should by all means apply and adhere to the JCPOA which we no longer participate in. If the United States is no longer a member of the JCPOA, what gives Washington the right to advise those who remain in it to invoke certain mechanisms within the agreement?

Washington's determination to worsen relations with Iran risks further military confrontation and diverts finite U.S. resources from other more pressing domestic and international concerns. That is why I am offering a substitute amendment to S. Res. 81 that makes clear the futility of sanctions and the needless risk of further escalation.

My amendment leaves room for President Trump to fund a diplomatic solution. It resolves that the United States supports the deescalation of tensions between the United States and Iran, affirms that stable relations with Iran are in the United States' national interest, seeks a peaceful resolution to concerns regarding Iran's nuclear program, and urges the Trump administration to prioritize diplomacy with Iran over further war. Prudent diplomacy requires tact and respect.

Instead of adopting the same tried-and-failed policies of the past, let us today have the courage to forge a new path. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Therefore, I ask the Senator to modify his request to include my amendments to the resolution and preamble, which are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Nebraska so modify his request?

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my esteemed colleague from Kentucky has argued that we should pursue diplomacy, and, indeed, the Trump administration is pursuing diplomacy. However, the path he is arguing for right now was tried by the last administration and failed miserably.

What Iran respects is strength. While we are certainly not advocating regime change, what we are advocating is the use of policies that were effective in the first Trump administration. As I stated already, in the first Trump administration, by applying maximum pressure, the Trump administration was able to take Iran's foreign reserves down from $122.5 billion to under $14 billion. They may have had the desire to fund terrorism, but they did not have the ability to fund terrorism.

That is what these sanctions would continue to do, is put pressure on Iran. We may not be able to change the regime, but we can make them poor so they cannot fund terrorism.

Yes, by all means, we should continue diplomacy, but we should do it from a position of strength, which is why we are encouraging the European nations of France, Germany, and the UK to snap back those sanctions, to give us that strength going into these negotiations to convince Iran that there is no path for them to have a nuclear weapon. They must give up that plan; they must give up their enrichment.

Therefore, I will not modify my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection to the modification is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request from the Senator from Nebraska?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

NOMINATION OF ZACHARY BLUESTONE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Zachary Bluestone to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

I will vote in opposition to Mr. Bluestone's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. There are several reasons why I cannot support his nomination.

Mr. Bluestone graduated from law school 9 years ago and has only been practicing law for 7 years. This is fewer years of experience than any of the 235 judicial nominees confirmed during the Biden administration. Luckily for him, the Justice Department under Attorney General Bondi now refuses to provide the American Bar Association with materials or access to the nominees for evaluation. The ABA stated that it could not issue a rating based on receiving insufficient information to evaluate Mr. Bluestone's qualifications.

But it is obvious what they would have said had they been able to look at Mr. Bluestone's record in full: He does not have the experience necessary to handle the demands of the Federal bench.

This is not my only concern, however. Mr. Bluestone is yet another one of President Trump nominees who continues to perpetuate the ''Big Lie'' that the 2020 election was stolen.

In answers to written questions, Mr. Bluestone refused to admit that President Biden won the 2020 election, but he had no issue agreeing that President Trump won the 2016 and 2024 elections. The only reason is that Mr. Bluestone is loyal to President Trump, not the Constitution, nor the rule of law.

As such, I will vote against Mr. Bluestone's confirmation. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I notice no further debate on the nomination. I request we move to the vote.

VOTE ON BLUESTONE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bluestone nomination?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 430 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Boozman	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
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	McConnell	Mullin
Cruz		

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 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. 50, Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted.

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 Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 431 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Moreno
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Budd	Hawley	Risch
Capito	Hoeven	Rounds
Cassidy	Husted	Schmitt
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Justice	Sheehy
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Curtis	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Gallego	Luján
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markey
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Murphy
Booker	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Ossoff
Coons	Kaine	Padilla
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Peters
Duckworth	Kim	Reed
Durbin	King	Rosen
Sanders	Slotkin	Warren
Schatz	Smith	Welch
Schiff	Van Hollen	Whitehouse
Schumer	Warner	Wyden
Shaheen	Warnock	

NOT VOTING—5

Britt	Mullin	Paul
McConnell	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 48, the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Louisiana.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly about two subjects. They are different. They are both important, but they are different.

Let me start with the reconciliation bill, which President Trump and others called the One Big Beautiful Bill. I continue to go through the bill, and every time I do, I am impressed.

This is a breathtaking bill in the sense that it covers so many subjects. I think each of us could spend hours talking about this bill. I will just hit the highlights. This is one of the most far-reaching pieces of legislation that this body will ever pass.

We extended the 2017 tax cuts—no small feat in itself. Had we not done that, the American people would have suffered under a $4.3 trillion tax increase. So we stopped that tax increase.

Some of my friends and colleagues talk about, well, all you did was stop the tax increase on billionaires.

That is nonsense. That is nonsense on a stick. Unless your soup of the day is gin, you know that that is a lie.

Half of that tax increase would have hit working men and working women and working families in this country. The other half would have hit our small businesses, and, yes, some of our large businesses. We stopped that.

We made some of those tax cuts permanent. We cut taxes on tips. In this bill, we cut taxes on overtime. We cut taxes on Social Security. We cut taxes on car loans. We expanded a tax credit for childcare to help moms and dads pay for the childcare so they can work. We increased the child tax credit. We increased the standard deduction, and that is going to take effect immediately.

We funded school choice. For years and years and years, I have tried—we all have tried, many of us have tried—to provide the American people—moms and dads—with school choice. This bill did it. I went to a public school. I am proud of that. But competition makes all of us better. I can go to my overpriced Capitol Hill apartment or Capitol Hill grocery store and choose from

six or seven types of mayonnaise. Why shouldn't we give parents—moms and dads—choices for their kids' education? We are doing that with the school choice portion of this bill.

We increase money for the border, and we increase money for defense.

We also address the problem in Medicaid. And I have been very disappointed because some commentators have said that we are going to throw off from the Medicaid rolls, I have read, anywhere from 10 to 12 million people. The implication in some of these articles and some of these comments is that we are just going to look at the Medicaid rolls and go through and say: You are gone. We can't afford you.

That is not what this bill does. The first thing you have to realize is that, actually, Medicaid is not going to be cut at all under this bill. Under our bill that we just passed, our spending on Medicaid over the next 10 years is going to go up 20 percent, so nobody is cutting Medicaid.

There are some people, as a result of the new provisions that we have put into law, who will no longer be eligible for Medicaid and will no longer get Medicaid. But they weren't entitled to get it in the first place. So when you say: Well, you are throwing people off of Medicaid—they weren't entitled to it in the first place. You are not entitled to Medicaid if you are making $200,000 a year and you didn't tell the truth when you signed up for Medicaid in your State and your State didn't verify your status.

But let me give you one example. CMS just put out a report. Our bill is going to change the law so that 2.8 million Americans—the CBO says, like, we are throwing 10 or 12 million Americans off of Medicaid. I will just give you this one example: 2.8 million of those Americans who will lose Medicaid are doubledippers. They signed up twice. We have 1.2 million people on the Medicaid rolls who are signed up in two States, and the American taxpayer is paying twice.

As you know, Mr. President, well—you were a great Governor; you were a Governor and a damn good one—most States use managed care, and they pay per Medicaid person. So if a State is paying, let's say—I will pick a number—$8,000 per Medicaid patient per year to the healthcare organization to provide their care, and that person is signed up in two States, they are doubledipping, and it is costing the American taxpayer two $8,000 payments a year. That is cheating. So from one perspective, you are throwing these people off of Medicaid—they weren't entitled to doubledip in the first place.

CMS also came out with a report. By ''CMS,'' I mean the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is the Federal Agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid. CMS has also found that there are 1.6 million people who are on Medicaid today who are receiving both Medicaid and ObamaCare.

Well, what is ObamaCare? I will refresh everyone's memory.

Medicaid is supposed to be for the poor and disabled, and Medicare is for the elderly, and a lot of other Americans have health insurance through their job. But there are a certain number of Americans who don't have health insurance because they are not old enough for Medicare, they are not poor enough for Medicaid, and maybe their employer doesn't offer health insurance. So they can go to an exchange—we call them the ObamaCare exchange—and buy health insurance.

Now, President Obama and some of my colleagues—I wasn't here then, but when we passed the ObamaCare, the ObamaCare exchanges, the Affordable Care Act, we were told that health insurance would be cheaper, and we were told it would be more accessible. It has been neither. We were also told if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. That wasn't true either.

But the point is that we have a number of Americans who, if they don't qualify for Medicare, they don't qualify for Medicaid, they don't get insurance through their employer, they go to the ObamaCare exchanges. CMS found we have got 1.6 million people who are getting both health insurance through the ObamaCare exchanges—which we subsidize, taxpayers do—and through Medicaid. That is called doubledipping. It is illegal.

CBO can put out all the reports that they want to saying: Oh, you are throwing all these people off Medicaid. And technically, they are right, but they are not eligible to be on Medicaid. I just gave you an example, 2.8 million people who are doubledipping. It is illegal to doubledip. It is immoral to doubledip. It is unfair to taxpayers to doubledip. All our bill does is say you can't doubledip. Cheating is wrong.

Is that throwing people off of Medicaid? Technically, yes. But, once again, as the other provisions in this bill also do, we are taking people off Medicaid who weren't eligible for it in the first place.

As a result of these 2.8 million people, I think CMS—I am looking for their figure. I think it cost the American taxpayer, because of these 2.8 million folks who are doubledipping, $14 billion a year—$14 billion a year over a 10-year window, which is the horizon that we use. That is $140 billion that we are going to save, and that savings is going to go back into Medicaid to make it even stronger.

That is just one example of how much of—not much, but—well, yes, much of the reporting on our bill is misleading.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY GRAHAM

Mr. President, the second thing I want to talk about: I just want to briefly thank Jimmy Graham.

Who is Jimmy Graham? I know the Presiding Officer knows who Jimmy Graham is. He was one of the best tight ends who ever played the game.

Now, he was a New Orleans Saint I think for six, seven seasons. He played elsewhere. I looked it up. He played for the Seahawks. He played for the Packers. He played for the Bears. But he was a total beast in the best sense of the word playing for the New Orleans Saints.

And he has retired. After 13 years in the NFL, Jimmy has decided to retire. He was a big boy; he is a big boy. But he started out as a basketball player. He didn't play football; he played basketball. And he transformed himself.

The numbers that Jimmy put up are just out of this world. They are otherworldly. He is clearly one of the most prolific pass-catching tight ends in the history of the game. As the Presiding Officer knows, many tight ends just block. That is their job. Jimmy not only blocked, but he caught passes. And he caught a bunch of them.

He is No. 7 in NFL history in receptions at 719. He ranks No. 8 in receiving yards at 8,545. He ranks 4th in touchdowns at 89.

When he was with the Saints—I was looking at this, this afternoon—in 6 seasons, Jimmy Graham caught 392 passes for 4,791 yards and 55 touchdowns. And he was a tight end. He was a tight end. His first job was to block. He also caught a few balls.

And he gave my people from Louisiana a lot of joy at the time they really needed it, and I just wanted to thank Mr. Graham for the joy that he brought to anybody and everybody who watched him play football but especially when he played for the New Orleans Saints. And I want to wish him well, and I want him to end on some good news tonight.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his attention.

I will yield to my colleague or colleagues if they would like to speak.

I will yield to my legal-eagle friend Senator BLUMENTHAL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here with a number of colleagues on probably one of the most important decisions we are going to make with respect to the future of justice in America: the nomination of Emil Bove to be a judge on the court of appeals for the Third Circuit, the second highest panel in our judiciary.

And he is about as unfit and unqualified as any judicial nominee to come before this body in my 15 years here. And I say that with sadness as well as anger, as someone who still proudly would call myself a litigator, a trial lawyer, and a member of the Judiciary Committee, where I am proud to serve with my great colleague, the ranking member now, Senator DURBIN.

And he and others from that committee will come before us tonight. We are here not only on the merits of Mr. Bove but also because we were denied an opportunity in the committee to present fairly and fully our case against Mr. Bove based on the record, and we were denied an opportunity to

elicit from the Department of Justice and the administration the facts that are necessary to evaluate his nomination.

We were denied the opportunity to have a whistleblower come before the committee, a whistleblower who bravely came forward with facts showing how Mr. Bove suggested—indeed, urged—that lawful court orders be disobeyed; that the Department of Justice ought to tell the courts to eff themselves.

We were denied access to an Office of Professional Responsibility investigation bearing on this nomination: an OPR inquiry into the failure of the team supervised by Mr. Bove to divulge to the defense exculpatory evidence, as they were obligated to do, during a prosecution when he was an assistant U.S. attorney.

And Mr. Bove himself, in the hearing that we conducted, was evasive, obfuscating. He refused point-blank to answer relevant questions.

One of my colleagues, Senator WHITEHOUSE, who will be here tonight, characterized it as the ''deliberative process privilege.'' There is no deliberative process privilege, and Mr. Bove had no right to refuse to answer our questions about what he has done in his role during the first 6 months of this administration.

The fact is, he has been involved in a pattern of lawlessness and recklessness, a violation of individual rights and liberties, a pattern of corruption unprecedented in the history of the U.S. Department of Justice. And he has been integral to it, participating actively in it.

We have opposed other nominees because we disagree with their judicial philosophy. We have opposed them because they were out of the mainstream; they were ideologues with an ax to grind that was potentially detrimental to rights and liberties.

Mr. Bove is in a different category. Yes, he is conservative. He is out of the mainstream. But he is corrupt. He is dangerous, vindictive, and revengeful in a way that this administration has made a pattern of doing.

So I am here to urge my colleagues to stand with us and oppose this nomination. I know the strong dynamic—we have seen it again and again and again, no matter how many doubts my colleagues may have—to toe the line in thrall of President Trump or in fear of him. But the record here speaks powerfully—or it should—to our conscience and conviction.

This nominee epitomizes the Trump demand for loyalty and fealty above all else to him, a sense that he has the power to do what no ordinary American can expect from judges or from prosecutors; that they will, in effect, rig the system in his favor, as Mr. Bove has done while representing, supposedly, the Department of Justice because he was—like Pam Bondi and others who have taken senior positions—a lawyer, in fact, for President Trump, his personal lawyer, defending him against claims in his personal capacity before he took this role in the Department of Justice.

A lot has been made of Mr. Bove's role in dismissing the case against Eric Adams, the mayor of New York. I am not going to go through all the details except to say that Danielle Sassoon refused to make the argument in favor of dismissing those charges in exchange for concessions on immigration policy. She said it was ''an improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for a dismissal.''

The lead prosecutor on the Adams case resigned rather than take Mr. Bove's order, and he, too, said that it would be a violation of conscience and conviction and that anyone ''who is enough of a fool, or enough of a coward, to file your motion'' should not do so.

The judge indicates ''everything here smacks of a bargain: dismissal of the indictment in exchange for immigration policy concessions.'' He called Mr. Bove's position ''fundamentally incompatible with the basic promise of equal justice under law''—a quid pro quo deal. But Mr. Bove said it was fine.

Even more disgracefully, he said a court cannot review, at all, a dismissal of this kind. This attitude toward the law alone should disqualify him, but he went further in a March meeting, according to the whistleblower. He said, essentially, that lawful court orders shouldn't be obeyed. That is the nominee for a judgeship saying that judges ought to be defied.

He should not be under consideration for this lifetime appointment for these reasons and others that my colleagues who are coming to the floor tonight will describe in detail. The short-circuiting and straitjacketing of the consideration of Mr. Bove will be a stain on the U.S. Senate. And make no mistake, we will rue the day—my colleagues will—if they vote for this nominee.

And we should not in any way turn a blind eye toward the other nominees that will be before us for the district court: Josh Divine, Maria Lanahan, Jordan Pratt—all nominated to serve as district court judges on the Federal bench. They have made careers of crusading against reproductive rights.

Judge Pratt wrote an amicus brief supporting Florida's 15-week abortion ban. He called the procedure ''barbaric'' and ''one of the most severe invasions of personal rights imaginable.''

Judge Pratt went so far as to raise questions not put before the court by parties and invite the Florida attorney general to intervene and weigh in on these questions.

He wrote an opinion holding unconstitutional a Florida law that allows minors to seek abortions without parental consent through judicial waivers. The case didn't require a court to rule on the law's constitutionality, but Judge Pratt took it upon himself to do so.

And Mr. Divine led and Ms. Lanahan worked on Missouri's legal challenge against mifepristone. The science is clear: Mifepristone is safe. Yet Mr. Divine and Ms. Lanahan didn't hesitate—not at all—to challenge its approval. And their court filing cited two research studies, mere weeks after he filed the complaint, that were retracted due to a lack of scientific rigor, problematic methodology, and undisclosed bias.

Edward Artau, nominated for the Southern District of Florida—the ethical lapses on his part were undeniable when he failed to recognize the obvious conflict and recuse himself from his involvement in a case involving the President at a time when he potentially was under consideration for a nomination.

These nominations are unqualified. They have revealed themselves to be incapable to meet basic standards of ethical conduct, judicial independence, and, if confirmed, they would extend the administration, in its reach into the courts, in effect, cosigning the President's most destructive and dangerous impulses, regardless of legality.

I urge my colleagues to join us in opposing these nominees. Mr. Bove should not be before this body, and I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance of standing strong and speaking out and voting against his nomination and the others that have been made.

Mr. President, I yield to the senior Senator from Illinois, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, our great colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first, I thank the Senator from Connecticut Senator BLUMENTHAL. He brings a level of expertise and experience to the Judiciary Committee and the Senate that is really unmatched. He has been a friend and a faithful participant in this process and in all the time I have served with him. I thank him for bringing us together this evening.

Mr. President, last Friday, I was in Chicago for the formal ceremonial investiture of a new Federal district court judge named April Perry.

April Perry has an interesting story that brought her to the bench. The story starts with her nomination to serve as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, which includes the city of Chicago. She was extremely well-qualified for that position and went through the Judiciary Committee—at the time, I was chairing it—and went through without a hitch. She was approved and on the list of U.S. attorneys.

Now, historically, U.S. attorneys were chosen by voice vote. When President Trump was in his first term in office, I believe he had around 90 U.S. attorneys spread all across the United States, and all but one, perhaps—I am trying to make sure I am accurate here—all but one was approved by voice vote.

Now, look at what happens: To bring a U.S. attorney before us is a much different process today.

What happened?

The Democrats gave President Trump all of his U.S. attorney nominees in his first term, with perhaps one exception, by voice vote. Now, it goes through an elaborate, time-consuming process. What happened?

The Vice President of the United States happened.

Vice President JD VANCE, from the State of Ohio, decided to come to the floor during the Biden administration, after we had approved 63 U.S. attorneys, and to object to a voice vote. Now, he said, we are going to go through the regular process. I don't like the way the Department of Justice has treated the former President—at the time, Donald Trump. So we are going to insist you dot all the i's and cross all the t's and go through the process and take several days on each one of the U.S. attorney nominees.

He made that decision after 63 had been approved under Biden, and he made it when April Perry was pending. This was her chance—the Northern District of Illinois—and JD VANCE said: No, not the ordinary process, not a voice vote. We are going to take our time.

He applied the standard not just to my U.S. attorney in Illinois but to his own U.S. attorney in Cleveland, OH. He was resolute: We are going to stop the way this has been done in the past.

That was literally the end of the consideration of U.S. attorneys under Joe Biden. If that was his goal—JD VANCE's goal, the Vice President's goal—he achieved it.

So what happened next to April Perry, a wonderfully qualified nominee running for U.S. attorney? Well, we sat down and decided that we didn't want to waste that talent. I went to her and said: Would you consider the vacancy for U.S. district court that is open now? You have gone through the vetting. You have gone through the background checks. The FBI has asked all the hard questions. They interviewed all the attorneys you have worked with. Everyone finds you acceptable. Would you consider the Federal bench?

And she said: Yes.

And she was approved. We had her formal investiture this last Friday.

Those are happy occasions, and there aren't many of them, I am sure, in the Federal courthouse—at least not of this caliber.

District Court Judge Virginia Kendall, who is the presiding judge over the Northern District, called together her colleagues to witness this investiture, this happy day for a judge, April Perry. She brought in about 30 Federal district court judges from the Northern District and a number from the ninth district—or the seventh district—of the appellate court. And it dawned on me, as I attended this ceremony for April Perry, that this has turned out to be an important part of my Senate career.

If you would have asked me when I ran for the Senate, ''What about the appointment of judges?'' I would have said, ''Well, that is fairly routine.'' It turns out it is not. It is more than routine. It is one of the more important things you do because the men and women chosen to serve in the Federal court system, article III judges, are appointed for life—for life. To remove them, you have to go through an impeachment through Congress to remove a Federal court judge. That is how important it is. That is how permanent it is—the permanent nature of it—and that is why each selection makes a difference.

I looked at the 30 or so judges that gathered and realized I had a hand in appointing every single one of them and many others too.

And so you go through that process a number of times and you learn. I look back now on all of the district court judges that I have had a hand in choosing, and, I will tell you, for two or three, it was a mistake. If I had it to do over again, I would have asked more questions, and I would have had more information on those who were chosen. But that is over a span of 29 years—two to three. Those who were approved, dozens of others, have really done well, and they have been praised for the job that they did.

So when I was chairman of this committee—fortunate to have that opportunity—we approved, in a 4-year period of time, a record number of Federal court judges: 235.

President Trump, in his first term, had done 234. We passed him by one court judge, and I am proud of that because it was a lot of hard work.

In order to report a judge out of the Judiciary Committee, every single Democrat had to be in their seats for every minute of the vote. There was no proxy. You had to be there. And they showed up, and Senator BLUMENTHAL was one of those. Senator WELCH, who has joined us now, was in the Judiciary Committee. And I salute that.

Now, under the second term of President Trump, the rules are changing. They weren't very good in the first round, and they are worse now.

The first Trump administration put forward some of the most extreme judicial nominees ever considered by the Senate. Several Trump nominees had little or no experience in a courtroom—no litigation experience.

Would you hire a lawyer to take your case to trial if they had never been in a trial in their lives?

Three district court nominees—Kathryn Mizelle, Justin Walker, and Sarah Pitlyk won unanimous support from committee Republicans, despite having never tried a case.

Imagine you are going in a courtroom, you are presiding over a trial, and you have never seen one; you have never been in one. You may have seen one on television. You keep looking for Perry Mason and are wondering what is next.

That, unfortunately, was the reality with many of these nominees in Trump's first term. Many Trump nominees took some unusual—if not controversial, if not plain—wrong decisions.

Lawrence VanDyke was a Ninth Circuit nominee. We asked him to affirm that he would be fair—that he would be fair to LGBTQ individuals. He wouldn't say it. He just couldn't get the words out of his mouth.

Michael Truncale, an Eastern District of Texas nominee, said of President Obama that he was an ''un-American imposter.'' Those are the words of this man seeking the Federal bench about the former President. He said he would ''bow to Arab sheiks and other world leaders.''

Where did you find that nominee?

The first Trump administration put forward—get this now—10 judicial nominees whom the American Bar Association found to be ''not qualified'' to serve on the Federal bench—10 of them.

Well, what does the American Bar Association have to do with this?

Historically, the American Bar Association did its own background check on nominees for the Federal bench. Where would they go? Well, they would go in the community. They would go to the judges that this person has appeared before. They would go to their fellow attorneys. They would try to find character references, and they would dig deep.

They had some basic rules. You had to have 10 years of experience as an attorney to even be considered for the Federal bench, and then they rated people ''qualified,'' ''not qualified,'' ''well qualified,'' and such.

Over the strong objections of Senate Democrats, eight of the ''unqualified'' nominees proposed by President Trump, in his first term, were confirmed by Senate Republicans. So even when the American Bar Association says you are ''unqualified'' to serve on the bench, it didn't discourage the loyalists supporting President Trump.

Incidentally, under the Biden administration, 235 Federal judges—how many of them, DURBIN—give us the truth here. How many of them were found ''unqualified''? None. Every one of the 235 were found ''qualified'' by the American Bar Association.

As the former chairman of the committee said, ''Elections have consequences,'' and I get it. So I understand that the second Trump administration is going to offer nominees closer to him in political philosophy. But President Trump seems intent on outdoing himself by putting forth nominees who are extreme, partisan, and fundamentally unqualified.

Instead of finding more qualified judicial nominees, Attorney General Bondi ordered the Justice Department to stop cooperating with the American Bar Association in rating nominees. She didn't want to run into the embarrassment that they did in the first Trump term, with 10 of them being found ''unqualified.''

So she said: The way to solve that problem is not to find a better nominee; it is to get rid of the American Bar Association. If they are not going to give grade to these nominees, we don't have to worry about them being ''unqualified.''

She overturned the practice that had been in place for nearly 70 years, going back to a fellow named Dwight David Eisenhower. Both Republican and Democratic Presidents have followed the rule. But, now, the only qualification President Trump looks for in his judicial nominees—and he says as much—is loyalty: Show me loyalty or get the heck off the bench.

Look no further than Emil Bove's nomination to the Third Circuit. As a senior official in the Justice Department, Mr. Bove has done nothing but cater to President Trump's every whim. It is no surprise that President Trump said he nominated Mr. Bove because he said he will ''do anything that is necessary to make America great again.''

For life—judge for life—show me loyalty, and you have got a position for life.

Mr. Bove personally ordered the termination of Federal prosecutors who put violent January 6 rioters in prison.

Understand what happened here. Men and women, professional attorneys working for the Department of Justice, were given assignments: We have a case we want you to pursue and prosecute. It is this individual. Here is the FBI background file. Go to work.

It turns out that these people who once had stormed through that door and went rifling through our desks and aped for photographs, sitting in your chair, Mr. President, on January 6—as a result of their entering this building, 5 Capitol policemen died, and 140 were assaulted.

Should they have been prosecuted? You bet. Beat up on a cop, and you should face the consequences. And they did it, on January 6, in the name of stopping the election the American people had been involved in just weeks before.

I was here, sitting in this chair, as the head of the Capitol Police stood where you are sitting, Mr. President, and told us all: Stay calm. Stay in your chairs. We are going to stay in this room. This is a safe room.

He just said: Stay in your seats.

They grabbed Vice President Pence, took him right out that door, and spirited him off somewhere. But they left us here.

Ten minutes later, the same policeman stood up and said: New announcement. Leave as quickly as possible. We cannot keep this room secure.

The Senate of the United States of America—the Capitol of the United States of America—was being run over by demonstrators and insurrectionists. They were beating up on the police, smashing their heads into the wall and between the door.

They were ultimately prosecuted for it. The prosecutors, the assistant U.S. attorneys who were doing this job, were treated in what way by President Trump when he got back in office? They were treated like they were the ones who broke the law. The prosecutors were accused of wrongdoing.

Well, it, unfortunately, is, in the words of Mr. Bove, a ''grave national injustice,'' he thinks it is, to prosecute these demonstrators. He is wrong.

Grave injustice is what happened to the police on that day. When asked to justify his actions in firing these U.S. attorneys who prosecuted these insurrectionists, Mr. Bove claimed ''heavy-handed tactics'' by prosecutors were ''equally unacceptable'' as physical violence against law enforcement. That is an outrageous and offensive statement by a man who wants to be a Federal judge for life at the second highest court in the land.

Since January 7, 2021, there has been an effort by the MAGA faithful to rewrite the history of January 6, but I witnessed it, and many others did as well.

The truth is this: The U.S. Capitol was violently attacked by insurrectionists intent on overturning the 2020 election results.

The truth is this: Five police officers died, and more than 140 were injured protecting this building, staff, the visitors, and Members of Congress.

Mr. Bove also led the Justice Department's efforts to strike a corrupt bargain with New York City mayor Eric Adams. This is an outrage, what he did. Mr. Bove stated that the charges would be dropped against Mayor Adams without prejudice so that Adams could ''devote full attention and resources to . . . illegal immigration and violent crime.'' In other words, President Trump needed Mayor Adams to do his bidding on his deportation policy.

In response, two staunch conservatives resigned from the Justice Department—Trump-appointed, interim U.S. attorney Danielle Sassoon and lead prosecutor Hagan Scotten.

Mr. Scotten wrote to Mr. Bove a quote that will be famous for a long, long time. Mr. BLUMENTHAL repeated it, but I want to say it as well. Mr. Scotten wrote to Mr. Bove, who wants a lifetime appointment to the bench, and said:

> I expect you will eventually find someone who is enough of a fool, or enough of a coward, to file your motion. But it was never going to be me.

I don't know Mr. Scotten, but I will tell you, his words are persuasive and compelling.

If that wasn't enough, Mr. Bove showed utter disdain for our courts. A whistleblower stepped forward, gave his name, and risked his future to tell us what Mr. Bove had told to the attorneys working on the case against the insurrectionists. According to this credible whistleblower, who provided ample documentation to back up his claims, Mr. Bove told the Department of Justice attorneys that they might need to say ''f you'' to Federal courts that issue orders this administration doesn't agree with. That is the most dangerous comment that a person in a position of authority could make in the executive branch, that they will ignore the court orders that are issued against them.

Yesterday, the Senate confirmed Joshua Divine to the Federal bench—34 years old, received his law degree 9 years ago, litigated for 5 years. And beyond his troubling lack of experience, he has taken some extreme positions.

He calls himself a zealot. He calls himself a zealot when it comes to anti-choice. This zealotry has been on full display in his role as the Missouri solicitor general. He has challenged women's ability in his State to access the abortion drug mifepristone and has undermined the decision of Missouri voters to codify abortion access in their State constitution.

Also deeply troubling, Mr. Divine argued in favor of literacy tests at the ballot box, saying that people who ''aren't informed about issues or platforms . . . have no business voting.'' Where does that come from in America? Literacy tests. Where does that come from? It comes from the era of Jim Crow.

After the Civil War, when African Americans were given citizenship and an opportunity to vote, they were intimidated in many States when they tried to. They had to answer questions: How many bubbles in a bar of soap? What do letters of marque and reprisal mean in the Constitution?

Those are impossible questions for anyone, including the lawyers and Members of Congress, and yet off they went. Why did they do it? To discriminate against Black voters. Well, it turns out Mr. Divine believes that literacy tests should be restored.

It shouldn't be controversial for anyone to say that nominee has disqualified himself. The fact that the body confirmed Mr. Divine is outrageous.

These nominees are just the tip of the iceberg. President Trump is going to continue to nominate extreme and unqualified individuals unless the Senate takes a stand.

If a few of the Senators—I am not going to name names—who made statements about principles and values will stand by their own words when it comes to the orders of the court, then they will join us on a bipartisan basis to stop these clearly unqualified individuals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against Mr. Bove and all future nominees whose only loyalty is to the President and not the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to Emil Bove's nomination to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Bove is unqualified, unfit, and undermines public trust in our justice system. Every report makes one thing clear: He puts politics

over justice, loyalty to Donald Trump above all else. We cannot give someone like that a lifetime appointment.

I rise because more than 9 million people that I represent—the people of New Jersey—fall under the jurisdiction of the Third Circuit. This nomination has a direct impact on their lives, their futures, and their rights. The people of New Jersey deserve better. They have had enough of corruption and political gamesmanship and what we see so clearly to be a system rigged for the well-connected and the well-off.

Let me explain why this matters. In times when so many feel the system is working against them, courts serve as a critical check on unchecked power. Judges matter because their decisions expand or restrict basic rights. They shape the fate of immigrants seeking a better life, influence our economy, and they determine our safety and future.

The courts should reflect the promise of America—a nation where the rules apply equally no matter your wealth or connections, where fairness guides justice. Emil Bove represents the opposite. He is part of a broken system where loyalty to politics and political power trumps fairness and the law, where connections and corruption undermine justice.

Mr. Bove's resume includes work as an assistant U.S. attorney, prestigious clerkships, experience in some of the world's most powerful law firms, but that is not why he was nominated. He was chosen for one singular reason, which is his unwavering loyalty to Donald Trump.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bove has shown he is ethically unfit to be a public servant. He fired career prosecutors, including those working on January 6 investigations, simply because they would not follow politically motivated orders. He openly instructed subordinates to defy court rulings to continue deporting people without due process and threatened, fired, and publicly disparaged those who refused. This is not public service; this is corruption disguised as loyalty.

The pillars of our judicial system are objectivity and independence. They ensure that justice is blind to politics. But Mr. Bove has shown contempt for those pillars.

Over 900 former DOJ attorneys have signed a letter urging this Senate to reject his nomination, calling him unfit and unethical.

The Department of Justice must stand for law, not partisan agendas. And now we are asked to trust a nominee who has proven willing to defy the law and undermine the courts themselves. The answer must be no.

Let me address a particularly troubling experience that underscores the corruption that Mr. Bove represents when he sought to dismiss the case regarding New York Mayor Adams. This is not just politics as usual; this is corruption that threatens the integrity of the very justice system Mr. Bove seeks to join, the kind of dealmaking, backroom, political gamesmanship that the people of New Jersey are sick and tired of. And I say this not just as a Senator but as someone who challenged New Jersey's political status quo in Federal district court and ultimately before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, this very court.

Approving this nomination sends a message that corruption and loyalty to power trumps qualifications and fairness. That is not the future I want for my children, my State, or this country.

It doesn't have to be this way. That future is in the hands of this very body, the U.S. Senate. New Jersey and this country deserve better than Emil Bove. America deserves a justice system it can trust.

Let us vote no on Bove's nomination to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I oppose the appointment of Emil Bove to serve on the Federal court.

You know, there are two issues. One for any judge is temperament—absolutely essential—where that judge has to step back and not be partisan, has to be fair to all litigants. Emil Bove totally lacks the temperament to serve on the Federal judiciary under any President, under any administration.

In 2018, the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of New York sent a letter to the Southern District leadership detailing incredibly detailed complaints from fellow defense attorneys about Bove. These are people that worked with him in a professional capacity. This was before Bove was the political figure that he has become. They described him gratuitously as a person who was vindictive, a prosecutor version of a drunk driver, and needing adult supervision. It was because of his conduct towards the people he was working with in the judicial system.

The reality that we all know is that in the judicial system, fierce as you may be as a prosecutor, determined as you may be as a defense attorney, impartial as you want to be as a judge, everyone has to cooperate to do their job, not interfere with others, and to be supportive of those who are doing the work with you—your fellow prosecutors, your fellow defense attorneys. Bove couldn't do that. He does not have the temperament to serve in a high judicial position.

Second and really most importantly, Bove does not have respect for the rule of law.

If you are in a litigation situation, as prosecutors are, as trial attorneys are, as public defense attorneys are, you have an obligation to serve your client fiercely, energetically. But what you have as a shared responsibility, no matter which role you have in the litigation process, the judicial process, is a respect for the rule of law and an obligation to act in accordance with the ethics that apply to you in your service.

On June 24, Erez Reuveni, who was a well-respected supervisor—and this is about the Bove character—who had defended Trump's policies in his first administration—this is a person who was supportive of many of the policies that then-President Trump was advocating. He came forward with a very credible whistleblower claim that Bove advocated for violating court orders.

Bove reportedly said that the Department of Justice should be prepared to tell courts whose decisions they did not like to ''f off.'' He said that, and he meant it. That is the truth. And that was gratuitous but very reflective of the orientation that Mr. Bove has towards the law, and it is that the law is incidental. His goals and the goals of his now-client President Trump are the only things that matter.

That also happened subsequently, just very recently, with the transfer of individuals to El Salvador in violation of Chief Judge Boasberg's oral order in J.G.G. v. Trump. That is the case where the judge gave an order stopping the deportation, and Bove was complicit in having that plane fly and actually do what was directly in conflict with the order.

He also, as we know, instructed prosecutors to drop the criminal case against the New York City mayor Mr. Adams. It was a blatant quid pro quo.

Bove has been an active participant in political payback against the January 6 prosecutors and FBI agents who were simply doing their jobs.

By the way, this is so appalling to me. You are a prosecutor. You know that if a prosecutor is assigned a case in a large office like the Southern District of New York or in the Washington district, the prosecutor's job is to prosecute that case.

Well, there were a number of prosecutors who were assigned to prosecute the January 6 cases, and, as you know, Mr. President, that included people who came in here and started beating up on cops. That is what they did. And those prosecutors did their job and were then fired by Bove—no loyalty to people who had the same job and the same responsibility as he did.

He also—Mr. Bove—sought the names of all FBI employees who worked on investigations into January 6. You know, he stated that was part of an investigation about the weaponization of the FBI against the January 6 rioters.

So he is part of the rewriting, the whitewashing, of the history of January 6 that is the favored narrative of President Trump.

But bottom line, Bove has made it clear that he works for his political boss, and that is the President. And the question is not just about Bove. The question is for us in the Senate who have this real responsibility. We have our partisan differences. We have our honest policy differences. But we have a shared responsibility when it comes to the nomination of a person for a Federal judicial position to evaluate their qualifications for the job.

And first and foremost among the qualifications is that that individual has to be someone who sees as his or her client the Constitution of the United States and the statutory rights and obligations that citizens and companies in this country have.

And what President Trump has made very clear—uncomfortable as this may be to acknowledge for many of us, many of my colleagues on the Republican side who have to deal with the wrath of a President who doesn't get everything he wants when he wants it—the reality is that President Trump himself has made it clear that the people he wants appointed, that he will appoint to the court, are people who will put him first, not the Constitution; to put his political whims, his political desires first.

He has got the right person in Bove, but that is the wrong person for us to confirm.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, there is a legend about a woman who finds an injured snake by the side of the path, and she picks it up to take care of it. She brings it home. She cares for it. She feeds it. She nurtures it. It heals. She takes it back to put it back into where she found it. And as she does so, it bites her. And as its venom goes through her veins and she is dying, she asks the snake: Why did you bite me? I cared for you. I fed you. I nurtured you. I saved your life when you were wounded.

And the snake said: It is my nature. You knew that when you saved me.

For many of us, to our colleagues, this is a ''mark my words'' moment about an individual who will continue to disgrace himself and the rule of law if we put him on the bench. We know that because, in 6 short months at the Department of Justice, he has been involved in three significant instances of prosecutorial misconduct—not little technical violations of a rule but truly grotesque abuse of a prosecutor's powers.

Not long ago, my Republican colleagues would have prevented even the nomination of a character like this, somebody with a lawless character for the bench.

The mad dash to jam through this nominee, first in the Judiciary Committee and now on the floor of the U.S. Senate, is a new low for the way this body handles its responsibility to vet these lifetime appointments.

Let's go through the prosecutorial misconduct instances. This is a nominee who told a room full of DOJ lawyers that if the courts didn't back off on restricting unlawful deportations, they would have to tell courts—I won't use the word on the Senate floor—''f you.''

We know he said it. We know he said it because it is abundantly corroborated in realtime communications among the lawyers present who heard him say it. They talk about the ''f you'' comment in contemporaneous texts in that very matter. You really don't get—I am looking at a bunch of lawyers around here—you really don't get better corroboration than that. That is the corroboration that you take to the defense counsel and say: Maybe you should think about pleading this case out.

Why would colleagues think someone who would tell courts ''f you,'' someone who does not believe a judge's rulings need to be followed, is fit to be a judge?

We are also on solid ground concluding that this character lied to us about it in committee. He said he didn't recall. That is a heck of a memory lapse, telling a room full of Department of Justice lawyers that they should be ready to tell courts ''f you.''

Somehow—somehow—he seemed to know that he would get away with it, that he would not be forced by the majority to actually answer our questions.

He also said he never instructed anyone to disobey a court order. Too cute by half. What he said was: They should be prepared to violate a court order.

And, by the way, they did. This is all consistent with his lawless character.

He also cooked up an improper deal in a criminal case against the mayor of New York where they were going to hang a suspended criminal prosecution—well-founded and grounded—over the head of the mayor to assure his cooperation with the Trump immigration agenda in his city.

You don't do that as a prosecutor. That is unimaginably bad abuse of that power.

We had the corroboration in the first instance. What do we have here?

We have his own DOJ colleague calling this effort a quid pro quo, calling it an improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for a dismissal of his case. That was the deal, the arrangement that was reached.

And that colleague, the acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, then resigned rather than go through with the rotten deal.

Not enough corroboration? Trump's border czar Tom Homan admitted the scheme. He went on FOX News with Mayor Adams and said—I am quoting here, so excuse some of the language:

> If he doesn't come through, I'll be back in New York City and we won't be sitting on the couch. I'll be in his office, up his butt saying ''Where the hell is the agreement we came to?''

The agreement—the agreement to hold back a prosecution in order to force the mayor to go along with the immigration agenda.

Not enough? OK. This nominee separately tried to confect a fake criminal investigation to allow an improper seizure of funds that Congress had appropriated, obligated, and disbursed to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

You don't invent fake prosecutions. In this case, his office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, said: There is no there there. We can't sign that pleading.

He drove out the criminal chief. The rest of the lawyers also refused to sign. The U.S. attorney went in himself, all by himself, just a political appointee, no Federal prosecutorial experience, no idea what he was doing. The magistrate judge shot him down.

Each one of those things is a giant red flag in the Department of Justice, and they all attach to this case.

A principle that prosecutors follow is that you must not publicly disparage subjects of your investigation. It is enough that you have the law on your side and the power of prosecution to bring them to justice. You don't throw on a larding of disparagement. Bove's client in that matter, the EPA Administrator, made repeated public statements accusing the fund and its administrators of being ''corrupt'' and ''criminal'' and engaging in ''kickbacks,'' ''theft,'' and ''graft.'' These accusations are defamatory, per se, under the common law.

This person led these truly evil abuses of DOJ's powers. It is his nature.

Those are the problems with the nominee. Now let's look at the problems with the process that got him here. First, in the Judiciary Committee, he was prelicensed to refuse to answer questions. The committee, the majority, conceded something that Congress has never conceded before: that deliberative process and attorney-client privilege overcome our constitutional powers of oversight and advice and consent.

Senator KENNEDY and I noted this in our bipartisan report on Executive privilege back in 2022. Here is our quote:

> Congress maintains that all other components of executive privilege—

Besides Presidential communications, which was at issue—

> that the executive branch recognizes—including deliberative process and attorney-client privilege—are not constitutionally grounded and therefore cannot supervene Congress's oversight authority.

To grease Bove through the committee, they threw all that history out the window. And having made that astounding concession, they then didn't even follow the rules for assertions of these supposed privileges, neither as to their scope where they apply and don't apply, nor as to what it takes to actually claim them.

These privileges need to be asserted, and the witness never actually asserted them. He probably didn't actually assert them because as a lawyer he knows they didn't actually pertain, and he would have been mocked and criticized for asserting those privileges in this circumstance.

He knew from the free pass he had been given not to answer questions that he didn't have to answer, and he didn't have to make the assertions. With his nonanswers blessed in advance, he hid behind vague claims of inappropriateness.

That is not a privilege; that is not a defense.

Attorney-client privilege and deliberative process privilege, even if they pertain here, don't apply to administrative decisions within a department. And deliberative process—indeed, any Executive privilege—does not apply where the allegation is misconduct. We just went through the three instances of prosecutorial misconduct.

Again, from my report with Senator KENNEDY, quoting the DC Circuit here:

> The privilege ''disappears altogether when there is any reason to believe government misconduct occurred.''

The only Executive privilege that Congress does recognize also requires proximity to the President. It is not applicable in ordinary Agency administration, and the President must invoke it, and he didn't.

The Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General even showed up at the hearing to give committee Republicans the eyeball. The result was a hearing that more resembled a racketeering from ''The Godfather'' than a nominations hearing from a circuit court of appeals judgeship.

One last point, while this mischief is going on in the Judicial Committee and on the Senate floor, something else is going on. This is a two-ring circus, and the second ring is over at the DC Circuit Court of Appeals where Trump Judges Rao and Katsas, over objection, stopped the court hearing into Bove's potential contempt in the deportation cases. Obviously, there in court, under oath, real answers would be achieved.

The administrative stay procedure those Trump judges use usually only last days. Justice Barrett recently chided a court for an administrative stay that lasted 2 weeks. These two Trump judges have blocked Bove's contempt hearing for 3 months.

If my colleagues keep rubberstamping Trump's lawless nominees, he will just continue lowering the bar, further degrading the judicial system.

This has the earmarks of a coordinated play, and I suspect very much that we have not heard the end of this as facts continue to come out in future Judiciary Committee investigations and in the contempt hearing of Judge Boasberg.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, we have an administration that is flouting the law at every turn. Since being sworn into office, Donald Trump has signed dozens of Executive orders attempting to do everything from ending birthright citizenship and eliminating the Department of Education to invoking the Alien Enemies Act to deport individuals without due process.

In the months since, lawyers defending these lawless actions in court have been rebuffed time and again by judges across the country, including judges nominated by Donald Trump himself. Note that. Even Donald Trump's nominated judges have said you can't keep making these kind of arguments before me.

So, now, Trump has gone even further by nominating to a lifetime judgeship a man who makes no secret of his disregard for our courts and the rule of law. And that man is Emil Bove.

Based on his nomination hearing and a review of his background and the record before us, Mr. Bove is unfit to be a Federal judge because of his disregard for the rule of law and his temperament. There are so many red flags regarding this nominee, as articulated by my colleagues before me.

Mr. Bove has no respect for the rule of law or the courts that uphold it. This was made all too clear by a whistleblower, a man who had the courage to point out certain things about this nominee. This courageous whistleblower is Erez Reuveni.

Mr. Reuveni was a career attorney at the DOJ before he was fired by the Trump administration for not lying to the court that the administration made a mistake in deporting Kilmar Abrego Garcia to El Salvador. Note this. He was fired because he told the truth to the courts. He was expected to lie to the court and say: Oh, the Trump administration did not make a mistake in Mr. Garcia's case.

The facts prove otherwise.

Far from being a rogue partisan, Mr. Reuveni spent 15 years at the Department of Justice, including during the first Trump administration, where he received awards for his work defending the administration's policies in court. Mr. Reuveni shared with the Judiciary Committee that Mr. Bove, the nominee before us, casually discussed ignoring court orders at a meeting attended by not just Mr. Reuveni but by a bunch of other AGs in the Department of Justice.

So while Mr. Bove and my Republican colleagues would like us to focus on whether Mr. Bove actually directed the government to ignore a court order at this fateful meeting, that focus misses the point. According to Mr. Reuveni, Mr. Bove said the Justice Department would need to consider telling the courts ''f you'' if the court ordered the administration—the Justice Department—to stop what they were doing. Neither Mr. Bove nor anyone else has denied the sequence of events.

Mr. Reuveni produced 100 pages of documents and text messages supporting his statement that under Bove, DOJ lawyers were directed to prioritize the President's political agenda over their legal and ethical obligations.

My Democratic colleagues and I tried to ask Mr. Bove about these revelations, but, unsurprisingly, he refused to answer nearly all of the questions on these points. As noted, he even cited privileges that don't even apply to him. So we didn't get much in the way of responses from Mr. Bove. As for the committee, rather than hold a hearing to hear from this whistleblower under oath, Republicans on the Judiciary Committee chose to rush through Mr. Bove's nomination, breaking precedent by refusing to allow Democrats to even speak on his nomination in committee.

I am sure people saw that the Democrats on that committee walked out in protest.

Beyond his disregard for the rule of law, Mr. Bove also lacks the temperament to be a Federal judge. We expect our Federal judges to be fair, to be objective. We don't expect them to have political axes to grind. But that is not what we are going to get with Mr. Bove.

One issue that is particularly important to me is harassment and abuse of law clerks and court staff by Federal judges. Those with nearly absolute power, like a Federal judge in their Chambers, can do great harm to those who work for them. That is why I introduced a bipartisan, bicameral bill aimed at addressing workplace harassment in the Federal Judiciary. We know this happens.

So this issue arises with regard to Mr. Bove because of reports that he was an abusive supervisor at the Southern District of New York. In other words, he is a supervisor who abuses his power. When questioned, Mr. Bove confirmed that a group of office leaders recommended to the U.S. attorney that he be removed as a supervisor of the unit that he was leading. According to reports, this came after an investigation and Mr. Bove only kept his job after he pleaded to keep it.

It is, frankly, astounding that these very busy prosecutors in the office that he was in considered Mr. Bove's behavior so concerning that they went so far as to investigate his behavior and recommend his removal. To clarify things, I asked Mr. Bove, in questions for the record, to send us copies of his personnel file. He refused.

Far from an independent, fairminded jurist, Mr. Bove is willing to use whatever means he deems necessary to meet the ends sought by Donald Trump. There is absolutely no question that the reason Mr. Bove came to President Trump's attention was his complete loyalty to President Trump, which he manifests clearly. This is a concern. Don't take my word for it.

I want to show you, Mr. President, this is a letter signed by nearly 1,000—1,000—former DOJ lawyers urging this body to reject Mr. Bove's nomination. They wrote:

> We, the undersigned, proudly defended the rule of law as attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice. We are all alarmed by DOJ leadership's recent deviations from constitutional principles and institutional guardrails.

These almost 1,000 wrote—the letter continues:

> Emil Bove has been a leader in this assault. Despite that, he now stands before you as a nominee for a lifetime seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. . . . It is intolerable to us that anyone who disgraces the Justice Department will be promoted to one of the highest courts in the

land, as it should be intolerable to anyone committed to maintaining our ordered system of justice.

They went on to remind us that each of us in this body was elected by a democratic process anchored by the rule of law and urged us to protect the rule of law by voting our conscience and rejecting Mr. Bove's nomination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter I referred to be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the materia1 was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

July 16, 2025.

CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, RANKING MEMBER DURBIN, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

We, the undersigned, proudly defended the rule of law as attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). We are all alarmed by DOJ leadership's recent deviations from constitutional principles and institutional guardrails. We also share a grave concern over the senseless attacks on the dedicated career employees who are the backbone of the Department.

Emil Bove has been a leader in this assault. Despite that, he now stands before you as a nominee for a lifetime seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. We ask that before the Judiciary Committee votes on this nomination, you rigorously examine the actions Mr. Bove has taken at DOJ and the effects they've had on the Department's integrity, employees, and mission-critical work. It is intolerable to us that anyone who disgraces the Justice Department would be promoted to one of the highest courts in the land, as it should be intolerable to anyone committed to maintaining our ordered system of justice.

Few actions could undermine the rule of law more than a senior executive branch official flouting another branch's authority. But that is exactly what Mr. Bove allegedly did through his involvement in DOJ's defiance of court orders, as described by former senior DOJ attorney Erez Reuveni in his whistleblower disclosure—the details of which are supported by contemporaneous communications between Department attorneys. Such behavior, if susbstantiated, should not be countenanced.

As a 15-year attorney at the Department who was promoted under this Administration, Mr. Reuveni litigated some of the most divisive cases the Department has ever defended, many under President Trump. But he knew, as all attorneys should know, that the ethical requirement to zealously represent one's client is not absolute; the duty of candor to the court must always come first. Mr. Reuveni refused to violate that duty—a choice that cost him his job.

The risks Mr. Reuveni took by later blowing the whistle should inspire everyone committed to preserving the rule of law. We all applaud his bravery, and we stand ready to support any DOJ employee who uses the proper channels to hold our government accountable.

Even putting aside the information that's surfaced about internal deliberations involving Mr. Bove, his denial that he sought to defy court orders strains credulity. Questioned repeatedly over whether he told DOJ attorneys to consider saying ''fuck you'' to courts, he mustered only an ''I don't recall.'' Each one of the undersigned would testify, under oath, that we have never—and would never—tell a Justice Department attorney to consider defying a court order. Moreover, the Justice Department's later defiance of judicial mandates in the cases where Mr. Bove previewed doing so further suggests that disregarding court orders was Mr. Bove's intent all along.

Mr. Reuveni is far from the only DOJ attorney who has faced unconscionable ethical challenges of Mr. Bove's design. When Mr. Bove directed prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) and DOJ's Public Integrity Section to dismiss the case against New York Mayor Eric Adams, his actions gave the appearance of impermissible political considerations stemming from President Trump's immigration agenda. Former SDNY prosecutor Hagan Scotten encapsulated the problem in his resignation letter: ''No system of ordered liberty can allow the Government to use the carrot of dismissing charges, or the stick of threatening to bring them again, to induce an elected official to support its policy objectives.

Mr. Bove's trampling over institutional norms in this case, and in others, sent shockwaves through the ranks—cratering morale, triggering mass departures, and eroding the effectiveness of DOJ's vital work. Prosecutorial authority carries profound consequences on individuals' lives and the integrity of our public institutions; wielding it without impartiality is a flagrant abuse of that power. Because impartiality is also a cornerstone of the judiciary, any failure to exercise it at DOJ must be carefully considered.

Mr. Bove's apparent lack of impartiality was also on full display when he punished those who pursued justice after the January 6 assault on the Capitol. Following President Trump's repeated promises of retribution, Mr. Bove directed the termination of over a dozen of those prosecutors. He also called for the firings of eight senior FBI officials who were involved in January 6-related investigations and sought the names of thousands more FBI agents for possible ''additional personnel actions.'' Purging dedicated public servants for following the law was a betrayal of DOJ's law-enforcement principles and an affront to democratic values. Because Mr. Bove oversaw the investigation of January 6 suspects himself as an Assistant United States Attorney, it was also a breathtaking act of hypocrisy.

Each of you was elected through a democratic process that, for nearly 250 years, has been anchored by the rule of law. But the law is only as strong as the institutions that interpret and enforce it; foremost among them, the federal judiciary and the Department of Justice. By elevating those who've degraded one of those institutions to lifetime seats on the other, you will have abrogated your duty to ensure that we remain a nation of laws.

We ask that you vote your conscience only after thoroughly and honestly investigating Mr. Bove's actions at the Justice Department, including by questioning current and former DOJ employees with information relevant to the aforementioned incidents and others. We also urge you to zealously exercise your oversight powers to protect the Justice Department against further attacks.

Thank you for your shared respect for our justice system—and your consideration of our deep concern for its future.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, for all the reasons provided by me and my colleagues before me on the Democratic side, I urge my colleagues to join me in defending the rule of law by not putting into a lifetime appointment somebody who thinks that he can ignore court orders and certainly not by saying ''f you'' to the courts; that that person not be confirmed by this body. We need to do our jobs by rejecting this nominee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, the Senate this week is considering a nominee so patently unfit to be a Federal judge, so lacking in the temperament, integrity, and judgment to serve as an arbiter of the Nation's laws, that the chorus of opposition has grown deafening and the facts revealing his unfitness for office are too voluminous to be ignored.

I am speaking, of course, of Emil Bove, the lawyer whose misconduct was so egregious, his fellow prosecutors in the Southern District of New York thought he should be demoted; someone whose management of cases was so flawed that a Federal judge not only concluded that his team had misled the court but that it withheld exculpatory evidence. The court then ordered the case dismissed, and the Southern District prosecutor's office didn't even bother to try to refile the case. It was that tainted by Mr. Bove's leadership of that team.

After Bove left the U.S. Attorney's Office under the threat of demotion, he became one of Donald Trump's criminal defense lawyers, losing the hush money payment to a porn star case in which Donald Trump is convicted of dozens of felonies.

Bove, though, turned that loss and his blind obedience to Trump into a top position at the Department of Justice. And now, for the past months, it seems like every time there has been an abuse of power at the Justice Department, Emil Bove either directed it, supervised it, or carried it out himself.

When Donald Trump wanted to purge the Justice Department of prosecutors who worked diligently to investigate the January 6 insurrection, Bove was the instrument of his vengeance. When Trump wanted to purge the Department of prosecutors who proved to juries beyond a reasonable doubt that the violent offenders who attacked police officers that day did so to interfere with the peaceful transfer of power, Emil Bove was there to punish not the criminals but the prosecutors.

When Stephen Miller and then-FBI Director Nominee Kash Patel worked to carry out an additional purge of career FBI officials who worked on the January 6 investigations, Emil Bove was there too.

Earlier this year, when the Trump administration wanted a justification to freeze grants already approved from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and they wanted to trump up some justification—some rationale for trying to prevent the distribution of these funds—whom did they turn to? Well, of course, they turned to Emil Bove. He and then-U.S. Attorney Ed Martin pressured the head of the Criminal Division for the DC U.S. Attorney's Office to open a criminal investigation into the fund. But there was a problem. There was no evidence of criminal activity. There was no probable cause. There was no predication.

How do we know this? How do we know the opening of this case or the threat of opening this case was bogus? Because the Chief of the Criminal Division in that office resigned rather than comply with this unethical edict.

When Trump's DOJ sought to dismiss a serious and credible corruption case against the mayor of New York Eric Adams, who was the one who ordered career prosecutors to drop the case? That is right, Emil Bove.

Time after time, we have seen career public servants stand up to abuses of power like this and refuse to obey, leaving careers they loved at the Justice Department rather than be part of Bove's perversion of justice.

I served for almost 6 years in the Justice Department. I know the sense of mission that the lawyers in that Department feel and how much they love serving and appearing before a court and introducing themselves on behalf of the United States. It is not a job that people give up easily or for no reason. I also know that, when put in the position of choosing to follow their ethics and the law or choosing to obey a dishonorable and dishonest instruction from a supervisor, yes, they will resign their posts, and so many have.

Acting U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon was ordered by Bove to dismiss the indictment against Eric Adams. In refusing, she called it what it was: an ''improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for the dismissal of his case''—in other words, a quid pro quo.

I just want to underscore for people what this means and how astonishingly abnormal and unethical this action was.

The Justice Department intervened in a criminal case in New York over the objection of the prosecutors handling the case, including the acting U.S. attorney, to dismiss that corruption case against a public official, not because there was a lack of evidence—they didn't even try to claim that—not because there was any prosecutorial misconduct—they didn't even try to argue that—but because he was useful to the President on his immigration policy. It is an edict from Bove that says: If you do the President's bidding, we have got your back; we will make your corruption case go away—a quid pro quo.

Now, interestingly, they didn't want it to go away completely. They wanted it to go away without prejudice—that is, so they could bring it back if he didn't do exactly what the President wanted. Anyone who has ever served in the Justice Department can tell you just how unethical that is.

Rather than obey those orders from Bove, Acting U.S. Attorney Sassoon resigned, and many others followed.

One of them said:

> I expect you will eventually find someone who is enough of a fool or . . . a coward to file your motion. But it was never going to be me.

No, it didn't have to be him because it was enough for Emil Bove. He is there whenever Donald Trump needs someone to carry out his will, regardless of ethical or even legal considerations. And dedicated public servants, career prosecutors are standing up, willing to risk their jobs and willing to risk retaliation by a vindictive President.

Some of those brave attorneys have come to our committees as whistleblowers. In one case, Erez Reuveni, a 15-year veteran at the Department who worked in both Republican and Democratic administrations, shared with our committee that Emil Bove told DOJ's lawyers that they would need to consider telling the courts ''f you'' and ignore any such court order that might get in the way of the Trump administration's strategy of rapid deportation without due process. In fact, Bove's lawyers at the DOJ would go on to lie to the judge and violate court orders, prompting the judge to issue an order to show cause why they should not be held in contempt.

Senator WHITEHOUSE is exactly right: The court of appeals has delayed that hearing on the order to show cause why those lawyers under Bove's supervision should not be held in contempt. And my colleagues here want to rush this thing through. Well, what will they say if the judge finds that Bove and others at the Justice Department willfully ignored court orders? What will they say once they have given him a lifetime tenure on the court of appeals?

During Bove's confirmation hearing, I asked him about his ''f you'' instruction, and he made the dubious claim that he couldn't recall. Now, that is remarkable. It is not like we are talking about events that happened 10 years ago. This was, like, 2 months ago, just a few weeks ago. I think I would remember if I had told other lawyers that we should say ''f you'' to the courts.

So either he instructs them frequently to say ''f you'' to the courts, such that he wouldn't remember this particular occasion, or he is being dishonest with us. But his use of that vulgar injunction was corroborated by other DOJ lawyers in text messages. So we really don't need to wonder about this.

As one DOJ lawyer texted another:

> Guess it's find out time on the ''f you.''

Well, now it is ''find out'' time for the U.S. Senate, when we find out whether we are willing to confirm just anybody—no matter how unfit, no matter how terrible the record, no matter how abundant the evidence. It is ''find out'' time for the U.S. Senate.

What was Bove's role in tasking the DOJ and the FBI to scour old Epstein files and flag mentions of Donald Trump? I know my colleague Senator BOOKER has tried to find out, and Senator DURBIN has tried to find out. We don't know because Bove refuses to tell us, but we do know that his fellow criminal defense lawyer, Todd Blanche—he and Blanche were the two lawyers who represented Trump in that ''hush money payment to a porn star'' case. Todd Blanche is now rushing to meet with Epstein's chief coconspirator in jail. It is self-evident that Blanche is there to represent the President's personal interests, not the public's interest, and Bove represents exactly the same problem.

With Bove's nomination, we are about to find out if Republicans are content to give a man so routinely in defiance of the rule of law a lifetime job of interpreting it on behalf of millions of Americans.

We wanted to hear from those whistleblowers like Erez Reuveni, who is just one of the hundreds of public servants who is speaking out, but Republicans have declined our request for testimony and additional hearings, even as they have rushed to jam through this nomination for a lifetime position. Sadly, we will all have a lifetime to regret it.

Like so many of his unfit Cabinet nominees, Donald Trump is daring Senate Republicans to oppose him. I hope and pray they will because the pattern is clear: Emil Bove takes orders from Donald Trump, and that is it. His only merit is blind obedience, not to the law but to the President, and not just to any President but one who is also a convicted felon.

So I urge my colleagues to look at Bove's record of disrespect for the law and reject this dangerous nominee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I have seen something I haven't seen since I have been on the Judiciary Committee, which is a complete chorus of condemnation of a circuit court judge. We have had every single person express an interest in coming down here from the Democratic members of that committee to condemn our moving forward at such a rapid pace on this nomination.

Now, I would love to just leave it there, but there is something that needs to be even more urgently focused on because, as much as it might seem that this is Democrat v. Republican, I am very happy to see already that some Republicans—not enough for us to stop this nomination, but this will be a bipartisan group of opponents. It is rare, in this time of fierce partisanship, to see some Republicans looking at the evidence, looking at what Mr. Bove has said, looking at what Mr. Bove has done, looking at how he has insulted the very office that he hopes to hold of a judge and a judge's orders. People who are looking objectively at the facts are starting to see that this would be a terrible mistake in a bipartisan way. That gives me some hope that, with the hours left on the clock, perhaps others, too, will take the time to understand a few things.

One, clearly, I believe and others, not just Democrats but career prosecutors, career public defenders—we have seen judges, and we have seen so many people come forward from both sides of the

aisle to say this is wrong, that it would be wrong for the Senators to do this. This is why we are starting to see some Republicans show more interest and, at least, more than one come forward and say they will not support this nominee. It is because the facts are so glaringly clear that this is someone who has no respect for the rule of law, that this is someone who has shown no temperament to be a judge, that this is someone who has been condemned for his lack of ethics, who has withheld exculpatory evidence as a prosecutor, who has been given the worst Brady violation condemnation from a judge. There are so many things that are troubling about this individual that, on the face of it, it is why so many career professionals are coming forward to say that we should not be moving forward.

The second reason people are having pause is that we are rushing this nomination before questions are answered. Too many people are moving too quickly on the other side of the aisle to get this done before questions are answered, before information is obtained for the record. This body, which is supposed to be deliberative and is supposed to advise and consent, should not be moving forward if they are to honor the obligations that we have.

Let me give the multiple reasons as to why we are moving too quickly without information on substantive things, which should raise alarms for all of my colleagues.

We asked to hear the testimony of a whistleblower who came forward with tangible evidence—texts and emails—showing that Emil Bove instructed the DOJ's attorneys to ignore a court order if it impeded Trump's agenda. Bove said ''f you'' to the courts. Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to hold a hearing to meet with this whistleblower, who is not a Democrat but a career prosecutor. Instead, we saw the vote being rammed through the committee.

Senator KIM and Senator BLUMENTHAL and members on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has oversight on the question of whether DHS violated a court order, asked the whistleblower to testify before them under oath. That committee has also not concluded its oversight. It is just a stunning and alarming fact that my colleagues on the Republican side have disregarded the credible account of someone who dedicated 15 years to public service and jeopardized their career and reputation to come forward at a time when people who step forward and tell the truth often face real reprisals.

In 2018, many former Southern District of New York prosecutors took the unprecedented step of alerting Emil Bove's supervisors to his unethical conduct as a prosecutor, calling him the ''drunk driver of prosecutors,'' saying that he was reckless and dangerous in the way that he went about prosecutions. This is an unprecedented step of former SDNY prosecutors.

Two years later, Emil Bove was responsible for the biggest Brady violation in the Southern District of New York's history. He withheld exculpatory evidence, resulting in the DOJ's having to toss out a case after a guilty verdict. His actions were so egregious that the judge used them as an example of what a prosecutor should never do. Many of my colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee have requested more information from the Southern District of New York about his tenure. We still have not gotten it. Yet we are moving forward.

No. 3, finally, after receiving credible information of Emil Bove's role in the Trump administration's burying of evidence about what is going on right now—the man who was in the central position to know what was going on with the Epstein files—we have made legitimate requests to him about this, and he has not responded. There are so many questions about Mr. Trump's interest in hiding whatever their files are and in contradicting themselves. Either there are truckloads of evidence and lists or there are not, but Emil Bove was the Acting in the Justice Department, at the time, and now we have even more reason to question Emil Bove.

Just hours ago, it was revealed that the DOJ told Donald Trump that his name appears many times in those files. Emil Bove was the top official at the DOJ, who also happens to be Trump's personal lawyer. We should know what his role was in reversing course on releasing those files. It would be unconscionable for the Senate to move forward with his confirmation with those answers not being provided.

As I told the Judiciary Committee, there is a false urgency around this nominee. The only reason for this urgency is that the President wants his loyalists on the Federal bench without facing any more scrutiny as to what he knows and what his role was. Even without answering these questions, there is more than enough in his record that disqualifies Bove from having a lifetime appointment to one of the courts. But let's go one more—January 6.

Bove's role in the Trump administration's effort to erase the tragic events of the January 6 attack on the Capitol is disqualifying.

As one of his first official acts, Trump pardoned nearly 1,600 people who attacked this Capitol, including 200 people who violently assaulted law enforcement officers. Bove was one of the highest ranking officials at DOJ. He said under oath that he advised the President on these pardons.

Then he turned from freeing dangerous people convicted of assaulting police officers from prison to punishing—punishing—the dedicated law enforcement agents who investigated those cases. Bove wrote a memo saying that prosecuting those who attacked the Capitol was a ''grave national injustice,'' so he went after those prosecutors. He fired those Federal prosecutors and FBI agents who worked on the January 6 investigation. Bove then demanded a list of every single FBI employee who touched one of those cases and in doing so exposed thousands of law enforcement officials to potential retribution by the pardoned and dangerous January 6 offenders. They are now roaming free.

Several of these prosecutors reached out to my Republican colleagues and wanted to share their concerns, but not one person agreed to meet with them.

The President can nominate judges to the courts, but—and this is critical—he can only do so by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This is a constitutional duty imposed on this House, and it requires us, every single Senator, to fully and fairly consider every nominee.

Willful ignorance does not excuse any of us from our responsibility to seek the truth. It does not excuse us from our constitutional duty to provide advice and consent.

I plead with my colleagues: Look at the facts. Give it your scrutiny. Analyze this nominee. Look at his record.

Emil Bove has shown time and time again his disrespect for the very office he seeks to hold. For God's sake, we have a whistleblower who brought testimony, receipts, texts, and emails showing that Bove said—despite the fact that he denied it in our hearings—''f you'' to court orders. He withheld evidence that could have helped to release an innocent person or a defendant. He broke his code of conduct. He broke his ethics. He advised on the January 6 pardons and then fired the dedicated law enforcement agents who investigated and prosecuted violent insurrectionists. And now he has critical information regarding the Epstein files.

There is a lot of pressure these days to hastily push a person through who cannot be trusted on the Federal bench. There is a lot of pressure these days to rubberstamp nominees. There is a lot of pressure these days to look the other way even though the evidence is clear. There is a lot of pressure these days. But some of my Republican colleagues have broken and are standing despite the pressure and are saying this person does not belong on the bench. I am grateful that some of my Republican colleagues are standing up and doing the right thing.

There is a lot of pressure these days. There are a lot of threats. The President has put enormous pressure on people in the Republican Party who stand up and do the right thing.

Yet I have seen profiles in courage. In the first Trump administration, I saw it numerous times. I can tell you their names—Corker, Flake. I saw my colleagues who, in times of great distress, stood up when we had a trial here—multiple people said the President was guilty; who voted against judges who were not fit for the highest office in the land; who voted against

nominees for his administration. I have seen time and time again the courage of Republicans in times of distress.

I don't know of another case I have seen in my 14 years in the Senate where someone so unqualified for the bench is before us. But somehow, right now, it just seems to be too few Republicans willing to stand up with the courage of their convictions to call it like it is, to do their constitutional duty, to look squarely at the qualifications of this judge and see what professionals, prosecutors, judges by the hundreds from both parties have come forward and said to this body: Do not let him go forward.

There are just a few hours left before our final vote on this nominee. This is a time for another profile of courage. I am hoping my Republican colleagues will look at the evidence and join with the conclusion held by so many patriots in our country and not let this man get to one of our highest courts in the land.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as we close this colloquy, I want to thank my colleagues who have come to the floor: Senators DURBIN, KIM, WELCH, WHITEHOUSE, HIRONO, SCHIFF, and now my great friend and colleague Senator BOOKER.

To my Republican friends, let me just say that there is ample evidence on the record already to say no to this nominee. But even if you disagree, what is undeniable here is the point that Senator BOOKER just made and that I made at the very beginning: This record is incomplete. The questions are unanswered.

Just today, I wrote to Attorney General Bondi about the report and investigation that was done by the Office of Professional Responsibility. We have had no access to it. It was done because of a conclusion by the court in a case before it between 2019 and 2021 in the Nejad case that criticized Mr. Bove for offering little in the way of supervision when material was denied to the defendant and the case had to be dismissed. The extent and scope of that investigation has never been disclosed. That is just one example of material that we have a right to see that raises questions that we should insist on being answered.

That letter almost certainly will never get a response—certainly not in time for our vote. But my Republican colleagues will be haunted by those questions. They will be compelled to answer those questions one day to their conscience because this nominee is different.

This nominee should be rejected.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next rollcall vote occur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SZABO NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Szabo nomination?

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 432 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Mullin	Tillis
McConnell		

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.

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. 131, Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

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.

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 Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, 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 Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 433 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Mullin	Tillis
McConnell		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO REAGAN BLACKBURN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Reagan Blackburn, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Reagan is a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, where she is majoring in government and environmental studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Reagan for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on July the Fourth, President Trump signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The centerpiece of this legislation is a permanent extension of the 2017 tax law, thereby averting the largest tax hike in American history without a vote of Congress.

In addition to this, the bill rolls back the Biden administration's Green New Deal. This includes pairing back supercharged green subsidies enacted by my Democrat colleagues as part of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

I have long been a strong proponent of developing alternative energy resources as part of an all the above energy strategy.

I am proud to be the original author of the wind production tax credit. When Congress enacted that credit in 1993, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of U.S. electricity production came from wind. Today, it is over 10 percent. And in my home State of Iowa, it is over 60 percent. Wind development has been an unquestionable success.

My view has always been that tax incentives intended to spur fledgling industries shouldn't last longer than necessary. That is why in 2015 I worked with both the wind and solar industries to phase out their credits over a period of years. Unfortunately, the Democrats so-called Inflation Reduction Act reversed course and supercharged these credits once more.

As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill, much like I did in 2015, I worked with my colleagues to provide wind and solar an appropriate glidepath for the orderly phase-out of the tax credits.

Many of my colleagues advocated pulling the rug out from wind and solar projects, but I worked to find a sensible compromise. Based on that compromise, the law's December 31, 2027, placed-in-service requirement for wind and solar facilities is only effective for ''facilities the construction of which begins after the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment.''

This change is intended to grant the wind and solar industries a yearlong transition to confidently move forward with planned projects under the existing continuity safe harbor and the beginning of construction guidance in effect at the time of the law's enactment.

The statute expressly codifies what it means to ''begin construction.'' Congress consciously elected to set the provisions effective date by reference to ''beginning of construction'' because of its long- and well-established meaning at the time of enactment. Treasury guidance with respect to when construction begins, along with its continuity safe harbor, goes back more than a decade.

It is simply common sense for Congress to look to a well-understood and long-established term in establishing such a transition period. After all, the purpose of a transition period is to allow industry time to adjust to new rules and requirements and avoid market disruptions.

As the Department of the Treasury works to implement the One Big Beautiful Bill, I urge agency officials to do so in accordance with the statute as written and consistent with congressional intent.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–42, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bulgaria for defense articles and services estimated to cost $620 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bulgaria.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $20 million.
Other $600 million.
Total $620 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Three (3) Link-16 Multifunctional Informational Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio Systems.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: tactical Naval Strike Missiles (NSM); inert NSM handling; telemetered NSM; operational, inert NSM; mobile fire control centers with associated communications equipment; mobile missile launch vehicles with associated communications equipment; NSM transport loading vehicles; NavStrike-M Global Positioning System receiver; operator trainer consoles; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); and associated support including but not limited to technical publications, training documentation, technical data packages, support equipment, software support spare parts, training, training simulators, integration services, and U.S. government and original equipment manufacturer technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (BU–P–AAL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 21, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bulgaria—Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System

The Government of Bulgaria has requested to buy a Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System (NSM CDS), including three (3) Link–16 Multifunctional Information Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS–JTRS) and the following non-MDE items: tactical Naval Strike Missiles (NSM); inert NSM handling; telemetered

NSM; operational, inert NSM; mobile fire control centers with associated communications equipment; mobile missile launch vehicles with associated communications equipment; NSM transport loading vehicles; NavStrike-M Global Positioning System receiver; operator trainer consoles; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); and associated support including but not limited to technical publications, training documentation, technical data packages, support equipment, software support spare parts, training, training simulators, integration services, and U.S. government and original equipment manufacturer technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $620 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will enhance Bulgaria's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations. The proposed sale will support its goal of improving national and territorial defense as well as interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces. Bulgaria will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace AS, located in Kongsberg, Norway. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the temporary duty travel of three to five U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Bulgaria for a duration of up to five years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Multifunctional Information Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS–JTRS) is a secure data and voice communication network using Link–16 architecture. MIDS–JTRS provides a high capacity, low latency Internet Protocol (IP) based waveform that can quickly transmit large amounts of data. Advanced algorithms allow cooperative detection and engagement of a wider array of targets, improving fused track accuracy and increasing lethality and survivability through situational awareness.

a. The Naval Strike Missile (NSM) Coastal Defense System (CDS) provides a high performance, mobile ground based coastal defense capability. It has a net centric architecture which enables multiple simultaneous engagements and over the horizon targeting. The system can be closely integrated and adapted to a country's adjacent weapons and command and control systems. This expands the defended area and enhances the total fighting capability of the force.

b. The NavStrike-M Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver offers high-performance GPS for tightly coupled GPS/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) integrations and real-time accuracy enhancement. This embedded receiver module offers full Precise Positioning Service (PPS) accuracy.

c. The Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a vital tool for secure key management, especially in systems using the Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS–JTRS). It ensures secure cryptographic key transfer, maintaining communication confidentiality and integrity, and works seamlessly with MIDS–JTRS, to provide a secure interface for key loading and management that ensures accurate key distribution and updates. Its compact, durable design ensures reliable performance in diverse operational environments.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Bulgaria can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Bulgaria.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–48, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost $172 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–48

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $0.

Other $172 million.

Total $172 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Sustainment related articles and services for the HAWK missile system, including: five-ton cargo trucks; HAWK system spare parts; refurbishment and system overhaul of HAWK air defense fire units; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical and field office support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; storage containers and equipment related to spare parts storage; MIM–23 HAWK missile spare parts and missile repair; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP–B–UDG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 23, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—HAWK Phase III Missile System and Sustainment

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy sustainment related articles and services for the HAWK missile system, including: five-ton cargo trucks; HAWK system spare parts; refurbishment and system overhaul of HAWK air defense fire units; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical and field office support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; storage containers and equipment related to spare parts storage; MIM–23 HAWK missile spare parts and missile repair; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is $172 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the ability of Ukraine to provide for its own defense.

This proposed sale will improve Ukraine's capability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions with a more robust air defense capability. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Sielman Corporation, located in Volos, Greece; RTX

Corporation, located in Andover, MA; and PROJECTXYZ, located in Huntsville, AL. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require temporary duty travel of an estimated five U.S. Government and fifteen contractor representatives to Ukraine.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–48

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The HAWK Phase III missile system is a medium range air defense system. The system can be configured as a battery or fire unit, depending on the mission. The HAWK missile system consists of a high-powered illuminator (HPI) radar, continuous wave acquisition radar (CWAR), platoon command post (PCP) or battery command post (BCP), launcher-transporters or zero-length launchers, missile loaders, and MIM–23 missiles. The HAWK system is designed for mid-range air defense and can be deployed to engage fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, cruise missiles, and a limited number of tactical ballistic missiles when cued from an adequate 3D source. HAWK has been out of the U.S. inventory for more than 25 years (1996 for the U.S. Army and 1998 for the U.S. Marine Corps).

2. Each HAWK fire unit will consist of one PCP or BCP, one HPI, one CWAR, three analog or mobility launchers, two missile loaders, 60 kW power generation units, and a basic load of MIM–23 HAWK missiles.

3. Each HAWK battery will consist of one PCP or BCP, two HPI, one CWAR, six analog or mobility launchers, two missile loaders, 60 kW power generation units, and a basic load of MIM–23 HAWK missiles.

4. The PCP or BCP provides the central fire control support, data processing, and operational communication center to support HAWK surface-to-air engagements through automatic data processing equipment and communications equipment. The PCP or BCP provides automatic track detection, threat ordering, and engagement recommendations to provide the PCP or BCP operators with the correct level of information necessary to accomplish the objective air defense mission.

5. The AN/MPQ–61 HPI is the HAWK system's tracking radar. It uses radiofrequency energy and provides a rear reference signal to enable HAWK missile tracking, guidance to, and intercept of hostile targets.

6. The AN/MPQ–62 CWAR provides low to medium altitude target detection including in a clutter environment. It provides digital track reports containing target azimuth, radial velocity, approach or recede status, and range rate and Doppler audio. HAWK software improvements enhanced the CWAR's ability to detect and classify helicopters.

7. The launcher-transporter and zero-length launcher transport, aim, and fire HAWK missiles. Under the remote control of the PCP or BCP, either launcher permits rapid launching of one or more missiles against single or multiple targets and can support multiple engagements simultaneously. The launchers provide 360-degree, all weather, day and night missile launch capability.

8. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

9. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

10. A determination has been made that Ukraine can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

11. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Ukraine.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–53, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost $150 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $0.
Other $150 million.
Total $150 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Equipment and services for the refurbishment of Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (UP–B–UCV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 23, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul Capability

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for the refurbishment of Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, technical assistance, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $150 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the ability of Ukraine to provide for its own defense.

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions. Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for United States provided vehicles and weapon systems. Improved maintenance, repair, and overhaul capability will directly contribute to battlefield effectiveness through a more resilient and rapid repair cycle that will increase overall operational rates with reduced logistics and financial burdens. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be BAE Systems, Cummins Inc., Leonardo DRS Inc., and Renk Group AG, with all work occurring in Europe. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, as spectrum auctions move forward, it is critical that the FCC maintains the integrity of its prior decisions related to spectrum use and auctions. Reallocating or modifying licenses that were legally purchased through auctions, such as by relocating licensees or changing the operating rules applicable to those licenses, would undermine the certainty businesses rely on to make

long-term investments in wireless innovation. Companies, investors, and consumers need confidence that once they have secured spectrum rights through a lawful process, those licenses and spectrum access frameworks will be honored. To do otherwise puts future participation and investment at risk.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. TREPPEL

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I would like to honor and recognize Michael S. Treppel for his nearly quarter century of distinguished service to the U.S. Congress. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Treppel has tirelessly supported the safety and well-being of more than 30,000 congressional staff, security personnel, and Members of the House and Senate. His work—often behind the scenes—has allowed others to carry out their duties with the confidence that their health and safety were in expert hands.

From the daycare centers to the Chambers of the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Treppel's impact has been both broad and profound. As an environmental health specialist and later as director of environmental health within the Office of Attending Physician—OAP—he has been the trusted adviser, evaluator, and implementer of critical health and safety policies that shaped the day-to-day environment of Congress. Mr. Treppel conducted over 5,000 inspections across nine congressional buildings, ensuring strict adherence to food safety standards and pathogen prevention protocols. His work was central to staff welfare, and he quickly corrected any discrepancies while establishing preventative measures to ensure long-term compliance.

He worked closely with leading experts from the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and internal leadership from the Architect of the Capitol—AOC—and OAP. During the anthrax and ricin incidents at the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Treppel played a pivotal role in evaluating ventilation systems and contamination risks, providing vital guidance to protect occupants. During the COVID–19 pandemic, he led the environmental health response for the entire Capitol complex. He singlehandedly recommended and guided sanitation and remediation requirements for all nine buildings and the U.S. Capitol, helping to restore safe occupancy in offices, common areas, committee rooms, eateries, and the House and Senate Chambers. He also facilitated the delivery of critical Personal Protective Equipment—PPE—including plexiglass shields, N–95 respirators, and medical-grade disinfectants. When the return-to-work transition began, he assessed and approved the use of physical barriers, distancing protocols, and sanitation measures. His knowledge and calm guidance became a trusted source for thousands navigating uncertainty during a global health crisis. He also developed and led PPE training for clinical staff for COVID–19, H1N1, SARS, Ebola, etc., ensuring that frontline medical personnel were equipped to protect themselves and others—and he made proper donning and doffing of protective equipment second nature to the Capitol's medical teams.

He also played a vital role in the planning and reopening of the new House Child Daycare Center in the O'Neill Building, providing input on space requirements, sanitation procedures, and illness policies. His oversight extended to the Library of Congress and Senate daycare centers as well, where he continued to ensure safe environments through inspections and guidance on evolving health standards.

Mr. Treppel oversaw the occupational health division and served as a contracting officer representative. He was instrumental in managing hundreds of thousands of dollars of contracts for health surveillance programs for AOC tunnel workers, power plant employees, and U.S. Capitol Police. During the pandemic, when services were paused due to social distancing, he facilitated a smooth transition to mobile medical units, ensuring uninterrupted OSHA-compliant care for at-risk workers. In addition to his environmental expertise, he helped interview and evaluate hundreds of nursing candidates to support both routine care and mass casualty preparedness for the congressional community.

Few individuals have had such a lasting and comprehensive impact on the operational safety of the U.S. Capitol. Mr. Treppel's unwavering dedication, depth of knowledge, and calm presence during times of crisis have made him an invaluable part of the congressional community.

As he retires, we offer our sincere gratitude for his exceptional service. His legacy of leadership and care will be felt for many years to come.

We thank Michael S. Treppel and wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE HONDA ANNA ENGINE PLANT

● Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, yesterday was the 40th anniversary of the Honda Anna Engine Plant in Ohio. The Anna Engine Plant is Honda's largest auto engine plant in the world. Since opening on July 22, 1985, the Honda Anna Engine Plant has built more than 32.5 million engines. Over the past four decades, the Honda Anna Engine Plant has expanded from a 200,000 square-foot facility with 94 production associates to a 2.8 million-square-foot facility employing 2,900 people. The Honda Anna Engine Plant remains an industry leader in engine development and production, and I thank them for their dedicated work to Ohio.●

RECOGNIZING WSB RADIO AND CHOA

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to honor WSB Radio and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as they mark the 25th anniversary of their annual Care-a-Thon, a Georgia tradition of compassion, generosity, and service.

Founded in 2001, WSB Radio and CHOA's annual Care-a-Thon has raised more than $34 million to support the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta—one of the leading pediatric cancer centers in the Nation—supporting research, the family support team, and the fellowship program at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.

Each summer, WSB Radio's hosts, volunteers, and listeners come together for a 2-day radio marathon sharing stories of courage and raising critical funds for research, family support, and physician training.

The annual Care-a-Thon helps ensure Georgia's children battling cancer receive world-class treatment and the holistic care they need while battling cancer.

I commend WSB Radio, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, their teams, and everyone who supports these efforts for 25 years of work to help kids battling terrible disease.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, 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 which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1917. An act to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3937. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:26 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 bills:

S. 201. An act to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and

mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 423. An act to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 6:14 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4016. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4275. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(4) of Public Law 118–144, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution: The Honorable Kathy Manning of Greensboro, North Carolina.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1917. An act to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3937. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4275. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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–1337. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fish Aggregating Device Design Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries, IMO Number Requirements, and Bycatch Restrictions'' (RIN0648–BI79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1338. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Island Fisheries; 2023 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits'' (RIN0648–XC461) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1339. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XC462) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1340. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfers from ME to RI'' (RIN0648–XC554) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1341. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XC553) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1342. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XC510) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1343. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Cod by Vessels Jig Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XE949) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1344. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''In-Season Closure of the Lane Snapper Recreational and Commercial Fishing Season in Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico for the 2022 Fishing Year'' (RIN0648–XC537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1345. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XC499) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1346. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fraser River Sockeye Fisheries; Inseason Orders'' (RIN0648–XC446) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1347. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement Framework Amendment 11 under the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–BL62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1348. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–BL19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1349. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Declaration of catastrophic conditions resulting from Hurricane Ian'' (RIN0648–XC448) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1350. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''South Atlantic commercial harvest closure for red snapper'' (RIN0648–XC302) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1351. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XC350) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1352. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2023 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Year'' (RIN0648–XC082) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1353. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2021–2022 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BL85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1354. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2022 Winter II Quota'' (RIN0648–XC417) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1355. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species;

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries Management'' (RIN0648–BI08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1356. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XC487) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1357. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area to General Category Individual Fishing Quota Scallop Vessels'' (RIN0648–XC494) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1358. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2022 Recreational Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BL40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1359. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Updates to the Railroad Safety Appliance Standards Regulations'' (RIN2130–AD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1360. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters; Amendment 39–23072'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–1117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1361. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Engines; Amendment 39–23073'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0209)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1362. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Kabul Flight Information Region (FIR) (OAKX); Amdt. No. 91–369B)'' ((RIN2120–AM09) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1415)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1363. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes; Amendment 39–23068'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0476)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1364. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–23069'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0475)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1365. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–23070'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0619)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1366. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amdt. No. 4172'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 31612)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1367. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39–23067'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–1111)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1368. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP) Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–23062'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–2666)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

John Arrigo, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

Nominee: John Joseph Arrigo.

Post: Portugal.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee: None.

Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Nominee: Christine Jack Toretti.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the UnIted States to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Nominated: March 24, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Christine Toretti $1,000, 11/28/2024, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania;

Christine Toretti $3,300, 6/30/2024, Friends of Dave McCormick;

Christine Toretti $3,300, 6/30/2024, Team McCormick;

Christine Toretti $600, 6/6/2024, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania;

Christine Toretti $3,300, 12/31/2023, Friends of Dave McCormick;

Christine Toretti $95, 8/9/2023, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania;

Christine Toretti $179, 5/30/2023, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 10/19/2022, Friends of Jeremy Shaffer;

Christine Toretti $1,000, 10/12/2022, Friends of Mike Doyle;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 8/16/2022, Max Miller for Congress;

Christine Toretti $1,000, 8/5/2022, Nicole Ambrose for Congress;

Christine Toretti $5,800, 3/31/2022, Dave McCormick for U.S. Senate;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 6/22/2021, Scheller for Congress, Inc;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 3/11/2022, Our Guy for Congress;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 6/2/2021, Friends of Glenn Thompson;

Christine Toretti $2,900, 6/2/2021, Friends of Glenn Thompson;

Christine Toretti $10,000, 1/13/2021, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania.

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029.

*Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2387. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to address arms export controls for certain unmanned aircraft systems and items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 2388. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the pilot program for alternative water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 2389. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot program to provide resilient energy to critical infrastructure of installations of the Army through the use of advanced nuclear reactors, to authorize multi-year contracts for such reactors, and to include nuclear energy and technology as a covered technology category for the Office of Strategic Capital of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 2390. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to reclassify the application of certain requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for housing-related activities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2391. A bill to designate an environmental review procedure for certain assistance administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KING, Mr. BANKS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 2392. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2393. A bill to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri , and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2394. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 505 East 9th Avenue in Amarillo, Texas, as the ''Mayor Jerry H. Hodge Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2395. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to conduct research and development on the inclusion of certain oilseed crops in double cropping policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2396. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require certain membership on the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2397. A bill to require implementation by the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain recommendations relating to the provision of health care through community care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2398. A bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2399. A bill to establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. KIM, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2400. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to subject certain art traders to provisions relating to records and reports on monetary instruments transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2401. A bill to amend section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify congressional intent with respect to agreements under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KIM, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 2402. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a first-time homebuyer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2403. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide a clear definition of adequate consideration for certain closely held stock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2404. A bill to subject emergency legislation enacted by the District of Columbia Council to expedited congressional disapproval procedures; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2405. A bill to provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 2406. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize admission of Canadian retirees as long-term visitors for pleasure described in section 101(a)(15)(B) of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2407. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to reissue the solicitation and award the contract relating to the Charting My Path for Future Success project; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2408. A bill to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for fertility treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. LEE):

S. 2409. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 2410. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a higher Federal matching rate for increased expenditures under Medicaid for behavioral health services (including those related to mental health and substance use), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2411. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish the Scale-Up Manufacturing Investment Company (' SUMIC') Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2412. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the requirements and authorities of the Director of Construction and Facilities Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to reform the acquisition, procurement, logistics, leasing, and construction activities of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2413. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to assert jurisdiction over murders committed by certain inadmissible or deportable aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2414. A bill to update the definition of manufactured home, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2415. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Columbia River Basin Restoration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2416. A bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track overly burdensome land use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2417. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a special use permit with respect to the maintaining of a flagpole bearing the flag of the United States at Kyhv

Peak Lookout Point, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2418. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave for the spontaneous loss of an unborn child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. MORENO):

S. 2419. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2420. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for group health plans, health insurance issuers, and nonparticipating providers or facilities for practices that violate balance billing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2421. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide exclusions from the term ''navigable waters'' , and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2422. A bill to pause development of the new Sentinel program, extend the life of the Minuteman III, and redirect savings from Sentinel toward the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 2423. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a memorandum of understanding relating to housing projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2424. A bill to require a report of, and a strategy to combat, arms sales of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S.J. Res. 68. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Open Meetings Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 333. A resolution commending and congratulating the Florida Panthers on winning the 2025 Stanley Cup Final; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 334. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of August 25 through August 29, 2025, as the third annual ''National Community Health Worker Awareness Week'' ; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Con. Res. 19. A concurrent resolution recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 126

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 126, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 4.3 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to prohibit users who are under age 13 from accessing social media platforms, to prohibit the use of personalized recommendation systems on individuals under age 17, and limit the use of social media in schools.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 545, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 589

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 589, a bill to prohibit disinformation in the advertising of abortion services, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of certain additional burial benefits for individuals for whom an urn or plaque is furnished, and for other purposes.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, supra.

S. 1712

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1712, a bill to authorize peace officer standards and training agencies to access criminal history records, and for other purposes.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1715, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. HUSTED, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with

certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2180

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2180, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2195

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2195, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 2262

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, and for other purposes.

S. 2275

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 16, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

S. RES. 287

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 287, a resolution reaffirming the importance of the United States promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons in the United States and around the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 2968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2968 intended to be proposed to 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2975

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2975 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3944, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2399. A bill to establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill with my colleague Senator KING that will help the hard-working loggers across this country affected by severe storms and natural disasters. This legislation would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide payments to eligible logging businesses that have experienced at least a 10 percent loss as a result of a federally declared disaster. In Maine alone, logging has a roughly $582 million annual economic impact and is the backbone of the forest products economy.

In Maine and in many places across the country, the logging industry has felt the effects of severe weather events and warmer than normal winters. Each winter, Maine experiences many storms. Two particularly bad storms, in December 2023 and January 2024, were designated Federal disasters. These storms were detrimental to many industries, but especially logging, as the winter months are usually the best months for loggers to harvest timber when the frozen ground makes access easier. The rainstorms saturated the ground, and the mud made it much more difficult to operate and transport heavy logging equipment without disturbing the soil underneath.

These storms also closed bridges and roads on important trucking routes, hindering the movement of equipment and employees to logging sites. For example, the December 18 storm washed out a bridge on a vital trucking route that forced an 80-mile detour for wood being distributed to both northern and southern markets. According to the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast, this December wind and rainstorm in Maine resulted in more than $2.5 million in losses.

Despite these documented losses, there is currently no Federal program to assist loggers who have been affected by federally declared disasters. That is why I am introducing the Logger Economic Assistance and Relief Act, which would authorize income replacement for logging contractors equal to 10 percent of eligible gross lost revenue from the previous calendar year. Funds received under this program can only be used for operating expenses. Our legislation is modeled off of the successful Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program, which I created during the COVID pandemic to provide much needed aid to our timber harvesters.

I am grateful for the Professional Logging Council of the Northeast and the American Logging Council's support of our legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join in this effort to support one of our country's core economic drivers in times of natural disasters.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 333—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA PANTHERS ON WINNING THE 2025 STANLEY CUP FINAL

Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 333

Whereas, on June 17, 2025, the Florida Panthers (referred to in this preamble as the ''Panthers'') won the 2025 National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NHL'') Stanley Cup Final, becoming back-to-back champions;

Whereas the 2025 Stanley Cup Final is the second Stanley Cup Final won by the Panthers in the history of the franchise;

Whereas, on the way to winning the 2025 Stanley Cup Final, the Panthers defeated—

(1) in the first round of the playoffs, the Tampa Bay Lightning;

(2) in the second round of the playoffs, the Toronto Maple Leafs;

(3) in the Eastern Conference Final to win the Prince of Wales Trophy, the Carolina Hurricanes; and

(4) in the Stanley Cup Final, the Edmonton Oilers;

Whereas, during the 2024–2025 NHL season, the Panthers won 47 games during the regular season and scored 246 goals;

Whereas, in the 2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off tournament—

(1) Matthew Tkachuk, Gustav Forsling, Aleksander Barkov, Eetu Luostarinen, Anton Lundell, Niko Mikkola, Sam Bennett, and Sam Reinhart participated as players; and

(2) Bill Zito, Teddy Richards, Myles Fee, Patric Hornqvist, and Tuomo Ruutu participated as support staff;

Whereas Aleksander Barkov of the Panthers won the Selke Trophy for the third time as the best defensive forward in the NHL and the King Clancy Memorial Trophy for his leadership on and off the ice in his community, becoming the first player in NHL history to win both awards in the same NHL season;

Whereas Sam Bennett of the Panthers was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy for the Most Valuable Player of the 2025 Stanley Cup playoffs;

Whereas the entire Panthers roster contributed to the 2025 Stanley Cup Final victory;

Whereas a team of coaches and support staff enriched the South Florida community on and off the ice while also supporting the players; and

Whereas the Panthers represent their loyal fans, the South Florida community, and the entire State of Florida with a commitment to excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Florida Panthers for winning the 2025 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Final; and

(B) the loyal fan base of the Florida Panthers for their support throughout the 2024–2025 season; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the ownership, management, and coaching staff of the Florida Panthers, including—

(A) the Chairman, Owner, and Governor of the Florida Panthers, Vincent Viola, and his family;

(B) the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Panthers, Matthew Caldwell;

(C) the President of Hockey Operations and General Manager of the Florida Panthers, Bill Zito; and

(D) the head coach of the Florida Panthers, Paul Maurice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 334—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25 THROUGH AUGUST 29, 2025, AS THE THIRD ANNUAL ''NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 334

Whereas a community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member, or has an unusually close understanding, of the community served;

Whereas this trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison, link, or intermediary between health and social services and the community, facilitate access to services, improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery, build individual and community capacity, and increase health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy;

Whereas community health workers are a unique workforce, recognized in 27 States with a professional certification;

Whereas community health workers are a community-based workforce that builds relationships and capacity for health and well-being in underserved areas;

Whereas community health workers are a historic and diverse workforce that goes back hundreds of years in the United States and reflects the diversity of the country;

Whereas community health workers are known by more than 250 valued and respected titles, including community health representatives, promotores de salud, aunties, and outreach workers;

Whereas community health workers are a cross-sector workforce that connects community members to health care and other social services, reducing barriers to health and well-being;

Whereas community health workers are a proven workforce with decades of research documenting effectiveness in maternal and child health, chronic disease interventions, immunization, oral health, HIV, primary care, and many other disciplines, and have a documented return on investment for many programs;

Whereas sustainable funding of community health workers supports fair market wages and enhanced recruitment and retention of the workforce;

Whereas community health workers fulfill a wide range of roles, including—

(1) providing cultural mediation among individuals, communities, and health and social service systems;

(2) offering culturally appropriate health education and information;

(3) offering care coordination, case management, and system navigation;

(4) providing coaching and social support;

(5) advocating for individuals and communities;

(6) building individual and community capacity;

(7) providing direct service, including basic screening tests, such as weight and blood pressure screening, basic services, such as diabetic foot checks, and meeting basic needs;

(8) implementing individual and community assessments;

(9) conducting outreach; and

(10) participating in evaluation and research; and

Whereas community health worker networks are statewide, regional, or local community-based organizations, including community health worker associations and coalitions with leadership or membership that is comprised of 50 percent or more of community health workers, promotores, or community health representatives, and whose mission and activities focus on workforce development, mentoring, member mobilization, and advocacy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the third annual National Community Health Worker Awareness Week;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions of community health workers to health and social care systems and communities across the United States;

(3) encourages collaboration at the local, State, and Federal levels to raise awareness of the important role of community health workers; and

(4) supports the work of community health workers to improve the health of communities across the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19—RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS TO MANY FEDERALLY FUNDED FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution prevents Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or to petition for a governmental redress of grievances, and was adopted on December 15, 1791, as 1 of the 10 amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the Bill of Rights, specifically the First Amendment to the Constitution, calls for the right of all persons to peaceably assemble, and to this end, all persons, regardless of their physical ability, shall be offered equal opportunity to access all federally funded, in whole or part, amenities;

Whereas, in the 35 years since Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), there have been unprecedented advances in all forms of technology, typified by automatic doors;

Whereas, in 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 4 adults, or more than 70,000,000 people, have a disability in the United States;

Whereas disability is a universal concern, as an aging population increases the incidence of frailty and disability;

Whereas, as significant advances in medical treatment result in increased survival rates, the incidence of disability increases;

Whereas, in 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 31 percent of all veterans, or 5,500,000 veterans, had a service-connected disability;

Whereas, in 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the unemployment rate of persons with a disability was nearly twice that of nondisabled adults;

Whereas, in 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that people of color have the highest disability rates in the United States;

Whereas Public Law 90–480 (commonly known as the ''Architectural Barriers Act of 1968'') (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) was enacted to ensure that certain federally funded facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities;

Whereas the United States Access Board (referred to in this preamble as the ''Board'') issued a final rule in August 2023 addressing accessibility guidelines for pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way that addresses various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain;

Whereas the August 2023 guidelines of the Board (referred to in this preamble as the ''guidelines'') cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way;

Whereas the aim of the Board in developing the guidelines was to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided

wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Transportation adopted the guidelines in December 2024, and all newly constructed and altered transit stops in the United States became subject to the guidelines in January 2025;

Whereas once the guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); and

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of equality and freedom, and those principles require that all people, including people with disabilities, are able to engage as equal members of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes that people with disabilities in the United States experience barriers to access on a daily basis;

(2) reaffirms its support of Public Law 90–480 (commonly known as the ''Architectural Barriers Act of 1968'') (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and encourages full compliance with those Acts; and

(3) pledges to make universal and inclusive design a guiding principle for all infrastructure bills and projects and will continue working to identify and remove the barriers that prevent all people of the United States from having equal access to the services provided by the Federal Government.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2977. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2978. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2979. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2980. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2981. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2982. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2983. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2984. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2985. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2986. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2987. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2988. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2989. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2990. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2991. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2992. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2993. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2994. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2995. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. KELLY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2996. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2997. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2998. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2999. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3000. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3001. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3002. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3003. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3004. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3005. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 81, calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015); which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 3006. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 81, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 3007. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3008. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3009. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3010. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3011. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3012. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3013. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3014. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3015. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3016. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3017. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3018. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2977. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, and Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act, 2026''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO ACT.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES TO REPORT.

(a) Any reference to a ''report accompanying this Act'' contained in division A shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119–43. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division A and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division A.

(b) Any reference to a ''report accompanying this Act'' contained in division B shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119–37. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division B and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division B.

(c) Any reference to a ''report accompanying this Act'' contained in division C shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119–38. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division C and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division C.

(d) Any reference to a ''report accompanying this Act'' contained in division D shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119–44. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division D and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division D.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $2,447,609,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $446,388,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $268,650,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $5,906,524,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $613,213,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $144,390,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Department of the Air Force when designated by the Secretary of Defense to direct and supervise Military Construction projects in accordance with section 2851 of title 10, United States Code, and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $4,090,673,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $718,973,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $359,200,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $3,724,301,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $211,001,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $32,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $271,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $78,380,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $112,050,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $292,546,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $73,646,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $95,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $46,239,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $6,013,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $4,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army Reserve'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $2,255,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $2,255,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $116,268,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed $6,970,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $55,810,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $481,832,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $410,161,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $228,558,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $388,418,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $177,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $384,108,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $274,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $369,765,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $53,374,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $8,315,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, $497,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than $35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of April 2021, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

''Military Construction, Army'', $45,000,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $15,500,000;

''Military Construction, Air National Guard'', $11,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $15,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction and cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2026 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force'', and ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2027 for fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2026 by a National Defense Authorization Act: *Provided*, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $76,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects specified in a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 129. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $241,947,603,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $29,454,647 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2027 under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''Information Technology Systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and Pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical Care Collections Fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $20,057,841,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, $97,893,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2026, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $266,736,842.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $45,428, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $1,394,442.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $507,254, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $6,865,235, as authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $75,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $5,845,241.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $3,879,000,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; $59,858,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided further*, That of the $75,039,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $15,889,000,000 is hereby rescinded: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That nothing in section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $38,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $12,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1,

2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided further,* That, of the $12,700,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $610,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; $3,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2025; and, in addition, $11,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, $500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $943,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $497,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, $440,000,000, which shall be for the offices and in the amounts specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act, of which not to exceed 10 percent for each such office shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $277,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $5,908,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided,* That $1,418,416,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That $4,488,829,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which $118,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for the purpose of facility activations related to projects funded by the ''Construction, Major Projects'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''National Cemetery Administration'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''General Administration'' accounts: *Provided further,* That $755,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further,* That amounts made available for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further,* That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, $3,488,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided further,* That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: *Provided further,* That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2026, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs providing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan by June 1, 2026, containing the following:

(1) an updated life-cycle cost estimate for the EHRM program based on the Department's acceleration of deployments announced in March 2025;

(2) an updated facility-by-facility deployment schedule for all facilities to receive the EHRM program;

(3) a certification that all VA facilities using the new EHR on or before April 1, 2024, have exceeded or met certain health care performance baseline metrics indicating they have returned to their service delivery levels in place prior to the deployment of the new EHR; and

(4) a description of the projected Federal VA staffing levels, contract support, and other relevant activities required, and the resources required to fund those activities, to meet the deployment goal as outlined in (2), including target Federal and contracted staffing levels at VA Central Office and, each local VA medical center with a slated deployment in 2026 and 2027, as well as contract support to provide technical and other change management support to carry out the deployments.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), $296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $1,394,000,000, of which $621,615,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $772,385,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further,* That funds provided for the

Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall be only for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process: *Provided further,* That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the ''General Administration'' account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further,* That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2026, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2026; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $709,000,000, of which $467,940,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $241,060,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, Minor Projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided,* That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $171,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND

For investment in the delivery of veterans' health care associated with exposure to environmental hazards, the expenses incident to the delivery of veterans' health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards, and medical and other research relating to exposure to environmental hazards, as authorized by section 324 of title 38, United States Code, and in addition to the amounts otherwise available for such purposes in the appropriations provided in this or prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5), $52,676,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2026 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided,* That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided,* That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further,* That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further,* That any transfers to or from the ''Medical Facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and Pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided,* That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2026 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further,* That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2026 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed $134,342,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, $7,607,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and $7,586,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided,* That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated

costs: *Provided further,* That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided,* That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further,* That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects''.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under ''Medical Services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Community Care'' accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided,* That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled ''Quarterly reporting'', under the heading ''General Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', ''Board of Veterans Appeals'', ''General Administration'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2026 may be transferred to or from the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: *Provided,* That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: *Provided further,* That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', and ''Information Technology Systems'', up to $654,954,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided,* That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further,* That section 220 of title II of division A of Public Law 118–42, as continued by section 1101(a)(10) of division A of Public Law 119–4, is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2026, for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', up to $739,918,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided,* That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided,* That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided,* That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for ''Construction, Major Projects'' may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided,* That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled ''Disability claims backlog'', under the heading ''General Operating

Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223: *Provided further*, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed $1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, under the ''Board of Veterans Appeals'' and the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed a cumulative $7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term ''civil service'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term ''Executive action'' includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 232. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2027, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the ''Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance'' published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 233. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the ''Medical Services'' account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''service-connected'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term ''assisted reproductive technology'' means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of ''Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members'' issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term ''adoption reimbursement'' means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

SEC. 234. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 235. Section 842 of Public Law 109–115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 236. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue collecting and using Social Security account numbers to authenticate individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all individuals not later than September 30, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collect and use a Social Security account number to identify an individual, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is necessary to:

(1) obtain or provide information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(2) comply with a law, regulation, or court order;

(3) perform anti-fraud activities; or

(4) identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 237 of division A of Public Law 118–42.

SEC. 237. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for ''Medical Services'', section 239 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 238. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 239. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 for ''Medical Services'', funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111–163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 240. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 241. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 242. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any

provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 244. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2026 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2025 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 245. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 246. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary certifies that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates and cannot be met using other animal models, in vitro models, computational models, human clinical studies, or other research alternatives;

(B) such scientific objectives are necessary to advance research benefiting veterans and are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1413(e);

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document; and

(D) ethical considerations regarding minimizing the harm experienced by canines, felines, or non-human primates are included in evaluating the scientific necessity of the research.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the USDA pain category on the approved use;

(4) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates, and methods used to make such determination;

(5) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(6) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research, and animal welfare.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research;

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research; and

(5) the development and adoption of alternatives to canines, felines, or non-human primate research.

(e) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Department of Veterans Affairs must submit to voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of canine, feline, and non-human primate research facilities.

(f) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or other Department of Veterans Affairs policies related to oversight of animal research found during that quarter in VA research facilities;

(2) immediate corrective actions taken; and

(3) specific actions taken to prevent their recurrence.

(g) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 247. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 248. Amounts made available for the ''Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care'' account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 249. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the ''Medical Services'' account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the ''Medical Community Care'' account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 250. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities'', and ''Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund'', accounts, $1,429,181,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans; $697,800,000 shall be made available for suicide prevention outreach programs; $3,500,000,000 shall be made available for the Caregivers program; $42,000,000 shall be made available for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; $70,000,000 shall be made available for the Neurology Centers of Excellence; $342,455,000 shall be made available for rural health care; and, $3,459,121,000 shall be made available for veterans' homelessness programs.

SEC. 251. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2026 in the ''Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund'' established in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114–113, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, $900,000,000 shall be available for constructing, altering, extending, and improving medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, including all supporting activities and required contingencies, during the period of availability of the Fund: *Provided*, That prior to obligation of any of the funds provided in this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appropriated in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 252. Of the $75,039,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under the heading ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'' in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), $2,030,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities''.

SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds made available in this Act and any available unobligated balances from prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5), for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund: *Provided*, That the budget resource categories supporting the Veterans Health Administration shall be reported by the subcategories ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical and Prosthetic Research'': *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary shall submit a quarterly report on the status of the funds,

including, at a minimum, an update on obligations by program, project or activity.

SEC. 254. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 255. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a Department medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care.

SEC. 256. Unobligated balances available under the headings ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: *Provided,* That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further,* That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114–294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 257. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated, awarded, or expended to procure or purchase covered information technology equipment in cases where the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity, or parent company of an entity listed on any of the following:

(1) the Department of Defense's Chinese Military Company List;

(2) the Department of the Treasury's Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List;

(3) the Department of Commerce's Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List, if the entity is—

(A) an agency or instrumentality of the People's Republic of China;

(B) an entity headquartered in the People's Republic of China; or

(C) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an agency, instrumentality, or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(4) the Department of Homeland Security's Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''covered information technology equipment'' shall mean the following equipment used in an office environment: computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment used in or by the Department of Veterans Affairs directly. ''Covered information technology equipment'' shall not refer to services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

SEC. 258. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with section 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

SEC. 259. The Department is directed to maintain staffing levels to facilitate the Department's own goals, including that benefits claims are adjudicated according to the 125 day goal, and that healthcare appointments and service are provided in the timeframes required by statute and regulation.

SEC. 260. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118–42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS] in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

SEC. 261. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

(1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;

(2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or

(3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $108,281,000 to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $49,000,000, of which $3,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That $4,256,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $118,780,450, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the ''Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies'' account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $79,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $2,072,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided,* That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $27,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 407. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 411. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

SEC. 413. (a) Each department or agency funded in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 shall, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on funds that are allotted and available for obligation as of the end of the reporting period and on obligations as of the end of the reporting period: *Provided*, That such report shall be delineated by: (1) program, project, and activity level; (2) public law making such funds available; and (3) period of availability: *Provided further*, That such reports shall be transmitted to the Committees monthly thereafter, on the fifteenth of each such month, during the period of availability of the relevant funds.

(b) The term ''reporting period'' as used in this section means the month that precedes the date on which the department or agency transmits the report to the Committees.

This division may be cited as the ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $51,792,000 of which not to exceed $7,000,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary, of which $650,000 shall be for the establishment of a Seafood Industry Liaison; not to exceed $1,896,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed $5,190,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which $1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups to improve the delivery of public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed $6,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, of which $1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5); not to exceed $21,706,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which $20,000,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed $4,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed $6,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551–558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, $30,500,000, of which $10,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $2,450,000 shall be for an interdisciplinary center based at a land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the Midwest region which will provide private entities, policymakers, and the public with timely insights and targeted economic solutions: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115–334.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, $16,000,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, $14,967,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, $91,000,000, of which not less than $77,428,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, $6,867,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, $1,466,000: *Provided,* That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $37,000,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, $22,603,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), $3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, $20,800,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), $111,561,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed $125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, $60,537,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, $4,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, $1,884,000: *Provided,* That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available under this heading, $500,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, $90,612,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, $187,513,000, of which up to $46,000,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided,* That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f): *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress in writing at least 30 days prior to discontinuing data collection programs and reports.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100,000 and with prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, $1,826,778,000: *Provided,* That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further,* That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed $500,000, except for headhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to $1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed $1,100,000 each, and except for four buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed $5,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or $500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further,* That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further,* That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further,* That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further,* That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further,* That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further,* That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law: *Provided further,* That no later than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both House of Congress that outlines the current staffing levels and hiring plans in fiscal year 2026 for each research unit.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, $42,650,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, $1,089,510,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities'' in the report accompanying this Act, of which $559,760,000 shall remain available until expended and of which $2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the amounts provided under this heading, $13,560,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until expended, which shall not be subject to section 6(c) and section 6(d) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d): *Provided further,* That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than $1,000,000: *Provided further,* That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further,* That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further,* That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to

carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 3157 may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103–382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), $11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, $561,700,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities'' in the report accompanying this Act, of which $32,500,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than $1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93–471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, $41,100,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities'' in the report accompanying this Act, of which $8,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, $1,617,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to $30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), $1,167,534,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled ''Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service'' in the report accompanying this Act, of which $601,551,000 shall remain available until expended, of which $11,384,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until expended, and of which $8,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary must notify the Committees on Appropriations about any transfer of funds in the preceding proviso within 15 days after such transfer being made: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2026, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a, $1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, $222,887,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Agricultural Marketing Service—Marketing Services'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available for Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives to carry out section 12513 of Public Law 115–334 (7 U.S.C. 1632d) shall remain available until expended and the Secretary shall take measures to ensure an equal distribution of funds between the three regional innovation initiatives that were first established using funds made available under this heading in Public Law 116–6: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701), except for the cost of activities relating to the development or maintenance of grain standards under the United States Grain Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed $62,596,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than $23,880,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87–128).

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), $1,000,000.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed $55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, $1,117,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed $10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), $1,226,000,000; and in addition, $1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2026 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110–246 as further

clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113–79: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, $1,527,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, $238,500,000, of which $1,000,000 shall be for the implementation of section 773 of Public Law 117–328: *Provided*, That $70,740,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, $1,209,307,000, of which not less than $15,000,000 shall be for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers and shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026 to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $696,594,000 shall be made available to county offices, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, any funds made available to county offices in the current fiscal year that the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency deems to exceed or not meet the amount needed for the county offices may be transferred to or from the Farm Service Agency for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101–5106), $6,500,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may determine that United States territories and Federally recognized Indian tribes are ''States'' for the purposes of Subtitle A of such Act.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out wellhead or groundwater protection activities under section 1240O of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2), $7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387, 114 Stat. 1549A–12).

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

For necessary expenses to carry out direct reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under section 1621 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792), $3,500,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 5136), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), and relending program (7 U.S.C. 1936c), to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: $3,500,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and $3,100,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; $2,000,000,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and $1,633,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, $14,388,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, $20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, $150,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, $60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: $1,000,000 for emergency loans, to remain available until expended; $39,370,000 for farm ownership direct loans, and $84,000 for boll weevil eradication program loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $326,053,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, $305,803,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for ''Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses''.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating, conservation, and emergency direct loans and loan guarantees may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, $65,637,000: *Provided*, That $1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be available for compliance and integrity activities required under section 516(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)), and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a–f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, $895,754,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations'' in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed $250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009) and in accordance with the provisions of laws relating to the activities of the Department, $52,360,000, to remain available until expended, of which $32,360,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That for funds provided by this Act or any other prior Act, the limitation regarding the size of the watershed or subwatershed exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres in which such activities can be undertaken shall only apply for activities undertaken for the primary purpose of flood prevention (including

structural and land treatment measures): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities that increase fish or wildlife habitat, reduce drought impact, improve water quality or instream flow, or provide off-channel renewable energy production.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, $1,000,000 is provided.

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to $5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation or the transfer or cancellation of any previously obligated Commodity Credit Corporation funds: *Provided further*, That such written notification shall include a detailed spend plan for the anticipated uses of such funds and an expected timeline for program execution if such obligation, commitment, transfer, or cancellation exceeds $100,000,000.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than $15,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, $1,620,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; $351,087,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, no less than $75,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for information technology expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section, as amended by this Act, will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program that assists rural hospitals to improve long-term operations and financial health by providing technical assistance through analysis of current hospital management practices.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: $1,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 direct loans; $5,000,000 shall be for a Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes; and $25,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 unsubsidized guaranteed loans; $25,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; $50,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; $400,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; $10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; $5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; $5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans; and $15,000,000 for section 514 direct farm labor housing loans.

For the cost of direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 direct loans, $130,600,000, of which $32,650,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027; Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes, $2,469,000; section 504 housing repair loans, $4,333,000; repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, $15,130,000, to remain available until expended; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, $657,000; section 524 site development loans, $502,000; section 514 farm labor housing loans, $4,761,000, to remain available until expended; and farm labor housing grants, as authorized by section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), $7,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than $5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2026: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on the owner's initial equity contributions, as defined by the Secretary, invested in the transaction; and allow reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as ''Asset Management Fee'' of up to $7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, $34,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or re-amortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall, as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement, obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $412,254,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for ''Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses''.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, $1,715,000,000, and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for renewal of rental assistance agreements for a maximum of 5,000 units where

the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be restructured with another USDA loan or modification and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into rental assistance contracts in maturing properties with existing rental assistance agreements notwithstanding any provision of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, for a term of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years: *Provided further*, That any agreement to enter into a rental assistance contract under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 for a maturing property shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with the Housing Act of 1949, except that rents shall be based on current Fair Market Rents as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart A, 42 U.S.C. 1437f and 3535d, to determine the maximum initial rent and adjusted annually by the Operating Cost Adjustment Factor pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart B, unless the Agency determines that the project's budget-based needs require a higher rent, in which case the Agency may approve a budget-based rent level: *Provided further*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one year period: *Provided further*, That upon request by an owner under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of twelve consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the eighth proviso under this heading and notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a project that the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than $1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for information technology improvements under this heading.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, $48,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid or otherwise paid off after September 30, 2005, and is not receiving stand-alone section 521 rental assistance: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than $1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, $35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $1,250,000,000 for direct loans and $650,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $217,436,000, to remain available until expended, of which $199,436,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That $5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That amounts specified in the tables titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the explanatory statements accompanying prior year Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, as described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Acts, may not be made available pursuant to the fifth proviso until at least three fiscal years after the fiscal year in which such funds were originally made available: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso without prior notification and approval of the Committees of Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That $13,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which $8,000,000 shall be for grants to tribal colleges as authorized by section 306(a)(25) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E–H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than $1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For gross obligations for the principal amount of guaranteed loans as authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)), $1,750,000,000.

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $55,575,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $15,575,000 shall be for business and industry guaranteed loans: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $26,000,000 shall be for rural business development grants as authorized by section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not to exceed $500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), the Southwest Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That $4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including $250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide

technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further,* That sections 381E–H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), $13,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, $2,954,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which $295,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which $591,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100–460): *Provided,* That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, $4,468,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for ''Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses''.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, $50,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed $10,000,000.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $24,800,000, of which $3,500,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided,* That not to exceed $3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which $12,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, of which $1,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized pursuant to section 6402 of Public Law 107–171.

RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), $19,515,000.

For the cost of loans and grants, $5,000,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), $100,000,000.

HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

For the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 243 of subtitle D of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953), as added by section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities, $500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That such costs of loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as follows: $1,015,000,000 for direct loans; and $50,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $443,776,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That $51,476,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for direct loans, of which no less than $3,876,000 shall be available for water and waste direct one percent loans for distressed communities as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided further,* That $1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided further,* That $5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided further,* That $10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act: *Provided further,* That $65,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further,* That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105–83: *Provided further,* That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105–83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further,* That $35,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which $9,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than $800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further,* That $23,900,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further,* That $4,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further,* That $240,400,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for grants pursuant to section 306(a)(2)(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further,* That $8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further,* That if any funds made available for the direct loan subsidy costs under this heading remain unobligated after July 31, 2026, such unobligated balances may be used for grant programs funded under this heading: *Provided further,* That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further,* That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the two preceding provisos from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further,* That sections 381E–H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by sections 4, 305, 306, 313A, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 904, 935, 936, 940c–1, and 940g) shall be made as follows: guaranteed rural electric loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, $2,667,000,000; cost of money direct loans made pursuant to sections 4, notwithstanding the one-eighth of one percent in 4(c)(2), and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, $4,333,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A of that Act, $900,000,000; for cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 305(d)(2) of that Act, $350,000,000; and for guaranteed rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, $200,000,000: *Provided,* That up to $2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design, engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon subsurface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(d)(2)), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act

of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, $3,570,000.

In addition, $4,200,000 to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the energy efficiency measures supported by the funding in this paragraph shall contribute in a demonstrable way to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $33,270,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for ''Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses''.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., $40,610,000, to remain available until expended, of which $610,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That $3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), $35,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may award grants described in section 601(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 950bb(a)) for the purposes of carrying out such pilot program: *Provided further*, That the cost of direct loans shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That at least 90 percent of the households to be served by a project receiving a loan or grant under the pilot program shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to broadband: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such pilot program, a rural area without sufficient access to broadband shall be defined as twenty-five megabits per second downstream and three megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That to the extent possible, projects receiving funds provided under the pilot program must build out service to at least one hundred megabits per second downstream, and twenty megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That an entity to which a loan or grant is made under the pilot program shall not use the loan or grant to overbuild or duplicate broadband service in a service area by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service unless such service is not provided sufficient access to broadband at the minimum service threshold: *Provided further*, That not more than four percent of the funds made available in this paragraph can be used for administrative costs to carry out the pilot program and up to three percent of funds made available in this paragraph may be available for technical assistance and predevelopment planning activities to support the most rural communities: *Provided further*, That the Rural Utilities Service is directed to expedite program delivery methods that would implement this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adhere to the notice, reporting and service area assessment requirements set forth in section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950cc).

In addition, $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Community Connect Grant Program authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950bb–3.

TITLE IV
DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, $1,127,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; $36,285,902,000 to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, $18,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, $21,918,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, $5,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(c)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year 2026 shall not exceed $500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, $10,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than $1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, $1,500,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b–1(a)(2) and (e)(2)): *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''2010 through 2026'' and inserting ''2010 through 2027'': *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''For fiscal year 2025'' and inserting ''For fiscal year 2026'': *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''For fiscal year 2025'' and inserting ''For fiscal year 2026''.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), $8,200,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than $90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and $14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, including investments to develop strategies to improve timely program data collection and reporting: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to award grants and cooperative agreements to State agencies or other entities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to maintain the amount for the cash-value voucher for women and children participants at an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), $118,139,341,000, of which $3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115–334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115–334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster and commodity assistance, $516,070,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which $425,000,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), $80,000,000 shall be for the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, $1,070,000 shall be for assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188), and $10,000,000 shall be for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2026 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, $177,348,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, $2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107–171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110–246.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, $932,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Codex Alimentarius, $4,922,000, including not to exceed $40,000 for official reception and representation expenses.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed $250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), $227,330,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Cochran Fellowship Program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3293, $4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3319j, and up to $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83–480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, $1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $1,000,000, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of State and heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies as applicable, to conduct an interagency review and, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, provide a detailed report outlining the process and agency needs to support a transfer of the Food for Peace program from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the Foreign Agricultural Service within the Department of Agriculture: *Provided further*, That such report shall include the requirements outlined in the section entitled ''Food for Peace Interagency Review and Report'' in the report accompanying this Act and shall also address any other needs that the Department of Agriculture believes will be required to support successful implementation of such program transfer.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1), $240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not more than 10 percent, but not less than $24,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities as described in subsection 3107(a)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1(a)(2)).

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, $6,063,000, to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, which shall be paid to the appropriation for ''Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses''.

TITLE VI

RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed $25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107–188; $7,015,038,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, $1,543,226,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $445,808,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $665,438,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $55,731,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $34,142,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $26,503,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2026 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2026, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2026 but credited for fiscal year 2026, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2026 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2026 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2027, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2027 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2026 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) $1,171,319,000 shall be for the Human Foods Program and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Human Foods Program, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which no less than $15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) $2,497,463,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which

no less than $10,000,000 shall be for pilots to increase unannounced foreign inspections and shall remain available until expended; (3) $625,756,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (4) $286,442,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (5) $863,358,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (6) $77,740,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) $689,258,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (8) $434,455,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which $55,112,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) $219,639,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) $369,267,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to, and for the administration of, section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities and shall not exceed $2,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for ''other activities'', and that are not derived from user fees, $1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General'' for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee–3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), medical countermeasure priority review voucher user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb–4a, and fees relating to over-the-counter monograph drugs authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–72 shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, demolition, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

INDEPENDENT AGENCY

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed $106,500,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the purposes of section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)), the Farm Credit Administration may exempt, an amount in its sole discretion, from the application of the limitation provided in that clause of export loans described in the clause guaranteed or insured in a manner other than described in subclause (II) of the clause.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2026 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose

of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: The Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over $25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to $250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113–235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than $20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2027, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than $2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 714. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246 (7 U.S.C. 612c–6; in this section referred to as ''section 14222''), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as ''section 32'') in excess of $1,574,028,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—$1,660,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—$37,178,000: *Provided*, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2026, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2027 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed $350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2026 appropriations Act.

SEC. 716. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89–106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure

in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request;

unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 717. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed obligation plan delineated by program, project, and activity, as defined in the report accompanying this Act, for all amounts made available by this Act and prior appropriations Acts that remain available for obligation, including appropriated user fees and loan authorizations: *Provided,* That such obligation plan shall include breakdowns of estimated obligations for each such program, project, or activity by fiscal quarter, source appropriation, and the number of full-time equivalent positions supported: *Provided further,* That such obligation plan shall serve as the baseline for reprogramming notifications for the purposes of section 716 of this Act.

SEC. 722. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 723. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 724. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided,* That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 725. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107–76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided,* That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the ''variety'' requirements of the final rule entitled ''Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)'' published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term ''variety'' as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and ''variety'' as applied in the definition of the term ''staple food'' as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: *Provided,* That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

SEC. 727. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p–2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 728. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 729. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided,* That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further,* That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

SEC. 730. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

(A) veterinary control and oversight;

(B) disease history and vaccination practices;

(C) livestock demographics and traceability;

(D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;

(E) surveillance practices;

(F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and

(G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.

SEC. 731. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term ''iron and steel products'' means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for ''Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account'' for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms ''United States'' and ''State'' shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 732. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 733. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: ''Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account''; ''Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants''; ''Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants''; ''Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account''; ''Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Business Program Account''; ''Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account''; ''Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants''; ''Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program''; ''Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account''; ''Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account''; and ''Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program'', to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''persistent poverty counties'' means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the Economic Research Service, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further*, That with respect to specific activities for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 735. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled ''Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption'', and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. 736. For school years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to restrict or limit the substitution of any vegetable subgroup for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 738. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

SEC. 739. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be included as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) on a case by case basis pursuant to the authorities in section 721(k)(2)(J) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)(2)(J)) with respect to each covered transaction (as defined in section 721(a)(4) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4))) involving agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry (including agricultural transportation, agricultural storage, and agricultural processing), as determined by the CFIUS Chairperson in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, notify the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States of any agricultural land transaction that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe, based on information from or in cooperation with the Intelligence Community, is a covered transaction (A) that may pose a risk to the national security of the United States, with particular emphasis on covered transactions of an interest in agricultural land by foreign governments or entities of concern, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 19221(a), including the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (B) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501(a)).

SEC. 740. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate property preservation through the acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That such funds may also be used for technical assistance for non-profit organizations, public housing authorities, and private owners for the decoupling of rental assistance.

SEC. 741. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. 742. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

SEC. 743. For school year 2025–2026, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

SEC. 744. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

SEC. 745. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.

SEC. 746. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under

this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

SEC. 747. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are ''Areas Rural in Character'': *Provided,* That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading ''Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program'' for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115–141 may be used for this purpose.

SEC. 748. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement nonrenewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301–1311).

SEC. 749. Out of amounts appropriated to the Food and Drug Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than September 30, 2026, and following the review required under Executive Order No. 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled ''Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability'' (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

SEC. 750. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2026, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones, excluding the funding provided through any Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending.

SEC. 751. (a) For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out no more than 10 pilot projects, under the terms and conditions determined by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 2 years, that award grants to an Indian tribe; a tribal organization approved by an Indian tribe; a tribal educational agency; a consortium of Indian tribes; or a partnership between an Indian tribe and either a State educational agency, a local educational agency, a tribal educational agency, or the Bureau of Indian Education to operate and implement the school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769), the summer food service program as established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, the child and adult care food program as established by section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the school breakfast program established by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) in either a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)); a school (as defined in section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)) on or near an Indian reservation; or an early child care and education facility: *Provided,* That to carry out this pilot program each grant awarded shall be no less than $10,000 and no more than $100,000 for each school year and shall not increase state administrative costs or the amount of benefits provided in any program: *Provided further,* That the term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pilot project grant recipient shall be reimbursed for meals served under the school lunch program, the summer food service program, and the child and adult care food program as if the recipient were a State under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and under the school breakfast program as if the recipient were a State educational agency.

(c) Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the outcomes of the pilot program.

SEC. 752. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue or promote any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers of low risk ready-to-eat (RTE) foods for Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) until the FDA considers the available new science in developing guidance regarding Lm in low-risk foods, meaning foods that do not support the growth of Lm.

SEC. 753. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for a Bison Production and Marketing Grant Program that the Agricultural Marketing Service shall develop and maintain: *Provided,* That this program shall be similar, as determined by the Secretary, to the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program the Department of Agriculture currently maintains pursuant to section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)), and shall prioritize grants to national non-profits and federally chartered Tribal organizations that have expertise in bison production or marketing.

SEC. 754. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, $700,000, for the Office of Tribal Relations to cover costs incurred for the slaughtering, processing, and voluntary meat inspection fees, notwithstanding the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622 et seq.) and 9 CFR part 352, for bison owned by Tribal governments (as defined by the List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131)), Tribal entities (including Tribal organizations and corporations), and Tribal members that slaughter and process bison at establishments that receive USDA voluntary inspection or state inspection.

SEC. 755. If services performed by APHIS employees are determined by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be in response to an animal disease or plant health emergency outbreak, any premium pay that is funded, either directly or through reimbursement, shall be exempted from the aggregate of basic pay and premium pay calculated under section 5547(b)(1) and (2) of title 5, United States Code, and any other provision of law limiting the aggregate amount of premium pay payable on a biweekly or calendar year basis.

SEC. 756. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104–127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 757. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115–334: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.

SEC. 758. There is appropriated $3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

SEC. 759. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) were tasked with providing findings and recommendations on alcohol consumption for the purposes of inclusion in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by section 772 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328): *Provided,* That the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall only consider the findings and recommendations of the NASEM report in the development of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and further, both Secretaries shall ensure that the alcohol consumption recommendations in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans shall be based on the preponderance of scientific and medical knowledge consistent with section 5341 of title 7 of United States Code.

SEC. 760. (a) Section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2(a)), shall be applied for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter until the specified funding has been expended as if the following were inserted after the final period: ''In addition, the Secretary shall use $9,465,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2024 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)) and shall use $9,953,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2026 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)).''.

(b) Section 780 of division B of Public Law 118–42 and such section as continued in effect as an authority and condition under section 1101(a)(1) of Public Law 119–4 shall no longer apply.

SEC. 761. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019)

shall include the words ''genetically engineered'' prior to the existing acceptable market name.

SEC. 762. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, $6,000,000, to remain available until expended, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117–103: *Provided*, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall continue to dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: *Provided further*, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: *Provided further*, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.

SEC. 763. There is hereby appropriated $500,000 to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6; 133 Stat. 89).

SEC. 764. The agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture may reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), out of the funds provided in this Act, for costs incurred by OGC in providing services to such agencies or offices under time-limited agreements entered into with such agencies and offices: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 765. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at paragraph (2)—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'';

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) section 514 or 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485).''.

SEC. 766. The last proviso in the second paragraph under the heading ''Rural Community Facilities Program Account'' in division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42) shall be amended to read as follows: ''*Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than $1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading and in section 778(1).''.

SEC. 767. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for conservation activities under the heading ''Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations'', $30,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 768. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities'', $22,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 769. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for ''Food For Peace Title II Grants'', $200,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 770. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading ''Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program'' for the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), $20,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 771. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available in the ''Working Capital Fund'', $78,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 772. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture in this or any other Act may be used to close or consolidate the resources or locations of any existing Agricultural Research Service laboratories and facilities without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 773. (a) Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses'' that are derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, not less than $200,000,000 shall be used by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs for enforcement activities related to e-cigarettes, vapes, and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (in this section referred to as ''ENDS''), including activities under section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)): *Provided*, That not less than $2,000,000 of such amount shall be used to continue the activities of the Federal multi-agency task force led by the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the FDA to further work to bring all available criminal and civil tools to bear against the illegal manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes, vapes, and other ENDS products from the Republic of China and other foreign countries.

(b) Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall update the FDA document titled ''Guidance for Industry on its Enforcement Priorities,'' published in January 2020 and updated in April 2020, to expand FDA's prioritized enforcement to flavored disposable ENDS products in addition to cartridge-based products and to define the term ''disposable ENDS product.''

(c) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall submit a semi-annual written report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the progress that the Center for Tobacco Products is making in removing all illegal nicotine products from the market: *Provided*, That the initial report shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended by striking ''drug or device'' each place it appears in the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth sentences and inserting ''drug, device, or tobacco product''.

SEC. 774. (a) Fees derived from amounts assessed and collected for fiscal year 2026, credited under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses'', and made available for expenditure under such heading must comply with each provision contained in current user fee authorizations, appropriations Acts, and commitment letters, as transmitted from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives regarding reauthorization of such current user fee authorizations: *Provided*, That the term current user fee authorizations means those user fees authorized at 21 U.S.C. 379h, 21 U.S.C. 379j, 21 U.S.C. 379j–42, 21 U.S.C. 379j–52, 21 U.S.C. 379j–12, 21 U.S.C. 379j–21, 21 U.S.C. 387s, 42 U.S.C. 263b, 21 U.S.C. 381, 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, 21 U.S.C. 379–j31, 21 U.S.C. 379j–62 , 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), 21 U.S.C. 360eee–3(c)(1), 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), 21 U.S.C. 360bbb–4a, and 21 U.S.C. 379j–72.

(b)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes obligation and outlay estimates and full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel staffing estimates for fiscal year 2026 for each Food and Drug Administration program that uses both general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees: *Provided*, That such report shall include a table with separate columns for general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees for such obligations, outlays and FTE personnel staffing: *Provided further*, That such report shall be certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration.

(2) The report in paragraph (1) shall be updated, certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration, and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after each fiscal quarter until all such funds are expended: *Provided*, That a plan for such ongoing quarterly reporting shall be submitted with the report required by subsection (b)(1).

(c) Of the amounts provided in this Act in paragraph (10) under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses'' and made available by the Food and Drug Administration for Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, 50 percent shall be withheld from obligation until the reporting requirements outlined in subsection (b) are met: *Provided*, That an additional 25 percent of the amounts withheld from obligation shall be available when the report required by subsection (b)(1) is submitted and the remaining 25 percent shall be available when the plan for satisfying the ongoing quarterly reporting requirements outlined in the proviso in subsection (b)(2) is submitted.

SEC. 775. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2026''.

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106–78) is amended by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2026''.

SEC. 776. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by FDA to develop, issue, promote, or advance any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions until the publication of the 2025–26 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) What We Eat In America survey, which will begin to reflect the impact on population intake of Phase 1 reduction.

SEC. 777. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide written notification to the

House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no fewer than 3 business days in advance of termination of any grant, cooperative agreement, or contract award totaling $1,000,000 or more issued from funds made available in this Act or any previous Act: *Provided*, That such notification shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a detailed justification for the termination.

SEC. 778. There is hereby appropriated $4,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a new pilot program to support on-the-ground local Energy Circuit Riders who provide professional support to rural communities for the purpose of undertaking projects that save energy and reduce emissions: *Provided*, That for the purpose of the new pilot program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Rural Development, shall have the authority to provide amounts, including in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and other financial assistance, to States, Indian Tribes, cooperative extension services, institutions of higher education, cooperatives and cooperative organizations, regional planning commissions or other public entities serving two or more rural areas: *Provided further*, That the period of performance under this pilot program shall be more than 3 but not more than 6 years: *Provided further*, That the Federal share shall not be more than 75 percent: *Provided further*, That an eligible entity using funds provided under the pilot program shall offer assistance with energy planning, energy audits, applicable Federal funding opportunities, tax incentives, project financing, grant writing, community-based capacity building, or applicable State, local, and utility-based incentives, including, as appropriate, coordinating with relevant State energy offices.

SEC. 779. For purposes of applying the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), ''Pacific Snapper'' is an acceptable market name for each of the following food fishes: Sebastes alutus, Sebastes borealisn, Sebastes ciliatus, Sebastes crameri, Sebastes entomelas, Sebastes flavidus, Sebastes goodei, Sebastes levis, Sebastes melanops, Sebastes miniatus, Sebastes ovalis, Sebastes paucispinis, Sebastes pinniger, Sebastes proriger, Sebastes reedi, Sebastes ruberrimus, Sebastes rufus, and Sebastes serranoides.

SEC. 780. For purposes of applying the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), Hawaii grown or produced coffee shall contain at least 51 percent of coffee grown in Kona, Kau, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, or other areas of the State of Hawaii. Based on the region it is produced or grown, the common or usual names shall be Kona Coffee, Kau Coffee, Maui Coffee, Oahu Coffee, Kauai Coffee, or Hawaii Coffee.

SEC. 781. (a) No sooner than 1 year after the enactment of this Act, section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and—

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) HEMP.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'hemp' means the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant on a dry weight basis.

''(B) INCLUSION.—Such term includes industrial hemp.

''(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

''(i) any viable seeds from a Cannabis sativa L. plant that exceeds a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of 0.3 percent in the plant on a dry weight basis; or

''(ii) any hemp-derived cannabinoid products containing—

''(I) cannabinoids that are not capable of being naturally produced by a Cannabis sativa L. plant;

''(II) cannabinoids that—

''(aa) are capable of being naturally produced by a Cannabis sativa L. plant; and

''(bb) were synthesized or manufactured outside the plant; or

''(III) quantifiable amounts based on substance, form, manufacture, or article (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture) of—

''(aa) tetrahydrocannabinol (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid); or

''(bb) any other cannabinoids that have similar effects (or are marketed to have similar effects) on humans or animals as tetrahydrocannabinol (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary Agriculture).

''(2) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—The term 'industrial hemp' means hemp—

''(A) grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of such a stalk;

''(B) grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut, hull, or any other noncannabinoid compound, derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of the seeds of such plant;

''(C) grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other edible hemp leaf products intended for human consumption that are harvested from an immature hemp plant that is grown from seeds that do not exceed the threshold for total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration specified in paragraph (1)(C)(i);

''(D) that is a plant that does not enter the stream of commerce and is intended to support hemp research at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or an independent research institute; or

''(E) grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant produced solely for the production or manufacture of any material described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

''(3) HEMP-DERIVED CANNABINOID PRODUCT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'hemp-derived cannabinoid product' means any intermediate or final product derived from hemp (other than industrial hemp), that—

''(i) contains cannabinoids in any form; and

''(ii) is intended for human or animal use through any means of application or administration, such as inhalation, ingestion, or topical application.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not include a drug that is the subject of an application approved under subsection (c) or (j) of section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355).''.

(b) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this Act on implementation of this section including the projected impacts to the established cannabinoid marketplace, engagement with industry stakeholders, and shall include information about uniform packaging, labeling, testing, and adverse event reporting requirements.

SEC. 782. None of the funds made available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Natural Resources Conservation Service or Rural Development mission area field offices or to permanently relocate any field-based employees of those agencies that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

This division may be cited as the ''Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

DIVISION C—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SENATE

EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, $20,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, $40,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, $40,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, $40,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, $10,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, $10,000; President Pro Tempore Emeritus, $15,000; Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, $5,000 for each Chairman; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Policy Committees, $5,000 for each Chairman; in all, $195,000.

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, $15,000 for each such Leader; in all, $30,000.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, $314,143,000, which shall be paid from this appropriation as follows:

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

For the Office of the Vice President, $3,210,000.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, $904,000.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore Emeritus, $392,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, $6,710,000.

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, $4,212,000.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, $22,710,000.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of compensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, $2,049,000 for each such committee; in all, $4,098,000.

OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, $1,022,000.

POLICY COMMITTEES

For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, $2,093,000 for each such committee; in all, $4,186,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

For Office of the Chaplain, $699,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Office of the Secretary, $35,083,000.

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, $130,353,000.

OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority, $2,785,000.

AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED EXPENSES

For agency contributions for employee benefits, as authorized by law, and related expenses, $97,779,000.

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, $9,401,000.

OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, $1,431,000.

EXPENSE ALLOWANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE, AND SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY OF THE SENATE

For expense allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, $7,500; Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, $7,500; Secretary for the Majority of the Senate, $7,500; Secretary for the Minority of the Senate, $7,500; in all, $30,000.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE

INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses of inquiries and investigations ordered by the Senate, or conducted under paragraph 1 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, section 112 of the Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Act, 1980 (Public Law 96–304), and Senate Resolution 281, 96th Congress, agreed to March 11, 1980, $222,416,000, of which $22,242,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

U.S. SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

For expenses of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, $613,000.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, $17,852,000, of which $13,274,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $4,578,000 shall remain available until expended.

SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, $230,845,000, of which $220,345,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $10,500,000 shall remain available until expended.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

For miscellaneous items, $28,052,000 which shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT

For Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, $645,431,000, of which $32,272,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which $7,000,000 shall be allocated solely for the purpose of providing financial compensation to Senate interns.

OFFICIAL MAIL COSTS

For expenses necessary for official mail costs of the Senate, $300,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 101. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act under the heading ''SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT'' shall be available for obligation only during the fiscal year or fiscal years for which such amounts are made available. Any unexpended balances under such allowances remaining after the end of the period of availability shall be returned to the Treasury in accordance with the undesignated paragraph under the center heading ''GENERAL PROVISION'' under chapter XI of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957 (2 U.S.C. 4107) and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

DELEGATION AUTHORITY

SEC. 102. Section 104 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (2 U.S.C. 6154 note) shall be amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding the following after ''118th'' and before ''Congress'': ''and any subsequent'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''and ending on January 7, 2025''; and

(3) in subsection (b), by striking ''on or after January 3, 2023''.

JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, $4,283,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, $13,960,620, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and their assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of $3,500 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of $2,500 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of $900 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of $900 per month to 2 assistants and $900 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) $3,388,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, $4,854,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, $1,818,980, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, tuition reimbursement, recruitment and retention bonuses, and other applicable employee benefits, $653,422,000, of which overtime shall not exceed $84,767,000 unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee.

GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, Member protection-related activities and equipment, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, and not more than $7,500 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $201,678,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for fiscal year 2026 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

MUTUAL AID TRANSFER AUTHORITY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 110. Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Capitol Police'' in this Act, up to $10,000,000 may be transferred to ''Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements'' on September 30, 2026, and, once transferred, shall remain available until September 30, 2030, to be used for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108–458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the operation of the Office of Congressional

Workplace Rights, $8,396,400, of which $2,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which not more than $1,000 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than $6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, $71,400,000: *Provided*, That the Director shall use not less than $500,000 of the amount made available under this heading for (1) improving technical systems, processes, and models for the purpose of improving the transparency of estimates of budgetary effects to Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public, and (2) to increase the availability of models, economic assumptions, and data for Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol, including the Botanic Garden, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; for furnishings and office equipment; for official reception and representation expenses of not more than $5,000, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $156,676,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $83,380,000, of which $47,799,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, $20,059,000, of which $3,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of Senate office buildings; and furniture and furnishings to be expended under the control and supervision of the Architect of the Capitol, $124,696,000, of which $16,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which $20,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; and all electrical substations of the Capitol; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $130,705,000, of which $18,189,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That not more than $10,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, $53,139,000, of which $13,400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computing Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $77,630,000, of which $12,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, $21,392,000, of which $5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, $30,547,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor is behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designee, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; information technology services provided centrally; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, $592,411,000, and, in addition, amounts credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, no less than $17,500,000 shall remain available until expended for the Teaching with Primary Sources program, the Lewis-Houghton Civics and Democracy Initiative, the Veterans History Project, the Surplus Books Program, upgrades of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System and data storage and migration efforts.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, $102,386,000, of which not more than $37,025,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under sections 708(d) and 1316 of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than $7,824,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2026 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), and 1005 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than $44,849,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than $10,200,000 is for modernization initiatives, of which $9,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That not more than $100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an ''International Copyright Institute'' in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than $6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, $136,080,000: *Provided*, That no part of such

amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate: *Provided further*, That this prohibition does not apply to publication of nonconfidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) products: *Provided further*, That a nonconfidential CRS product includes any written product containing research or analysis that is currently available for general congressional access on the CRS Congressional Intranet, or that would be made available on the CRS Congressional Intranet in the normal course of business and does not include material prepared in response to Congressional requests for confidential analysis or research.

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), $66,130,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, $650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and print disabled residents at no cost to the individual.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 130. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2026, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed $332,285,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information in any format; publishing of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, $80,000,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading ''GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND'' no later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of the public information programs of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications in any format, and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, $42,475,000: *Provided*, That amounts of not more than $2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for the preceding two fiscal years to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading ''GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND'' no later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund, $9,525,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: *Provided*, That the Government Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund: *Provided further*, That not more than $7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Director of the Government Publishing Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided further*, That activities financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund and the funds provided under the heading ''PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS'' may not be used for contracted security services at Government Publishing Office's passport facility in the District of Columbia.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than $12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, $811,894,000, of which $5,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, in addition, $35,424,000 of payments received under sections 782, 791, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum's costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available to cover costs incurred by the Tiny Findings Child Development Center, in such amount and for such purposes as determined by the Comptroller General, subject to notification provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND

For a payment to the Congressional Office for International Leadership Fund for financing activities of the Congressional Office for International Leadership under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), $6,000,000: *Provided*, That funds made available to support Russian participants shall only be used for those engaging in free market development, humanitarian activities, and civic engagement, and shall not be used for officials of the central government of Russia.

JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), $430,000.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2026 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided,* That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

CONSULTING SERVICES

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

COSTS OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FINANCIAL MANAGERS COUNCIL

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed $2,000.

LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

SEC. 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, unless through regulations as authorized by section 402(b)(8) of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2242(b)(8)).

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

LIMITATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

SEC. 208. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

SEC. 209. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities or other official government activities.

PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION

SEC. 210. All agencies and offices funded by this Act that contract with a food service provider or providers shall confer and coordinate with such food service provider or providers, in consultation with disability advocacy groups, to eliminate or reduce plastic waste, including waste from plastic straws, explore the use of biodegradable items, and increase recycling and composting opportunities.

LIMITATION ON COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2026.

EXTENSION OF PUMP ACT PROTECTIONS TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

SEC. 212. Section 203(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and section 12(c)'' and inserting ''section 12(c), and section 18D''; and

(2) by inserting '', 218d'' after ''212(c)''.

SENATE PROTECTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. (a) For an additional amount for ''Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate'', $18,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which $15,000,000 shall be for enhanced Member security and $3,500,000 shall be for the residential security system program: *Provided,* That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection may be transferred to ''Salaries, Officers and Employees—Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper'' and ''Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Fund'': *Provided further,* That the transfer authority provided pursuant to the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available pursuant to this subsection for enhanced Member security, such sums as necessary may be used to restore amounts, either directly, through reimbursement, or through the transfer authority in the first proviso, for obligations incurred for the same purposes by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further,* That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated in accordance with a spending plan submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) For an additional amount for ''Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements'', $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030, for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108–458: *Provided,* That obligation of the funds made available pursuant to this subsection be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

(c) For an additional amount for ''Capitol Police— General Expenses'', $1,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to the Senate Sergeant at Arms residential security system program.

(d) Each amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

This division may be cited as the ''Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026''.

DIVISION D—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, to carry out activities associated with title VI of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; recognizing contributions to export expansion pursuant to Executive Order 10978; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger

motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed $65,000 per vehicle; not to exceed $350,000 for purchase of armored vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitations; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, $605,000,000, of which $102,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That $12,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further,* That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than $16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further,* That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (subtitle B of title XVII of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2208; 50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, $211,000,000, of which $76,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further,* That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, including provision of assistance under section 207(b) of such Act, for trade adjustment assistance, and for programs authorized by the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended, $360,000,000 to remain available until expended, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Economic Development Assistance Programs'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided,* That amounts made available under this heading may be used to implement prize competitions as authorized by section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, $66,000,000: *Provided,* That funds provided under this heading may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976; title II of the Trade Act of 1974; sections 27 through 30 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722–3723), as amended; and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Development Agency in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, as authorized by law, $55,000,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, $122,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, $328,500,000: *Provided,* That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, $1,191,849,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), $55,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the design, construction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of buildings and facilities managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, not otherwise provided for, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, $4,996,100,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2026, so as to result in a fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further,* That during fiscal year 2026, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than $4,996,100,000, this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further,* That any amount received in excess of $4,996,100,000 in fiscal year 2026 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further,* That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ''Salaries and Expenses'' account: *Provided further,* That the budget of the President submitted for fiscal year 2027 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include within amounts provided under this heading for necessary expenses of the USPTO any increases that are expected to result from an increase promulgated through rule or regulation in offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law in either fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027: *Provided further,* That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed $13,500 shall be made available in fiscal year 2026 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That in fiscal year 2026 from the amounts made available for ''Salaries and Expenses'' for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the Employees FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further,* That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and

the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112–29): *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $2,450,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), $1,006,628,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $9,000,000 may be transferred to the ''Working Capital Fund'': *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $149,469,000 shall be made available for the NIST—STRS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses for industrial technology services, $212,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $175,000,000 shall be for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and of which $37,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing USA Program: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all cooperative agreements authorized by section 278k of title 15, United States Code, for eligible entities in each State and Puerto Rico.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c–278e), $385,897,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $257,897,000 shall be made available for the NIST—Construction projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That up to one percent of amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may be used for the administrative costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials for fiscal year 2027 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than $5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; pilot programs for State-led fisheries management, notwithstanding any other provision of law; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, $4,477,642,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, $399,644,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled ''Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries'', which shall only be used for fishery activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program; Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; Observers and Training; Fisheries Management Programs and Services; and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants: *Provided further*, That of the $4,905,286,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $4,477,642,000 is appropriated from the general fund, $399,644,000 is provided by transfer, and $28,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $4,850,644,000 shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the tables under this heading in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $54,642,000 shall be made available for the NOAA—ORF projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $71,299,000 shall be for payment to the ''Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund'': *Provided further*, That any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents' Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $1,610,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, except that funds provided for acquisition and construction of satellites, vessels, aircraft, and construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the $1,623,000,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $1,610,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund and $13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That the $1,623,000,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the tables under this heading in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials for fiscal year 2027 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, $65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses of administering the fishery disaster assistance programs authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94–265) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (title III of Public Law 99–659), $300,000.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95–372, not to exceed $349,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2026, obligations of direct loans may not exceed $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed $150,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of section 106 of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (title I of division S of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may assess and collect fees pursuant to such section, which shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of such section, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed $9,000 for official reception and representation, $94,500,000: *Provided*, That no employee of the Department of Commerce may be detailed or assigned from a bureau or office funded by this Act or any other Act to offices within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for more than 180 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing bureau or office is fully reimbursed for the salary and expenses of the employee for the entire period of assignment using funds provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That amounts made available to the Department of Commerce in this or any prior Act may not be transferred pursuant to section 508 of this or any prior Act to the account funded under this heading, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances that threaten life or property.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, $1,142,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $48,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 3 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 6 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 30 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2026: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is $11,322,125,000, the life cycle cost of the Polar Follow On Program is $6,837,900,000, the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is $11,700,100,000, and the life cycle cost for the Space Weather Follow On Program is $692,800,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Commerce may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to $200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian Tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a customer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. To carry out the responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Administrator of NOAA is authorized to: (1) enter into grants and cooperative agreements with; (2) use on a non-reimbursable basis land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities provided by; and (3) receive and expend funds made available on a consensual basis from: a Federal agency, State or subdivision thereof, local government, Tribal government, Territory, or possession or any subdivisions thereof: *Provided*, That funds received for permitting and related regulatory activities pursuant to this section shall be deposited under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities'' and shall remain available until September 30, 2027, for such purposes: *Provided further*, That all funds within this section and their corresponding uses are subject to section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 110. Amounts provided by this Act or by any prior appropriations Act that remain available for obligation, for necessary expenses of the programs of the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department of Commerce, including amounts provided for programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census, shall be available for expenses of cooperative agreements with appropriate entities, including any Federal, State, or local governmental unit, or institution of higher education, to aid and promote statistical, research, and methodology activities which further the purposes for which such amounts have been made available.

SEC. 111. The Secretary of Commerce, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive up to 50 percent of the cost sharing requirements under section 315, of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1461) as necessary at the request of the grant applicant, for amounts made available under this Act under the heading ''Procurement, Acquisition and Construction'' under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration''.

SEC. 112. Any unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds transferred to the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, as authorized by section 111 of title I of division B of Public Law 116–93, may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 113. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the employees of the National Weather Service and non-governmental experts in personnel management, may establish an alternative or fixed rate for relocation allowance, including permanent change of station allowance, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5724 and the regulations prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 5738.

SEC. 114. The National Weather Service shall maintain staffing levels by hiring, retaining, and rehiring after separations in order to fulfill the mission required under 15 U.S.C. 313 to protect life and property to the maximum extent possible.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUSTICE OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the operations, management, and accountability of the Department of Justice, $142,000,000, of which not to exceed $4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which not to exceed $4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, $50,000,000, to remain available until

expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to $40,000,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, to remain available until expended, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the first proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of immigration-related activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, $804,000,000, of which $10,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the ''Immigration Examinations Fee'' account, and of which not less than $29,000,000 shall be available for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program: *Provided*, That not to exceed $50,000,000 of the total amount made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for build-out and modifications of courtroom space.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $139,000,000, including not to exceed $10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character: *Provided*, That not to exceed $4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, $13,500,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the expiration of a term of office of a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed $20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; the administration of pardon and clemency petitions; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, $1,028,000,000, of which not to exceed $50,000,000 for litigation support contracts and information technology projects, including cybersecurity and hardening of critical networks, shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided for INTERPOL Washington dues payments, not to exceed $900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to the Criminal Division for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'' from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, $3,390,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any funds provided under this heading in prior year appropriations Acts that remain available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) may also be used to carry out any authorized purposes of the Civil Rights Division: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed by the preceding proviso may not be used to increase the number of permanent positions.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, $22,700,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund and to remain available until expended.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, $245,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees collected in fiscal year 2026 for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a) shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2026 and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts credited to this account as offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 605 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (15 U.S.C. 18a note), none of the funds credited to this account as offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that were unavailable for obligation as of September 30, 2025, shall become available for obligation except as provided in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That any premerger notification filing fees received in excess of $245,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Attorney General shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including intergovernmental and cooperative agreements, $2,611,000,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $19,600 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $40,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, $220,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits of discretionary offsetting collections to the United States Trustee System Fund and amounts herein appropriated shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections pursuant to section 589a of title 28, United States Code (as limited by section 589a(f)(2) of title 28, United States Code), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in fiscal year 2026, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, exceed $220,000,000, those excess amounts shall be available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2026, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, (estimated at $205,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts deposited in the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $15,000,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $2,504,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, $320,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $16,000,000 is for construction of buildings for protected witness safesites; not to exceed $3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed $35,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading may not be transferred pursuant to section 205 of this Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, $22,000,000: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further,* That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, $20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, $1,712,000,000, of which not to exceed $20,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space that is controlled, occupied, or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, $12,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, $2,236,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That not to exceed $20,000,000 shall be considered ''funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance'' pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further,* That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Air Transportation System.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, $122,000,000, of which not to exceed $5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further,* That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime, and money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include inter-governmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, $537,000,000, of which $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, $10,643,713,000, of which not to exceed $216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That not to exceed $284,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities, and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification, and extension of federally owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed $70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, $2,567,000,000, of which not to exceed $75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed $90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding section 3672 of Public Law 106–310, up to $10,000,000 may be used to reimburse States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, other public entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof for expenses incurred to clean up and safely dispose of substances associated with clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, conversion and extraction operations, tableting operations, or laboratories and processing operations for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances which may present a danger to public health or the environment: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available by this Act or any prior Department of Justice Appropriations Act shall be available to restart the illicit crop imagery program.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, $1,625,000,000, of which not to exceed $36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further,* That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further,* That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, $8,392,588,000: *Provided,* That not less than $409,483,000 shall be for the programs and activities authorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391), of which not less than 2 percent shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for the National Institute of Justice to carry out evaluations of programs and activities related to the First Step Act of 2018: *Provided further,* That the Attorney General may transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Department for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions: *Provided further,* That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further,* That not to exceed $5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That not to exceed $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended for necessary operations: *Provided further,* That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed $20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further,* That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the operation of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities: *Provided further,* That amounts made available under this heading for programs and activities related to the First Step Act may not be transferred, or otherwise made available, to or for administration by the Department of Labor.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites, and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and

equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account, $179,762,000, to remain available until expended, of which $150,000,000 shall be available only for costs related to construction of new facilities: *Provided*, That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed $2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) (''the 1968 Act''); title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (commonly known as the ''Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968'') (Public Law 90–284, as amended) (''the Indian Civil Rights Act''); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322, as amended) (34 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (''the 1994 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) (''the 1974 Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386, as amended) (''the 2000 Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405, as amended) (''the 2004 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162, as amended) (''the 2005 Act''); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22) (''the 2015 Act''); the Abolish Human Trafficking Act (Public Law 115–392); and the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117–103) (''the 2022 Act''); and for related victims services, $720,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $80,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from amounts available for obligation in this Act from the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101), notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act of 1984, and merged with the amounts otherwise made available under this heading *Provided*, That except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided—

(1) $255,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act, and any applicable increases for the amount of such grants, as authorized by section 5903 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023: *Provided*, That $10,000,000 shall be for any such increases under such section 5903, which shall apply to fiscal year 2026 grants funded by amounts provided in this paragraph;

(2) $51,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) $2,500,000 is for the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics for research, evaluation, and statistics of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) $17,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; assistance to middle and high school students through education and other services related to such violence, and programs to engage men and youth in preventing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303, and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) $60,500,000 is for grants to improve the criminal justice response as authorized by part U of title I of the 1968 Act, of which up to $4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative; and up to $2,000,000 is for a domestic violence lethality reduction initiative;

(6) $79,500,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) $51,000,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) $25,000,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act, of which $12,500,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities;

(9) $56,000,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) $9,000,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40801 of the 1994 Act;

(11) $22,000,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) $12,000,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) $1,000,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) $1,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(15) $500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women;

(16) $12,000,000 is for programs to assist Tribal Governments in exercising special Tribal criminal jurisdiction, as authorized by section 204 of the Indian Civil Rights Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the 1994 Act shall apply to grants made;

(17) $1,500,000 is for the purposes authorized under the 2015 Act;

(18) $15,000,000 is for a grant program to support restorative justice responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including evaluations of those responses;

(19) $11,000,000 is for culturally specific services for victims, as authorized by section 121 of the 2005 Act;

(20) $3,000,000 is for an initiative to support cross-designation of tribal prosecutors as Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(21) $1,000,000 is for grants to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including through the provision of technical assistance, as authorized by section 206 of the 2022 Act: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(22) $2,000,000 is for a National Deaf Services Line to provide services to Deaf victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this service line;

(23) $5,000,000 is for grants for outreach and services to underserved populations, as authorized by section 120 of the 2005 Act;

(24) $4,000,000 is for an initiative to provide financial assistance to victims, including evaluation of the effectiveness of funded projects: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(25) $5,000,000 is for trauma-informed, victim-centered training for law enforcement, and related research and evaluation activities, as authorized by section 41701 of the 1994 Act;

(26) $12,000,000 is for grants to support access to sexual assault nurse examinations, as

authorized by section 304 of title III of the 2004 Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program; and

(27) $5,500,000 is for local law enforcement grants for prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of cybercrimes against individuals, as authorized by section 1401 of the 2022 Act, and for a National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2022 Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this paragraph.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''title I of the 1968 Act'') (Public Law 90–351); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (''the 1974 Act'') (Public Law 93–415); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the PROTECT Act (Public Law 108–21); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (title II of Public Law 101–647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–79) (''PREA''); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198); the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391); and other programs, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $27,000,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs and other activities as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act; and

(2) $33,000,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle C of title II of the 2002 Act, and for activities authorized by or consistent with the First Step Act of 2018.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–351, as amended) (''the 1968 Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (title II of Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164) (''the TVPRA of 2005''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386) (''the Victims of Trafficking Act''); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–79) (''PREA''); the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–12); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–403) (''the PRO-IP Act''); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473) (''the 1984 Act''); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198) (''CARA''); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); Kevin and Avonte's Law (division Q of Public Law 115–141) (''Kevin and Avonte's Law''); the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018 (title III of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act''); the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the STOP School Violence Act''); the Fix NICS Act of 2018 (title VI of division S of Public Law 115–141); the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391); the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84); title II of Kristen's Act (title II of Public Law 106–468, as amended); the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–401); the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–277); the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507); the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117–103) (''the 2022 Act''); the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263); and other programs, $1,878,146,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $569,146,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g), of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1—

(A) $13,000,000 is for an Officer Robert Wilson III memorial initiative on Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR);

(B) $3,000,000 is for the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;

(C) $8,000,000 is for a grant program for State and local law enforcement to provide officer training on responding to individuals with mental illness or disabilities, including for purposes described in the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325);

(D) $3,000,000 is for a student loan repayment assistance program pursuant to part JJ of title I of the 1968 Act, as amended;

(E) $15,500,000 is for prison rape prevention and prosecution grants to States and units of local government, and other programs, as authorized by PREA: *Provided*, That for grants requested or issued this fiscal year, section 8(e)(2)(D)(iii)(I) of PREA shall be applied by striking ''during the 2-year period beginning 6 years after December 16, 2016'';

(F) $3,000,000 is for the Missing Americans Alert Program (title XXIV of the 1994 Act), as amended by Kevin and Avonte's Law;

(G) $19,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185);

(H) $12,000,000 is for the Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108–405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review;

(I) $3,000,000 is for a national center on restorative justice;

(J) $1,000,000 is for the purposes of the Ashanti Alert Communications Network as authorized by title II of Kristen's Act, as amended by the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–401), and for related planning, implementation and other support activities;

(K) $3,500,000 is for a grant program to replicate and support family-based alternative sentencing programs;

(L) $7,000,000 is for a rural violent crime initiative, including assistance for law enforcement;

(M) $5,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–277);

(N) $1,500,000 is for grants to accredited institutions of higher education to support forensic ballistics programs;

(O) $3,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 1506 of the 2022 Act; and

(P) $152,146,000 is for discretionary grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and to assist victims of crime (other than compensation), which shall be made available for the OJP—Byrne projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose;

(2) $88,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking Act, by the TVPRA of 2005, or by the 2013 Act, and related activities such as investigations and prosecutions;

(3) $8,000,000 for a grant program to prevent and address economic, high technology, white collar, and Internet crime, including as authorized by section 401 of the PRO–IP Act, of which not less than $2,500,000 is for intellectual property enforcement grants including as authorized by section 401, and $2,000,000 is for grants to develop databases on Internet of Things device capabilities and to build and execute training modules for law enforcement;

(4) $19,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities;

(5) $30,000,000 for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act: *Provided*, That $1,500,000 shall be transferred directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Office of Law Enforcement Standards for research, testing, and evaluation programs;

(6) $1,000,000 for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(7) $87,000,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, of which no less than $25,000,000 shall be for grants made under the authorities of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180) and Fix NICS Act of 2018;

(8) $34,000,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

(9) $148,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) $120,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law

106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108–405, section 303);

(B) $10,000,000 is for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities;

(C) $14,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and

(D) $4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;

(10) $51,500,000 for community-based grant programs to improve the response to sexual assault including assistance for investigation and prosecution of related cold cases;

(11) $14,000,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(12) $48,000,000 for assistance to Indian Tribes;

(13) $116,000,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199) and by the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act, of which not to exceed—

(A) $8,000,000 is for a program to improve State, local, and Tribal probation or parole supervision efforts and strategies;

(B) $5,000,000 is for children of incarcerated parents demonstration programs to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry or recidivism reduction strategy;

(C) $5,000,000 is for additional replication sites employing the Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement model implementing swift and certain sanctions in probation, of which no less than $500,000 shall be used for a project that provides training, technical assistance, and best practices; and

(D) $10,000,000 is for a grant program for crisis stabilization and community reentry, as authorized by the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–281):

Provided, That up to $7,500,000 of funds made available in this paragraph may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects, of which up to $5,000,000 shall be for Pay for Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model and reentry housing;

(14) $418,000,000 for comprehensive opioid use reduction activities, including as authorized by CARA, and for the following programs, which shall address opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorders consistent with underlying program authorities, of which—

(A) $89,000,000 is for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(B) $40,000,000 is for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416);

(C) $35,000,000 is for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(D) $34,000,000 is for a veterans treatment courts program, and for other services for veterans in the criminal justice system, of which $5,000,000 is for a national center for veterans justice;

(E) $35,000,000 is for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products; and

(F) $185,000,000 is for a comprehensive opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorder program;

(15) $2,500,000 for a competitive grant program authorized by the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act;

(16) $82,000,000 for grants to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act;

(17) $3,000,000 for grants to State and local law enforcement agencies for the expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving civil rights, including as authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325);

(18) $17,000,000 for grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, including as authorized by section 4704 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84), without regard to section 4704(b)(5);

(19) $9,000,000 for grants to support community-based approaches to advancing justice and reconciliation, facilitating dialogue between all parties, building local capacity, de-escalating community tensions, and preventing hate crimes through conflict resolution and community empowerment and education;

(20) $9,000,000 for programs authorized under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507);

(21) $114,000,000 for initiatives to improve police-community relations, of which $27,000,000 is for a competitive matching grant program for purchases of body-worn cameras and related expenses for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement; $32,000,000 is for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction; and $55,000,000 is for a community violence intervention initiative; and

(22) $10,000,000 for a grant program as authorized by the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263):

Provided, That, if a unit of local government uses any of the funds made available under this heading to increase the number of law enforcement officers, the unit of local government will achieve a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative public sector safety service: *Provided further*, That in the spending plan submitted pursuant to section 528 of this Act, the Office of Justice Programs shall specifically and explicitly identify all changes in the administration of competitive grant programs for fiscal year 2026, including changes to applicant eligibility, priority areas or weightings, and the application review process.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–415) (''the 1974 Act''); title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–351) (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the PROTECT Act (Public Law 108–21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401) (''the 2008 Act''); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–267); the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–385); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473) (''the 1984 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198); and other juvenile justice programs, $380,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $65,000,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act, and for training and technical assistance to assist small, nonprofit organizations with the Federal grants process: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, $500,000 shall be for a competitive demonstration grant program to support emergency planning among State, local, and Tribal juvenile justice residential facilities;

(2) $105,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) $55,000,000 for delinquency prevention, of which, pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act—

(A) $4,000,000 shall be for grants to prevent trafficking of girls;

(B) $16,000,000 shall be for the Tribal Youth Program;

(C) $4,500,000 shall be for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system;

(D) $10,500,000 shall be for an initiative relating to youth affected by opioids, stimulants, and substance use disorder;

(E) $9,000,000 shall be for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence; and

(F) $2,000,000 shall be for the Arts in the Juvenile Justice Demonstration Program;

(4) $43,000,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(5) $105,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the 2008 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act);

(6) $4,500,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act; and

(7) $2,500,000 for a program to improve juvenile indigent defense:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (3) and (6) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the two preceding provisos shall not apply to grants and projects administered pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and $34,800,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and

education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Public Safety Officer Benefits'' from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–37); the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (Public Law 115–113) (''the LEMHW Act''); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); the Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–32) (''the STOIC Act''); and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325), $500,167,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) $206,000,000 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (34 U.S.C. 10384(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed $125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $34,000,000 is for improving Tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, anti-methamphetamine activities, and anti-opioid activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $44,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act, which shall be transferred to and merged with ''Research, Evaluation, and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, no less than $4,000,000 is to support the Tribal Access Program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $10,000,000 is for training, peer mentoring, mental health program activities, and other support services as authorized under the LEMHW Act and the STOIC Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $7,500,000 is for the collaborative reform model of technical assistance in furtherance of section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(2) $12,000,000 is for activities authorized by the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–199);

(3) $16,000,000 is for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers;

(4) $35,000,000 is for competitive grants to statewide law enforcement agencies in States with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids: *Provided*, That these funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration;

(5) $53,000,000 is for competitive grants to be administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services Office for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141);

(6) $25,000,000 is for community policing development activities in furtherance of section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(7) $133,167,000 is for a law enforcement technologies and interoperable communications program, and related law enforcement and public safety equipment, which shall be made available for the COPS Tech projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That grants funded by such amounts shall not be subject to section 1703 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10383); and

(8) $20,000,000 is for activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this title for official reception and representation expenses, a total of not to exceed $50,000 from funds appropriated to the Department of Justice in this title shall be available to the Attorney General for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 204. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 3 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 6 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to the following—

(1) paragraph 1(P) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance''; and

(2) paragraph (7) under the heading ''Community Oriented Policing Services Programs''.

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 207. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 208. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of $100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mechanisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 209. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the report accompanying this Act, and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 210. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 212. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'', ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'', and ''Juvenile Justice Programs''—

(1) up to 2 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance; and

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the

National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

This section shall not apply to paragraph 1(P) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance''.

SEC. 213. Upon request by a grantee for whom the Attorney General has determined there is a fiscal hardship, the Attorney General may, with respect to funds appropriated in this or any other Act making appropriations for fiscal years 2023 through 2026 for the following programs, waive the following requirements:

(1) For the adult and juvenile offender State and local reentry demonstration projects under part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631 et seq.), the requirements under section 2976(g)(1) of such part (34 U.S.C. 10631(g)(1)).

(2) For grants to protect inmates and safeguard communities as authorized by section 6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. 30305(c)(3)), the requirements of section 6(c)(3) of such Act.

SEC. 214. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12109(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 215. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 216. (a) None of the income retained in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026, except up to $12,000,000 may be obligated for implementation of a unified Department of Justice financial management system.

(b) Not to exceed $30,000,000 of the unobligated balances transferred to the capital account of the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation in fiscal year 2026, and any use, obligation, transfer, or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not to exceed $10,000,000 of the excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 217. Discretionary funds that are made available in this Act for the Office of Justice Programs may be used to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under such authorities as have been enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in appropriations acts in prior fiscal years and the current fiscal year.

SEC. 218. The Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate quarterly reports on the Crime Victims Fund, the Working Capital Fund, the Three Percent Fund, and the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Such quarterly reports shall contain at least the same level of information and detail for each Fund as was provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 219. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to conduct, contract for, or otherwise support, live tissue training, unless the Attorney General issues a written, non-delegable determination that such training is medically necessary and cannot be replicated by alternatives.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to target or investigate parents who peacefully protest at school board meetings and are not suspected of engaging in unlawful activity.

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to investigate or prosecute religious institutions on the basis of their religious beliefs.

SEC. 222. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the application of Justice Manual 1-8.200 and 1-8.210, or for the application of any associated or substantially similar memoranda, policy documents, or informal guidance, to communications to and from the Chair, Vice Chair, or staff of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, or the Chair, Ranking Member, or staff of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, relating to Departmental resources, the application of enacted appropriations acts, or the application of Federal laws related to appropriations.

SEC. 223. The notices of funding opportunities for the grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance provided for under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities'' shall be publicly posted no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That the Department of Justice shall make the awards for the grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance provided for under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities'' by September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That the requirements of this section may be waived only by submission of a letter, signed by the head of the respective grantmaking office, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate explaining in detail the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 224. The Attorney General shall retain, preserve, and compile any records or evidence related to any investigation, prosecution, services provided to victims, or incarceration of Jeffrey Epstein: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report that includes information on the history of the Jeffrey Epstein case (including the 2008 non-prosecution agreement), victims and testimony (including notifications under section 3771 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Crime Victims' Rights Act'')), investigation of co-conspirators, internal reviews and misconduct findings by the Department of Justice, the current status of investigations into the financial and trafficking networks of Jeffrey Epstein, an intelligence assessment of Jeffrey Epstein's financial ties, clients, and connections (if any) to the United States Government or foreign governments, and oversight failures at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York: *Provided further*, That, as necessary to protect privacy, the Attorney General may redact the names and personally identifiable information of victims from the report submitted to Congress.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $7,965,000.

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

For necessary expenses of the National Space Council, in carrying out the purposes of title V of Public Law 100–685 and Executive Order No. 14056, hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, $1,965,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Space Council may accept personnel support from Federal agencies, departments, and offices, and such Federal agencies, departments, and offices may detail staff without reimbursement to the National Space Council for purposes provided herein.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $7,300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the report accompanying this Act shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $950,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of

space technology research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $975,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That $110,000,000 shall be for the development, production, and demonstration of nuclear propulsion systems.

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $7,783,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the report accompanying this Act shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $4,314,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the report accompanying this Act shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ENGAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $148,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the report accompanying this Act shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, space technology, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $3,107,079,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That if available balances in the ''Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust Fund'' are not sufficient to provide for the grant disbursements required under the third and fourth provisos under such heading in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100–404) as amended by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995 (Public Law 103–327), up to $1,000,000 shall be available from amounts made available under this heading to make such grant disbursements: *Provided further,* That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $24,679,000 shall be made available for the SSMS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further,* That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, $275,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2031: *Provided,* That proceeds from leases deposited into this account shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further,* That such proceeds referred to in the preceding proviso shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2026 in an amount not to exceed $33,000,000: *Provided further,* That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant to section 20145 of title 51, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, $47,600,000, of which $1,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds for any announced prize otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until a prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 6 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 12 percent by any such transfers. Any funds transferred to ''Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration'' for construction activities shall not increase that account by more than 20 percent. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under previous appropriations Acts that remains available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026 may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall retain its original availability and shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the theme, program, project, and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not more than 20 percent or $50,000,000, whichever is less, of the amounts made available in the current-year Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration (CECR) appropriation may be applied to CECR projects funded under previous years' CECR appropriations. Use of current-year funds under this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading ''Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement'' (''STEM Engagement''), up to $5,000,000 shall be available to jointly fund, with an additional amount of up to $1,000,000 each from amounts made available in this Act under the headings ''Science'', ''Aeronautics'', ''Space Technology'', ''Exploration'', and ''Space Operations'', projects and activities for engaging students in STEM and increasing STEM research capacities of universities, including Minority Serving Institutions.

Not to exceed $38,500,000 made available for the current fiscal year in this Act within ''Safety, Security and Mission Services'' may be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Balances so transferred shall be available until expended only for activities described in section 30102(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by this Act, and shall remain available until expended. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of

funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Nonrecurring Expenses Fund'' (the Fund). Unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated for this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated) into the Fund. Amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, and in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for facilities infrastructure improvements, including nonrecurring maintenance, necessary for the operation of NASA, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget. Amounts in the Fund may not be available for the purpose described in subsection (b)(3) of section 30102 of title 51, United States Code. Amounts in the Fund may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

For the closeout of all Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs, amounts that have expired but have not been cancelled in the Exploration, Space Operations, Human Space Flight, Space Flight Capabilities, and Exploration Capabilities appropriations accounts shall remain available through fiscal year 2030 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred during the period of fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2013: *Provided*, That this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; $7,176,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $700,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts in the preceding proviso, not less than $109,310,000 shall be for U.S. Antarctic Logistical Support: *Provided further*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, $350,000,000, to remain available until expended.

STEM EDUCATION

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics, and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the report accompanying this Act shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; $444,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $12,000 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2026 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), $5,090,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, $24,410,000, of which $1,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed 3 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 6 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 30 days in advance of any planned divestment through transfer, decommissioning, termination, or deconstruction of any NSF-owned facilities or any NSF capital assets (including land, structures, and equipment) valued greater than $2,500,000.

This title may be cited as the ''Science Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, $14,350,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to employ any individuals under Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the preceding proviso, $2,000,000 shall be used to separately fund the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110–233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–325), the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–2), and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (Public Law 117–328), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to $32,500,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, $455,000,000, of which $2,788,000 shall be for the Office of the Inspector General: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $2,250 from available funds: *Provided further*, That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, $122,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not less than $2,096,176 shall be for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, $566,000,000, of which $522,100,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; $5,700,000 is for the Office of Inspector

General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; $26,200,000 is for management and grants oversight; $5,000,000 is for client self-help and information technology; $5,000,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund; and $2,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided*, That the budget execution for the payment to the Legal Services Corporation shall be carried out in this fiscal year in the same manner as such budget execution was carried out in fiscal year 2024 and such payment shall be made in full as an annual installment paid to the Corporation at the beginning of the fiscal year in such amounts as specified under this heading: *Provided further*, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996d(d)): *Provided further*, That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105–119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2025 and 2026, respectively.

Section 501 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105–119) is amended by adding the following new subsection at the end:

''(d) MODIFIED GOVERNING BODY REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of this Act, section 1007(c) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996f(c)) shall be applied by substituting '33 percent' for '60 percent'.''.

Section 502(2) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

''(B) is governed by a board of directors or other governing body, 33 percent of which is comprised of attorneys who are members of the bar of a State, as defined in section 1002(8) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996a(8)), in which the legal assistance is to be provided;''.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), $4,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $65,000,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not to exceed $124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities of the United States Trade Representative authorized by section 611 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4405), including transfers, $15,000,000, to be derived from the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of such section shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) $7,640,000, of which $500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,250 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. (a) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $500,000 or 5 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 5 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 5 percent; (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress; or (9) terminates a Federal award or contract for no longer effectuating the program goals or agency priorities; unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(b) Any reprogramming notification submitted pursuant to this section shall include any out-year budgetary impacts and a separate accounting of program or mission impacts on estimated carryover funds.

(c) Any department or agency funded by this Act that plans a reduction-in-force shall notify the Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing no later than 30 days in advance of the date of any such planned personnel action.

(d) No department or agency shall submit a reprogramming notification after July 1, 2026, except in extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property: *Provided*, That any such notification shall include a description of the extraordinary circumstances.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a ''Made in America'' inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall be used to purchase items that are manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term ''promotional items'' has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A–87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to

carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101) in any fiscal year in excess of $1,900,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act, of the amounts available from the Fund for obligation: (1) $10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and remain available until expended for oversight and auditing purposes associated with this section; and (2) 5 percent shall be available to the Office for Victims of Crime for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian Tribes to improve services for victims of crime.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(d) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, ''Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems'' unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the FBI and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the FBI or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST, the FBI, and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the FBI, that the acquisition of such system is in the national interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the agency Inspector General.

SEC. 515. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States–Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States–Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 517. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; USA FREEDOM Act of 2015; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 518. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than $75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent or more, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increases; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new estimates of the total project or procurement costs; and a statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 519. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2026 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 521. (a) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Commerce, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''Economic Development Administration—Economic Development Assistance Programs'', $30,000,000, only from prior year appropriations; and

(2) ''Census Working Capital Fund'', $15,000,000.

(b) Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office on Violence Against Women—Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs'', $15,000,000;

(2) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs'', $125,000,000; and

(3) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services'', $20,000,000.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following account in the specified amounts: ''Working Capital Fund'', $100,000,000.

(d) The Departments of Commerce and Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2026, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsections (a), (b), and (c).

(e) The amounts rescinded in subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not be from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) The amounts rescinded pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) shall not be from—

(1) amounts provided under subparagraph (Q) of paragraph (1) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328, or amounts provided under subparagraph (R) of paragraph (1) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in title II of division C of Public Law 118–42; or

(2) amounts provided under paragraph (7) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs'' in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328, or amounts provided under paragraph (7) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs'' in title II of division C of Public Law 118–42.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 523. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless—

(1) such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States; or

(2) such conference is a scientific conference and the department or agency head determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within at least 15 days of that determination and the basis for that determination.

SEC. 524. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 525. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are ''Energy Star'' qualified or have the ''Federal Energy Management Program'' designation.

SEC. 526. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), or the National Space Council (NSC) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(c) The limitations described in subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities which NASA, OSTP, or NSC, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(d) Any certification made under subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than 30 days prior to the activity in question and shall include a description of the purpose of the activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

SEC. 527. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, adjudication, or other law enforcement- or victim assistance-related activity.

SEC. 528. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the International Trade Commission, the Legal Services Corporation, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Offices of Science and Technology Policy and the United States Trade Representative, the National Space Council, and the State Justice Institute shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That the spending plans submitted pursuant to this section shall contain at least the same level of detail as the spending plans submitted pursuant to this section in fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 529. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 530. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 (''Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research'') of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SEC. 531. None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

SEC. 532. The Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall provide a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of such Department or agency, including the purpose of such travel.

SEC. 533. Of the amounts made available by this Act, not less than 10 percent of each total amount provided, respectively, for Public Works grants authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722) shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''persistent poverty counties'' means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any Territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 534. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available

under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding $500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper's Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any unclassified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 535. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR section 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin ''curios or relics'' firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to deny, or fail to act on, an application for the importation of any model of shotgun if—

(1) all other requirements of law with respect to the proposed importation are met; and

(2) no application for the importation of such model of shotgun, in the same configuration, had been denied by the Attorney General prior to January 1, 2011, on the basis that the shotgun was not particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

SEC. 537. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 538. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 539. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 540. Funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in this Act and any remaining unobligated balances of funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in prior year Acts, other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or from amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Justice—Legal Activities—Fees and Expenses of Witnesses'', shall be available to provide payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(i)(2)): *Provided,* That payments made pursuant to the matter preceding this proviso may not exceed $5,000,000 for the Department of Commerce and $10,000,000 for the Department of Justice.

SEC. 541. (a)(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102(a) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167) not otherwise allocated pursuant to section 546(a)(1)(B) of division C of Public Law 118–42, including the transfer authority in such paragraphs of that section of that Act, to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified, in the table titled ''Department of Commerce Allocation of National Institute of Standards and Technology Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2026'' in the report accompanying this Act.

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Workforce and Education Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 102(d)(1) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), to the account specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled ''National Science Foundation Allocation of Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2026'' in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under section 102(a)(2)(A) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 or under section 102(d)(2) of such Act if there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: *Provided,* That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation, apportionment, or allotment of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the CHIPS for America Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and subject to the terms and conditions in section 505 of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce may reallocate funds allocated to Industrial Technology Services for section 9906 of Public Law 116–283 by subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

(2) the Director of the National Science Foundation may reallocate funds allocated to the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund by subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(d) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2027, the Director of the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed allocations by account and by program, project, or activity, with detailed justifications, for amounts made available under section 102(d)(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 for fiscal year 2027.

(e) The Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall each provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section and prior appropriations Acts, the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to section 543(a)(2) of division B of Public Law 117–328, and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section and prior appropriations Acts, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds.

SEC. 542. In making Federal financial assistance, the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall continue to apply the negotiated indirect cost rates for Institutions of Higher Education in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of

Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as such negotiated indirect cost rates were applied in fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, or otherwise made available to the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such fiscal year 2024 negotiated indirect cost rates.

This division may be cited as the ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

SA 2978. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 586. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO E. ROYCE WILLIAMS FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 8298 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 8291 of such title to E. Royce Williams for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of E. Royce Williams—

(1) as a lieutenant in the Navy, on November 18, 1952, for which he was previously awarded the Navy Cross and the Taegeuk Order of Military Merit of South Korea; and

(2) as an Ace fighter pilot who shot down multiple MiG aircraft.

SA 2979. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. EXEMPTION FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMIT.

Section 201(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) Aliens who—

''(i) are eligible for a visa under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 203(a); and

''(ii) have a parent (regardless of whether the parent is living or dead) who was naturalized pursuant to—

''(I) section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–649; 8 U.S.C. 1440 note); or

''(II) title III of the Act of October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1137, chapter 876), as added by section 1001 of the Second War Powers Act, 1942 (56 Stat. 182, chapter 199).''.

SA 2980. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REPEAL OF ALIEN ENEMIES ACT.

Sections 4067 through 4070 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (50 U.S.C. 21–24) are repealed.

SA 2981. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY CARE COSTS AND OUTCOMES.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report detailing—

(1) the total expenditures for services under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, during the year covered by the report;

(2) a comparative cost analysis between care delivered in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs versus care provided under the Veterans Community Care Program;

(3) quality and outcome metrics for care provided under the Veterans Community Care Program; and

(4) veteran satisfaction data related to care delivered in facilities of the Department versus care provided under the Veterans Community Care Program.

SA 2982. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINICAL STAFFING TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

(a) PUBLIC STAFFING REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a report, disaggregated by facility of the Department, on clinical staffing levels, including the number of filled and vacant positions for key health care roles.

(b) IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan to address critical staffing shortages, with measurable milestones and timelines for hiring and retention improvements.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives of significant clinical staffing shortfalls and progress toward resolving those shortfalls.

SA 2983. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated under title II under the heading ''MEDICAL SERVICES'' under the heading ''VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS'' for fiscal year 2027 is hereby increased by $100,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated under section 90103 of Public Law 119–21 (commonly known as the ''One Big Beautiful Bill Act'') is hereby rescinded.

SA 2984. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) CONDITIONS ON CONTRACT EXPANSION.—None of the funds made available by this title may be used to expand or renew contracts under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that—

(1) a comprehensive oversight framework is in place for monitoring contractor performance under such program;

(2) roles and responsibilities for contract oversight under such program are clearly defined and documented; and

(3) performance metrics for such program are being used to assess timeliness, quality of care, and veteran satisfaction across all providers under such program.

(b) LIMITING REDUNDANT USE OF COMMUNITY CARE.—The Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) referrals to care under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, are made only when facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot provide the required care within clinical access standards; and

(2) preference for care provided to veterans is given to care provided by the Department if capacity exists.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report detailing the steps taken to ensure effective oversight, prevent inappropriate overuse of community care, and improve internal service capacity of the Department.

SA 2985. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON PRIVATIZATION OF VETERANS HEALTH CARE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds made available in this title may be used to privatize, outsource, or transfer ownership or control of any health care facility or service of the Department of Veterans Affairs to a non-Department entity.

(b) SCOPE.—The prohibition under subsection (a) includes—

(1) the permanent closure or downsizing of medical facilities of the Department that results in the redirection of care to non-Department providers; and

(2) the use of limited staffing levels of the Department as justification for increased reliance on non-Department care.

(c) PRIVATIZE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''privatize'' includes any action that reduces the availability or scope of direct care provided by personnel of the Department in facilities owned and operated by the Department in favor of community care or private contracting, except in cases where clinical access standards require it.

SA 2986. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, line 18, strike ''$613,213,000'' and insert ''$613,210,000''.

SA 2987. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. MAPPING AMERICA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Mapping America's Pharmaceutical Supply Act'' or the ''MAPS Act''.

(b) ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies and in consultation with, as appropriate, stakeholders who have relevant expertise, shall update and maintain a list of essential medicines (referred to in this section as the ''Essential Medicines List''), initially developed in response to Executive Order 13944 (85 Fed. Reg. 49929), to include active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs—

(A) that are directly related to responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats and incidents covered by the National Response Framework;

(B) of greatest priority for providing health care and identified as being at high risk of shortage;

(C) the shortage of which would have an adverse health outcome on patients with chronic conditions; or

(D) that the Secretary of Defense determines to be critical for military preparedness.

(2) UPDATES TO LIST.—The Secretary shall update the Essential Medicines List regularly, on a timeframe that the Secretary determines necessary and appropriate, and not less frequently than every 2 years.

(3) COMPILATION OF INITIAL LIST.—The Secretary shall complete the first updates to the Essential Medicines List required pursuant to paragraph (1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) PUBLICATION OF LIST.—The Secretary shall publish the Essential Medicines List promptly after each update pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3).

(c) ESSENTIAL MEDICINES RISK ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the heads of other relevant departments and agencies, shall conduct a comprehensive risk assessment of the supply chains for active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs included on the Essential Medicines List described in subsection (b).

(2) CONTENTS OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES RISK ASSESSMENT.—At a minimum, the risk assessment under paragraph (1) shall identify, to the extent available—

(A) key starting materials and excipients used in manufacturing the active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs on the Essential Medicines List;

(B) the active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs on the Essential Medicines List that rely on a high-risk foreign supplier or foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 9901(8) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651(8))) for more than 50 percent of production;

(C) the active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs on the Essential Medicines List that are sourced exclusively or primarily from foreign establishments, including drugs manufactured domestically from active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced exclusively or primarily from foreign establishments;

(D) current domestic manufacturing capabilities for active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs on the Essential Medicines List, including the key starting materials and excipients of such ingredients and drugs, and any cost-effective manufacturing technologies, including advanced manufacturing;

(E) public health and national security risks, including cybersecurity threats and critical infrastructure designations specific to the supply chains of active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs included on the Essential Medicines List;

(F) any deficiencies, lack of authorities, or limitations in policy or process that reduce the ability of the Federal Government to address any identified public health or national security risks related to supply chains for active pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs included on the Essential Medicines List; and

(G) how the Federal Government will mitigate such national security risks, including through the use of authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.).

(3) REPORT ON ASSESSMENT.—

(A) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies consulted under paragraph (1), shall submit a report with the findings under paragraph (2) to—

(i) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(iii) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(B) PUBLICATION OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies consulted under paragraph (1), shall release a public version of the report submitted under subparagraph (A).

(d) U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS MAPPING.—

(1) PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall ensure coordination of efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services, including through public-private partnerships, to—

(A) map, or otherwise visualize, the supply chains, from manufacturing of key starting materials through manufacturing of finished dosage forms and distribution, of drugs (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)) included on the Essential Medicines List under subsection (b); and

(B) use data analytics to identify supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security, as determined by the Secretary or the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) describe the roles and responsibilities of agencies and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services related to monitoring such supply chains and assessing any related vulnerabilities;

(B) facilitate the exchange of information between Federal departments, agencies, and offices, as appropriate and necessary to enable such agencies and offices to carry out roles and responsibilities described in subparagraph (A) related to drugs described in paragraph (1)(A), which may include—

(i) the location of establishments registered under subsection (b), (c), or (i) of section 510 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360) involved in the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients and finished dosage forms of drugs described in paragraph (1)(A), and the amount of such ingredients and finished dosage forms produced at each such establishment;

(ii) to the extent available and as appropriate, the location of establishments so registered involved in the production of the key starting materials and excipients needed to produce the active pharmaceutical ingredients and finished dosage forms, and the amount of such materials and excipients produced at each such establishment; and

(iii) any regulatory actions with respect to such drugs or the establishments manufacturing such drugs, including with respect to inspections and related regulatory activities conducted under section 704 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 374), the seizure of such a drug pursuant to section 304 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 334), any recalls of such a drug; inclusion of such a drug on the drug shortage list under section 506E of such Act (21 U.S.C. 356e), or prior drug shortages reports of a discontinuance or interruption in the production of such a drug under 506C of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355d).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of agencies with which the Secretary coordinates under paragraph (1), shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress on—

(A) the current status of efforts to map and analyze pharmaceutical supply chains, as described in paragraph (1);

(B) activities of the Secretary carried out under this subsection to coordinate efforts as described in paragraph (1), including information sharing between relevant Federal departments, agencies, and offices;

(C) the roles and responsibilities described in paragraph (2)(A), including the identification of any gaps, data limitations, or areas of unnecessary duplication between such roles and responsibilities;

(D) the extent to which Federal agencies use data analytics to conduct predictive modeling of anticipated drug shortages or risks associated with supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security; and

(E) the extent to which the Secretary has engaged relevant industry in such mapping.

(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional committees described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(3)(A) a report that lists all drugs purchased by the Department of Defense during the 180-day period preceding the date of the report—

(1) that contain key starting materials, excipients, or active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced from the People's Republic of China; or

(2) for which the finished drug product was manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.—The term ''advanced manufacturing'' has the meaning given the term ''advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing'' in section 3016(h) of the 21st Century Cures Act (21 U.S.C. 399h(h)).

(2) CYBERSECURITY THREAT.—The term ''cybersecurity threat'' has the meaning given such term in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

(3) DRUG.—The term ''drug'' has the meaning given such term in section 201(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'', except as otherwise specified, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(g) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) CLARIFICATION.—The participation of the Secretary in developing and updating the list of essential medicines under subsection (b) shall be deemed to be full satisfaction of the requirements applicable to such secretary under subsection (c) of Executive Order 13944 (85 Fed. Reg. 49929).

(2) CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.—The exchange of information among the Secretary and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies for purposes of carrying out subsections (c) and (d) shall not be a violation of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code. This section shall not be construed to affect the status, if any, of such information as trade secret or confidential commercial information for purposes of section 301(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331(j)), section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) CYBERSECURITY MEASURES.—The Secretary shall ensure that robust cybersecurity measures are in place to prevent inappropriate access to, or unauthorized disclosure of, the information identified, exchanged, or disclosed under subsections (c) and (d).

SA 2988. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II of division A, add the following:

SEC. 262. LACTATION SPACES IN MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1720M. Lactation spaces in medical centers of the Department

''(a) LACTATION SPACE REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that each medical center of the Department contains a lactation space.

''(b) NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize an individual to enter a medical center of the Department or portion thereof that the individual is not otherwise authorized to enter.

''(c) LACTATION SPACE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'lactation space' means a hygienic place, other than a bathroom, that—

''(1) is shielded from view;

''(2) is free from intrusion;

''(3) is accessible to disabled individuals (including such individuals who use wheelchairs);

''(4) contains a chair and a working surface;

''(5) is easy to locate;

''(6) is clearly identified with signage; and

''(7) is available for use by women veterans and members of the public to express breast milk.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1720L the following new item:

''1720M. Lactation spaces in medical centers of the Department.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 1720M of title 38, United States Code, as added by this section, not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2989. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 202 and insert the following:

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts of a cumulative 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer.

SA 2990. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the at the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW OF WAR.

It is the sense of Congress, whose constitutional responsibility it is to ''define and punish . . . Offences against the Law of Nations'' and to ''make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'', that—

(1) the law of war, embodied in both treaties to which the United States is party and customary international law, binds the United States and the United States Armed Forces;

(2) consistent with the longstanding policy of the Department of Defense to comply with the law of war during all armed conflicts, the United States remains steadfastly committed to complying with its obligations under the law of war, including the fundamental principles of necessity, humanity, distinction, and proportionality;

(3) in addition to being legally required, compliance with the law of war reinforces military effectiveness, helps maintain public support and political legitimacy, and can encourage reciprocal adherence by the adversary or adherence by adversaries in future conflicts;

(4) obligations under the law of war include those that address the protection of civilians, including, among other things—

(A) prohibitions on attacks directed at civilians and civilian objects, indiscriminate attacks, and attacks expected to cause excessive harm to civilians relative to the anticipated military advantage;

(B) the requirement to take all feasible precautions to avoid, or in any event minimize, harm to civilians; and

(C) the presumption in cases of doubt as to whether a person is a civilian, that such person shall be considered a civilian;

(5) the protection of civilians is fundamentally consistent with the effective, efficient, and decisive use of force in pursuit of United States national interests;

(6) minimizing civilian casualties can further mission objectives, help maintain the

support of partner governments and vulnerable populations, and enhance the legitimacy and sustainability of United States operations critical to national security; and

(7) the United States therefore routinely imposes certain heightened policy standards that are more protective than the requirements of the law of war that relate to the protection of civilians.

SA 2991. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 586. MODIFICATION OF PERSONS NOT QUALIFIED FOR ENLISTMENT DEFINITION.

Section 504(b)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''that the person will use in the primary daily duties of that person as a member of the armed forces'' and inserting ''that the person will use in the duties of that person as a member of the armed forces''.

SA 2992. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. DEFIANCE ACT OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits Act of 2025'' or the ''DEFIANCE Act of 2025''.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Digital forgeries, often called deepfakes, are synthetic images and videos that look realistic. The technology to create digital forgeries is now ubiquitous and easy to use. Hundreds of apps are available that can quickly generate digital forgeries without the need for any technical expertise.

(2) Digital forgeries can be wholly fictitious but can also manipulate images of real people to depict sexually intimate conduct that did not occur. For example, some digital forgeries will paste the face of an individual onto the body of a real or fictitious individual who is nude or who is engaging in sexual activity. Another example is a photograph of an individual that is manipulated to digitally remove the clothing of the individual so that the person appears to be nude.

(3) The individuals depicted in such digital forgeries are profoundly harmed when the content is produced with intent to disclose, disclosed, or obtained without the consent of those individuals. These harms are not mitigated through labels or other information that indicates that the depiction is fake.

(4) It can be destabilizing to victims whenever those victims are depicted in intimate digital forgeries against their will, as the privacy of those victims is violated and the victims lose control over their likeness and identity.

(5) Victims can feel helpless because the victims—

(A) may not be able to determine who has created the content; and

(B) do not know how to prevent further disclosure of the intimate digital forgery or how to prevent more forgeries from being made.

(6) Victims may be fearful of being in public out of concern that individuals the victims encounter have seen the digital forgeries. This leads to social rupture through the loss of the ability to trust, stigmatization, and isolation.

(7) Victims of non-consensual, sexually intimate digital forgeries may experience depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. These victims may also experience the ''silencing effect'' in which the victims withdraw from online spaces and public discourse to avoid further abuse.

(8) Digital forgeries are often used to—

(A) harass victims, interfering with their employment, education, reputation, or sense of safety; or

(B) commit extortion, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes.

(9) Because of the harms caused by nonconsensual, sexually intimate digital forgeries, such digital forgeries are considered to be a form of image-based sexual abuse.

(c) CIVIL ACTION RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE IMAGES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1309 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting ''**OR NONCONSENSUAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING DIGITAL FORGERIES**'' after ''**INTIMATE IMAGES**''; and

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''competent,'' after ''conscious,'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (3);

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3);

(iv) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

(v) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'identifiable individual' means an individual whose body appears in whole or in part in an intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery and who is identifiable by virtue of the individual's face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a unique birthmark or other recognizable feature, or from information displayed in connection with the intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery.

''(5) INTIMATE DIGITAL FORGERY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'intimate digital forgery' means any intimate visual depiction of an identifiable individual that—

''(i) falsely represents, in whole or in part—

''(I) the identifiable individual; or

''(II) the conduct or content that makes the visual depiction intimate;

''(ii) is created through the use of software, machine learning, artificial intelligence, or any other computer-generated or technological means, including by adapting, modifying, manipulating, or altering an authentic visual depiction; and

''(iii) is indistinguishable from an authentic visual depiction of the identifiable individual when viewed as a whole by a reasonable person.

''(B) LABELS, DISCLOSURE, AND CONTEXT.—Any visual depiction described in subparagraph (A) constitutes an intimate digital forgery for purposes of this paragraph regardless of whether a label, information disclosed with the visual depiction, or the context or setting in which the visual depiction is disclosed states or implies that the visual depiction is not authentic.''; and

(vi) in paragraph (6)(A), as so redesignated—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking ''individual;'' and inserting ''individual; or''; and

(bb) by striking subclause (III); and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) an identifiable individual engaging in sexually explicit conduct; and''.

(2) CIVIL ACTION.—Section 1309(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (5)—

''(i) an identifiable individual whose intimate visual depiction is disclosed, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce, without the consent of the identifiable individual, where such disclosure was made by a person who knows or recklessly disregards that the identifiable individual has not consented to such disclosure, may bring a civil action against that person in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3);

''(ii) an identifiable individual who is the subject of an intimate digital forgery may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3) against any person that knowingly produced or possessed the intimate digital forgery with intent to disclose it, knowingly disclosed the intimate digital forgery, or knowingly solicited and received the intimate digital forgery, if—

''(I) the identifiable individual did not consent to such production or possession with intent to disclose, disclosure, or solicitation and receipt;

''(II) the person knew or recklessly disregarded that the identifiable individual did not consent to such production or possession with intent to disclose, disclosure, or solicitation and receipt; and

''(III) such production or possession with intent to disclose, disclosure, or solicitation and receipt, is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce or uses any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce; and

''(iii) an identifiable individual who is the subject of an intimate digital forgery may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States for relief as set forth in paragraph (3) against any person that knowingly produced the intimate digital forgery if—

''(I) the identifiable individual did not consent to such production;

''(II) the person knew or recklessly disregarded that the identifiable individual—

''(aa) did not consent to such production; and

''(bb) was harmed, or was reasonably likely to be harmed, by the production; and

''(III) such production is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce or uses any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce.''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting ''IDENTIFIABLE'' before ''INDIVIDUALS''; and

(II) by striking ''an individual who is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, the legal guardian of the individual'' and inserting ''an identifiable individual who is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, the legal guardian of the identifiable individual'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting ''identifiable'' before ''individual'';

(II) by striking ''depiction'' and inserting ''intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery''; and

(III) by striking ''distribution'' and inserting ''disclosure, solicitation, or possession''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting ''identifiable'' before ''individual'';

(II) by inserting ''or intimate digital forgery'' after ''depiction'' each place it appears; and

(III) by inserting '', solicitation, or possession'' after ''disclosure'';

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(D) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) RELIEF.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In a civil action filed under this section, an identifiable individual may recover—

''(i) damages as provided under subparagraph (C); and

''(ii) the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.

''(B) PUNITIVE DAMAGES AND OTHER RELIEF.—The court may, in addition to any other relief available at law, award punitive damages or order equitable relief, including a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to delete, destroy, or cease to display or disclose the intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery.

''(C) DAMAGES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the identifiable individual may recover—

''(i) liquidated damages in the amount of—

''(I) $150,000; or

''(II) $250,000 if the conduct at issue in the claim was—

''(aa) committed in relation to actual or attempted sexual assault, stalking, or harassment of the identifiable individual by the defendant; or

''(bb) the direct and proximate cause of actual or attempted sexual assault, stalking, or harassment of the identifiable individual by any person; or

''(ii) actual damages sustained by the individual, which shall include any profits of the defendant that are attributable to the conduct at issue in the claim that are not otherwise taken into account in computing the actual damages.

''(D) CALCULATION OF DEFENDANT'S PROFIT.—For purposes of subparagraph (C)(ii), to establish the defendant's profits, the identifiable individual shall be required to present proof only of the gross revenue of the defendant, and the defendant shall be required to prove the deductible expenses of the defendant and the elements of profit attributable to factors other than the conduct at issue in the claim.

''(4) PRESERVATION OF PRIVACY.—In a civil action filed under this section, the court may issue an order to protect the privacy of a plaintiff, including by—

''(A) permitting the plaintiff to use a pseudonym;

''(B) requiring the parties to redact the personal identifying information of the plaintiff from any public filing, or to file such documents under seal; and

''(C) issuing a protective order for purposes of discovery, which may include an order indicating that any intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery shall remain in the care, custody, and control of the court.'';

(E) in paragraph (5)(A), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''image'' and inserting ''visual depiction or intimate digital forgery''; and

(ii) by striking ''depicted'' and inserting ''identifiable''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Any action commenced under this section shall be barred unless the complaint is filed not later than 10 years from the later of—

''(A) the date on which the identifiable individual reasonably discovers the violation that forms the basis for the claim; or

''(B) the date on which the identifiable individual reaches 18 years of age.

''(7) DUPLICATIVE RECOVERY BARRED.—No relief may be ordered under paragraph (3) against a person who is subject to a judgment under section 2255 of title 18, United States Code, for the same conduct involving the same identifiable individual and the same intimate visual depiction or intimate digital forgery.''.

(d) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL LAW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall not be construed to impair, supersede, or limit a provision of Federal, State, or Tribal law.

(2) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a State or Tribal government from adopting and enforcing a provision of law governing disclosure of intimate images or nonconsensual activity involving an intimate digital forgery, as defined in section 1309(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851(a)), as amended by this section, that is at least as protective of the rights of a victim as this section.

(e) SEVERABILITY; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, an amendment made by this section, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of and amendments made by this section, and the application of the provision or amendment held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, shall be construed to limit or expand any law pertaining to intellectual property.

SA 2993. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 320A. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR ASSESSING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN WATER SOURCES AND PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE REMEDIATION SOLUTIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to dedicate resources to advancing, and expanding access to, perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation science, research, and technologies through the establishment of Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) select from among the applications submitted under paragraph (2)(A) an eligible research university, an eligible rural university, and a National Laboratory applying jointly for the establishment of centers, to be known as the ''Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions'', which shall be a tri-institutional collaboration between the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory co-applicants (in this section referred to as the ''Centers''); and

(B) guide the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory in the establishment of the Centers.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory desiring to establish the Centers shall jointly submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) CRITERIA.—In evaluating applications submitted under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall only consider applications that—

(i) include evidence of an existing partnership between not fewer than two of the co-applicants that is dedicated to supporting and expanding shared scientific goals with a clear pathway to collaborating on furthering science and research relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(ii) demonstrate a history of collaboration between not fewer than two of the co-applicants on the advancement of shared research capabilities, including instrumentation and research infrastructure relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iii) indicate that the co-applicants have the capacity to expand education and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to prepare a generation of experts in sciences relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iv) demonstrate that the National Laboratory co-applicant is equipped to scale up newly discovered materials and methods for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal processes for low-risk, cost-effective, and validated commercialization; and

(v) identify one or more staff members of each co-applicant who—

(I) have expertise in sciences relevant to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation; and

(II) have been jointly selected, and will be jointly appointed, by the co-applicants to lead and carry out the purposes of the Centers.

(3) TIMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Centers shall be established not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) DELAY.—If the Secretary determines that a delay in the establishment of the Centers is necessary, the Secretary—

(i) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall submit a notification to the appropriate committees of Congress explaining the necessity of the delay; and

(ii) shall ensure that the Centers are established not later than three years after such date of enactment.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) in coordination with the Administrator and

may coordinate with other relevant officials of the Federal Government as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) DUTIES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Centers shall develop and maintain—

(A) capabilities for measuring perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in drinking water, ground water, and any other relevant environmental, municipal, industrial, or residential water samples using methods certified by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) capabilities for—

(i) evaluating emerging perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal and destruction technologies and methods; and

(ii) benchmarking those technologies and methods relative to existing technologies and methods.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Centers shall, at a minimum—

(i) develop instruments and personnel capable of analyzing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in water using—

(I) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 533: Determination of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Isotope Dilution Anion Exchange Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem mass Spectrometry'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 533'');

(II) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 537.1: Determination of Selected Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 537.1'');

(III) any updated or future method developed by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(IV) any other method the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, considers relevant;

(ii) develop and maintain capabilities for evaluating the removal of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from water using newly developed adsorbents or membranes;

(iii) develop and maintain capabilities to evaluate the degradation of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in water or other media;

(iv) make the capabilities and instruments developed under clauses (i) through (iii) available to researchers throughout the regions in which the Centers are located; and

(v) make reliable perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance measurement capabilities and instruments available to municipalities and individuals in the regions in which the Centers are located at reasonable cost.

(B) OPEN-ACCESS RESEARCH.—The Centers shall provide open access to the research findings of the Centers.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—Not later than one year after the date of the establishment of the Centers under subsection (b), the Secretary, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the establishment of the Centers; and

(B) the activities of the Centers since the date on which the Centers were established.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report under paragraph (1) is submitted, and annually thereafter until the date on which the Centers are terminated under subsection (e), the Secretary, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the activities of the Centers during the year covered by the report; and

(B) any policy, research, or funding recommendations relating to the purposes or activities of the Centers.

(e) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Centers shall terminate on October 1, 2034.

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the continued operation of the Centers beyond the date described in paragraph (1) is necessary to advance science and technologies to address perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination—

(A) the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(i) a notification of that determination; and

(ii) a description of the funding necessary for the Centers to continue in operation and fulfill their purpose; and

(B) subject to the availability of funds, may extend the duration of the Centers for such time as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program of the Department of Defense, $25,000,000 shall be made available to carry out this section in increments of $2,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2036.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available to the Centers for the purposes specified in that paragraph until September 30, 2036.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than four percent of the amounts made available to the Centers under paragraph (1) shall be used for the administrative costs of carrying out this section by the Secretary.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term the ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(3) ELIGIBLE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible research university'' means an institution of higher education that—

(A) has annual research expenditures of not less than $750,000,000; and

(B) is located near a population center of not fewer than 5,000,000 individuals.

(4) ELIGIBLE RURAL UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible rural university'' means an institution of higher education that is—

(A) located in one of the five States with the lowest population density as determined by data from the most recent census;

(B) a member of the National Security Innovation Network in the Rocky Mountain Region; and

(C) in proximity to the geographic center of the United States, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Defense.

SA 2994. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12____. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RUSSIA'S ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Russian Federation military forces and the Government of the Russian Federation have abducted, forcibly transferred, or facilitated the illegal deportation of at least 20,000 Ukrainian children.

(2) The Russian Federation's abduction, forcible transfer, and facilitation of the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children has left countless children and families with devastating physical and psychological trauma.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) condemns the Russian Federation's abduction, forcible transfer, and facilitation of the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children; and

(2) implores the Russian Federation to work with the international community to ensure the return, without delay, of all forcibly transferred Ukrainian children to their families.

SA 2995. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. KELLY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS ON REMOVAL OF VETERANS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Any individual who is a veteran and who was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause from a position in the civil service during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible for reinstatement to such position or any other position in the civil service for which the individual is qualified.

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until January

20, 2029, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The total number of former employees of the agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency during the period covered by the report.

(B) The reason for each such removal or dismissal.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE.—The term ''civil service'' has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 2996. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. MULTIGENERATIONAL IMPACT OF TOXIC EXPOSURES.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND'', not less than $10,000,000 shall be available to establish an agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry to conduct a literature review on the health effects of decedents of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were exposed to toxic substances in line of duty.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Pursuant to an agreement established as described in subsection (a), the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry shall

(1) identify and conduct research to explore the association between the health conditions of descendants of members of the Armed Forces and veterans and specific military toxic exposures; and

(2) establish a publicly available website with information on the activities and findings of the Agency.

SA 2997. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. OVERSIGHT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFFING.

(a) DEFERRED RESIGNATION PROGRAMS, VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT, REDUCTION IN FORCE, AND SIMILAR ACTIONS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on any deferred resignation programs or offers, voluntary early retirement, reduction in force, or any similar actions taken by the Department since January 1, 2025.

(2) CONTENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the number of employees of the Department who accepted an offer pursuant to an action described in paragraph (1) and what each offer entailed, disaggregated by State, veteran status, disabled veteran status, office within the Department, General Schedule or Wage Grade level, and whether the position of the employee has been backfilled.

(B) SES EMPLOYEES.—For any employee of the Department in the Senior Executive Service who accepted an offer pursuant to an action described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall list in the report the individual titles and lengths of service at the Department.

(C) COSTS.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall set forth the costs to the Department for administration and payouts for each program or action described in subsection (a).

(b) STAFFING GOALS AND STAFFING LEVELS OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives quarterly updates on staffing goals and current staff levels of the Veterans Health Administration, disaggregated by Veterans Integrated Services Network, including the number of positions filled or removed in each of the following categories and the number of contracted positions in each of the following categories: physicians, dentists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse assistants, non-physician providers, medical support assistants, and HUD–VASH case managers.

SA 2998. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. EXPANSION OF VETSUCCESS ON CAMPUS PROGRAM.

The amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''READJUSTMENT BENEFITS'' is increased by $15,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available to expand the VetSuccess On Campus program by hiring VetSuccessOn Campus program counselors, with priority provided to schools in States in which such program has no counselors.

SA 2999. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE AND HISTORICAL CLAIMS DATA REGARDING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs should complete its assessment of scientific literature and historical claims data regarding medical conditions associated with the military environmental exposure to radiation and other toxic substances at Camp Stronghold Freedom in Karshi-Khanabad (K2) in Uzbekistan.

SA 3000. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds appropriated by this title shall be used to reduce staffing, limit hours of operation, decrease training opportunities, curb access to relevant information technology systems, or otherwise reduce the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code, to respond to and provide resources to veterans in crisis.

SA 3001. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. LIMITATION ON ACCESS TO VETERAN AND DEPARTMENT INFORMATION, SYSTEMS, AND DATA.

(a) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of the following new section:

''§ 5729. Limitations on access to certain information, systems, and data

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not allow any individual to use, exercise administrative control over, or otherwise access any Department information technology system, health or benefits data repository, contracting information, financial system, record system, or other relevant system, or any data from any such system, unless—

''(1) such individual is an officer, employee, or contractor of the Department; and

''(2) in the case of an individual not described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) such individual holds a security clearance at the appropriate level with respect to such system or data and such clearance was granted pursuant to the procedures established under section 801 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3161);

''(B) such individual's access to such system or data, or use thereof, does not constitute a violation of section 208 of title 18 (determined after the application of subsection (b));

''(C) such individual is not a special Government employee (as defined in section 202 of title 18);

''(D) such individual's current continuous service in the civil service (as that term is defined in section 2101 of title 5) as of the date of such access is for a period of not less than one year;

''(E) such individual has completed any required training or compliance procedures with respect to privacy laws, cybersecurity regulations, national security regulations, and best practices; and

''(F) has signed a written ethics agreement with either the senior career Designated Agency Ethics Official of the Department, or the most senior career official within the Office of Government Ethics.

''(b) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—(1) Any individual who accesses any system or data described in subsection (a) who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall be treated as an employee of the executive branch of the United States Government for purposes of section 208 of title 18.

''(2) For purposes of such section 208, exercise of administrative control or stopping, canceling, adjusting, holding, rejecting, changing, or otherwise impacting any payment or data in any Department system, data repository, or other similar location, shall be considered personal and substantial participation as a Government officer or employee in a particular matter.

''(c) DEFINITION OF OTHER RELEVANT SYSTEM.—In this section, the term 'other relevant system' means any data, system, connection, database, repository, or any other tangible thing of the Department that stores information of the Department, veterans, surviving spouses, caregivers, or other recipients of health care or benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, including health data, personally identifiable information, protected health information, burial data information, contract data, the Corporate Data Warehouse of the Department, data regarding benefits provided to veterans, financial transaction and bank information, Department of Veterans Affairs Integrated Enterprise Workflow Solution system and data, payroll information, research and development data, and data that is part of the Million Veteran Program.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 57 of such title is amended by inserting after section 5728 the following new section:

''5729. Limitations on access to certain information, systems, and data.''.

(b) DELETION OF IMPROPERLY OBTAINED DATA.—In any action brought against the Department of Veterans Affairs or a recipient agency or other recipient in a court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of subsection (b) or (e) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, the court may order the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the recipient agency, or other recipient to delete records improperly disclosed or maintained in a system of records in violation of the rules and regulations set out pursuant to such section.

(c) REMOVAL OF CONNECTIONS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall remove any information technology connection between the Department and any entity not in compliance with the provisions of this section or section 5729 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SA 3002. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____. INCREASE OF MAXIMUM AGE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL CARE UNDER CHAMPVA PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE.—Subsection (c) of section 1781 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c)(1) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (iii) of section 101(4)(A) of this title and except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of this section, a child is eligible for benefits under subsection (a) until the child's 26th birthday, regardless of the child's marital status.

''(2) This subsection shall not be construed to limit eligibility for benefits under subsection (a) of a child described in section 101(4)(A)(ii) of this title.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c) of such section, as amended by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to medical care provided under such section on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3003. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ANNOUNCING OR FINALIZING CHANGES TO SCHEDULE OF DISABILITY RATINGS.

None of the amounts appropriated by this title may be obligated or expended to announce or finalize a change to the schedule or ratings of reductions in earning capacity adopted and applied under section 1155 of title 38, United States Code, until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has submitted to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives proper notification of the specific change.

SA 3004. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CANCELING LARGE CONTRACTS.

None of the amounts appropriated by this title may be obligated or expended to cancel a contract with a value that exceeds $10,000,000 until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has submitted to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an advance notification and written explanation of contingency plans to replace the relevant service.

SA 3005. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 81, calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015); which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on June 22, 2025, the United States launched a series of strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities using B–2 stealth bombers and an Ohio-class submarine;

Whereas, on June 23, 2025, Iran retaliated by launching 14 ballistic missiles at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest United States military base in the region;

Whereas United States strikes on Iran risk Iranian decisionmakers concluding that a nuclear weapon is needed to serve as a deterrent to further attacks;

Whereas sanctions are regularly ineffective at altering an adversary's behavior in a manner favorable to United States interests;

Whereas sanctions are frequently devastating to the well-being of the civilian population and strategically counterproductive, rallying the civilian population behind the government in opposition to foreign interference; and

Whereas ongoing United States-Iran tensions risk further military escalation and divert finite United States resources from other pressing domestic and international concerns: Now, therefore, be it

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SA 3006. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 81, calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015); which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following: ''That the Senate—

(1) supports the de-escalation of tensions between the United States and Iran;

(2) affirms that stable relations between the United States and Iran are in the United States national interest;

(3) seeks a peaceful resolution to concerns regarding Iran's nuclear program; and

(4) urges the Trump Administration to prioritize diplomacy with Iran over kinetic conflict.

SA 3007. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 75, line 21, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $709,573,000 shall be made available for opioid prevention and treatment programs.''.

SA 3008. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 75, line 21, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $36,879,000 shall be made available for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program.''.

SA 3009. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. REPORT ON THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS TO CONDUCT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS OF VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans for purposes of obtaining disability compensation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number of contractors used in each State to conduct disability compensation examinations.

(2) Contract performance and quality measures.

(3) The average miles a veteran is required to travel to attend a contract medical disability examination, disaggregated by State.

(4) The average wait time for an individual to receive an examination.

(5) A description of the process at the Department for handling complaints of veterans about their experience with a contracted medical disability examiner.

SA 3010. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. NAMING OF CERTAIN ASSETS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall implement the naming recommendations for assets of the Department of Defense in the State of Georgia that were adopted by the Commission.

(b) PROHIBITION RELATING TO OVERRIDING RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense may not change the name of an asset of the Department of Defense in the State of Georgia that was adopted by the Commission to any name other than the name that was adopted.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Commission'' means the commission established under section 370(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

SA 3011. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No amounts may be obligated for the purpose of changing the name of an asset of the Department of Defense in the State of Georgia that was adopted by the commission established under section 370(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) to any name other than the name that was adopted.

SA 3012. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. FUNDING FOR OFFICE OF EQUITY ASSURANCE.

Of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''GENERAL ADMINISTRATION'' and available of the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not less than $2,000,000 shall be available to operate the Office of Equity Assurance.

SA 3013. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 74, line 21, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $6,356,000,000 shall be made available for telehealth for veterans.''.

SA 3014. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REPROGRAMMING OR REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that details all reprogramming or reallocations of funds within the Department of Veterans Affairs since January 20, 2025, including—

(1) the amount and account from which funds were reprogrammed or reallocated;

(2) the amount and account to which funds were reprogrammed or reallocated; and

(3) the office within the Department that approved the reprogramming or reallocation.

SA 3015. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REMOVAL OF OIL FROM SUNKEN WORLD WAR II VESSELS IN WATERS NEAR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a significant environmental threat posed by World War II-era sunken Japanese warships, including three oil tankers, located in the waters near the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau;

(2) such sunken vessels contain an estimated 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 gallons of oil, or approximately the equivalent of ⅓ of the *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker spill in 1989; and

(3) as such sunken vessels continue to deteriorate, small amounts of oil are already leaking, threatening to cause an ecological disaster that could negatively impact United States military activities, the marine ecosystem, and surrounding communities.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency, as appropriate, shall conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility and advisability of removing oil from the World War II-era sunken tankers, including an analysis of the cost, logistical requirements, environmental risks, and potential methods for removing the oil from the tankers.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An assessment of the operational and environmental risks posed by the oil remaining in the sunken tankers and warships, including current leakage and the potential impacts of a major spill.

(ii) An evaluation of the cost, logistical challenges, and technical approaches for safely extracting or containing oil from the shipwrecks.

(iii) A review of ongoing and planned efforts by the United States and international partners addressing such matter.

(iv) Recommendations on next steps, including resource needs, interagency and international cooperation, and timelines for potential remediation efforts.

SA 3016. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. REPORT ON COST OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RETURN TO IN-OFFICE WORK POLICY.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that details—

(1) the costs incurred by the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Department's return to in-office work policy, including past and projected costs associated with obtaining additional office space and modifications to existing space, provision of relocation incentives, and transit subsidies and reimbursements;

(2) the number of staff commuting two or more hours each way to comply with the Department's return to in-office work policy; and

(3) the number of staff working in Federal facilities not owned or leased by the Department as a result of the Department's return to in-office work policy.

SA 3017. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to prohibit a woman veteran from accessing abortion services or abortion counseling if determined medically necessary by a health care professional when the life or the health of the pregnant woman would be endangered if the pregnancy were continued or if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SA 3018. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) clinical trials facilitated by or funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs that have been cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025;

(2) the number of veterans estimated to participate in or enrolled in each trial cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025;

(3) clinical trials cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025, due to researchers participating in the deferred resignation program or voluntary early retirement authority program of the Department or being terminated;

(4) staff terminated or suspended due to the cancellation, suspension, or disruption of a clinical trial since January 20, 2025; and

(5) costs incurred by the Department due to the cancellation, suspension, or disruption of a clinical trial since January 20, 2025, including costs associated with the restarting of suspended or disrupted trials.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have fourteen 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 Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members from my personal office and the Senate Finance Committee teams be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Sara Korniewicz, Sabina Lee, William Wyden, Gabriel Ritter, and Jackson McFadyen-Ray.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS AWARDED UNDER THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 39, which was receive from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 39) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 39) was agreed to.

HONORING THE DEEP AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE OCCASION OF DANISH CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 267.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 267) honoring the deep and enduring friendship between the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States on the occasion of Danish Constitution Day celebrations.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 267) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 10, 2025, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 24; 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 131, Matthew Lohmeier, postcloture; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Lohmeier nomination at 11:30 a.m.; and if cloture is then invoked on Executive Calendar No. 87, Richard Topping, all postcloture time be expired at 1:45 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation; finally, if cloture is invoked on the Bove nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader no earlier than Monday, July 28.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. KIMBERLY A. MCCUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM J. CREEDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TERRENCE A. ADAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JENNIFER HAMMERSTEDT

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

MICHAEL R. BARTON
WILLIAM K. ROGERS
KIRK V. THORSTEINSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BRYAN J. LAROCHE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

PHUONG T. PHAM

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

IRVIN A. GEORGE, JR.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 23, 2025:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AARON SZABO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ARIELLE ROTH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JOHN HURLEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES.

THE JUDICIARY

ZACHARY M. BLUESTONE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT OLIVER ROYAL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Oliver Royal of Plano, Texas, on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and his continued dedication to public service.

Oliver is currently a senior at Plano West Senior High School who will be graduating this month with Honors. From a young age, he has been a decorated Cub Scout and Boy Scout with Troop 219 in Plano. Oliver has earned the Arrow of Light badge and served as the Senior Patrol Leader and a member of the Order of the Arrow scouting honor society. On October 21, 2024, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Project, Oliver constructed two raised bed planter boxes for the Plano Chinese Alliance Church as a show of appreciation for the Church's generosity in allowing Troop 219 to host meetings using their space. In the planter boxes, he chose to set flowers to help promote relaxation, improve air quality, and create a peaceful and welcoming environment for church attendees.

In addition to his exceptional academics, Oliver previously served as a U.S. Youth Ambassador to South Korea as part of the State Department's National Security Language Initiative Program. He is the President of his school's Model United Nations Club and plays the trombone in concert and marching band. Moreover, Oliver received first place in the Texas History Essay Contest. As a recipient of the Czech Republic government's Summer School of Slavonic Studies scholarship, Oliver will be studying in the Czech Republic this summer. He is an incoming freshman at the University of Texas at Austin, where he will study International Relations and Global Studies and participate in their Army ROTC program. After graduation, Oliver plans to earn his doctorate degree and serve as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor this special occasion. I congratulate Oliver, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Leesburg Fire Department in the city of Leesburg, Florida.

Since its founding in 1875, the Leesburg Fire Department has been a steadfast symbol of courage, dedication, and selfless public service. For a century and a half, the department has served the people of Leesburg with the same commitment and bravery that defined its earliest days.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we not only honor the department's rich history, but also pay tribute to the men and women, past and present, who have answered the call to protect life and property in times of need.

Congratulations to the Leesburg Fire Department on 150 years of outstanding service. I am proud to join the community in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation for their enduring contributions to the safety and well-being of Leesburg.

CONGRATULATING LORAS COLLEGE PRESIDENT, JAMES COLLINS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. LaHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Collins for his extraordinary twenty-year tenure as President of Loras College. As the longest-serving president in Loras college's 185-year history, Collins has left an indelible mark on Iowa's oldest institution of higher education.

Collins earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Loras College in 1984. After graduation, what began as a brief visit to his alma mater evolved into a lifelong career of service. Starting as an admissions representative in 1984, he advanced through various leadership positions before being selected as President in 2004 at age 42, making him the youngest president in the school's history.

During Collins' tenure at Loras College, the institution achieved unprecedented success. He oversaw the most successful, comprehensive campaign in history, increasing the endowment by 67 percent, and under his leadership, the college completed major capital improvements, including the construction of the Lillis Athletic & Wellness Center, renovation of Rock Bowl Stadium and Keane Hall, and the construction of the Tucker Tennis Complex. Collins also expanded graduate and professional programs, achieved ABET accreditation for engineering programs, and led the college to consistent recognition by U.S. News as a top fifteen Midwest baccalaureate institution.

President Collins' visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Catholic higher education has strengthened the Loras College mission and impacted thousands of students. His dedication to academic excellence, innovative partnerships, and community service have advanced the institution's legacy and I want to congratulate Jim on his remarkable career, thank him for his decades of service to Loras College, and wish him all the best in this well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY BEROSH, SR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of my constituent, Anthony Berosh, Sr., who passed away recently at the age of 77.

Tony was a dedicated citizen of Beaver County.

His law career spanned over 40 years and he served as the Beaver County District Attorney for decades.

One of his many initiatives in office was tackling the list of unsolved homicide cases in Beaver County.

He secured several successful prosecutions for unsolved "cold cases," getting resources and justice for the families and victims of these crimes.

Following his retirement in 2015, Tony volunteered his time with numerous civic organizations and assisted with the Citizens Police Academy.

In Western Pennsylvania, a life like Tony's—devoted to family, community, and country—shows exactly who we are.

Humble, knowledgeable, and always ready to do our part. Tony embodied the very best of Western Pennsylvania values: hard work, civic leadership, passion, and compassion.

I'm holding Tony's wife, Mary Anne, his family, and his entire community in my heart as we celebrate his life and mourn his passing.

HONORING WOMEN FOR WINESENSE'S NAPA–SONOMA CHAPTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Women For WineSense's Napa–Sonoma Chapter and to commend the organization's longstanding contributions to our wine community and to our district. Since its founding in 1990, the Napa–Sonoma Chapter has served as a hub for education, mentorship, and professional growth in the wine realm.

Women For WineSense began in Napa–Sonoma, founded by Julie Johnson, Michaela Rodeno, and a group of women wine community leaders who came together to counter the growing anti-alcohol sentiment of the time. Through education, outreach, and engagement, they advocated for responsible wine enjoyment and helped shift public perception. Their early efforts contributed to a growing appreciation of wine culture nationwide, reflected in rising wine sales and broader recognition of American winemaking.

● 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.

As its founding goals were achieved, the organization evolved into a national entity that advances and connects wine professionals and enthusiasts. It has created a lasting platform and expanding community for professional growth, while fostering knowledge and appreciation of wine and its cultural and historical significance. What began as a local initiative has since grown into a national nonprofIt with twelve chapters and over 700 members, including 150 in the founding Napa–Sonoma Chapter.

Central to that success are the four generations of volunteer leaders and members who have continuously sustained and expanded the chapter over the past 35 years. Women For WineSense's Napa–Sonoma Chapter remains an inclusive network, welcoming both wine professionals and enthusiasts into its membership and supporting a wide range of roles within the wine community. Its membership includes winery owners, winemakers, viticulture professionals, marketers, sommeliers, distributors, importers, educators, enthusiasts and others committed to strengthening our wine community. The organization then and now, reflects a shared belief in thoughtful wine enjoyment and the power of education, collaboration, and community.

One of the Napa–Sonoma Chapter's hallmark programs is a collection of Professional Roundtables, which were introduced in 2004. These roundtables bring together groups of professionals from specific roles across the wine community to exchange ideas, share expertise, and foster collaboration. Alongside regular chapter events, these gatherings have created enduring opportunities for learning, mentorship and forging strong community bonds within our region.

In addition to Napa–Sonoma programming, Women For WineSense has hosted national conferences and coordinated educational trips to wine regions around the world. During the COVID–19 pandemic, the organization quickly adapted by expanding virtual programming and virtual Professional Roundtables and launching a national membership model to keep members engaged and connected. The Napa–Sonoma Chapter has additionally stepped up service during multiple declared disasters in our region to connect community members to experts, information and vital resources in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize the Napa–Sonoma Chapter of Women For WineSense for 35 years of vision, leadership, and service to the wine community. I congratulate the organization on this milestone and thank its members for their continued commitment to excellence and growth in our wine community.

RECOGNIZING GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS FROM EASTERN MISSOURI

HON. WESLEY BELL

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several remarkable Girl Scouts from Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri for demonstrating extraordinary leadership, refreshing creativity, and a commitment to making a lasting impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are trailblazers who address the most pressing issues facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

I congratulate and include in the RECORD the following outstanding young women:

Elizabeth Babcock, Troop 3230
Krystina Bell, Juliette
Haley Brieler, Troop 3281
Gracyn Burke, Troop 3778
Sophia Byrne, Troop 1964
Grace Doherty, Juliette
Kaitlyn Emerson, Juliette
Emily Etter, Troop 204
Grace Fadlovich, Troop 4404
Meghana Hebbar, Juliette
Lillian Henroid, Troop 3281
Lydia Hines, Troop 3534
True Howard, Troop 3565
Paige Jackson, Juliette
Claire Krob, Troop 705
Ketki Naik, Troop 115
Elizabeth New, Troop 1166
Reagan Redmon, Troop 766
Udipti Sinha, Troop 1492
Caroline Smith, Juliette
Haley Spirz, Troop 1751
Elyse Townsend, Troop 1331
Amber Tyson, Troop 1922
Olivia Van Horn, Troop 224
Chloe Vargo, Troop 1166

On behalf of the 1st Congressional District of Missouri, I congratulate them on their achievement of the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. I thank them all for their leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY'S TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Kent District Library (KDL) on an extraordinary achievement. KDL's Talking Book & Braille Center has been honored as the 2025 Library of the Year by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, a division of the Library of Congress.

The Library of the Year award recognizes libraries that excel in providing accessible reading materials and services to those with visual, physical, or print disabilities. Libraries receiving this award have a strong effectiveness in reaching these individuals through a wide range of accessible formats, including braille and audio. KDL has incorporated numerous accessible resources, including video magnifiers, adaptive gaming controllers, and wearable artificial-vision devices. Additionally, they have introduced LEGO Braille Brick kits in both English and Spanish.

KDL is a pillar of our community, Year after year, their commitment to academic excellence and innovative programming has helped generations of children and adults to reach their full potential. Their Talking Book & Braille Center has long been a vital resource for West Michiganders who are often underserved in traditional library systems. I am incredibly proud that our very own Kent District Library has set the gold standard.

On behalf of Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, congratulations to those at the Kent District Library's Talking Book & Braille Center who continue to maintain a strong dedication to serving readers with disabilities. This Center has touched the lives of over 750 children and adults across our state. Today and every day, we thank this institution for its lasting impact on our West Michigan community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROGER ENRICO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Roger Anthony Enrico, who peacefully passed away on June 1, 2016.

Roger was born on November 11, 1944, in Chisholm, Minnesota. to Anthony and Rose Marie Parucci Enrico. In 1965, he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Babson College. Shortly after, Roger joined the United States Navy and served as a Supply Officer in 1967 and 1968 during the Vietnam War. Following his distinguished military service, he began his lifelong career in business at General Mills before working for PepsiCo's Frito-Lay division. He served in several management roles at PepsiCo, where his visionary leadership and marketing abilities transformed PepsiCo's global industry and led him to become its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Roger was recognized for his various contributions to PepsiCo's employees, including his dedication to supporting workers, anonymous salary donations to fund scholarships for their children, and development of an innovative and empowering work environment that produced outstanding leaders.

Following his tenure at PepsiCo, Roger served as Chairman of DreamWorks Animation, where his unique experience, creativity, and guidance led the company to produce many blockbuster hits and franchises. In addition to his storied career, Roger was committed to giving back to our community through community service and generous philanthropy along with his late wife, Rosemary. He served on numerous boards, including the American Film Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, American Prairie Reserve, and the National Geographic Society, to advance civic and cultural initiatives. I am honored to recognize Roger and Rosemary's remarkable contributions to our community and nation, and their legacy will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Roger's life and service to North Texas.

He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING MS. THELMA NEWSOME AND MAMMA'S HOT DOG STAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable entrepreneur, Ms. Thelma Newsome, who has proudly owned and operated Mamma's Hot Dog Stand in Vicksburg, Mississippi, for the past sixteen years.

In 2009, Ms. Newsome turned her vision into reality by transforming an old service station on Openwood Street into what is now a beloved local establishment. Fueled by determination and a dream, she invested her savings to bring Mamma's to life. Since then, the restaurant has become a staple of the Vicksburg community.

Although the name highlights her signature hot dogs, Mamma's is best known for its generous, homemade burgers—proudly advertised on a sign created by local artist Keith Matthews that reads, ''You bite the meat before the bun.'' Her menu also features chili cheese hot dogs, chili cheese nachos, and her famous homemade Kool-Aid.

Ms. Newsome's path to success was paved with perseverance and hard work. While launching the restaurant, she simultaneously held a full-time position with the Veterans' Administration in Jackson, serving for 21 years as a nurse and telephone operator. Today, she continues to operate Mamma's entirely on her own, serving customers with heart, hospitality, and a commitment to quality.

Located at 1209 Openwood Street and open Monday through Friday for lunch, Mamma's Hot Dog Stand is more than just a restaurant—it is a testament to the power of vision, dedication, and community spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Thelma Newsome for her entrepreneurial spirit and for enriching the city of Vicksburg with her passion and perseverance.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment No. 233 to the FY 2026 Defense Appropriations bill. I thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for including it in the Amendments En Bloc No. 3.

Our world is facing numerous water challenges. Climate change is making those challenges worse.

Our military is not exempt. The Defense Department has previously identified water services failures as a growing risk, as they impact a military facility's ability to execute missions and maintain warfighter readiness. That is where my amendment comes in.

My amendment would increase funding for ongoing research and work being done by the Army, with the help of some leading institutions of higher education like the one in my district, Marquette University.

These partnerships with the Department of Defense (DoD), Marquette, and other institutions of higher education are being used to study technology and other solutions to water challenges facing our military and our service members that can also benefit our communities like improved sensing/monitoring of water pollution, and advanced water/wastewater treatment technologies to facilitate reuse of pollution-impacted water resources.

Thus, collaboration between DoD and civilian researchers on water contamination and resilience issues has the potential for many benefits, including positive public health impacts.

With these additional funds, we can help unleash researchers to explore water sustainment and resiliency technologies that increase readiness and safety of military personnel in contingency bases and at military installations, that can address and improve water efficiency, and improve the conservation of water resources, and the resiliency of water infrastructure.

I urge support for my amendment.

HONORING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN G.I. FORUM

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the American G.I. Forum's 77th anniversary. It is an honor to shed light on an organization who dedicates itself to strengthening our democracy and building a legacy of service.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia founded the American G.I. Forum in 1948 to address the inequalities Hispanics faced in the postwar era. Dr. Garcia mobilized veterans like himself, who valiantly served our Nation, to advocate for the growth and development of communities in need. From a single chapter in Texas, the American G.I. Forum quickly expanded throughout the state and country.

The organization began to achieve widespread notoriety for its work within the community. It improved access to government hospitals for veterans, ended the poll tax in Texas, created pre-schools for Spanish speaking children, and improved equity for veterans' burial services. The organization broke down barriers for veterans in housing and education, reaching those that the country had forgotten about.

After 77 years, the American G.I. Forum continues advocating for equitable opportunities. For our veterans and their families, they offer essential services that address issues ranging from healthcare accessibility to workforce readiness and housing. Additionally, they work to empower our youth by offering scholarships to students intending to enroll in higher education. It is through their efforts that our communities continue to take the steps forward to ensure a strong and thriving democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize to the American G.I. Forum and their accomplishments in serving our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. LLOYD W. COPPEDGE

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man and devoted member of the Myrtle Beach community, Mr. Lloyd W. Coppedge, who passed away on July 19th at the age of 80, surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Abilene, Texas, Lloyd was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a friend to all. After graduating from Texas Tech with a degree in accounting, Lloyd brought his talents and heart to the business world, eventually purchasing Wolverine Brass in Myrtle Beach in 1988. There, he not only built a thriving company, but a family. He knew every employee by name, cared for their families, and led with a huge heart.

His entrepreneurial spirit extended to the restaurant industry, where he became a partner in Divine Dining, helping grow a beloved institution and once again touching the lives of thousands through his generosity and leadership.

But beyond his business accomplishments, Lloyd's legacy lives in the lives he impacted, from his daughters Tracie and Allison, to his wife Judi, to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and even to the many ''adopted'' friends and family he made around the world.

Lloyd Coppedge led with integrity, treated everyone with kindness, and never stopped working to make his community better. If you had Lloyd as a friend, you knew you had a guardian angel.

May we remember his legacy, not just in words, but in the way we treat those around us.

CONGRATULATING DONNIE OLDHAM ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE CAROLINAS AGC HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mr. Donnie Oldham, for his induction into the Carolinas Associated General Contractors of America Hall of Fame.

As President of Sanford Contractors Incorporated since 1989, and team member since 1975, Mr. Oldham has had a lasting impact on the company and the wider construction industry through his many years of leadership, sacrifice, and commitment to safety.

Mr. Oldham has contributed immensely to support North Carolinians through his volunteer work and career. Mr. Oldham was awarded the Man of the Year by the Lee County Community Foundation for his volunteer work

and philanthropy. He has also served as a board member for the Sanford Area Growth Alliance, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, and Lee County Education Foundation, among others.

In his career, Mr. Oldham's company's involvement in a variety of projects, including critical infrastructure, commercial buildings, site development, and utility construction have been critical for the development of North Carolina.

Mr. Donnie Oldham embodies the mission of Sanford Contractors to deliver the highest quality projects that exceed expectations while ensuring the safety and professionalism of team members.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Donnie Oldham on his induction to the Carolinas AGC Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING RAYMOND E. CARLSON AS THE 2025 UPPER PENINSULA VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Raymond E. Carlson for being named the 2025 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. This well-deserved honor reflects his steadfast dedication to his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Mr. Carlson has long demonstrated exceptional leadership within the American Legion of Michigan, where his distinguished service has included terms as Post Commander, District Commander, Zone Commander, and as a member of the State Department Finance Committee. As president of the U.P. Convention Corporation, he successfully bid for and coordinated American Legion conventions for fourteen consecutive years. In this role, he also secured future convention dates in Sault Sainte Marie, ensuring the continued success of these important gatherings.

His commitment extends beyond organizational leadership. As Commander of Post 44, Mr. Carlson spearheaded a $240,000 renovation project to improve the post's facilities. He remains a constant presence at post-sponsored events, from Bingo at the Marquette County Fair and the Jacobetti Veterans Home, to Boys State programs that promote youth development and civic engagement.

In addition to his service to veterans, Mr. Carlson has been a pillar of support for youth athletics in the Upper Peninsula. As a youth baseball coach, he led his team to multiple district championships and a coveted spot in the state tournament. During his twelve years as chairman of the district baseball committees, he oversaw and organized numerous successful district tournaments, enriching the lives of countless young athletes.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Raymond E. Carlson for receiving the prestigious honor of being named the 2025 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his enduring commitment to veterans, his community, and our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR ROBERT COLEMAN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Robert Coleman's exemplary and distinguished record of service to our country. Rob is an active-duty Military Police Officer in the United States Army, and he served as my Defense Fellow throughout last year.

A native of Monterey, California, Rob earned his degree in Psychology from Gonzaga University in 2009 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He also attended the Marine Corps University and George Washington University, where he earned master's degrees in military studies and legislative affairs, respectively. During his 16-year career in the Army, Rob served in key tactical and strategic positions. He has successfully completed the Basic Officer Leader's Course, Air Assault School, Marine Expeditionary Warfare School, and the Marine Command and Staff College. Upon commissioning, Rob became a military police platoon leader in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he was charged with training and coordinating with the Afghan National Police. He later deployed with the 101st Airborne Division to Afghanistan as an advisor to the National Directorate of Security. Following the deployment, Rob served for two years as a Company Commander in the 101st Airborne's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

After his tenure as a company commander, Rob was stationed at the Pentagon as an Army Staff operations officer. He worked directly for the chief of the Integrated Personnel Pay System—Army (IPPS–A) program and later returned to the 101st Airborne to serve as its Chief of Operations and executive officer for battalion operations. For his outstanding service, Rob has earned two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, the Army Achievement Medal, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. While serving as my Defense Fellow, Rob also played a critical role in drafting my NDAA priorities for FY2025, which ensured the Army and Department of Defense could adapt and modernize at the speed of warfare. He also helped enact an important law to grant military recruiters the same physical access to high school campuses in the same manner as colleges and industries, which allowed our Nation's Armed Forces to adequately address its recruiting crisis. I would like to thank Rob for his continued selfless service and contributions to our country. I am excited to see what lays ahead for him in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF LOUISE BISHOP

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 92nd birthday of Louise Bishop, a former longtime member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with whom I had the distinction of serving for six years.

Born in Cairo, Georgia, Louise graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953. She completed a communications and radio broadcasting degree at the American Foundation of Dramatic Arts, where she developed her talent to become the host of "The Louise Williams Show," This gospel radio show was a fixture in the homes of many Philadelphians, providing inspiring hymns that had an enduring impact on our city.

Following work in radio broadcasting and ministry in Philadelphia, Louise was elected to represent Pennsylvania's 192nd Legislative District in 1989 and was reelected to serve for thirteen more consecutive terms. During that time, she was a consistent advocate for her constituents and the City of Philadelphia, working tirelessly to bring positive change to our city and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Louise and join her family and friends in celebration as we lift her up as an accomplished legislator, a longtime Philadelphia leader, and a dear friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes No. 213 and No. 214 on July 21, 2025. Had I been present, my votes would have been: Nay on Roll Call No. 213, and Yea on Roll Call No. 214.

RECOGNIZING TEAM CNMI AT THE 2025 PACIFIC MINI GAMES

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable athletes of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for their outstanding performance at the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau. Competing on a regional stage with more than 1,000 athletes from across Oceania, Team CNMI brought home 31 medals—10 gold, 8 silver, and 13 bronze—a proud achievement for a small but determined community.

These results speak to more than athletic talent; they reflect the resilience, discipline, and unbreakable spirit that define the people of the Marianas. Our athletes trained through distance, limited resources, and the everyday challenges of island life—and still excelled.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to the coaches, trainers, families, and volunteers who stood behind these competitors every step of the way. Their sacrifice, encouragement, and quiet hours of service are the foundation on which these victories were built.

Today we celebrate the medals, but we also celebrate the example these athletes set for every young person back home; dream big, work hard, and represent our islands with pride. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Team CNMI for lifting the Marianas

onto the international stage and inspiring us all.

CONGRATULATING SECOND LIEUTENANT JACK C. O'NEILL ON HIS GRADUATION FROM THE BASIC SCHOOL

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Second Lieutenant Jack C. O'Neill on his graduation from The Basic School. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, the United States Marine Corps upholds a proud tradition of honor, courage, and commitment, and remains one of the most respected fighting forces in the world; and

Whereas, The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia, provides newly commissioned Marine officers with the critical leadership skills, warfighting knowledge, and ethical foundation required to lead Marines in defense of our Nation; and

Whereas, Second Lieutenant Jack C. O'Neill having earned his commission through Officer Candidates School, has distinguished himself through the successful completion of this rigorous and demanding course of instruction, demonstrating outstanding physical endurance, tactical proficiency, and unwavering dedication to the values of the Marine Corps; and

Whereas, he now prepares to continue his training at the esteemed Infantry Officer Course, further sharpening his combat leadership skills and preparing to take command of a Marine rifle platoon in service to our country; and

Whereas, his achievement marks not only a significant personal milestone but also a reaffirmation of his solemn oath to serve and protect the United States of America with honor and distinction;

Now, therefore be it proclaimed, that I, Congressman DONALD NORCROSS, Member of the United States House of Representatives, do hereby congratulate Second Lieutenant Jack C. O'Neill on his graduation from The Basic School and commend him for his exemplary service and commitment to the ideals of freedom, integrity, and duty;

Be it further proclaimed that his leadership and sacrifice stand as an inspiration to all Americans, and we express our gratitude and respect as he begins his journey as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

DIGITAL ASSET MARKET CLARITY ACT OF 2025

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, the intent of Congress in enacting the CLARITY Act is clear: to reestablish the United States as the global leader in digital asset markets by ensuring our regulatory framework is clear, forward-looking, and functional.

The exemptive authority granted to the SEC under Section 204(g) of the CLARITY Act provides a mechanism to address evolving technological and market realities.

The CLARITY Act recognizes that liquidity is an important feature of efficient markets and price discovery, as well as encouraging U.S. market activity. Congress intends for the SEC, through CLARITY, to have the tools necessary to support the provision of market liquidity, including, where appropriate, through exemptive relief that is consistent with protecting investors, maintaining fair orderly and efficient markets, facilitating capital formation, and fostering the development of mature blockchain systems.

A goal of the CLARITY Act is to foster U.S.-based markets and bring critical oversight back to our shores. If the United States is to outcompete overseas marketplaces, liquidity and market depth will be important components of our markets. A proactive and effective use of the authorities in CLARITY to encourage liquidity and market health will help to ensure adaptability to future trends and restore U.S. leadership in global digital asset markets.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL JODY MIKE SMITH

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jody Mike Smith, the former Director of Human Resources for the Mississippi National Guard. Colonel Smith served as the primary staff advisor to the Adjutant General. He has also been recognized as a Bronze Star recipient, awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Smith was the Deputy Commander of the 66th Troop Command. Under his leadership, he led a team to respond to domestic emergencies within Mississippi and the Southeastern United States.

Colonel Smith also served as the Director of Military Support and State J3 for the Mississippi National Guard, coordinating the Guard's domestic response to natural disasters, civil disturbances, and pandemics. His military service began after commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Mississippi State University. He has held numerous command and staff positions across multiple unit levels, serving both in traditional and full-time National Guard status. He has been invaluable in his years of distinguished service.

During combat operations in Iraq from 2004 to 2006, Colonel Smith served with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, where he coordinated the training and equipping of Iraqi Security Forces in the brigade's area of operations.

I thank Colonel Smith for his dedication to Mississippi and for his years of service. I wish him the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL KYLE FRAZER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Kyle Frazer's exemplary and distinguished record of service to our Nation. A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kyle was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2008 through the University of Utah. He earned his master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University in 2023.

Kyle was an honor graduate from the Army's Ranger School, Basic Officer Leader's Course, and Air Assault schools. After completing Airborne school and Master Jumpmaster school with distinction, Kyle spent most of his 17-year career at the tactical level specializing in combined arms maneuvers and large-scale combat operations. He deployed three times in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Inherent Resolve. Kyle has served as a platoon leader and company commander, senior observer controller, Deputy Chief of Operations of Combined Joint Task Force–Operation Inherent Resolve, battalion and brigade operations officer, and as a congressional staffer, where he was my National Security and Defense Fellow.

Kyle currently serves as a Legislative Liaison for the Army in the House of Representatives. Kyle has been the face of the Army for 435 members of the House of Representatives, with direct influence over 13 states covering 88 Members of Congress. Kyle built, promoted, and facilitated lines of communication between Congress and the Army that were instrumental in maintaining relationships between the executive and legislative branches. Through his ability to clearly define the Army's message and help navigate the needs of Congress to provide essential oversight requirements, Kyle has made a lasting impact on our Nation's ability to respond to global threats, modernize the Army, and maintain the Army's readiness at the highest level.

I want to thank Kyle for his dedication and steadfast commitment to our country. In August, he will be taking over the ROTC program at his alma mater, the University of Utah, where I know he will continue to lead with excellence and honor. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Kyle, his wife, Annie, and their two children, Eleanor and Theodore, for their sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our great Nation. I congratulate Kyle, and I wish him the very best.

RECOGNIZING GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Golden Valley Health Centers as we celebrate National Health Center Week.

Community Health Centers have delivered high-quality, affordable, and inclusive primary and preventive health care to underserved communities across the United States for nearly 60 years—strengthening health outcomes, building healthier communities, and reducing the cost of care.

Today, more than 32.5 million patients—regardless of income, background, or insurance status—receive care at over 16,000 Community Health Center sites across the Nation, making these centers vital pillars of local health infrastructure.

Golden Valley Health Centers, founded in 1972, is a trusted safety-net provider serving California's Central Valley, with 62 sites across Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties, including several within California's 13th Congressional District. They deliver more than 712,000 patient visits annually to over 162,000 individuals, including agricultural workers, low-income families, seniors, and the unhoused-offering services in primary care, dental, behavioral health, optometry, and pharmacy.

GVHC employs over 1,400 dedicated professionals who embody the mission of delivering compassionate, patient-centered care while addressing the social drivers of health and advancing equity in care access. In response to the Central Valley's growing mental health needs, they are actively expanding their behavioral health team, aiming to double capacity in 2025—ensuring local families have timely access to critical services.

Community Health Centers like Golden Valley Health Centers fuel regional economies by providing stable jobs, local career opportunities, and community investment, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

National Health Center Week provides a time to recognize the vital, bipartisan contributions of Community Health Centers and to celebrate the patients, staff, volunteers, and board members who make this work possible.

We honor the 1,500 Community Health Center organizations across America—including Golden Valley Health Centers—for their nearly 60 years of resilience, innovation, and service in transforming health care delivery and access.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the 90th anniversary of Social Security and its place as the cornerstone of Americans' retirement security.

On August 14, 1935. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, establishing a sacred trust with hard-working Americans to have the right to retire with dignity and security. Social Security became the most effective antipoverty program in American history by creating a social insurance system to pay workers 65 and older a regular income upon retirement.

Today, Social Security provides retirement benefits, disability benefits, and survivor benefits for millions of Americans. Social Security's benefits help millions of seniors, people with disabilities, survivors, and their families put food on their tables, pay for rent, heat their homes, cover medical bills, and more. Social Security is a guaranteed safety net that prevents 22 million people from living in poverty, including nearly one million children.

In Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, 126,751 people receive more than $262 million in earned monthly benefits, including: 100,067 retirees, 12,769 disabled workers, 7,062 children, 4,745 widows, widowers, and parents, and 2,108 spouses.

On November 12, 2024, I voted for the Social Security Fairness Act, which was signed into law by President Joseph Biden on January 5, 2025. The Social Security Fairness Act repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. These unfair provisions had reduced or eliminated the Social Security benefits of more than 2.8 million individuals. The Social Security Fairness Act increased Social Security benefits for many types of workers, including some firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public sector employees, to ensure that they receive the full Social Security benefits to which they earned and deserve.

Safeguarding the right to retire with dignity and security is a priority for me in Congress. We must prevent the current highly partisan political environment in Congress and the White House from putting the future of Social Security at risk and we must ensure that the Social Security Administration—the agency that administers this important program—is not weaponized to promote mis- and disinformation.

I am committed to strengthening the long-term solvency of Social Security and protecting and improving the basic benefits promised to seniors, persons with disabilities, survivors, and their families. The American people have made it loud and clear to Congress that cutting their hardearned benefits is unacceptable and that Social Security must be protected for current and future generations. I will continue to fight to ensure that Social Security is there for the people who worked for it and deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 90th anniversary of Social Security, committing to protecting Social Security, and making sure that Social Security remains strong for future generations.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

Founded by William John Howey and incorporated on May 8, 1925, as the Town of Howey, this vibrant community officially became known as Howey-in-the-Hills in 1927. The name pays homage to the picturesque topography of the regions, which Mr. Howey fondly referred to as "The Florida Alps."

Mr. Howey was an entrepreneur who dreamed of creating a citrus empire with the town serving as its commercial and shipping hub. He constructed Florida's first citrus juice plant in 1921 and introduced the "Lifeguard" brand of canned citrus juice, revolutionizing the industry. The historic Floridian Hotel, built to accommodate buyers of his citrus acreage, and the elegant Howey Mansion on the north end of town are enduring symbols of his legacy.

As the town grew, so too did its reputation as a destination for recreation and hospitality. The adjacent Floridian Country Club and golf course capitalized on the growing popularity of the sport and were later revitalized by the Beucher family, who transformed the property into the acclaimed Mission Resort & Club. In 2022, the Beucher family passed the torch to MMI Hospitality Group, ensuring the resort's continued excellence.

Another key figure in the town's development was C.V. Griffin, Sr., who, in the 1950s, promoted "Land Cruises" to draw attention to the town's beauty and opportunity. He donated land for the town hall, established Griffin Airways, and was instrumental in the construction of the State Road 19 bridge over Lake Harris, linking communities and encouraging economic growth.

Today, with a population exceeding 2,000, Howey-in-the-Hills is a thriving, family-oriented resort town. The beautifully restored Howey Mansion hosts custom-designed events, while the town's 1920s mission-style architecture and the Community Church, built in 1949, add cultural depth to this charming municipality.

Whether it is a leisurely stroll through Blevins Patriot Park, boating on Lake Harris, enjoying the spa, or a round of golf, Howey-in-the-Hills remains a beautiful and welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

I am honored to join the community in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the town of Howey-in-the-Hills, and in celebrating its proud heritage, vibrant present, and promising future.

Happy Centennial, Howey-in-the-Hills.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LYNNE JOLLY RICHARDSON

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lynne Jolly Richardson—a devoted public servant, loving wife and mother, and proud daughter of South Carolina—who passed away a year ago, on August 1, 2024.

Lynne Richardson was a woman of great intellect, integrity, and compassion. Born on August 19, 1955, in Anderson, South Carolina, she was raised in the close-knit community of Pendleton. A proud graduate of both Pendleton High School, where she served as Salutatorian, and Clemson University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science, Lynne was later awarded a Master of Business Administration in Finance from The George Washington University.

Lynne dedicated much of her professional life to public service, including a distinguished twenty-year career in the United States House of Representatives. She began and ended her tenure in this Chamber in the Office of our late

colleague, Congressman Butler Derrick of South Carolina. Over the years, she held a variety of roles in Congressman Derrick's office, ultimately rising to become his final Chief of Staff. In all her roles, she earned the respect and admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle for her steady leadership, policy expertise, and deep commitment to the American people.

She also spent several years on the staff of the Committee on the Budget where she served as Director of Task Forces and Associate staff. It was during this time that Lynne met her husband, Kevin Richardson, who was then serving on the staff of the Committee on the Judiciary. Their story began when they met in H–127 of the U.S. Capitol during a House-Senate Conference Committee meeting on the 1986 Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act. It ultimately grew into a 36-year marriage defined by joy, partnership, and unwavering support. Together, they built a loving home, eventually settling in Lake Barrington, Illinois, in 1997. Lynne continued her service to the community through her long-standing role as Finance Director at Barrington United Methodist Church, where she was also an active congregant and faithful servant.

Lynne's greatest pride was her family. Her beloved daughters, Mary Ellen Richardson and Charlotte Richardson, carry forward her legacy of excellence, compassion, and service as both have established distinguished careers of their own in Washington, D.C.

Lynne was many things to many people—a mother, a sister, a mentor, a neighbor, a friend. She was an avid gardener, a beach enthusiast, a reader, a traveler, and a loyal Clemson Tiger. She was equally at home discussing federal budget policy as she was assembling a family jigsaw puzzle or tending to her roses. Throughout her life, she remained grounded in her faith, her family, and her belief in the power of community.

Lynne Jolly Richardson's life was a testament to service, intellect, grace, and love. She enriched every community she was part of—from the foothills of South Carolina to the halls of Congress to the neighborhoods of Lake Barrington. Today we honor her legacy that will be long remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lynne's memory and offering our deepest condolences to the Richardson and Jolly families. May her memory be a blessing, and may her life continue to inspire those of us who follow in her footsteps.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LIGHTHOUSE VOCATIONAL SERVICES

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Lighthouse Vocational Services on their 50th anniversary.

Lighthouse Vocational Services, a faith-based nonprofit, provides vocational services and training to adults with developmental disabilities. Starting as a humble organization in 1975 where they served three participants in a firehouse, Lighthouse quickly transformed into a service that has helped individuals across Lancaster and the surrounding counties. Moving to their current New Holland facility in 2000, Lighthouse Vocational Services helps over 200 individuals today.

Lighthouse Vocational Services provides vocational skills training, employment services, and volunteer opportunities which help individuals with disabilities develop confidence, fulfillment, economic freedom, and connections with the local community. Lighthouse also provides daily activities and art programs for the individuals they serve.

In the 50 years since its opening, Lighthouse Vocational Services has continued in its faith-focused mission to uplift individuals with disabilities. I have seen their work firsthand and am proud to say that their selflessness and hospitality represents what makes Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District so great.

I thank the entire team at Lighthouse Vocational Services for all that they do, and I wish them another 50 years of continued success.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C, on July 23, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 23 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials, I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

James L. Ammirati, Juan C. Anzaldua, Richard E. Arcand, Thomas A. Balding, Patrick L. Benson, Ronald E. Bills, David D. Blackburn, Lawrence F. Blanchette, Raymond G. Brown, Michael J. Bubacz, Robert E. Bulanda, John B. Burke, John M. Bzdusek, Leroy W. Carmichael, Charles W. Cavett, Paul L. Clausell, Larry P. Clemens, Jerry Cleveland, Michael P. Cole, Joel J. Conrad.

Richard V. Corbett, Michael J. Deaville, Cornelius H. Dekker, Jr., Edward D. Donohue, Willie L. Driver, Rodney G. Early, Daniel R. Ehart, Craig Fischel, Edward Fitzpatrick, Julius D. Fliehler, Richard W. Foster, Ricky A. Frank, Harold D. Fross, Joseph Furgal.

Charles T. Garrett, James F. Grauvogl, Shallie C. Griffin, Malcolm A. Halsted, Calvin L. Hammond, Leonard T. Harbacek, Richard J. Hattan, Chris E. Hebert, Mark L. Hebert, Michael N. Hendrix, Charles M. Hill, Ronald E. Jankun, Sr., Elroy Johnson, Ronald A. Johnson, Terry B. Johnson, Gregory A. Jones, Albert A. Jurs, Robert A. Kane, Robert Klodnicki, Louis E. Konc, Richard L. Konc.

Gary A. Kuntz, Kenneth F. Lavorata, Donald G. LeMonnier, Jeffrey A. Little, Joel G. Loven, Edward D. Marcheleta, Robert Martin, Jerry Mason, Donald J. Matker, Wallace W. McGee, James P. McKevitt, Lawrence McNamee, Willis Miles, Bruce A. Miller, Patrick Molloy, Robell C. Mueller, Richard C. Nielsen, John M. Niziolek, Ronald Pallack, Robert C. Pearson, Franz O. Perfect, David Peterson.

Lawrence E. Pluhar, Louis H. Ramirez, Robert F. Roan, Ronald Robinson, William Robinson, Robert Rogers, William S. Rogers, Bernard J. Rokita, John R. Rosewell, Richard A. Ross, Willie M. Rush, Robert W. Sanders, Juan R. Sandoval, Harold Schwind, Francis T. See, Kenneth C. Sell, Frank C. Sims, Robert E. Sivulich, Leonard E. Skiroock, Dennis A. Smith, Patrick A. Smith.

Thomas R. Smith, Philip M. Stebbins, William F. Stender, Lyle F. Stevenson, Jr., Clifford D. Struthers, Gary J. Sullivan, John A. Szostak, Dean R. Theis, James M. Thompson, Robert L. Vipham, John T. Waite, Terrance W. Whitney, Patricia A. Williamson, Louis J. Winder, Edward Wisniewski, Leo J. Wojtaszek, Jr., John A. Wright, Donald O. Young, Richard A, Young.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BETH TERRELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Elizabeth "Beth" Terrell of Burr Ridge, Illinois, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Beth has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community and country.

A native of Lake Forest, Illinois, Beth attended Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame and graduated in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in communication. She earned her master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. Beth started her professional career as a Communication and Training Specialist for the Elkhart County government. She later became Director of Marketing for the Center for Eye Care and Coldwell Banker Sammis in New York state. Since then, Beth has devoted much of her time to growing her family and caring for their children along with her husband, Pat. Together, Beth and Pat launched a family business, Terrell Materials, a leading concrete manufacturing company that services major airports.

In addition to her career, Beth has continued to stay involved in numerous community service initiatives. She served as President of the Carolina Panthers' Women Association, a member of the Hornets' Nest Girl Scout Council Board of Directors, and Girl Scout Leader with the Girl Scouts Council of Greater Chicago and Northwest. Moreover, Beth cofounded Team Terrell alongside Pat to help promote and fundraise for the American Diabetes Association. Her most cherished accomplishment is raising a wonderful family with

seven children, all of whom were instilled with the values of compassion, faith, and kindness. I'm pleased to recognize Beth today for her important contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success.

It is an honor to bestow Beth with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th anniversary of the Mojave Water Agency, an institution that has stood as a pillar of responsible stewardship, innovation, and public service in California's High Desert since its founding in 1960.

For over six decades, the Mojave Water Agency has safeguarded one of our region's most precious resources: water. Formed by local voters in response to declining groundwater levels, the Agency has grown into one of the most respected and visionary water management organizations in our state.

As one of California's original State Water Project contractors, the Mojave Water Agency was instrumental in bringing imported water to the region. That achievement helped pave the way for responsible population growth, economic development, and long-term sustainability in one of the most arid areas of our Nation. Today, the Agency's service area spans nearly 5,000 square miles and provides water resource management for nearly half a million residents.

Over the past 65 years, the Mojave Water Agency has distinguished itself through its technical excellence, long-range planning, and commitment to the efficient and responsible use of water. Its leadership has fostered strong partnerships with local governments, businesses, and residents, building a foundation of trust and shared responsibility.

Equally commendable is the Agency's focus on public education and outreach. Through this work, the Mojave Water Agency has not only fulfilled its operational mission but has cultivated a strong culture of civic pride and community stewardship.

The Mojave Water Agency has helped ensure that life across our region remains sustainable, secure, and well-prepared for the challenges ahead. On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I extend my deepest appreciation to the leaders, staff, and partners of the Mojave Water Agency for 65 years of exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable institution and in wishing it continued success for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, I did not vote on Roll Call No. 215. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 215.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, there is another critical point I must make about the rescissions proposal that the House is now considering. OMB's defiance of the norms around review of special messages and the law mandating disclosure of apportionments appears to be designed to evade review of the rescission proposals by the Congress, Congress's watchdog, and the public alike.

Unlike in the past, OMB has refused to make the apportionments for the accounts at issue available to the Government Accountability Office for their required review under the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. In its report to Congress on the June 3, 2025, special message proposing these rescissions, the Government Accountability Office noted that for ''previous special messages, GAO has reviewed updated apportionment data to ensure [OMB's] instructions were consistent with the special message.'' But for these rescissions proposals, OMB flat out refused ''to provide GAO with updated apportionment data that would permit GAO to conduct the same analysis for the President's special message of June 3, 2025.''

This is unacceptable, and it is unlawful. In the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Acts, when I was chair of the Appropriations Committee, Congress—on a bipartisan basis—required OMB to post apportionments publicly. If OMB were obeying this law, then not only would Congress and the GAO have critical information we needed to consider the rescissions package before us, but the public would have had the critical information they needed to share their opinions with us about the impact of these cuts and any other funds OMB or these agencies may be withholding in violation of the Impoundment Control Act. Congress has required OMB to make this information public, and once again, I urge OMB to comply with the law and do so—now.

And, yes, I know that OMB has made the wrongheaded argument to the Committees that somehow apportionment decisions on congressionally passed and duly enacted appropriations are both legally binding as well as predecisional and deliberative, and that the requirement to post such information is unconstitutional, but that is not so. OMB and Director Vought continue to be deeply confused about the Constitution, the rule of law, and foundational fiscal laws like the Antideficiency Act and the Impoundment Control Act. The Constitution vested the power of the purse in the Congress, not the President, and the Congress assigned the President the responsibility to apportion appropriations to protect Congress's power, not cede it to the Executive Branch. And as the constitutional stewards of the power of the purse, Congress can—through enacted laws—certainly require the apportionment information to be published to the benefit of both the Congress and the public, who deserve access to information about the use of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, I must speak out against the pattern of unlawful impoundment that is being led by OMB Director Russ Vought, who insists that there is somehow a loophole in the Impoundment Control Act that permits the Executive Branch to unilaterally cancel appropriations—that otherwise expire under current law at the end of the fiscal year—by transmitting a special message proposing rescissions late in the fiscal year and withholding the amounts until they can no longer be used. But to quote the late Justice Scalia, the Congress ''does not, one might say, hide elephants in mouseholes.'' Indeed, unilateral actions by the Executive Branch that would impound congressionally passed and duly enacted appropriations is the very thing the Impoundment Control Act prohibits.

Director Vought refers to his unlawful maneuver as a ''pocket rescission,'' which is just another name for unlawful impoundment. The December 2018 Government Accountability Office legal opinion (B–330330), requested jointly by then House Budget Committee Chairman STEVE WOMACK and Ranking Member John Yarmuth, is exactly right though and confirms that the Impoundment Control Act bars this maneuver. The Government Accountability Office stated unequivocally that ''[t]his interpretation would, in effect, give the President power to amend or to repeal previously enacted appropriations merely by calibrating the timing of the submission of a special message'' and that ''[a] withholding of this nature would be an aversion both to the constitutional process for enacting federal law and to Congress's constitutional power of the purse.'' As part of its analysis, the Government Accountability Office reasons that ''[t]he plain language of section 1012(b) provides that absent Congress's completion of action on a rescission bill rescinding all or part of amounts proposed to be rescinded within the prescribed 45-day period, such amounts must be made available for obligation,'' which requires that the ''budget authority must not be expired.'' And I remain in agreement with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and Representative HAL ROGERS, as the Senate Chairman and House Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs of the Appropriations Committees, when they wrote in 2019 to President Trump that ''[w]e supported the budget deal and did so in good faith. Preventing agencies from obligating such large sums seems an abdication of this bipartisan agreement, and Congress thus expressed strong opposition to this precise exercise last year. Furthermore, the U.S. Government Accountability Office's December 2018 legal opinion concluded that the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act does not permit the withholding of funds through their date of expiration and notes the President's responsibility in ensuring prudent obligation of funds.''

Republicans and Democrats alike should reject this ploy for what it is: a direct assault to Congress's Article I power. Allowing any Administration to erase duly enacted funding through procedural delays that amount to unlawful impoundment would destabilize the appropriations process and corrode the separation of powers that the Impoundment Control Act was enacted to defend.

I remind my colleagues that Congress alone holds the power of the purse. It is right there

in the Constitution. Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 proclaims that Congress, not the President, determines how the taxpayers' dollars are spent. I urge my colleagues to reject this rule, which would automatically adopt the rescissions package pursuant to the June 3, 2025, special message.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSÉ RONALDO JARABO

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of José Ronaldo Jarabo, known to many of us as Rony, whom we said goodbye to on June 29, 2025. He was a son of Puerto Rico, a brilliant speaker, a sharp parliamentarian, and a courageous defender of Puerto Rican democracy.

Rony began his activism during difficult times—the four-year period from 1969 to 1972. The Popular Democratic Party (PPD) had just lost the elections for the first time, and Rony was one of many young people who stepped up to renew the institution. At 25, he was one of the young people who organized the march on July 25, 1969, under the slogan ''growth without assimilation.'' The march took place against all odds. Muñoz Marín opposed it; Rafael Hernández Colón supported it. And the young people, with Rony among them, prevailed with dignity.

From then on, he stood out as one of the brightest young talents in the Popular Party. He finished second in a youth public speaking contest in 1970—something my grandfather never failed to remind him of, jokingly. He lost to Papo Vázquez, and as Hernández Colón wrote, Rony claimed, half seriously and half-jokingly, that he lost because Papo brought a claque that applauded him louder. I saw them laugh about it years later at a Popular Youth event.

In 1972, Rony successfully ran for representative by accumulation, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. He won the support of his caucus to preside over the House on three occasions, although he did not prevail the first time, and he is the only one since Ernesto Ramos Antonini to have presided over the body for two consecutive terms.

My grandfather said that Rony had a gift for words like few others, and that he had what it takes to be governor. And although he did not hold that position, he did hold a permanent place in the history of our country.

I met Rony in the halls of the Capitol when I was just 13 years old. Despite my age, he never treated me like a child. He spoke to me as adults speak to each other, with respect, affection, and purpose. I remember him at every public event, with his lively greeting and that fiery rhetoric that came from his soul.

I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends, as well as my brotherly embrace. May Rony's legacy not only be a memory in the halls of the Capitol, but a force that inspires us to be better speakers, better thinkers, better public servants.

Rest in peace, Rony.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my constituents, I include in the RECORD my remarks in Spanish.

El 29 de junio, despedimos a un hijo de Puerto Rico, a un orador brillante, a un parlamentario agudo, a un defensor valiente de la democracia puertorriqueña: José Ronaldo Jarabo, o como muchos lo conocimos, Rony.

Rony empezó su activismo en tiempos difíciles—el cuatrienio de 1969 a 1972. El Partido Popular Democrático (PPD) acababa de perder por primera vez las elecciones, y Rony fue de los muchos jóvenes que se abrieron paso para renovar la institución. A sus 25 años, fue uno de los jóvenes que organizaron la marcha del 25 de julio de 1969, bajo la consigna de ''crecimiento sin asimilación''. Marcha que se celebró contra viento y marea. Muñoz Marín se oponía; Rafael Hernández Colón la respaldaba. Y los jóvenes, con Rony entre ellos, se impusieron con dignidad.

Desde entonces, se destacó como uno de los talentos jóvenes más brillantes del Partido Popular. Llegó segundo en un concurso de oratoria juvenil en 1970—algo que mi abuelo nunca dejó de recordarle en tono de broma. Perdió ante Papo Vázquez, y como dejó escrito Hernández Colón, Rony alegaba, medio en serio y medio en chiste, que perdió porque Papo llevó una claque que lo aplaudía más duro. Los vi reírse de eso, años después, en una actividad de la Juventud Popular.

En 1972, Rony aspiró con éxito a representante por acumulación, posición que ocupó hasta retirarse en 1992. Obtuvo el respaldo de su caucus para presidir la Cámara en tres ocasiones, aunque en la primera no prevaleció y es el único, desde Ernesto Ramos Antonini, que ha presidido el cuerpo por dos términos consecutivos.

Mi abuelo decía que Rony tenía el don de la palabra como pocos, y que tenía madera de gobernador. Y aunque no ocupó ese cargo, lo que sí ocupó fue un lugar permanente en la historia de nuestro país.

Yo conocí a Rony en los pasillos del Capitolio, cuando tenía apenas 13 años. A pesar de mi edad, nunca me trató como a un nene. Me hablaba como se habla entre adultos: con respeto, con afecto, y con propósito. Lo recuerdo en cada actividad popular, con su saludo animado y ese verbo encendido que le salía del alma.

A su familia, les ofrezco mi más sentido pésame. A sus amigos, mi abrazo fraterno. Que el legado de Rony no sea sólo un recuerdo en los pasillos del Capitolio, sino una fuerza que nos inspire a ser mejores oradores, mejores pensadores, mejores personas de estado.

Descansa en paz, Rony.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 207. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 207. I support the Israeli Cooperative Programs as they are essential for Israel to defend itself and protect U.S. interests.

RECOGNIZING THE IGBO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, DALLES-FORT WORTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great joy and honor to recognize the Igbo Community Association of Nigeria (ICAN) DFW and its annual Igbo Day Celebration.

For over 25 years, ICAN DFW has played a pivotal role in preserving the rich customs, language, values, and traditions of the Igbo people, while also fostering cross-cultural understanding throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The annual Igbo Day Celebration is much more than a cultural gathering—it is a powerful celebration of identity.

ICAN DFW has been instrumental in building bridges across communities, empowering families, and supporting generations of Igbo descendants as they navigate life in the diaspora. From cultural education and youth mentorship to advocacy and charitable outreach, ICAN DFW has consistently demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and pride.

The Igbo Day Celebration stands as a vibrant reminder of the strength and beauty of the Igbo spirit. It is a time to reflect on the Igbo heritage, honor ancestors, and inspire future generations to carry the legacy forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Igbo Community Association of Nigeria DFW's continued dedication to cultural enrichment, community service, and social impact. Their efforts have not only strengthened the Igbo community but have enriched the broader Dallas- Fort Worth landscape. I congratulate them once again on this remarkable occasion and wish them continued success, growth, and many more milestones in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT PAT TERRELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick ''Pat'' Terrell of Burr Ridge, Illinois, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Pat has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

After receiving over forty Division I scholarship offers, Pat ultimately decided to play football at the University of Notre Dame as a member of the Fighting Irish's 1988 National Championship team. He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in international marketing. During the 1990 NFL Draft, Pat was drafted in the second round by the Los Angeles Rams and part of the 1990 All-Rookie Team. He also played with the New York Jets, Carolina Panthers, and Green Bay Packers from 1994 to 1998. After retiring from football in 1999, Pat flew corporate jets for United Airlines and Delta Air Lines before becoming a Captain at

American Trans Air, now ATA Airlines. Moreover, he founded Terrell Materials, a very successful company that specializes in high-volume concrete manufacturing for runways and taxiways at major airports.

Understanding the power of influence, Pat served as a role model and leader. He advocated for many of his teammates during pivotal moments in their lives and has been involved in many community advancement initiatives. Alongside his wife Beth, Pat founded Team Terrell to help promote and fundraise for the American Diabetes Association. He also served as a regional spokesman for United Way and was honored as an NFL Player representative for the United Negro College Fund. During his time as a pilot, Pat volunteered to transport hundreds of American and allied troops through the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On top of that, Pat and Beth have poured countless hours into volunteering with local schools, educational programs, and park district programs.

It is an honor to bestow Pat with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation. I thank him for all he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a House resolution along with my colleague, Representative LIZZIE FLETCHER (TX–08), to reaffirm the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, including the separation of powers, checks and balances, the independence of the judiciary, and the power of Congress to control spending, declare war, and conduct oversight. This resolution also reaffirms the key individual protections enshrined in the Constitution, including due process and equal protection under the law.

This resolution comes six months into President Donald Trump's second term, a period which has been marked by escalating erosions of constitutional norms and executive overreach by his administration.

Article I of the Constitution grants Congress broad powers, including the power to declare war, regulate commerce, raise revenue, appropriate funds and conduct oversight. For decades, Congress has gradually ceded more of these Constitutional responsibilities to the executive branch. As our country's founders warned, this has created a dangerous situation ripe for Presidential abuse. It is essential that Congress reclaim its legitimate authority as the first branch of government.

My resolution declares that appropriations made by Congress are law, not mere suggestions. It quotes James Madison, who said ''this power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people.'' I urge my colleagues to hear this message today.

This resolution is endorsed by more than a dozen public interest and legal advocacy organizations, who stand united in reasserting the essential roles of the legislative and judicial branches and in declaring unequivocally that no individual—especially the President—is above the law.

This resolution affirms what should be nonpartisan truths: that the separation of powers is vital for a functioning republic, that Congress controls the public purse, and that the rule of law and the protection it affords are for everyone. In the face of escalating threats to our constitutional order, Congress must not remain silent. This resolution is a declaration of principle and a call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor this important resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT ''BOBBY'' EDWARD PIETRANGELO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a courageous advocate, passionate man of faith and service, and devoted son, partner, and friend—Robert (Bobby) Edward Pietrangelo. We honor Bobby following his passing on January 3. 2025.

Born on December 14, 2001, in Abington, Pennsylvania, Bobby entered the world showcasing true strength and resilience. He spent the first five and a half weeks of his life in the neonatal unit, but he quickly grew to be the smart, funny, and compassionate person his family and friends cherished.

Bobby attended Upper Moreland schools and Pennridge High School, where he excelled in the honors and gifted programs, even taking college courses at Bucks County Community College while still in high school. His talents also shone through his musical ability. By playing the trombone and trumpet, competing in jazz competitions, and singing every song he knew. Bobby expressed his passion and creativity with infectious enthusiasm.

Beyond the classroom and his love for music. Bobby grew up serving his community. After years of dedication with Boy Scout Troop 354. he became an Eagle Scout—just one example of his passion for leadership and service. He also volunteered as a firefighter for the Silverdale and Perseverance Fire Company in Souderton, Pennsylvania.

Bobby continued his devoted service into his young adulthood. In April 2022, Bobby traveled to Ukraine to support humanitarian relief efforts. On this noble mission, he initially assisted in rescuing and recovering the injured and deceased from bombed civilian areas, including a maternity ward. Working with the Believe Family Foundation, he became a combat life-saver trainer to provide aid and deliver medical supplies to the front lines.

In June 2024, Bobby courageously enlisted in the Ukrainian military—standing shoulder to shoulder with brave Ukrainian men and women to defend Ukraine. He was deployed to the front multiple times, even surviving a drone attack in October 2024, which left him with a severe concussion and brain injury. Despite this, Bobby returned to the fight as soon as he was medically able—once again showcasing his true determination and spirit.

In an effort to defend Pokrovsk from Russian invasion, Bobby gave his life to protecting the people of Ukraine. A true hero, he was a man who transformed his values into action—exhibiting resilience and valor in every chapter of his journey.

It is with profound respect that I honor Bobby's memory. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

REMEMBERING CARROL EUGENE FRANKLIN

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart, but a grateful spirit, to honor the life of my friend, Commissioner Carrol Eugene Franklin, who passed away peacefully in Hilliard, Florida, at the young age of 76. Born in Booneville, Mississippi, Carrol lived a life shaped by hard work, deep faith, and a quiet but profound dedication to others.

He was a proud combat veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War. That same courage and resolve stayed with him throughout his life, whether it was in service to his country, in business, or in leadership with the Nassau County Ocean Highway & Port Authority.

Carrol was a man who showed up—not just when it was easy, but when it was needed. He believed in faith, integrity, and perseverance. He loved his family dearly. And for 42 years, he stood side by side with his beloved wife, Judy, raising their sons, Garrett and Greg, and cherishing their granddaughter, Diana Del.

To his church family at First Baptist of Boulougne, his brothers and sister, and his many friends, nieces, nephews, and neighbors who knew him—Carrol was the kind of man whose legacy is etched not in headlines, but in the lives he lifted.

Mr. Speaker, we say goodbye to a veteran, a man of character, a family man, and my friend. It hurts, because that's the impact that Carrol has had on so many. May his memory continue to inspire us all to serve with heart, live with purpose, and love without hesitation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Monday, July 21, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 213, and YEA on Roll Call No. 214.

HONORING CORPORAL DENNIS C. ZAVADA

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Dennis C. Zavada USMC

(Ret.), a proud United States Marine, Vietnam veteran, and the devoted parent of a U.S. military veteran. Mr. Zavada has served his country not only in uniform, but also through his unwavering dedication to preserving the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial in Westfield, Indiana.

Since 2009, Mr. Zavada has volunteered his time and labor to care for this living tribute to 210 Indiana service members, who lost their lives in the wars following September 11. The Memorial was founded by fellow Vietnam Veteran Command Sergeant Major Donald E. Peed, who initially placed white crosses on his property to honor the fallen. What began as a few simple crosses grew each year, becoming a powerful community landmark. The first cross honored Marine Sergeant Jeanette Winters, the first woman killed in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom. The most recent cross honors Marine Corporal Humberto Sanchez, who was killed outside the Kabul airport in Afghanistan during the 2021 withdrawal.

Mr. Zavada has devoted hundreds of hours to maintaining the Memorial. He mows the grass, clears snow in winter, salts the walkways, replaces worn flags, and commissions plaques for newly fallen heroes. Beyond upkeep, he has become a steward of memory—sharing the stories behind each cross and ensuring that every name is remembered with dignity.

Each spring, local elementary school students visit the Memorial, where Mr. Zavada teaches them about the service and sacrifice represented there. Through his words and care, young people learn the deep cost of freedom and the value of honoring those who gave everything.

Local businesses support his work anonymously, providing funds for flagpole upgrades, flowers, and supplies. The Carmel VFW also contributes to maintenance and expenses, helping preserve this hallowed ground.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Corporal Dennis Zavada for his honorable service in Vietnam, his continued care for the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial, and his lasting contributions to the community and the country.

RECOGNIZING PAIGE KITTS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Paige Kitts. Paige is a member of Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore, Troop 4504. She has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Paige's project, ''Growing Hope'', in partnership with Growing Roots, addressed the challenge of finding accessible programs and opportunities for those with disabilities in our community. Paige took action by designing and building a wheelchair-accessible garden bed to help existing programs become more inclusive. She created an instruction manual to share with other organizations, providing a supply list, step-by-step instructions for building, and insights regarding the benefits of wheelchair-accessible garden beds. This project will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

On behalf of Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, congratulations to Paige Kitts for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. We thank Paige for her leadership and for making such a positive, enduring change in our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ALAN BARRY CARR

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Alan Barry Carr of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, who peacefully passed away on June 8, 2025.

Alan was born on January 17, 1937, to James and Olive Carr. He attended the University of Maryland and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute for his bachelor's degree and master's degree. Alan later earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. For many years, he worked as a congressional researcher for the Department of Agriculture and the Library of Congress. Afterwards, Alan taught Economics at Texas A&M University and spent some time teaching in Armenia. In addition to his passion for teaching, Alan enjoyed hunting, gardening, taking care of his dogs, and telling good stories to those around him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Alan's wonderful life and legacy. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM LACY CLAY, SR.

HON. WESLEY BELL

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the Honorable William Lacy Clay, Sr.

''We have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.''

Our country lost a trailblazer. Congressman Clay passed away after a lifetime of service that reshaped St. Louis and our Nation.

Already a civil rights icon before he was elected, he didn't come to Washington to play politics. He came to fight for working people, Black families, union members, and those too often left out and unheard. He carried their voices into this chamber and made sure they echoed.

Bill Clay was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. I—and so many others—would not be here without the doors he opened and the example he set.

I'm holding his son, my friend and predecessor Lacy Clay, the entire Clay family, and the St. Louis community in my prayers.

HONORING DR. BARBARA NEMKO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Barbara Nemko, Ph.D., on the occasion of her retirement after 28 years as Napa County Superintendent of Schools and a lifetime of service to education.

Dr. Nemko was born in the Bronx, New York, where her journey in education began. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees from Queens College, and started her career as a second-grade teacher in New York City. Her academic work continued at the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned her Ph.D. in Reading and Evaluation of School Programs in 1981, a milestone that also began her love affair with California.

After joining the Napa County Office of Education in 1991, Dr. Nemko was appointed as the Napa County Superintendent of Schools in 1997, and later elected to the position in 1998. Dr. Nemko held this role for an unprecedented 28 years. At the time of her retirement, Dr. Nemko was the longest-serving county superintendent in office in our state. Her tenure transformed Napa County's education system, establishing the Office of Education as a regional leader in early learning, special education, career technical education, mental health services, and professional development for educators.

Dr. Nemko was known for her forward-thinking leadership, particularly in advancing educational technology. She was an early advocate for closing the digital divide, securing technology and internet access for thousands of students in Napa County. She pioneered programs like the Superintendent's Fund to provide children with eyeglasses, orthotics, and other critical needs not covered by existing budgets.

Her leadership has extended beyond the classroom. Dr. Nemko served on the Community Corrections Board and Juvenile Justice Committee for her entire tenure as Superintendent, completed Leadership Napa Valley in 1999, and later joined its Board of Directors. She also served as President of the Rotary Club of Napa from 2013 to 2014. In recognition of her advocacy, she was named Woman of the Year for the 7th Assembly District by the California Legislature in 2009, received the Public Policy Advocate Award from the International Society for Technology in Education in 2014, and earned the Platinum Disk Award from Computer Using Educators in 2019.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Nemko is deeply committed to her family

and the arts. She has performed in numerous community theater productions with Dreamweavers, Lucky Penny, and Valley Players. She is married to Dr. Marty Nemko, an accomplished career coach, author, and writer. Together they raised their daughter, Amy Zubrensky, who served as a researcher in the Clinton White House, earned her law degree from Yale, and now serves as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice. Dr. Nemko and her husband are the proud grandparents of Lea and Sara Zubrensky.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly three decades, Dr. Barbara Nemko has dedicated herself to strengthening Napa County's education system and enriching her community. It is fitting and proper that we recognize her extraordinary career, leadership, and service here today.

REMEMBERING JAMES VITALE

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of my constituent, James Anthony Vitale, who passed away recently at the age of 66.

Mr. Vitale was a dedicated civic leader in Moon Township.

He was a dedicated public servant, serving on the Moon Township Board of Supervisors for nearly 18 years, holding the positions of Chairman or Vice Chairman for 11 of those years.

And he was committed to his community, representing the township on the Board of Directors of the South Hills Area Council of Governments for 15 years.

Public service was in Jim Vitales' bones.

In Western Pennsylvania, a life like his—devoted to his family and community—shows exactly who we are.

Humble, proud, and always ready to do our part: Jim embodied the very best of Western Pennsylvania values: hard work, service, and dedication.

I am holding Jim's wife, Luanne Vitale, his family, and his entire community in my heart as we celebrate his life and mourn his passing.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE JIM KNECHT ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Illinois Fourth District Appellate Court Justice, James "Jim" Knecht, as he reaches the milestone of serving 50 years as a judge.

Jim was born in Lincoln, Illinois in 1944 and graduated from Lincoln Community High School in 1962. Afterwards, he attended Illinois State University and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of law in 1973. While in law school, Jim was an editor of the Law Review and was honored as a member of the prestigious national law school honors society, the Order of the Coif.

Jim began his judicial career as a law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Underwood before serving as an Associate Circuit Judge for 3 years and as a Circuit Judge for 8 years. In 1986, Judge Knecht was elected to the Illinois Fourth District Appellate Court. Currently, he is the longest serving judge in Illinois court history and an accredited leader within the Illinois law community. He is a member of the Illinois State and McLean County Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, the Illinois Judges' Association, the Appellate Lawyers Association, and is a fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Knecht is heavily involved in our Illinois communities and within his alma maters. He serves on the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council and on the National Advisory Board of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. Additionally, he spent time as an adjunct professor at both Illinois State University and the University of Illinois College of Law. At Illinois State University, his time as an adjunct professor lasted nearly three decades and he is a recipient of their Distinguished Alumni Award.

I want to congratulate Judge Knecht on this momentous achievement and thank him for his continued service to the state of Illinois. I wish Judge Knecht, his wife Ruth, their children and grandchildren many years of happiness and success in the future.

RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS ON EARNING AN "A" RATING FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Lake County Schools in Lake County, Florida, for their outstanding achievement in earning an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education for the 2024–2025 school year.

Lake County Schools currently operates 49 schools, serving students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, with approximately 48,285 students and 2,696 teachers. This marks the first time since 2008 that the Lake County School District has earned this prestigious distinction, reflecting the district's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, student achievement, and community support.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Diane Kornegay and the dedicated members of the Lake County School Board, the district earned this "A" rating by achieving a high percentage of points based on student performance across a wide range of academic indicators. These include standardized assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, as well as learning gains in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Among the most notable improvements were a 15 percent increase in Algebra 1 proficiency, a 7 percent increase in English Language Arts for grades 9 and 10, a 4 percent overall increase in English Language Arts scores, and a 4 percent improvement in Civics end-of-course exam performance. Additionally, the district proudly reports a high school graduation rate of 93 percent, a significant achievement that speaks volumes about the commitment of the students, educators, and families of Lake County.

I am pleased to join our community in congratulating the teachers, administrators, support staff, and especially the students of Lake County Schools for their hard work, diligence, and determination in making this achievement possible. I thank them for their continued pursuit of educational excellence.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROSEMARY ENRICO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mrs. Rosemary Margo Enrico of Dallas, Texas, who peacefully passed away on May 6, 2025.

Rosemary was born on September 28, 1944, in Chisholm, Minnesota, to Andrew and Rose Margo. She graduated from Marquette University in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. For 48 years, she was married to her childhood sweetheart, Roger Anthony Enrico, and they raised a large family with many children. Rosemary was a devout Catholic, schoolteacher, and generous philanthropist. Along with Roger, they founded the nonprofit Roger and Rosemary Enrico Foundation to support Catholic initiatives and provide life-changing scholarships to many economically disadvantaged students in North Texas.

In her free time, Rosemary was passionate about the arts and was an avid traveler. She enjoyed spending time with her family and traveling around the world with Roger. I am deeply saddened to hear of Rosemary's passing, as she brought compassion, kindness, and warmth with her presence wherever she went. The incredible impact she has made on our community will be remembered and felt for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Rosemary's life and contributions to North Texas. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on Operation MIDNIGHT HAMMER.
SVC–217

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SD–419

3 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.
SR–328A

JULY 30

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment
To hold hearings to examine guardrails and growth, focusing on AI's role in capital and insurance markets.
SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 1691, to limit the use of facial recognition technology in airports, S. 2314, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, S. 2318, to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to require the periodic update to the strategic plan to guide the Manufacturing USA Program to align with the mandatory updates to the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing, S. 2351, to supplement existing lease authorities available to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support research, education, and training, and the nominations of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Taylor Jordan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Commerce, Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Seval Oz, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary, Michael Rutherford, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, and Derek Barrs, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
S–116

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 2292, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, S. 1440, to amend title II of the Public Health Service Act to include as an additional right or privilege of commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (and their beneficiaries) certain leave provided under title 10, United States Code to commissioned officers of the Army (or their beneficiaries), S. 2301, to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care, S. 1727, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to permit employee stock ownership plan participants to benefit from the full amount of beneficial ownership that can be accrued in the plan while also fully realizing the benefits of saving for retirement in a defined contribution plan, S. 1728, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to expand the membership of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans to include representatives of employee ownership organizations, an original bill entitled ''Kay Hagan Tick Reauthorization Act'', and an original bill entitled ''Retire Through Ownership Act''.
SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 854, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 855, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system, S. 81, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, S. 861, to streamline the sharing of information among Federal disaster assistance agencies, to expedite the delivery of life-saving assistance to disaster survivors, to speed the recovery of communities from disasters, to protect the security and privacy of information provided by disaster survivors, S. 766, to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 872, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, S. 727, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, S. 874, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, S. 594, to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, S. 865, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, S. 856, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act, S. 850, to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and the northern border strategy, S. 848, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and S. 572, to enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider S. 1498, to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit transactions involving certain financial instruments by Members of Congress, S. 2144, to improve the safety and security of Members of Congress, immediate family members of Members of Congress, and congressional staff, the nominations of Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security, Paul Ingrassia, of New York, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years, Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.
SD–342

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Border Management, Federal Workforce, and Regulatory Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Congress's role in the regulatory landscape.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
To hold hearings to examine finding opportunities for U.S.-Africa partnerships.
SD–419

3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law
To hold hearings to examine protecting and safeguarding Americans' online data.
SD–226

3:30 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine awareness to action, focusing on combating elder abuse & neglect.
SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4577–S4685

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2387–2424, S.J. Res. 68, S. Res. 333–334, and S. Con. Res. 19. **Pages S4623–25**

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the Florida Panthers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 333, commending and congratulating the Florida Panthers on winning the 2025 Stanley Cup Final. **Pages S4584–85**

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 39, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act. **Page S4685**

Danish Constitution Day Celebrations: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 267, honoring the deep and enduring friendship between the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States on the occasion of Danish Constitution Day celebrations, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4685**

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act: Senate began consideration of H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, after agreeing to the motion to proceed. **Pages S4577–81, S4585–88, S4588–98**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 90 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 428), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S4588**

Lohmeier Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S4617–18**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 433), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4617**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 24, 2025, post-cloture; Notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m., and if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, all post-cloture time expire at 1:45 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation thereon; provided further if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, all post-cloture time be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Monday, July 28, 2025. **Page S4685**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 426), Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. **Pages S4581, S4685**

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 427), John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes. **Pages S4581–82, S4685**

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 430), Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Pages S4598–S4606, S4685**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 429), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4598**

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 432), Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Pages S4606–17, S4685

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 431), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4606**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

4 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army, Navy, and Space Force. **Page S4685**

Messages from the House: **Pages S4621–22**

Measures Referred: **Page S4622**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4622–23**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4623**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4625–26**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4626–28**

Additional Statements: **Page S4621**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4628–84**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4684**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4684**

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—433) **Pages S4581–82, S4588, S4598, S4606, S4617**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:11 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4685.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representative Sam Graves, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029, Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Seval Oz, of California, and Michael Rutherford, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INCREASED ELECTRICITY DEMAND

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine challenges to meeting increased electricity demand, after receiving testimony from Peter R. Hunstman, Huntsman Corporation, The Woodlands, Texas; Jeff Tench, Vantage Data Centers, Denver, Colorado; and Rob Gramlich, Grid Strategies LLC, Bethesda, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure concluded a hearing to examine the road ahead, focusing on proposals to improve America's transportation infrastructure, including S. 1167, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve transportation asset management plans, S. 1828, to amend title 23, United States Code, to require States to designate a coordinator of the safe routes to school program in the State, and S. 1733, to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for increased transferability of Federal-aid highway funds, after receiving testimony from Chad M. Orn, North Dakota Department of Transportation Deputy Director of Planning, Bismarck; Samantha Biddle, Maryland Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary, Hanover; and Marisa Jones, Safe Routes Partnership, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of John Arrigo, of

Florida, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, and Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, both of the Department of State.

TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine dismantling transnational criminal organizations in the Americas, after receiving testimony from Christopher Urben, Nardello and Co, and Vanda Felbab-Brown, The Brookings Institution, both of Washington, D.C.

MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine United States diplomatic strategies for a dynamic Middle East, after receiving testimony from Brian Hook, former Special Representative for Iran, and Daniel B. Shapiro, former Ambassador to Israel, both of the Department of State, Washington, D.C.; and Shelly Culbertson, RAND, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CHOICE AND LITERACY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Education and the American Family concluded a hearing to examine choice and literacy, focusing on empowering families for better educational results, after receiving testimony from Tyler Barnett, New Schools for Alabama, Birmingham; Anne Wicks, George W. Bush Institute, Dallas, Texas; Virginia Gentles, Defense of Freedom Institute, Arlington, Virginia; and Richard Barrera, San Diego Unified School Board, San Diego, California.

CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine ending illegal discrimination and preferences, focusing on enforcing our civil rights laws, after receiving testimony from Harmeet K. Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice; Alabama State Senator Robert Stewart, Jr., District 23, Selma; and Gene Hamilton, America First Legal Foundation, Washington, D.C.

INNOVATION IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine innovation in the crosshairs, focusing on countering China's industrial espionage, including S.853, to improve the SBIR and STTR programs under the Small Business Act, and S.330, to impose sanctions with respect to persons that operate in a sector of the economy of the People's Republic of China in which the person has engaged in a pattern of significant theft of the intellectual property of a United States person, after receiving testimony from Emily De La Bruyere, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Sewickley, Pennsylvania; Sujai Shivakumar, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.; and William C. Hannas, Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Reston, Virginia.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, who was introduced by Senator Sheehy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 130 public bills, H.R. 4624–4753; and 15 resolutions, H.J. Res. 109–111; H. Con. Res. 45–46; and H. Res. 601–610, were introduced. **Pages H3641–47**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3650–51**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kelly (MS) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3557**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H3569**

Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution: Honorable Kathy Manning of Greensboro, North Carolina. **Pages H3571–72**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3572**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025: H.R. 4275, amended, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 399 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 218; and **Pages H3572–H3620**

China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2025: H.R. 1549, amended, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China. **Pages H3620–21**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:29 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. **Page H3621**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, July 21st. Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act: H.R. 3357, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers with a multi-class stock structure to make certain disclosures in any proxy or consent solicitation material, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 381 yeas to 31 nays, Roll No. 217. **Pages H3621–22**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Higgins (LA) announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 539) censuring Representative LaMonica McIver and removing her from the Committee on Homeland Security. **Page H3623**

Office of Congressional Conduct: The House received a message from the Clerk. Pursuant to section 1(k) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, and section 4(d) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, the Clerk transmitted a notification that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Conduct: Ana Mikaela Aaland, Heejung A. Cho, Jody B. Hice, and Cheryl L. Johnson. Copies of the signed agreements will be retained by the Office of the Clerk as part of the records of the House. **Page H3627**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Wednesday, July 23, 2025, through Monday, September 1, 2025, as a ''district work period'' under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H3627**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H3569.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3621–22 and H3622–23.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSITION 12

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''An Examination of the Implications of Proposition 12''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs FY 2026 Appropriations Bill. The National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs FY 2026 Appropriations Bill was ordered reported, as amended.

REFORMING DEFENSE ACQUISITION TO DELIVER CAPABILITY AT THE SPEED OF RELEVANCE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Reforming Defense Acquisition to Deliver Capability at the Speed of Relevance''. Testimony was heard from William D. Bailey, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), Department of the Air Force; Michael Duffey, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Jason L. Potter, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), Department of the Navy; Major General Stephen Purdy, Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Space Acquisition and Integration), Department of the Air Force; and Jesse D. Tolleson,

Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Department of the Army.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1319, the "Modern Worker Empowerment Act"; H.R. 1320, the "Modern Worker Security Act"; H.R. 4366, the "Save Local Business Act"; and H.R. 4312, the "Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act". H.R. 1319, H.R. 1320, H.R. 4366, and H.R. 4312 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4312, the "Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act"; and H.R. 4273, the "Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments". H.R. 4312 and H.R. 4273 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 3074, the "Common Cents Act"; H.R. 3190, the "BRAVE Burma Act"; H.R. 3390, the "Bringing the Discount Window into the 21st Century Act"; H.R. 3673, the "Small Business Investor Capital Access Act"; H.R. 4346, the "Preventing the Escalation of Armed Conflict in Europe (PEACE) Act of 2025"; H.R. 4423, the "No New Burma Funds Act"; H.R. 4427, the "Syria Sanctions Accountability Act"; H.R. 4429, the "Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025"; H.R. 4430, the "Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act"; H.R. 4431, the "Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act"; H.R. 4437, the "Supervisory Modifications for Appropriate Risk-Based Testing Act of 2025"; H.R. 4544, the "American Access to Banking Act"; H.R. 3446, the "FDIC Board Accountability Act"; H.R. 4449, the "Advocating for Small Business Act"; H.R. 4460, the "Stop Agency Fiat Enforcement of Guidance Act"; H.R. 4478, the "Tailored Regulatory Updates for Supervisory Testing Act of 2025"; and a Resolution Reestablishing the Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity of the Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3074, H.R. 3190, H.R. 3390, H.R. 3673, H.R. 4346, H.R. 4423, H.R. 4427, H.R. 4429, H.R. 4430, H.R. 4431, H.R. 4437, and H.R. 4544 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3446, H.R. 4449, H.R. 4460, and H.R. 4478 were ordered reported, without amendment. The Resolution Reestablishing the Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity of the Committee on Financial Services, was agreed to.

FISCAL YEAR 26 STATE DEPARTMENT POSTURE: BUREAU OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "FY26 State Department Posture: Bureau of Political Affairs". Testimony was heard from Allison Hooker, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Department of State.

BUREAU OF COUNTERTERRORISM FISCAL YEAR 26 BUDGET POSTURE HEARING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee held a hearing entitled "Bureau of Counterterrorism FY26 Budget Posture Hearing". Testimony was heard from Gregory D. LoGerfo, Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 839, to prohibit the implementation of a Land Protection Plan for Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 178, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; H.R. 179, the "Proven Forest Management Act of 2025"; H.R. 345, the "Fire Department Repayment Act of 2025"; H.R. 1276, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky; H.R. 2290, the "World War II Women's Memorial Location Act"; H.R. 2302, the "Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Land Transfer Act of 2025"; H.R. 2400, the "Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025"; H.R. 3857, the "Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025"; H.R. 4285, the "STARS Act"; H.R. 2294, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009; H.R. 3620, the "Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025"; H.R. 528, the "Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Act of 2025"; and H.R. 1045, the "Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025". H.R. 839, H.R. 178, H.R. 179, H.R. 345, H.R. 1276, H.R. 2290, H.R. 2302, H.R. 2400, H.R. 3857, H.R. 4285 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2294, H.R. 3620, H.R. 528, and H.R. 1045 were ordered reported, without amendment.

AN UPDATE ON MAIL THEFT AND CRIME

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled "An Update on Mail Theft and Crime". Testimony was heard from Brendan Donahue, Inspector in Charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Anthony Holloway, Chief of Police, St. Petersburg

Police Department, Florida; Julius Rothstein, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service; and public witnesses.

CATCH AND RELEASE, LOSE AND FORGET: ADDRESSING THE CRISIS OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN—PART I

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement held a hearing entitled "Catch and Release, Lose and Forget: Addressing the Crisis of Unaccompanied Alien Children—Part I". Testimony was heard from Joseph Cuffari, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

FIXING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EXAMINING IMPROVEMENTS TO FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S DISASTER RESPONSE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled "Fixing Emergency Management: Examining Improvements to FEMA's Disaster Response". Testimony was heard from David Richardson, Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 740, the "Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025"; H.R. 1663, the "Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025"; H.R. 3400, the "TRAVEL Act of 2025"; H.R. 2605, the "SAVES Act"; H.R. 3483, the "FRAUD Act"; H.R. 3494, the "VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act"; H.R. 2334, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter's rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services; H.R. 3863, the "VA Mental Health Outreach and Engagement Act"; H.R. 2137, the "Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025"; H.R. 3123, the "Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act"; H.R. 3834, the "Protecting Veteran's Claim Options Act"; H.R. 2701, the "Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act"; H.R. 2721, the "Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025"; H.R. 3767, the "Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025"; H.R. 2791, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of housing loan guaranty entitlement available to certain veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3481, the "Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025"; H.R. 3579, the "Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act"; H.R. 2954, the "Veterans' Transition to Trucking Act of 2025"; H.R. 3812, the "Stop Troubling Retroactive Invoices for Veteran Expenses Act of 2025"; H.R. 2034, the "Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act"; H.R. 3951, the "Rural Veterans Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025"; H.R. 3455, the "Veterans Affairs Distributed Ledger Innovation Act"; H.R. 659, the "Veterans Law Judge Experience Act of 2025"; H.R. 4446, the "FAST VETS Act"; Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution FY25; and Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution PACT Act. H.R. 740, H.R. 1663, H.R. 3400, H.R. 2605, H.R. 3483, H.R. 3494, H.R. 2334, H.R. 3863, H.R. 2137, H.R. 3123, H.R. 3834, H.R. 2701, H.R. 2721, H.R. 3767, H.R. 2791, H.R. 3481, H.R. 3579, H.R. 2954, H.R. 3812, and H.R. 2034 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3951, H.R. 3455, H.R. 659, H.R. 4446, Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution FY25; and Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution PACT Act were ordered reported, without amendment.

UNITED WE STAND: STRATEGIES TO COUNTER PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ECONOMIC COERCION AGAINST DEMOCRACIES

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "United We Stand: Strategies to Counter PRC Economic Coercion Against Democracies". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026", and an original bill entitled, "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026", 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral Daryl L. Caudle, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense, 9:15 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of 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, 11:30 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor, Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2029, Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029, David Barker, of Iowa, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, both of the Department of Education, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine empowering workers by expanding employee ownership, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security, Paul Ingrassia, of New York, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, Anthony Lomangino, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2031, John LaValle, of New York, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2030, Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030, Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1038, to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, S. 1098, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, S. 1528, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations, and the nominations of Kurt Alme, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, Nicholas Chase, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, Lesley Murphy, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Erik Siebert, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Kurt Wall, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine intercepting terror, focusing on strengthening Ukrainian air defense, 2 p.m., 210–CHOB.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, July 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, with a vote on confirmation thereon at approximately 11:30 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

At 1:45 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Richard Topping, to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

11 a.m., Friday, July 25

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bean, Aaron, Fla., E722
Bell, Wesley, Mo., E714, E723
Bergman, Jack, Mich., E716
Boyle, Brendan F., Pa., E716
Castro, Joaquin, Tex., E715
Crockett, Jasmine, Tex., E721
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E720
Deluzio, Christopher R., Pa., E713, E724
Fallon, Pat, Tex., E713, E714, E716, E717, E719, E721, E723, E724
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E722
Fry, Russell, S.C., E715
Garamendi, John, Calif., E722
Gonzalez, Vicente, Tex., E721
Gray, Adam, Calif., E717
Guest, Michael, Miss., E717
Hernández, Pablo José, Puerto Rico, E721
Hudson, Richard, N.C., E715
Jayapal, Pramila, Wash., E716
King-Hinds, Kimberlyn, Northern Mariana Islands, E716
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