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No. 146

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 2025.

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

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I spent August talking to and listening to my constituents, as I hope my Republican colleagues did, too. What did I hear the most? They are scared out of their minds about the impact of the Republicans' big, ugly bill, particularly on how it will make hunger worse in this country.

From community-based organizations to food pantries to hospitals to farmers, they are all terrified about

the nearly \$200 billion in cuts to SNAP. This is why, Madam Speaker, I am stunned, absolutely stunned, that the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, of which I have been proud to serve on for 14 years, seems to be hell-bent on jamming a farm bill through the committee this month with no plans, none at all, to address the draconian SNAP cuts.

Let me say loud and clear that I, for one, am not open to negotiations and discussions about a new 5-year farm bill unless fixing the cuts to SNAP is on the agenda. Democrats will not be a cheap date when it comes to feeding people in this country. We are not just going to roll over and move on. No way.

To talk about a new farm bill without addressing the big, ugly bill's nutrition cuts is unconscionable. It is cruel. Let me remind my colleagues that the average SNAP benefit is about \$2 per person per meal. A cut of nearly \$200 billion is an awful lot of meals that Republicans are taking away from vulnerable Americans.

SNAP cuts are imminent. Despite Republican attempts to push some of the biggest cuts off until the 2026 midterms, very real benefit cuts for some of the most vulnerable of all are expected to go into effect within weeks.

Any day now, USDA is expected to release regulations on new time limits for veterans, former foster youth, and homeless populations who were previously exempted.

According to a recent CBO report, the new onerous paperwork requirements and time limits alone will kick at least 2.4 million Americans off of SNAP. That is parents with school-age kids, veterans, seniors, and the disabled.

Furthermore, CBO expects that some States will choose to abandon SNAP altogether. For the first time ever, the big, ugly bill mandates a State cost-share requirement for food benefits. If

States can't pony up their share, which for some States could run into the billions of dollars, they will just choose to walk away. It is an enormous burden on States already strapped for cash.

Let me also say this. If Republicans think they can just throw a few extra bucks at TEFAP, which is the Federal program that helps food banks, and call it good, they are out of their minds. We can't food bank our way out of this Republican-made crisis. Charity alone can't pick up the slack of millions of people losing their Federal food benefits.

Madam Speaker, it would be utterly reckless of us to try to jam a 5-year farm bill through Congress right now.

Let me also say, it is not just the "usual suspects" sounding the alarm on SNAP cuts. A couple of weeks ago, I went on my 15th annual farm tour across 12 farms in central and western Massachusetts. Over and over again, I heard from farmers about how they are bracing for these drastic SNAP cuts. Why? We can only buy food with SNAP benefits.

Who grows that food? Our farmers, like my constituents, grow that food. They are already seeing the abrupt cancellation of USDA programs that support the purchase of fresh, local produce for schools and food banks. Not only did these cancellations reduce the amount of healthy fruits and veggies going to people in need, it took income away from our farmers.

The very real and impending SNAP cuts are just another economic hit to our farmers. Madam Speaker, we are not operating in anything resembling business as usual right now. Republicans have ripped apart the long-standing farm bill coalition between nutrition and farming interests.

The big, ugly bill decimated modest, yet meaningful SNAP benefits, all to give more tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and well-connected.

Madam Speaker, we either want to end hunger or we don't. Trump and his

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

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



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Republican cronies in Congress have clearly chosen to make hunger worse. We cannot stand idly by while hunger is made worse in this country, the richest country in the world.

Again, what is particularly galling is that Republicans champion tax cuts for multimillionaires and billionaires, while decimating an essential program to help put food on the table. What is wrong with these people.

Madam Speaker, we do not share the same values. We say no new farm bill without fixing the big, ugly bill's cuts to SNAP. We can and we should do more, a hell of a lot more, to end hunger now.

SUPPORTING THE STOP OF CHINESE FENTANYL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week I was proud to support the Stop Chinese Fentanyl Act, legislation that will put sanctions on any individual, including senior members of the Chinese Communist Party, who are responsible for the production, the distribution, the sale, or the financing of synthetic opioids.

It is no secret that China is the leading producer of the base chemicals, the ingredients, that are needed to make fentanyl and that the Chinese Communist Party is more than willing to work directly with Mexican drug cartels to ensure that this poison continues to reach America.

Unfortunately, drug overdoses have become the leading cause of death for Americans who are ages 18 to 45, with fentanyl causing nearly 70 percent of those deaths. With strong leadership under President Trump back in the White House, our southern border is finally becoming secure.

We here in the House must take every action possible to stop the flow of the poison that fentanyl is before it ever reaches our border.

STRENGTHENING OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, my colleagues and I will take up H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act. This legislation will strengthen our immigration laws and deter criminal illegal aliens from crossing our southern border.

For 4 long years, President Biden and his administration were asleep at the switch, allowing our borders to be flooded with illegal immigrants, most of whom were simply released into our communities.

This legislation gives Federal officials more tools in their tool belt to prosecute illegal immigrants by requiring significant imprisonment for illegals who commit crimes.

President Trump has worked tirelessly to make our southern borders secure again. Now it is our job here in Congress to ensure Federal law enforcement and prosecutors have the tools that they need to deter further illegal immigration.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to supporting this strong, commonsense piece of legislation on the House floor this week as we continue to work to make our Nation once again safe for all Americans.

CELEBRATING CENTURY FARMS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the William and Richard Farabaugh and Joseph Burkhart farms in East Carroll Township of Cambria County for receiving the designation of Century Farm from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

A Century Farm is a farm that has been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, has a family member who still lives on that farm, and has at least 10 acres of the original farmland.

William Farabaugh purchased the family farm in September 1918. He and his wife had 10 children: 8 daughters and 2 sons. The Farabaugh family introduced the use of silos in the area. Fifty-eight of the original acres and the barn are still in use today.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Farabaugh and Burkhart families and express gratitude for their enduring commitment to one of Pennsylvania's most vital industries, and that is agriculture.

□ 1210

HONORING PARTSCH FARM IN CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Partsch Farm in Conemaugh Township of Cambria County for receiving the designation of a Century Farm from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Cecilia Partsch's grandfather, Frank, purchased the farm in April 1924. Frank Partsch was a dairy farmer who supplied milk for processing at Sani Dairy in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

The original barn and house are still in use today. Cecilia Partsch's father, Harold, took over the farm in 1972. Currently, the farm continues to produce both beef and hay.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Partsch family and express gratitude for the family's enduring commitment to agriculture, the number one industry in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

CONDEMNING BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

(Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the genocide that is occurring in Gaza against the Palestinians.

I am not ignoring the outrageous attacks on October 7 that left at least

1,200 people dead and the dozens of hostages who remain. Nor am I ignoring the decades of isolation that Gaza has endured by the Israeli Government, essentially turning the small but densely populated region into an open-air prison from which few could easily come and go as they pleased.

However, it is simply outrageous what is occurring in Gaza right now, and not speaking out against the inhumanity could be considered complicity.

At least 64,000 people have been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023, including tens of thousands of mothers, children, and other innocent people. Sadly, it is likely that the actual death toll is even higher. The U.N. estimates that approximately 92 percent of residential buildings and 70 percent of all the buildings in Gaza have been destroyed.

Starvation is rampant, as is disease. Famine is no longer an imminent threat. It is happening now, and babies are dying. The killing of people in hospitals and those trying to get food aid, normally considered off-limits even in war, occurs regularly, with an official shrug when the Israeli Government is called out.

The definition of genocide by the New Oxford American Dictionary is "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group."

That is exactly what we are seeing in Gaza right now by the Israeli Government under Benjamin Netanyahu, an accused war criminal by the International Criminal Court.

This war isn't a targeted response against Hamas, guilty of the October 7 attacks and decades of violence. This is a wholesale attack on the people of Gaza.

Israeli groups like B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel have recently called what is happening genocide. International human rights groups like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have as well.

Recently, the International Association of Genocide Scholars added their voices on the genocide. The United Nations' special committee said last November that Israel's war conduct in Gaza is "consistent with the characteristics of genocide," including mass civilian casualties and using starvation as a weapon.

No weapons should be sent from the United States to Israel that could be used against the people of Gaza. Instead of photo ops with Benjamin Netanyahu, it is time for condemnation. Help facilitate the serving of an arrest warrant from the ICC to him.

Let's make him the international pariah he should be. Let's use our leverage to pressure him not to commit genocide in Gaza. People of good conscience must join in this denunciation of what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank.

FUNDING MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, the Republicans in the appropriations process

are leaving seniors to starve, underfunding the Meals on Wheels food assistance program by \$600 million, a move that is likely to cost 1.9 million needy people their access to food. This follows the big, ugly bill, which all but three Republicans voted for, making it the largest cut to food assistance in our Nation's history.

By flat-funding the vital Meals on Wheels program for seniors in the Health and Human Services appropriations bill, Republicans are ignoring the real increase in food costs that Americans are experiencing due to a lack of action by the administration to lower costs.

With all of this talk of Republicans making food access harder and harder for millions and millions of Americans, what did they do this weekend at the White House? They held an extravagant dinner in the newly paved area that once was the Rose Garden and had a three-course dinner and drinks, featuring Rose Garden salad—at least we know where the plants went that once were there—steak, and a fudge-filled, seven-layer cake, making their cuts to food assistance even more tone deaf than ever.

A fudge-filled, seven-layer cake? I guess the theme of the White House event was “let them eat cake.” How fitting.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING ROSE MIMMS

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate and honor one of my constituents for her dedicated service to the pro-life movement across our State of Arkansas.

For decades, Rose Mimms has been a steadfast figure and advocate for the unborn and in support of their moms.

Earlier this year, Rose announced that she would be stepping down from her role as executive director of the Arkansas Right to Life, a position that she has held for over 30 years.

This, however, is not the end of Rose's service. She is refocusing her efforts on fostering and uplifting regional chapters of the Arkansas Right to Life across the State.

I thank Rose for her many years of dedication to the unborn and to the State of Arkansas. I wish her nothing but the best for the next chapter of her advocacy, and I look forward to continuing to watch her impact and perseverance in this important work.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID PETERSON

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Peterson for his outstanding service and dedication to keeping the Natural State natural.

Dr. Peterson was recently honored with the Neil Compton Award by the Ozark Society in recognition of his decades-long commitment to environmental stewardship.

Dr. Peterson's dedication to high standards for land, water, and wildlife habitat conservation in Arkansas reflects a commitment that I deeply value and commend.

Earlier this year, the Flatside Wilderness Act passed the House, enhancing this special corner of the Second Congressional District, creating new opportunities for Arkansans and visitors alike to enjoy the natural beauty of our State. Dr. Peterson's contributions are greatly appreciated throughout the effort to enhance Flatside Wilderness.

Dr. Peterson's service and dedication to conservation are a reminder of the lasting impact that one individual can have on protecting our shared natural heritage, and I thank Dr. Peterson for his service.

RECOGNIZING DR. ELIZABETH CLEVELAND

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Elizabeth Cleveland, cofounder of Fusion Center Network, a telehealth diagnostic clinic that will serve Arkansans and eventually all Americans.

Dr. Cleveland is a former professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Arkansas. Her focus is on fetal alcohol syndrome, which affects 1 in 20 babies, but less than 1 percent ever receive an accurate diagnosis.

By improving the diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders, Dr. Cleveland and the Fusion Center Network will be able to help people have longer, healthier, and happier lives.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Cleveland and her colleagues on their new venture.

RECOGNIZING RPM GROUP

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, it is with immense pride that I rise to recognize and celebrate a remarkable business milestone: 70 years of success, growth, and innovation at Rector Phillips Morse, the RPM Group.

RPM is an Arkansas-based real estate company specializing in commercial and investment real estate, along with professional property management, creating hundreds of jobs in central Arkansas.

Known for its client-focused approach, RPM works with businesses large and small to find the space they need, and it helps Arkansans find homes and apartments.

Founded in 1955 by Arkansas Business Hall of Fame inductee Billy F. Rector and his partners, Byron Morse and Fe Phillips, they have gone from hard, humble beginnings in central Arkansas to the top in the real estate industry.

Madam Speaker, 17 years ago, RPM partnered with Coldwell Banker to expand its residential business, combining national brand power with their local expertise to better serve communities in Arkansas.

The theme of RPM's 70-year anniversary is “Building Tomorrow,” which

demonstrates the leaders of central Arkansas' unwavering focus on future growth, innovation, and long-term community impact.

I thank RPM for their continuous contributions for the betterment of Arkansans.

□ 1220

HALT WORK ORDERS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, on August 22, the Trump administration, with absolutely no warning, issued a halt work order to an offshore wind project off the coast of southern New England that has been in the works for 9 years.

The developers of this project have invested close to \$4 billion, employed thousands of workers, and installed 45 out of 65 wind turbines that the Federal Government permitted in 2023.

As of August 22, 80 percent of the project is complete, and 100 percent of the turbine foundations have been placed on the ocean floor.

When the turbines are turned on, 704 megawatts of power will be transmitted by cable to Rhode Island and Connecticut. That is enough electricity to power 350,000 homes—400 megawatts to Rhode Island and 304 megawatts to Connecticut.

The wind power contracts approved by both States at a guaranteed rate will over time save money for ratepayers, particularly during cold, winter months, and will add to the grid at a time we all know demand for electricity is going to increase.

Incredibly, the Department of Energy's halt order was one-page long and cited nonspecific, vague “national security concerns” as the reason to suddenly eliminate good jobs and a plentiful supply of affordable electricity.

Despite repeated requests from the operators, the two States, and the congressional delegations, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, BOEM, has provided absolutely no description or detail of what exactly are the national security concerns that at this late hour could possibly justify such a drastic action.

The closest thing to an explanation came in a CNN interview with the Secretary of the Interior a few days ago, who cited “radar interference” and possible swarm attacks from undersea drones at the wind farm as potential threats.

Madam Speaker, here is the thing: During the yearslong permitting process, BOEM meticulously investigated all national security concerns, and its 2023 Record of Decision approving the project specifically had a section on national security. It specifically addressed the issue of radars which was resolved to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense and NORAD.

Madam Speaker, I have a letter from the Department of Defense dated December 2024, which states that the Department "has found that construction of the Revolution Wind project . . . would not have adverse impacts to DOD missions in the area." I include this letter in the RECORD.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2024.

Reference: Federal Aviation Administration
Aeronautical Study Number: 2021-WTE-
2881-OE and 23 associated structures.

MS. WHITNEY MARSH,
Ørsted, Providence, RI.

DEAR MS. MARSH: Thank you for your participation in the Mitigation Response Team to assess and overcome military impacts from your proposed Revolution Wind project off the coast of Squibnocket Beach in Chilmark, Massachusetts. In a letter dated October 27, 2021, the Department of Defense (DoD) described the potential impacts to military operations for the project.

As a result of discussions between Ørsted and the U.S. Air Force and a resulting mitigation agreement signed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment on November 4, 2024, the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) has found that construction of the Revolution Wind project, with no more than 65 wind turbines up to 873 feet above sea level and no more than two offshore substations up to 228 feet above sea level, would not have adverse impacts to DoD missions in the area. The Clearinghouse has entered a determination of "No Objection with Provision" for this project via the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis system.

Our response to the FAA included a notification that additional structure proposals or an increase to the current maximum structure height may present an adverse impact. We encourage you to engage DoD prior to any proposed expansion or height increase.

If you have any concerns, please contact Ms. Robbin Beard, Clearinghouse Deputy Director.

Sincerely,

STEVEN J. SAMPLE,
*Executive Director, Military Aviation and
Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse.*

Mr. COURTNEY. Regarding the swarming undersea drones, Revolution Wind has a contract with ThayerMahan, a maritime company that installs and operates undersea surveillance technology using sonar rays and pickets to keep watch and detect malign activity. They protect wind farms today. They protect oil rigs today. They protect U.S. maritime ports today with the finest technology.

Madam Speaker, Secretary Burgum and his staff at BOEM should review its own prior investigation on national security and actually meet with the developers and undersea experts in Connecticut and Rhode Island to learn about the thorough, comprehensive investments and systems that were developed with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure the safe, reliable operation of the wind farms.

Madam Speaker, this halt work order needs to be overturned quickly. As we

heard on Friday, the U.S. labor market is weakening, and we know the cost of electricity is going up.

Leaving Revolution Wind in limbo with thousands of jobs on the line is completely unacceptable.

It is no secret that the President doesn't like wind power, but this project has been permanent, paid for, and is 80 percent finished. Leaving the halt work order in place is hurting working families and electric ratepayers.

Lawsuits have been filed, and the U.S. Government and taxpayers are going to pay dearly for this uncalled for about-face on a project that the government approved 2 years ago.

The better path is to quickly lift the order, meet face-to-face with the developer and the Governors of Rhode Island and Connecticut to end this chaos and get the operating engineers, the longshoremen, the laborers, and the electrical workers back on track to finish the job that today is 80 percent finished.

That is not a partisan statement. That is simple common sense.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAUL MCDONALD

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness to honor the life and legacy of Mayor Paul McDonald, who has left us after decades of devoted service to our island of Guam.

Over the course of decades, Mayor McDonald faithfully served his village, making him not only a leader but a constant presence in the lives of the families he represented. His tenure as the longest serving mayor is not just a record of years. It is a record of trust built through commitment, humility, and care for our people.

From the earliest days of his service, Mayor McDonald understood that leadership in Guam's villages is personal. It means being present at every gathering, comforting families in times of loss, and rolling up your sleeves to fix problems no matter how small or large. He carried that responsibility with honor, embodying the true spirit of "inafa'maolek"; "to make good with one another."

Mayor McDonald's leadership was never about titles or recognition. It was about ensuring that children had safe places to grow, that our "manamko"; "elders" are respected and supported and that village life remained rooted in dignity, family, and tradition. Through typhoons, economic hardships, and moments of challenge, he stood as a steady hand and a reassuring voice for his constituents.

What made Mayor McDonald remarkable was not only his longevity in office but the way he never grew tired of serving. Even after decades, his door was open. His voice was steady, and his heart remained committed to the people.

He leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered not just in the record books but in the daily lives of those who called on him and knew they could count on him.

Guam has lost a true public servant. We will remember Mayor McDonald as a man whose life's work was defined by compassion, dedication, and an unwavering love for his people.

I extend my deepest condolences to the McDonald family and to all who mourn his passing. May his life of service inspire future generations to lead with the same humility and strength. "Si Yu'os Ma'ase"; "thank you," Mayor McDonald, for your many years of sacrifice and service. May you rest in eternal peace.

SCHOOL FUNDING SLASHED

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks, students returned to school across Virginia and across the country, including my two daughters.

Unfortunately, while students were enjoying their summer breaks, this administration moved to slash funding and resources for public education across the country. Those funds are funds that were needed to ensure that our kids get a great education.

This administration has now illegally withheld billions of dollars in congressionally approved education funding, forcing schools to delay or cancel programs.

In northern Virginia, our schools have been the target of even more funding cuts over culture wars and partisan politics. This has come at a time when Virginia is still dealing with learning loss.

As this administration has continued to make plans to cut even more education funding, including at the Department of Education itself, we need to make sure that we are pushing back and fighting back against these cuts because our kids are worth it.

The big, ugly bill slashed funding for Medicaid and SNAP, which families in our community rely on to keep their kids healthy and fed. If we really want to be profamily, prokids, and proparents, we would be investing in our students, not causing chaos and confusion by cutting resources and making our schools less safe and underfunded.

I will continue to work with my colleagues, and I hope this can be bipartisan, to push back on these cuts to education.

□ 1230

COMBATING THE RISE IN HATE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, hate has no place in our communities, and that is why I condemn the recent hateful attacks on Hindu temples and mandirs all across the country.

From the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Indiana to the Sri Radha Krishna Temple in Utah, sacred spaces for faith communities have been targeted with acts of hate, vandalism, and desecration.

These are not isolated incidents. It is part of a rise in violence. It is a part of a rise in division in our country. It is not just happening to temples. It is happening to all places of worship.

Every American deserves the right to safely practice their faith without fear. That is why we need to continue fighting for increased resources for security at places of worship, like these temples. We must be committed to doing more to combat the rise in hate that we are experiencing in the United States to ensure that our communities are protected.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, since May, 33 new small businesses have officially opened in Prince William County.

They include AlSham, a Syrian grocery store and bakery; GN Banquet Center, an event venue; Modern Remodeling, a restoration service; Shotted, a Saudi-style coffee shop; My Haberdasher, a custom suits and tuxedo rental service; Dry Time Restoration, a water damage service; Chocolate, which I guess is not a candy store but an apparel store in Manassas Mall; Doyle Systems, a full-service mechanical contractor; and Ebenezer Roofing.

The growth of these businesses reflects the innovation and entrepreneurship of our communities, especially of the folks in Prince William County. I am looking forward to continuing to support them as they continue to grow their businesses in one of the best places to do business in the country: Northern Virginia.

RECOGNIZING HAYMARKET GAINESVILLE LIBRARY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank the Haymarket Gainesville Library for having a new collection of books in Nepali.

This is part of a greater effort in Prince William County to include more books in other languages, including Urdu, as part of their world languages collection. We have a great Nepalese community in our region, and we want to make sure that they are supported.

Nearly 175 Nepali language books and around 250 Urdu language books were received as donations by community members. This is a testament to the value of public libraries as a resource to our communities and the growing diversity of our region, as well.

Public libraries, including where our office hosts our office hours, continue to be an asset for all communities and age groups. I am proud that a library in my district is at the forefront of being that space for constituents of all backgrounds.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Call us back to You, Lord God. Receive us once again from the wide and scattered lands where our own choices have led us. Take us up into Your merciful embrace and remind us that You have never forsaken us.

Then give us new and undivided hearts. Grant us a new spirit, a spirit renewed by Your forgiveness and recreated by the power of Your own holy spirit.

Remove from us our hearts of stone—our stubbornness and obstinance, our inclination to dig in our heels and hold on to the reins rather than yield to Your leading.

Give us instead hearts of integrity and tenderness that we would obey Your command and live lives in reliable service to the people whose welfare You have entrusted to us.

Unto Your grace plan we commend this day, into Your keeping we offer our best efforts.

In Your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

TRUMP TAX CUTS FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of American families, Republicans in the House, led by MIKE JOHNSON, and Senate have delivered on the promises made by President Donald Trump to enact historic tax cuts.

Among the accomplishments: Take-home pay for families will increase by over \$10,000 per year, no tax on tips for millions of workers, no tax on overtime for over 80 million hourly workers, no tax on Social Security, providing tax relief for 88 percent of seniors.

President Trump and Republicans in the House and Senate are committed to cutting taxes, increasing wages, and creating millions of jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, talking lovely in the morning, killing babies later in the afternoon with Russian missiles.

Our sympathy to the family of Iryna Zarutskaya of Charlotte, North Carolina, on her merciless murder.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT KEVIN KALLINEN

(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 recognize Sergeant Kevin Kallinen, who retired on August 13, for his remarkable 45½ years of service to the Grand Forks Police Department.

Sergeant Kallinen holds the record as the longest serving sworn officer in the department's history, a distinction earned through dedication, remaining calm under pressure, and an unwavering commitment to public safety.

He began his law enforcement career at just 20 years old and joined the Grand Forks Police Department in 1980. Promoted to sergeant in 1997, he chose to remain on patrol where each day brought the opportunity to meet people, solve problems, and make a difference in his community.

On behalf of North Dakota, I congratulate Sergeant Kallinen on this incredible milestone and thank him for his decades of faithful service. His story will live on for years to come as a truly remarkable achievement.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of South Carolina). 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 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. ONDER) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4550) to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4550

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 "United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Section 2(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 74(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)(F), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) that the Secretary shall prioritize the adoption of improved grain grading technology to provide for efficient, accurate, and consistent grading of grain.".

SEC. 3. OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY AND FUNDING.

Section 7 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

"(5) The Secretary may provide that domestic non-export grain loaded or unloaded into or out of a rail car, barge, truck, or other container, at an export port location, shall be inspected in the manner provided in this subsection or subsection (f), as the Secretary determines will best meet the objectives of this Act.";

(2) in subsection (g)(2), by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created"; and

(3) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking "fund which" and inserting "trust fund which";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created"; and

(ii) by striking "credited to the fund" and inserting "credited to the trust fund account"; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

SEC. 4. WEIGHING AUTHORITY.

Section 7A of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "State agency" and inserting "State agency or official agency"; and

(2) in subsection (1)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created"; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

SEC. 5. TESTING OF EQUIPMENT.

Section 7B(a) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created".

SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY COSTS.

Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended—

(1) by striking "activities" and inserting "activities, equipment, and development of technology"; and

(2) by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

SEC. 7. GENERAL AUTHORITIES.

Section 16 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking "Department of Agriculture" and inserting "Department of Agriculture and official agencies"; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking "fund created" and inserting "trust fund created".

SEC. 8. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 17A(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f-1(e)) is amended by striking "fund described" and inserting "trust fund described".

SEC. 9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 17B(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f-2(e)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The Secretary may, to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary" and inserting "On December 1 of each year, the Secretary shall";

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) an analysis of any and all existing deficiencies in the technology evaluation process and recommendations to advance the efficiency, accuracy, and consistency of grain grading and minimize costs imposed on the Federal Government and the grain export industry; and".

SEC. 10. FUNDING.

Section 19 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "2021 through 2025" and inserting "2026 through 2030"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking "other services" and inserting "other services (excluding grading services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946)".

SEC. 11. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 21 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87j) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, if the Secretary does not make a new appointment upon the completion of a term of an existing member (including such existing member's second successive term), then such existing member shall continue to serve until such appointment is made."; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking "2025" and inserting "2030".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025, a piece of legislation that is more than 100 years old and plays a vital role in preserving safety, quality, and a standard of excellence for the American grain industry.

If we want America to maintain its status as the safest, most abundant grain supply in the world, reauthorization of this act before several of its key provisions expire at the end of September is absolutely essential.

Originally passed in 1916, the United States Grain Standards Act gave the Federal Government the authority to set official marketing standards for grains and oilseeds. It also provided a framework for inspection and weighing procedures.

Because of the United States Grain Standards Act, the American grain industry has developed an enduring reputation for consistency and quality in the global market.

This vital tool plays a critical role in reinforcing the strength of our agriculture supply chain. It ensures that farmers, whether they grow corn, sorghum, soybeans, or any other grain, receive a fair price that reflects the quality of their crop. It allows buyers of U.S. grain to feel confident in the safety and quality of the products they need.

The United States Grain Standards Act also supports U.S. trade, a crucial part of the American farm economy. In 2024, the U.S. exported more than \$26 billion of American grains. In just my home State of Pennsylvania alone, almost \$100 million of corn and barley are exported every year.

These exports make a difference to the bottom line for family farmers in Pennsylvania and across our country.

American agriculture has certainly changed since 1916, and the United States Grain Standards Act continues to evolve with the times. The 2025 reauthorization of the act includes key improvements that will help grain standards continue to modernize while emphasizing cost-effectiveness from both government and industry.

This legislation promotes technological innovation by advancing grain grading tools to improve accuracy, efficiency, and consistency while giving USDA the flexibility to invest in critical technological upgrades. Annual reports on technological challenges and

solutions ensure Congress remains informed and transparency is maintained.

This bill will improve long-term financial management by allowing user fees to be deposited into interest-bearing trust funds. It also grants the Secretary authority to permit domestic grain inspection at export ports, facilitating faster, more flexible service where needed. Finally, it ensures that advisory committee members may continue serving until replacements are appointed, preserving expertise and continuity.

While much of the act is permanently authorized, such as mandatory inspection and weighing of exported grain, there are important provisions set to expire at the end of this month. A lapse in authorization would disrupt the current grain inspection and weighing process, cost the farm economy more than \$70 million a day, and create serious consequences for American family farms, our supply chain, and our international trading partners. These disruptions are entirely avoidable.

We are doing our farmers and export partners a disservice if we don't do our jobs and get this critical piece of legislation across the finish line. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in voting "yes" for the United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member CRAIG, and General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit Subcommittee Chairman SCOTT for their leadership on this bipartisan bill.

The United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025 strengthens the United States Department of Agriculture's ability to improve grain grading technologies through flexibilities to pursue modernization. Using new technologies to improve grain grading is an opportunity to make the process more accurate, efficient, and consistent.

Additionally, the bill reauthorizes key USDA authorities for the grain inspection and grading system and clarifies existing law.

Reauthorizing the United States Grain Standards Act is critical for farmers and for the rest of the agricultural supply chain.

The inspections provided by the Federal Grain Inspection Service define and classify grains, as well as assign grades to specify weight and quality requirements.

These inspections provide a gold standard assurance backed by the U.S. Federal Government to both grain buyers and grain sellers.

I proudly represent Kansas, often called the Wheat State, where agriculture plays a critical role in our State's economy.

Kansas farmers feed not just the Nation but the entire world. In 2023 alone,

Kansas farmers exported \$5.2 billion in agricultural products around the world. Grain farmers in Kansas and across the country participate in a very competitive global market. Foreign grain buyers should be confident in the process we have in place to ensure that our exports are adequately inspected.

The bipartisan United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025 is critical for the global grain trade. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the gentlewoman from the Wheat State for her leadership on the Agriculture Committee and on this topic in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), chairman of the General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit Subcommittee and vice chair of the full Agriculture Committee.

□ 1640

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 4550. This legislation reauthorizes the United States Grain Standards Act, a cornerstone of American agriculture and trade for nearly a century.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to go any further without first thanking Chairman THOMPSON for his work, Ranking Member CRAIG for her work, and the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) for her work on this piece of legislation.

As chairman of the General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit Subcommittee, I, too, have seen firsthand the importance of this law. Earlier this year, we held a hearing with industry stakeholders to discuss the act's significance and explore ways to foster innovation.

The provisions in this bill ensure transparency, market confidence, and fair price discovery, all of which are essential to a functioning agricultural market.

H.R. 4550 not only reauthorizes this critical legislation, but also advances grain grading technology to modernize inspection and weighing services. These updates will help the industry adopt new technologies, improve the accuracy and the efficiency of grain standards, and keep American agriculture competitive in a global market.

Allowing this law's authority to lapse would have severe consequences, costing our farm economy over \$70 million a day and disrupting supply chains and international trade partnerships.

Exports of grain and grain products in my home State of Georgia contribute over \$900 million annually in economic output. The United States exports over \$26 billion of grain on an annual basis. These numbers under-

score the need for uninterrupted, reliable, and cost-effective inspection services.

H.R. 4550 protects these essential services and helps maintain the United States' reputation as the global standard in grain production.

I was proud to work with Ranking Member DAVIDS on the General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit Subcommittee to hold a hearing that laid the groundwork for this reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support its final passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member CRAIG, and Chairman SCOTT for their work on this bipartisan bill.

As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, I have made it a priority to support family farmers and strengthen our supply chains because I know how vital they are to rural economies, to our global competitiveness, and to grocery costs.

To that end, the United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025 is so important to ensuring the continuity and strength of our grain grading and inspection system. This is critical to farmers in Kansas and folks in the grain industry across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) for her passionate work on behalf of America's number one industry, agriculture, and on this specific piece of legislation.

I thank my good friend from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for his leadership as subcommittee chair with the area of jurisdiction from which this bill comes.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too often we have the opportunity to take a piece of legislation that is over 100 years old in its origin and modernize it into the 21st century. That is what we have done with the technological advancements and the transparency.

I am very proud of the work that our Agriculture Committee has done. I certainly would encourage a "yes" vote on this piece of legislation.

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, every summer, grains planted by hardworking Minnesotans cover around 40 percent of my district.

U.S. grain standards are a key component of foreign trade and the promotion of American agricultural exports. The inspections and certifications done by the Federal Grain Inspection Service, states and private agencies provide foreign importers with certainty regarding the quality of the grain bought from U.S. farmers.

With parts of the existing U.S. Grain Standards Act set to expire on September 30, 2025,

I am proud to be the lead Democratic cosponsor to reauthorize and improve this law.

This bill before reauthorizes annual appropriations for standard development and maintenance, USDA's authority to collect fees for supervision of inspections and weighing, an administrative/supervisory cost cap and the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. All important components of the existing law.

It also makes key improvements, not least of all directing the USDA to prioritize the modernization of grain grading technologies. The U.S. grain inspection system is known around the world for quality and reliability. By focusing USDA's attention on modernization, we can continue to hold our place as the world's gold standard in grain inspection.

Reauthorizing the U.S. Grain Standards Act is important for our farmers and their customers, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4550.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MENTAL HEALTH IN AVIATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2591) to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2591

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 "Mental Health in Aviation Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT AVIATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall update regulations, including in part 67 of title 14 of Code of Federal Regulations, as appropriate, to encourage individuals to—

(1) seek help for mental health conditions or symptoms of mental health conditions; and

(2) disclose conditions or symptoms described in paragraph (1).

(b) *CONSULTATION; REPORT REQUIREMENTS.*—Section 411(d) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44703 note(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) a review and evaluation of any recommendations reached by the National Transportation Safety Board related to aviation workforce mental health; and

"(E) a description of relevant clinical studies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols used by the licensed professionals as of the date of enactment of this Act."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out this subsection, the task group shall consult with relevant stakeholders from the aviation and medical communities, as necessary, including—

"(A) the certified exclusive bargaining representatives of air traffic controllers of the Administration certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

"(B) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots;

"(C) aviation medical examiners, as described in section 183.21 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

"(D) any other stakeholder determined relevant by the task group, including any stakeholders described in paragraph (3)(B)."

(c) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the report required under section 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44703 note), the Administrator shall take such actions as are necessary to implement the mental health-related recommendations of such report.

(2) *JUSTIFICATION.*—If the Administrator decides not to implement any of the recommendations described in paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the justification for such decision.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL ISSUANCE PROCESS.

The Administrator shall conduct an annual review, and update, as appropriate, the applicable regulations, policies, orders, and guidance on mental health-related special issuance for pilots and air traffic controllers to—

(1) reclassify and approve additional medications that may be safely prescribed to airmen to treat mental health conditions;

(2) improve mental health knowledge and training for aviation medical examiners;

(3) if the Administrator determines appropriate, delegate additional authority to aviation medical examiners consistent with the recommendation of the Mental Health Aviation Rulemaking Committee described in section 5; and

(4) improve the special issuance process for pilots and air traffic controllers.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

Of the amounts made available pursuant to section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator shall set aside \$13,740,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to—

(1) recruit, select, train, and delegate the necessary authorities to additional aviation medical examiners and human intervention motivation study aviation medical examiners, including those who are psychiatrists;

(2) expand capacity to provide oversight of aviation medical examiners and clear the backlog of special issuance requests and cases awaiting review at the Office of Aerospace Medicine; and

(3) support any other related activities, as the Administrator determines appropriate.

SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF AVIATION RULEMAKING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement, to the greatest extent practicable, the recommendations of the Mental Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee which were submitted to the Administrator on April 1, 2024.

(b) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with the parties described in section 411(d)(5) of the

FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (as added by this Act).

(c) *JUSTIFICATION.*—If the Administrator decides not to implement any of the recommendations described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the justification for such decision.

SEC. 6. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the amounts made available under section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator shall set aside \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028 for a public information campaign or similar public education efforts to destigmatize individuals in (or interested in joining) the aviation industry who seek mental health care, to broaden awareness of available supportive services, and establish trust with pilots and air traffic controllers.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the Administrator creates the public information campaign described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the actions taken to develop such campaign and the plans for implementation.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) *SPECIAL ISSUANCE.*—The term "special issuance" has the meaning given the term in section 67.401 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. 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 in the record on H.R. 2591, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2591, the Mental Health in Aviation Act.

I thank Mr. CASTEN, Mr. STAUBER, Ranking Member LARSEN, and Mr. MANN for their work on this legislation and leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, one in four Americans today deal with mental health challenges over the course of their lifetime. We need to make sure pilots get the help they need and still keep flying.

This legislation is intended to reduce the barriers preventing pilots, air traffic controllers, and other aviation professionals from reporting and seeking mental health care.

The bill builds on the bipartisan work of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from last Congress to hold the Federal Aviation Administration accountable to Congress

and the Aeromedical Innovation and Modernization Working Group that we created in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

Additionally, H.R. 2591 requires the FAA to annually review the process of mental health-related special issuances for pilots and air traffic controllers and strengthen the hiring of medical examiners to clear the backlog of special issuance requests.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2591, the Mental Health in Aviation Act of 2025, a bill that would modernize the Federal Aviation Administration's outdated policies and remove barriers to lifesaving mental health care for the aviation workforce.

As we continue to navigate the aftermath of traffic aviation accidents and harrowing near misses across this country, we must support the mental health of the dedicated women and men on the front lines of ensuring the traveling public reaches their final destination safely every day.

For far too long, many aviation professionals suffer in silence. That silence is because of the fear that disclosing a mental health diagnosis or treatment could derail their careers, possibly ending it.

Many of us in Congress have heard from our constituents about the FAA's difficult aeromedical process. We have spoken to overworked air traffic controllers about the consequence of mounting job pressures. We have seen qualified airline pilots grounded for months, in some cases even years, due to delays with FAA medical clearance reviews.

□ 1650

With the 2024 FAA reauthorization as a blueprint, the Mental Health in Aviation Act will do several things.

It will direct the FAA to annually review and update its mental health-related policies for pilots and air traffic controllers, in consultation with key stakeholders.

It requires the agency to implement recommendations from the aviation workforce mental health task group established under the 2024 FAA reauthorization law.

It will make significant, robust investments in the FAA's recruitment and training of aviation medical examiners, particularly those with mental health expertise.

Finally, this legislation will establish a public information campaign to help destigmatize mental health in U.S. aviation, among other key reforms.

The FAA's mental health protocols must evolve to foster an environment where the aviation workforce feels supported to seek the resources and care that they need, and the Mental Health in Aviation Act will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives CASTEN, STAUBER, and MANN for their leadership on this, as well as their staff for their hard work on this important issue.

H.R. 2591 was unanimously approved in the T&I Committee in June, and it is endorsed by several key stakeholders, including U.S. airlines, air traffic controllers and pilot unions, the general aviation and business aviation industries, first responders, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join us to support H.R. 2591, and I urge the Senate to quickly take up this bill to help provide the resources our aviation workforce desperately needs and deserves. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, currently, pilots and air traffic controllers who seek mental health care are unfairly penalized. While aviation professionals are mandated to report if they seek mental health care, once they take that step, they are faced with delays, confusion, and broad regulations to return to work. This often means that relatively minor mental health concerns result in long wait times and derailed careers for safe and well-trained pilots and air traffic controllers.

If we don't change how we handle mental health in aviation, then we will exacerbate a culture of silence.

When I was a law enforcement officer, we, too, faced a culture of silence. During a shift, we would see the worst of humanity, and then we went home to our loved ones and pretended everything was okay. That is because if you didn't, Mr. Speaker, you thought you would come off as weak or unable to handle the job.

As a former police officer who required professional help after a specific call for service, I understand the importance of seeking help. It is not a sign of weakness.

Like law enforcement officers, our pilots and air traffic controllers cannot fear that their livelihoods are at stake for taking care of themselves. These efforts are what keep skies safe in the first place.

In December 2023, the FAA recognized the need to reform its current policies and established the Mental Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee, or ARC, to identify barriers to mental health care for aviators and present recommendations to the FAA to address these challenges.

The implementation of these recommendations was directed in section 411 of the FAA reauthorization bill we passed last year. Unfortunately, there was no required timeline for implementation, which is why I have introduced legislation with Congressman CASTEN, the Mental Health in Aviation Act, to ensure the timely implementation of section 411.

We want our pilots to be at the top of their game, and taking care of their mental health is critical to achieving that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank my colleague and friend, Representative CASTEN of Illinois, for his tremendous and strong leadership on this piece of legislation, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Mental Health in Aviation Act, which I introduced with my friend, Mr. STAUBER, from Minnesota.

I thank Congressman STAUBER as well as Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for all of their support and close collaboration on this bill.

Today, pilots and air traffic controllers who seek mental health care are unfairly penalized by a system that perpetuates a culture of silence. Current regulations mandate that if they seek care, then they are immediately grounded for a minimum of 6 months, and then they are still faced with delays, confusion, and overbroad regulation in the process of returning to work.

This often leaves the folks who are tasked with keeping our skies safe with an absolutely terrible choice, Mr. Speaker: Get help but put your career and your paycheck on hold, or keep your career on track and just hope you will get better.

It doesn't make our skies safer, but it does lead to horrible and avoidable tragedies.

It hit home for me when a Chicago family told me about their son who was studying to become a pilot, and he took his own life. He knew that he needed help, but he didn't want to be grounded. That young man would still be here today but for these regulations that gave him fear when he needed care.

Since working on this bill, I have heard too many nearly identical stories from pilots, students studying to be pilots, and air traffic controllers, their coworkers, and their families.

As many have mentioned, in December 2023, the FAA finally recognized the need to reform those current policies and established a committee to identify barriers to mental health care for aviators to present ways for the FAA to address those challenges. Their recommendations included limiting disclosure requirements for low-risk psychotherapy and expanding the use of existing peer-support programs, but it didn't mandate those changes, nor did it provide necessary implementation resources.

This bill finishes that job by requiring the FAA to implement those changes within 2 years, to regularly review and improve processes related to mental health, and to ensure the FAA can successfully implement and publicize those rules. This will

destigmatize mental health care to make our pilots healthier and our skies safer.

I am proud that this bipartisan legislation is widely supported in Congress and also by the aviation community, airlines, pilot unions, and air traffic controllers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I support the Mental Health in Aviation Act, and I recommend my colleagues do the same. It is an important piece of legislation that will work to better the lives and better the safety of our aerospace professionals.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, mental health issues are often underreported, and many times those who do not report an issue face difficulty accessing care because of burdensome regulations and lengthy wait times for aviation professionals to return back to work.

H.R. 2591 encourages and enables aviation professionals to report and access critical mental health care. Additionally, this bill will strengthen the FAA's hiring of medical examiners to help clear the backlog of special issuance requests.

As you heard today, Mr. Speaker, this bill will keep pilots flying, air traffic controllers working, and aerospace safe while getting people the help that they need.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2591, 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.

TRANSITIONING RETIRING AND NEW SERVICE MEMBERS TO PORT OCEAN RAIL AND TRUCK JOBS ACT

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3055) to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3055

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 "Transitioning Retiring And New Service Members to Port

Ocean Rail and Truck Jobs Act" or the "TRANSPORT Jobs Act".

SEC. 2. VETERAN TO SUPPLY CHAIN EMPLOYEE ACTION PLAN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Secretary of Labor, shall develop and make public an action plan to be known as the "Veteran to Supply Chain Employee Action Plan".

(b) *CONTENTS.*—In developing the Veteran to Supply Chain Action Plan, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) *identify—*

(A) *barriers members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans face when searching for employment, during the hiring process, or in training to become supply chain employees;*

(B) *challenges supply chain employers face when recruiting, hiring, or retaining members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans;*

(C) *regulatory burdens employers face in the hiring of supply chain employees, especially for employees that are members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, or veterans;*

(D) *regions of the United States which have the greatest workforce need for supply chain employees; and*

(E) *barriers and industry trends that directly or indirectly discourage members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans from pursuing, attaining, and remaining in supply chain careers;*

(2) *highlight—*

(A) *the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans possess that are critical for supply chain careers and any competency gaps that should be addressed;*

(B) *opportunities to expand or enhance existing initiatives for members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, or veterans to become supply chain employees; and*

(C) *ways to improve supply chain employer outreach programs and enhance existing training, mentorship, education, and advancement programs that would increase the participation and engagement of members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans in the supply chain workforce;*

(3) *recommend specific short- and long-term actions the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Department of Labor can take to help members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, and veterans become supply chain employees; and*

(4) *consult with the transportation supply chain industry, modal transportation supply chain employers, and organizations representing modal transportation supply chain employees.*

(c) *SUPPLY CHAIN EMPLOYEE DEFINED.*—In this section, the term "supply chain employee" means an individual directly employed in the facilitation of the movement of goods.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have

5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 3055, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support my bill, H.R. 3055, the TRANSPORT Jobs Act.

This bill was introduced to address common barriers that veterans and members of the Armed Forces often face when transitioning to civilian occupations.

The bill requires the creation of a veteran to supply chain employee action plan, which will identify and match the skills, knowledge, and abilities of veterans and members of the Armed Forces with supply chain jobs.

We have all seen issues within the supply chain of unfilled jobs that are critical for the delivery of the ever-important goods and services moving throughout our economy and veterans who move home after their service looking for employment opportunities.

The Secretary of Transportation will develop the action plan in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor.

This bill provides veterans and those soon-to-be-discharged from the armed services with the support that they deserve and addresses the continued labor shortages in our Nation's critical supply chains.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2025.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3055, the "Transitioning Retiring and New Service Members to Port Ocean Rail and Truck Jobs Act" or the "TRANSPORT Jobs Act." As you know, there are provisions in this legislation that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this legislation, I am willing to waive consideration of the bill by my Committee. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee that may be established to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter in the committee report on H.R. 3055 and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 4, 2025.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: I write regarding H.R. 3055, the Transitioning Retiring And New Service Members to Port Ocean Rail and Truck Jobs Act or the TRANSPORT Jobs Act. The legislation was primarily referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Thank you for agreeing to waive consideration of the bill at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to allow it to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration. I agree that by waiving consideration, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this legislation. Further, I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to any conference committee that may be established to consider such provisions.

I will place a copy of this letter exchange in the Committee bill report for H.R. 3055, as well as enter them into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington DC, September 8, 2025.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I write concerning H.R. 3055, the TRANSPORT Jobs Act. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 3055 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. 3055 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2025.

Hon. MICHAEL D. ROGERS,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for your correspondence regarding H.R. 3055, the TRANSPORT Jobs Act, and for your Committee's willingness to forego formal consideration of the legislation in order to allow it to proceed to the House floor in a timely manner.

I appreciate your recognition that the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. I also fully affirm our mutual understanding that your Committee will continue to be consulted and appropriately involved as this legislation advances through the legislative process, particularly with respect to provisions falling within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

As requested, I will ensure that a copy of our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of H.R. 3055, to reflect our understanding and ongoing collaboration. I am grateful for the cooperative working relationship between our committees and look forward to continuing our productive engagement on this and other matters of shared interest.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure.

□ 1700

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support, too, of the Transitioning Retiring And New Service Members to Port Ocean Rail and Truck Jobs Act, as amended, which was introduced by my colleagues, Representatives BARRETT, SCHOLTEN, BOST.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan that identifies supply chain job needs at port, railroads, and trucking companies in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Labor.

Veterans are trained for hard and dedicated work. I understand why supply chain employees want to hire more veterans. One of the lightest lifts that we can do in this body is to ensure we are exhausting every possible resource we can to ensure that those who have signed up to risk their lives for this country can find employment when they leave the armed services.

It will be helpful for veterans to know about additional job opportunities at ports, railroads, and trucking companies. Many of these jobs are solid, middle-class, family supporting, union jobs. They require an understanding of the safety-sensitive nature of the work that tends to be particularly well-suited to the training military veterans have received.

Mr. Speaker, I support the TRANSPORT Act, as amended, to provide options for veterans during pre-separation counseling, and I recommend my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ms. SCHOLTEN, for introducing this legislation with me in support of our Nation's servicemen and -women.

I was glad the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure favorably reported this measure and look forward to the House passing this legislation.

H.R. 3055 is one small step that we can take to ensure we provide our servicemembers with the resources they need as they transition back to the civilian workforce, many of whom have never worked in the civilian workforce before joining the military.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3055, 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.

FACILITY FOR RUNWAY OPERATIONS AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3423) to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3423

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 "Facility for Runway Operations and Safe Transportation Act" or the "FROST Act".

SEC. 2. DEICING EQUIPMENT PROTECTION.

Section 47102(3)(B)(v) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "and storage facilities for the equipment and fluids".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3423, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 3423, the Facility for Runway Operations and Safe Transportation Act, which will allow storage facilities for aircraft deicing fluids and equipment to be acquired through the Airport Improvement Program, AIP, funds.

Under the current structure, AIP funds can be used to acquire aircraft deicing equipment, and when it comes to the storage facilities that house that very same equipment, airports are forced to utilize alternative and less reliable funding mechanisms. If you can use AIP funds to purchase the equipment, you should be able to use those same funding mechanisms to acquire the necessary facilities to house and protect the equipment.

I thank Mr. WIED for his leadership on this commonsense piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support, also, of H.R. 3423, the Facility for Runway Operations and Safe Transportation Act, the FROST Act, a bill that would make it easier for U.S. airports to store certain critical safety equipment.

I thank Representative WIED for introducing this bipartisan bill as well as his Democratic cosponsors, Representatives SCHOLTEN and Representative GILLEN.

Deicing an aircraft is a vital part to maintaining safe flight operations, particularly during takeoff. As ice and snow accumulate on an aircraft's surface, particularly its wings, it can make the aircraft much harder to control and fly. That is why operators are federally mandated to use deicing equipment when ice and snow accumulate to ensure that the plane can be operated safely.

This equipment is so important that improper use has been cited by the National Transportation Safety Board, or failure to have it at all, as a cause of multiple aviation accidents, including a very famous one right here on the Potomac River, a flight that took off in 1982 from Ronald Reagan Airport.

Moreover, with climate change contributing to more extreme weather across the country, deicing fluids and equipment have become even more of a necessity.

The ability for airports to store this equipment on property is essential to safe and efficient flight operations. Unfortunately, as my colleague has mentioned, current law only allows airports to use their AIP funding, the Airport Improvement Program funding, toward aircraft deicing equipment and structures but not the storage facilities that house that equipment. It is almost comical, but this is a serious issue and something that we have to resolve.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that we have gotten together in a bipartisan way here to address.

H.R. 3423 would address this oversight by clarifying that airports can use AIP funds on storage facilities for aircraft deicing equipment and fluids.

Bolstering airports' ability to enhance aviation safety is a commonsense solution that we should all support.

I thank Representative WIED, Representative SCHOLTEN, and Representative GILLEN for sponsoring this important bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. WIED), my friend who knows a little bit about snow and ice.

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3423, the Facility for Runway Operations and Safe Transportation Act, or the FROST Act.

This bipartisan legislation makes a simple but critical update to title 49 of the United States Code by including aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development.

In cold weather States like Wisconsin and many others across the country, safe and efficient deicing operations are essential to keeping passengers, crews, and cargo moving during winter months.

Aircraft are uniquely sensitive to any amount of ice and snow that accumulates on the airframe, causing irregularities that add weight, interrupt airflow, and can come loose during flight, potentially damaging critical flight systems.

By clarifying that these storage facilities qualify for Federal Airport Improvement Program funding, the FROST Act empowers airports to invest in infrastructure that protects lives and strengthens regional economies.

This bill reflects a shared commitment to aviation safety and practical governance. It has support from both sides of the aisle and has been favorably reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3423, the FROST Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same with this commonsense piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, aircraft deicing equipment is critical, as we all know, for ensuring safe aircraft operations and the ability to maintain aircraft performance during colder months and during inclement circumstances.

The Airport Improvement Program was established to fund essential airport infrastructure projects that enhance safety and mitigate issues that cold weather can bring.

H.R. 3423 is simple yet effective. It ensures storage facilities for aircraft deicing fluids and equipment can be acquired with the Airport Improvement Program funds.

I took a tour of an airport in my district not long ago, and this very issue came up as a frustration they were facing. As such, I am proud to support this commonsense piece of legislation, and I urge support of this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3423, 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.

□ 1710

SHARED PROPERTY AGENCY COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3424) to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3424

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 "Shared Property Agency Collaboration and Engagement Act of 2025" or the "SPACE Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. GSA COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL TENANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section 2302 of the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (40 U.S.C. 584 note), the Administrator of the General Services Administration shall—

(1) collaborate with tenants of federally-leased space to better identify concerns among Federal agencies around shared-space arrangements;

(2) work to develop a criteria that would facilitate the expanded use of space-sharing or collocating;

(3) identify how special-use spaces can be used to improve space-sharing or collocating; and

(4) establish measurable objectives, in consultation with the tenants of federally-leased space, to quantify the success of shared-space arrangements among Federal agencies.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on the implementation of the requirements described in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. 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 in the RECORD on H.R. 3424.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3424, the Shared Property Agency Collaboration and Engagement Act of 2025, or SPACE Act, directs the Administrator of the Government Services Administration, the GSA, to work with Federal tenants to develop a criteria that facilitates the expanded use of space sharing or collocating.

This legislation also directs the GSA Administrator to establish measurable objectives to quantify the success of the shared-space framework.

The SPACE Act achieves this by building upon the important public building reforms that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee made last Congress in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER) for his leadership on this bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3424, the Shared Property Agency Collaboration and Engagement Act of 2025, the SPACE Act.

This bill requires the Administrator of the GSA to develop new criteria to help expand the use of office space sharing for Federal agencies. By sharing amenities, space, and services, Federal agencies can use shared-space arrangements to make the most effective use of government-owned real estate. This bill is about efficiency.

A pilot program conducted by GSA allowed six offices across the country to provide ready-to-use spaces conducive to cross-government collaboration while saving taxpayer dollars by reducing operational costs for Federal agencies.

This legislation will allow GSA to expand on these efforts by establishing standards for shared office spaces and measuring the success of this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill to ensure that we are good stewards of taxpayer funding when it comes to Federal real estate, and I encourage all Members to do the same.

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

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER).

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today in support of my bill, H.R. 3424, the Shared Property Agency Collaboration and Engagement Act, or SPACE Act.

I am grateful to Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS for co-leading this bipartisan effort to bring greater efficiency and accountability to Federal Government real estate decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the GSA currently manages more than 8,300 owned and leased assets, totaling over 363 million square feet. Yet, many of these facilities are underused, duplicative, or poorly maintained.

Agencies often operate in silos. One agency leases new office space while another has empty square footage in the same city. There is no coordinated system to ensure that agencies share space or consolidate operations when possible. That lack of communication leads to waste of taxpayer dollars.

That is why the SPACE Act directs the Administrator of the GSA to identify barriers to Federal agencies sharing space in federally owned or leased buildings and to develop solutions to overcome those barriers. This includes examining logistical, legal, regulatory, or cultural hurdles that prevent our agencies from entering into shared-use agreements, even when that would save money and improve efficiency.

Once the Administrator completes this review, the GSA will report its findings and recommendations to the relevant committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate.

This is a fiscally responsible, good government reform. It doesn't grow government; it makes existing government work smarter. We shouldn't be asking taxpayers to fund more buildings when the Federal Government already has plenty of space that is being mismanaged or ignored.

The SPACE Act promotes better use of what we already own by reducing waste and protecting taxpayer dollars. This is not a new idea. The GAO, the Public Buildings Reform Board, and numerous oversight bodies have repeatedly recommended this kind of inter-agency coordination in order to reduce costs and improve property management. The SPACE Act puts those recommendations into action and establishes a clear process to identifying opportunities and delivering results.

Again, I thank Congressman PAPPAS for working with me on this legislation. This is the kind of commonsense, bipartisan approach that shows that we can work together to fix real problems without adding bureaucracy or spending more money.

The SPACE Act is about accountability and stewardship. It says to Federal agencies: Before you ask for more, use what you already have and work with your neighbors to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R.

3424 and to help us to move this important reform forward today.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3424, the SPACE Act. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this legislation will help improve the Federal Government's use of shared space and save taxpayer dollars. By building on the success of the last Congress, we can continue to implement policies that ensure that we are good stewards of our taxpayer resources and hold agencies accountable for the effective and efficient use of our Federal real estate portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 3424, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3424.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT AND SHIFT TRACKING ACT OF 2025

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3425) to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3425

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 "Personnel Oversight and Shift Tracking Act of 2025" or the "POST Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION AND PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Protective Service shall establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of buildings and grounds that are owned, occupied, or secured by the General Services Administration Public Buildings Service.

(b) *OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACT SECURITY PERSONNEL.*—In carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) *establish standards for the collection, maintenance, and analysis of covert testing data, including the creation of a comprehensive*

and uniform method for documenting test outcomes, identifying root causes of failures, and categorizing types of vulnerabilities detected;

(2) begin conducting quarterly analytical reviews of covert testing data to identify trends, recurring deficiencies, and opportunities for operational improvement across all covered facilities;

(3) direct the security contractor who is providing security services to the Federal Protective Service to establish a mandatory, cause-specific corrective training and performance improvement plan for any contract security personnel who fail a covert test and review the security contractor's performance improvement plan to ensure that the security contractor has and will provide appropriate training and procedures to avoid any future covert testing failures; and

(4) develop updated security training guidance for contract security personnel to reflect findings from covert testing data, emerging threats, and best practices.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Upon completion of the activities described in subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an report on the implementation of the requirements of this section, including any identified challenges and recommendations for additional legislative action.

SEC. 3. PERSONNEL SHIFT MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEM MODERNIZATION.

(a) **EVALUATION OF THE PERSONNEL TRACKING SYSTEM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Protective Service shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the personnel tracking system used to manage and monitor the deployment availability of contract security personnel;

(2) determine whether to replace the system described in paragraph (1) with a more reliable personnel tracking platform, including private sector solutions, or whether to implement corrective actions to improve the system described in paragraph (1), including technical, operational, or administrative fixes; and

(3) develop and publish an implementation plan that includes—

(A) a timeline for completion of system replacement or corrective actions; and

(B) procedures to ensure timely and accurate communication to building tenants regarding contract security personnel shortages or absences or security coverage gaps.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) the determination made under subsection (a)(2);

(2) a detailed summary of any implementation actions undertaken pursuant to subsection (a);

(3) an evaluation of the effectiveness of tenant communication protocols; and

(4) any recommendations for additional legislative or administrative actions.

SEC. 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as designating an employee of a contractor of the Department of Homeland Security who is engaged in the protection of Federal property pursuant to section 1315 of title 40, United States Code, as a Federal employee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. 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 in the RECORD on H.R. 3425, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3425, the POST Act of 2025, strengthens the Federal Protective Service, or FPS, and their ability to secure Federal facilities and improve accountability for the contract guards who protect them.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has conducted bipartisan oversight of FPS operations and Federal facility security. Both testimony at hearings and Government Accountability Office reports have reinforced the need for these reforms.

The Federal Protective Service is tasked with securing approximately 9,000 GSA-leased and -owned facilities across America. To protect these buildings, FPS oversees over 15,000 contracted guards, known as protective security officers.

Despite the size and importance of the FPS' mission, serious vulnerabilities exist in its oversight of contract guards. For example, one GAO investigation found that contracted guards failed to detect concealed weapons, including batons and pepper spray, in half of covert security tests. While FPS uses covert testing to assess security vulnerabilities, they lack a standardized system to track, analyze, and respond to the results.

The POST Act addresses this critical gap by requiring the FPS Director to establish and maintain a centralized database to capture covert test data, including why a contract guard failed to detect contraband.

The legislation mandates quarterly analyses of this data to identify trends and training needs and requires targeted, corrective training for guards who fail covert tests, which helps to close performance gaps and improve public safety.

This is a commonsense reform that turns the tests that FPS is already conducting into data that can drive actionable improvements, making Federal buildings safer for employees and the American people who we serve.

The POST Act also tackles another persistent problem: FPS' broken shift tracking system.

□ 1720

In 2018, FPS launched the Post Tracking System to modernize its paper-based guard sign-in process. Seven years later, the Post Tracking System remains unreliable, and FPS still relies on paper records.

As a result, FPS has been unable to issue timely notifications to tenant

agencies about guard shortages. In some cases, this even forced the closure of Federal buildings to the public.

The POST Act would require FPS to either fix PTS or replace it with a modern, dependable solution.

H.R. 3425 contains practical measures to improve FPS' oversight of contract guards, strengthen accountability, and improve safety at Federal buildings.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY) for his leadership on this legislation and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) for working on this bipartisan bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3425, the Personnel Oversight and Shift Tracking Act of 2025, a bill that I am proud to cosponsor.

This bill would require the Director of the FPS, the Federal Protective Service, to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of Federal buildings and grounds that are owned, occupied, or secured by GSA.

FPS law enforcement officers and the contract guards who support them risk their lives every day to protect Federal workers and the public by controlling access to government facilities and screening visitors for prohibited items. As part of these efforts, FPS investigators have covertly tested security at Federal buildings to ensure the accuracy of these systems and have developed a tracking system to ensure guards are qualified and posts are staffed adequately.

Despite these efforts, however, guards failed to detect prohibited items in about half of the 27 covert tests that the Government Accountability Office investigators conducted just last year.

Additionally, the new FPS tracking system has not worked well enough to replace the old paper-based system, as my colleague has just described. By improving FPS data collection and analysis and implementing the findings on these security tests, the agency will be able to better ensure the safety and security of Federal buildings, employees, the public, and the FPS officers themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge all Members to do the same to make sure that we are holding our contractors accountable and doing everything we can to protect our Federal buildings and our personnel located within.

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

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3425, the Personnel Oversight and Shift Tracking Act of 2025, or the POST Act.

I thank Mr. BARRETT and Mr. FIGURES for their support of this really important bill.

This is a commonsense bill that fixes a broken system and restores accountability within the Federal Protective Service.

The Federal Protective Service, or FPS, is responsible for protecting nearly 9,000 Federal facilities nationwide. In fiscal year 2024, FPS operated with a \$2.2 billion budget and oversaw more than 15,000 contract protective security officers.

With that level of funding and manpower, taxpayers expect reliable results. Unfortunately, that is not what they are getting. A recent GAO investigation showed contract guards failed to detect banned items like batons and pepper spray in half of all covert tests. That is unacceptable, and it should never have been allowed to persist. It is also preventable.

H.R. 3425 makes sure FPS reviews these failures, documents them, identifies the root causes, and then takes corrective action.

This bill also addresses the embarrassing state of FPS's Post Tracking System. Back in 2018, FPS promised to modernize guard sign-in with a digital system. Years later, that system still doesn't work, and the agency is still relying on paper as its official record. That means Washington can't even confirm in real time whether a building is staffed and secure. In some cases, buildings have had to close because of it. That is a waste of money and a failure of leadership.

H.R. 3425 fixes this by giving FPS 6 months to either make the system work or replace it with one that does.

Mr. Speaker, this is not complicated. When Americans walk into a Federal building, they deserve to know it is staffed and secured. The American people expect their government to meet basic duties. The POST Act honors that expectation by restoring accountability and requiring results.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3425, the POST Act, so that we restore proper oversight and accountability in the Federal Protective Service and protect taxpayers from waste and failure.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3425, and I thank my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY, for his leadership on this important matter. The POST Act of 2025 is something that I urge all of my colleagues to support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3425, as amended, strengthens oversight of the Federal Protective Service's contract guard program and ensures protective security officers are properly trained and accountable. Additionally, and importantly, this legislation modernizes critical systems to make Federal buildings safer for employees and the public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3425, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3425, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

MID-ATLANTIC RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS REVIEW ACT

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3428) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3428

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 "Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act".

SEC. 2. MID-ATLANTIC RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS.

(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 initiate a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) review the ethics policies and practices of each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission;

(B) review the practices each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission uses to communicate with the general public;

(C) review current Federal responsibilities at each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission, including the types of actions taken by relevant Federal agencies in carrying out such responsibilities;

(D) describe the level and sources of Federal and State funding received by each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission;

(E) identify duties and responsibilities of each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission that may be duplicative of, or overlap with, other Federal authorities; and

(F) review policies and best practices of each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission for reporting activities of the Commission.

(3) REPORT.—Upon completion of the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing—

(A) the findings of such review; and

(B) any recommendations, including any recommendations for statutory or administrative changes or changes to ethics policies and practices, to increase the transparency or congressional oversight of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions.

(b) PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (a)(3), and annually thereafter for five years, each Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan detailing actions such Commission has taken to comply with the recommendations contained in such report.

(c) MID-ATLANTIC RIVER BASIN COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commission" means—

(1) the Susquehanna River Basin Commission created by the Susquehanna River Basin Compact to which consent was given by Public Law 91-575 (84 Stat. 1509);

(2) the Delaware River Basin Commission created by the Delaware River Basin Compact to which consent was given by Public Law 87-328 (75 Stat. 688); and

(3) the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin created by the Potomac River Basin Compact to which consent was given by Public Law 91-407 (84 Stat. 856).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 3428.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRESNAHAN), for his hard work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, for the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Potomac Rivers, came into existence before the creation of the EPA and mandated Federal involvement in the commissions.

H.R. 3428 is a good government bill that directs the GAO to review the ethics, practices, funding, and Federal responsibilities of the commissions.

Congress has a duty to conduct oversight of these commissions, and I thank Mr. BRESNAHAN for ensuring that we fulfill that role.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3428, a bill to direct the GAO to review the three Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions and report on the practices and Federal responsibilities of each commission.

The Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions serve an important role in the region by managing, protecting, and improving their respective river basins.

The commissions were created to consolidate a complex web of State, interstate, and Federal efforts into one.

For example, the history of the Potomac Basin Commission reminds us how the commission was formed in response to extreme pollution levels in our Nation's River that required a regional, cooperative response by all jurisdictions.

Similarly, the Delaware River Basin Compact, signed in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and the then-Governors of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, created a commission with the force of law to oversee a unified approach to managing the river without regard to political boundaries.

As a result of these commissions, water quality on the Delaware, Potomac, and Susquehanna Rivers has, in many ways, vastly improved, but threats such as population increases, land use changes, and the growth of impervious surfaces, chemical contaminants, and nutrient and sediment enrichment still require focused, regional attention.

This GAO study will review these partnerships and how responsibilities are split between the commissions and the Federal agencies, as well as examine the transparency and communication practices of the commissions.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3428 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

□ 1730

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRESNAHAN).

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 3428, the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act.

This legislation will bring much-needed oversight and clarity to the activities and funding streams for the Delaware River Basin Commission, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

The river basin commissions in the Mid-Atlantic work across State lines to regulate the river systems within a watershed. Since their inception after World War II, the rivers they manage have grown in importance as our populations have grown and water usage has increased.

Millions of people rely on these rivers for water and wastewater needs, including my constituents in Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District.

These commissions also play a role in protecting rivers from pollution and ensuring the ecosystems remain vibrant and resilient.

As their roles have grown, Congress has not always had insight into the exact responsibility and tasks the river basin commissions are undertaking.

My legislation directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and compile recommendations

for the Mid-Atlantic river basin commissions to ensure they have proper ethics policies in place, conduct an inventory of their Federal responsibilities, and look to see if any of their responsibilities have become duplicative since their inception.

My legislation then directs these river basin commissions to report back annually on how they are complying with these recommendations. GAO is the gold standard for Federal reports and has conducted numerous reports and studies of government agencies. In fact, according to the GAO, 75 percent of their recommendations are implemented over a 4-year period.

I trust this proper oversight will help these river basin commissions find ways to improve their services to their citizens and the rivers they serve.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue. I support H.R. 3428, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3428, the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act, is legislation that will ensure important rivers in our communities have proper oversight and utilize taxpayer resources to carry out their missions responsibly.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3428.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 3424; and

H.R. 3425.

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.

SHARED PROPERTY AGENCY COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT 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. 3424) to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 1, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

YEAS—397

Adams	Casten	Evans (CO)
Aderholt	Castor (FL)	Evans (PA)
Aguilar	Cherfilus-	Ezell
Alford	McCormick	Fallon
Allen	Chu	Fedorchak
Amo	Ciscomani	Feenstra
Amodei (NV)	Cisneros	Fields
Ansari	Clark (MA)	Figures
Arrington	Clarke (NY)	Fine
Auchincloss	Cleaver	Finstad
Babin	Cline	Fischbach
Bacon	Cloud	Fitzgerald
Baird	Clyburn	Fitzpatrick
Balderson	Clyde	Fleischmann
Balint	Cohen	Fletcher
Barr	Cole	Flood
Barragán	Collins	Fong
Barrett	Comer	Foster
Baumgartner	Conaway	Foushee
Bean (FL)	Costa	Foxx
Beatty	Courtney	Frankel, Lois
Begich	Craig	Friedman
Bell	Crane	Frost
Bentz	Crank	Fry
Bera	Crenshaw	Fulcher
Bergman	Crockett	Garamendi
Bice	Crow	Garbarino
Biggs (AZ)	Dauids (KS)	García (CA)
Biggs (SC)	Davidson	García (IL)
Bilirakis	Davis (IL)	García (TX)
Bishop	Davis (NC)	Gill (TX)
Boebert	De La Cruz	Gillen
Bonamici	Dean (PA)	Gimenez
Bost	DeGette	Golden (ME)
Boyle (PA)	DeLauro	Goldman (NY)
Brecheen	DelBene	Goldman (TX)
Bresnahan	Deluzio	Gomez
Brown	DeSaulnier	Gonzales, Tony
Brownley	DesJarlais	Gooden
Budzinski	Dexter	Goodlander
Burchett	Diaz-Balart	Gosar
Burlison	Dingell	Gottheimer
Bynum	Doggett	Graves
Calvert	Donalds	Gray
Cammack	Downing	Green, Al (TX)
Carbajal	Dunn (FL)	Greene (GA)
Carey	Edwards	Griffith
Carson	Elfreth	Grothman
Carter (LA)	Emmer	Guest
Carter (TX)	Escobar	Guthrie
Casar	Españillat	Hageman
Case	Estes	Hamadeh (AZ)

Harder (CA) Matsui
 Haridopolos McBath
 Harrigan McBride
 Harris (MD) McCaul
 Harris (NC) McClain
 Harshbarger McClain Delaney
 Hayes McClellan
 Hern (OK) McClintock
 Higgins (LA) McCollum
 Hill (AR) McCormick
 Himes McDonald Rivet
 Hinson McDowell
 Horsford McGarvey
 Houchin McGovern
 Hoyer McGuire
 Hoyle (OR) McIver
 Hudson Meeks
 Huffman Menendez
 Huizenga Meng
 Hurd (CO) Messmer
 Issa Meuser
 Ivey Mfume
 Jack Miller (OH)
 Jackson (IL) Miller-Meeks
 Jackson (TX) Mills
 Jacobs Min
 Jayapal Moolenaar
 Jeffries Moore (AL)
 Johnson (GA) Moore (NC)
 Johnson (SD) Moore (UT)
 Johnson (TX) Moore (WV)
 Jordan Moran
 Joyce (OH) Morelle
 Joyce (PA) Morrison
 Kamlager-Dove Moskowitz
 Kaptur Moulton
 Kean Mrvan
 Keating Mullin
 Kelly (IL) Murphy
 Kelly (MS) Nadler
 Kelly (PA) Neal
 Kennedy (NY) Neguse
 Kennedy (UT) Norcross
 Kiggans (VA) Nunn (IA)
 Kiley (CA) Obernolte
 Kim Ocasio-Cortez
 Knott Olszewski
 Krishnamoorthi Omar
 Kustoff Onder
 LaHood Owens
 LaLota Pallone
 LaMalfa Palmer
 Landsman Panetta
 Langworthy Pappas
 Larsen (WA) Patronis
 Larson (CT) Pelosi
 Latimer Perez
 Latta Perry
 Lawler Peters
 Lee (FL) Pfluger
 Lee (NV) Pocan
 Lee (PA) Pou
 Leger Fernandez Pressley
 Letlow Ramirez
 Levin Randall
 Liccardo Raskin
 Lieu Reschenthaler
 Lofgren Riley (NY)
 Loudermilk Rivas
 Lucas Rogers (AL)
 Luna Rogers (KY)
 Lynch Rose
 Mace Ross
 Mackenzie Rouzer
 Magaziner Roy
 Malliotakis Ruiz
 Maloy Rulli
 Mann Rutherford
 Mannion Ryan
 Massie Salinas
 Mast Sanchez

NAYS—1

Beyer

NOT VOTING—32

Buchanan James
 Carter (GA) Khanna
 Castro (TX) Luttrell
 Correa Miller (IL)
 Crawford Miller (WV)
 Cuellar Moore (WI)
 Ellzey Nehls
 Franklin, Scott Newhouse
 Gonzalez, V. Norman
 Houlahan Ogles
 Hunt Pettersen

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

□ 1856

Mr. CARSON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT AND SHIFT TRACKING 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. 3425) to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, 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 Michigan (Mr. BARRETT) 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 402, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—402

Adams Carson
 Aderholt Carter (LA)
 Aguilera Carter (TX)
 Alford Casar
 Allen Case
 Amo Casten
 Amodei (NV) Castor (FL)
 Ansari Cherfilus-McCormick
 Arrington Chu
 Auchincloss Ciscomani
 Babin Cisneros
 Bacon Clark (MA)
 Baird Clarke (NY)
 Balderson Cleaver
 Balint Cline
 Barr Cloud
 Barragán Clyburn
 Barrett Clyde
 Baumgartner Cohen
 Bean (FL) Cole
 Beatty Collins
 Begich Comer
 Bell Conaway
 Bentz Costa
 Bera Courtney
 Bergman Beyer
 Beyer Craig
 Bice Crane
 Biggs (AZ) Crank
 Biggs (SC) Crawford
 Bilirakis Crenshaw
 Bishop Crockett
 Boebert Crow
 Bonamici Davids (KS)
 Bost Davidson
 Boyle (PA) Davis (IL)
 Brecheen Davis (NC)
 Bresnahan De La Cruz
 Brown Dean (PA)
 Brownley DeGette
 Buddzinski DeLauro
 Burchett DelBene
 Burlison Deluzio
 Bynum DeSaulnier
 Calvert DesJarlais
 Carmack Dexter
 Carbajal Diaz-Balart
 Carey Dingell

Gooden
 Goodlander
 Gosar
 Gottheimer
 Graves
 Gray
 Green, Al (TX)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Hamadeh (AZ)
 Harder (CA)
 Haridopolos
 Harrigan
 Harris (MD)
 Harris (NC)
 Harshbarger
 Hayes
 Hern (OK)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Himes
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchin
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Huizenga
 Hurd (CO)
 Issa
 Ivey
 Jack
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson (TX)
 Jacobs
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Johnson (TX)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Kaptur
 Kean
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy (NY)
 Kennedy (UT)
 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)
 Leger Fernandez
 Letlow
 Levin
 Liccardo
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Lynch
 Mace
 Mackenzie
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Mannion
 Massie
 Mast
 Mackenzie
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Mannion
 Massie
 Mast
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Salinas
 Sánchez
 Scalise
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schmidt
 Schneider
 Scholten
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Self
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Shreve
 Simon
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spartz
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Subramanyam
 Swalwell
 Sykes
 Takano
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Tlaib
 Tokuda
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Tran
 Turner (OH)
 Underwood
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Duyn
 Van Orden
 Vargas
 Vasquez
 Veasey
 Velázquez
 Vindman
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Watson Coleman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Whitesides
 Wied
 Williams (GA)
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym

NOT VOTING—28

Buchanan James
 Carter (GA) Khanna
 Castro (TX) Luttrell
 Correa Miller (WV)
 Cuellar Moore (WI)
 Ellzey Nehls
 Franklin, Scott Norman
 Gonzalez, V. Ocasio-Cortez
 Houlahan Ogles
 Hunt Pettersen

Pingree
 Quigley
 Sherrill
 Titus
 Tonko
 Waters
 Wilson (FL)
 Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed the roll call votes on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3424, SPACE Act of 2025; and on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3425, POST Act of 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today due to adverse weather delaying my flight to Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1000

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1000, a bill originally introduced by Representative GREEN of Tennessee, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1510

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1510, the Due Process Continuity of Care Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative Sylvester Turner of Texas, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2181

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of

H.R. 2181, the Protect Our Watchdogs Act of 2025, a bill originally introduced by Representative GERALD CONNOLLY of Virginia, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

PROMOTING HOPE DURING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and I rise today during National Suicide Prevention Week to raise awareness and promote hope.

Suicide affects millions of people every year, yet too many struggle in silence. Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, regardless of age. It is among the leading causes of death in the United States.

Mental health professionals, advocacy organizations, survivors, and allies take this month to combat the stigma of discussing mental health and connect those with suicidal thoughts to a network of professional resources.

There is no single cause of suicide, but suicide risk increases when several health factors and life stressors converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is preventable. Increasing access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide saves lives.

Prioritizing self-care is a vital way to support mental well-being and reduce the risk of suicide. National Suicide Prevention Month reminds us that silence can cost lives, and conversation can save them. Start a conversation today.

BUCKLING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF RISING COSTS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, today, a CBS News poll came out. It showed 65 percent of Americans think that the President's policies are making us pay more for goods, such as groceries.

I have learned in my career that results mean more than rhetoric. I invite my colleagues to join me in tracking what is actually happening in the country, not the words that are being said.

I ask my colleagues to make a list this week when they shop and jot down the prices they pay. List the date.

Specifically note the price of a loaf of bread, a gallon of milk, a gallon of or-

ange juice, a box of cereal, a dozen eggs, and a package of butter. Stop in any store. Note the price of a package of gym socks and a tube of toothpaste. When my colleagues gas up their cars, note the price of regular gasoline and their most recent electric bill. Date it today, this day in September. Keep the sheet handy.

In January, I want my colleagues to do that list again. We won't need a cable news station, a podcast, or a talk show to tell us what is going on. We will see it for ourselves.

□ 1910

HONORING THE LIVES OF MARY "MAY" AND BOB KREIDER

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two remarkable constituents from Pearl River, May and Bob Kreider, who passed away this summer just weeks apart after 67 years of marriage.

May Kreider, a proud Bronx native and first-generation Irish American, built a career as a nurse and educator, earning her master's degree from Columbia University. She gave her life to caring for others, whether at Columbia Presbyterian, in hospice, or through her leadership with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in Pearl River where she was blessed to be named the grand marshal of the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2010.

Bob Kreider proudly served our Nation in the Navy during the Korean war and later as a highly decorated detective sergeant with the NYPD. His life was defined by service, faith, and devotion to his family and protecting his community.

Together, Bob and May raised five children and built not just a family but a home rooted in love, faith, and service. Their legacy lives on in Pearl River, in the children and their eight grandchildren that they cherished, and in the countless lives they touched with their kindness.

May God bless the memory of Bob and May Kreider, and may He continue to comfort their family and friends during this time of loss.

RECOGNIZING ALBERTA WHITAKER PARKER NEWSOME

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the remarkable Alberta Whitaker Parker Newsome, a true gem in the community of Ahoskie, North Carolina.

At the impressive age of 100, Ms. Alberta maintains her spunk by exercising 1 hour a day 3 times a week lifting weights at the ECU Health

Wellness Center. She actively drives around town and takes great pride, too, in her yard that she beautifully maintains.

Here is another secret: She starts the day with a bowl of oatmeal.

Her spirited enthusiasm extends to her spiritual life, as well, where she sings in the New Ahoskie Baptist Church choir.

She believes in eating right, exercising, and trusting in God. Ms. Alberta is the ideal of longevity and resilience, inspiring us to embrace life with purpose, gratitude, and a zest for living.

She truly represents the heart and soul of eastern North Carolina, and we love her.

MOURNING THE DEATH IRYNA ZARUTSKA

(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, Iryna Zarutskia fled war-torn Ukraine and came here for safety, but America failed her.

Iryna was brutally stabbed to death while riding on a Charlotte light rail. In a horrific attack caught on camera, her throat was cut by a violent, serial criminal with 14 prior arrests.

Why was this violent criminal let out without bond by a liberal judge?

This incident reflects a broader crisis unfolding across our Nation, where soft-on-crime policies allow dangerous criminals to evade accountability. Democrats and their media enable this by standing with criminals. Notice how mainstream media has failed to even mention Iryna's name.

America failed her, and we must ensure it does not fail others like her. Together, we can honor Iryna's memory by building a safer, stronger America, one where no 23-year-old woman has to live in fear of being stabbed by a repeat offender who appears to just be a random stranger sitting behind her on the train.

NATIONAL GUARD IN PORTLAND

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am here to stand up for Oregon. Just before the weekend, the President spouted off some nonsense about deploying the National Guard to Portland. As we have seen in D.C., L.A., and now Boston, it is an unwelcome occupation.

The President is wasting our troops' time and the country's money to play cops and robbers for his ego.

Now, if he wants to send Federal resources to help our State, then how about he invests in our schools instead of cutting the Department of Education?

How about he sends funding that we can use to provide high-quality childcare to every child and family, to build more affordable housing, and to clean up the Superfund site on the Willamette River?

Mr. Speaker, if the President actually wants to help Oregonians, then he should focus on his failing economic policies that are hurting Americans and raising our costs.

We got us.

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

THE BRUTAL MURDER OF IRYNA ZARUTSKA

(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 with great sadness and outrage at what happened to this beautiful, true refugee from Ukraine who made it to this country. She escaped that war-torn situation and found refuge in America, as it should be.

Her life was viciously taken in the city of Charlotte on the light rail system there by a guy who had been let out 14 different times by different judges.

The system failed her, and the system is failing a lot of people, so I don't quite understand why, when President Trump or others are trying to up the game on trying to enforce the law in our cities with extra resources, there is so much opposition there.

This beautiful life is gone unnecessarily.

What is the Governor down in North Carolina, Josh Stein, doing?

He didn't even want to acknowledge it until they finally got so much heat and pressure on that. Of course, the mayor there in Charlotte wanted to sympathize with the killer.

Now, where is the press coverage on this?

A certain guy in Minnesota years ago got way more press coverage. It is the wrong narrative? The wrong narrative, is that what it is?

PROTECTING FARMERS' DATA

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that is simple but essential: trust, trust in our government to do the right thing and fulfill its fiduciary duty.

When farmers apply for a loan or disaster aid, they are not just filling out forms. They are opening their homes, finances, and their futures to the Federal Government.

As the daughter of an Idaho potato farmer, I know how sacred that trust

is, and I spent most of my legal career protecting kids and their privacy online.

However, recent reporting of unauthorized access by DOGE to USAID systems has shaken faith in public trust. To this day, we still don't know who accessed that data, what they did with it, or whether it was shared with third parties.

Our farmers deserve answers. That is why I introduced the Protecting Agricultural Borrower Information Act, to safeguard the most sensitive financial information held by USDA and its Farm Service Agency.

It is not just about data. It is about respect. This bill keeps promises to rural communities, restores accountability, and strengthens the fiduciary bond between citizens and government.

Farmers feed our country. The least we can do is to protect their privacy. I urge my colleagues to stand with me.

□ 1920

CHARLOTTE LIGHT RAIL MURDER

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with a heavy heart because Iryna Zarutskia should still be alive.

She fled Ukraine seeking safety and freedom. Instead, she was stabbed to death in a Charlotte light rail car by a 14-time criminal who should never have been back on the streets. In fact, this person had skipped bond on three occasions in the past.

Leftist politicians and judges who have enabled this violent repeat offender to walk have blood on their hands.

As the Representative of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, I am not going stay silent while innocent people pay the price for broken bail policies and soft-on-crime judges.

That is why I am proud to co-lead Chairwoman STEFANIK's Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act, which will make it harder for violent criminals to slip through the cracks and walk free without proper review. In fact, it may even hold Federal funds away from local governments that refuse to follow the law and allow these soft-on-crime policies.

Folks in Charlotte and folks throughout this entire country deserve to feel safe. The system failed Iryna. If we don't fix it now, it will fail again.

TRUMP MUST REVERSE COURSE

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on South and Central Asia to sound the

alarm about the deterioration of our strategic partnership with India at the hands of Donald Trump.

As two major democracies and economies, U.S.-India cooperation is essential to advancing our mutual interests and confronting our shared competitors.

President Biden took the relationship to new heights, strengthening collaboration on defense, strategic technologies, and the Quad.

In mere months, Trump's reckless foreign policy style has unraveled decades of progress, suddenly slapping India with 50 percent tariffs because his fragile ego was so triggered.

Republicans have refused to go to bat for the U.S.-India relationship when it really matters, beholden to their MAGA isolationist base.

This partnership is too important to be sacrificed by Trump's ego and Republican complicity. Trump must reverse course, make a deal, and fix the damage that he has caused. He needs to get his act together on behalf of this country and our relationship with India.

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

FAILED SOCIAL EXPERIMENT BACKFIRING ON OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today in regard to the latest stabbing on the Charlotte Area Transit System of Iryna Zarutskya. It is just the latest awful example of what has gone wrong with our criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, today, I felt compelled to tell my daughters to be careful.

This suspect had been arrested 14 times, including for violent offenses. Despite this record, mental health issues, and skipping bond, a Democrat judge—happened to be Democrat—released him back into the streets after his arrest in January.

Police do their jobs, but ideological prosecutors and judges refuse to do theirs.

This is not justice. It is a failed social experiment backfiring on our communities. We see it time and time again.

In D.C., police recently arrested a carjacking suspect who laughed in their faces saying: I have been in the D.C. jail six times for this warrant. I will be out tomorrow because the victims never show up. That is the mentality of this broken system, and it emboldens criminals.

President Trump is proving there is another way, using all the resources available to protect innocent people.

Mr. Speaker, we need to support these efforts. We need to bring law and

order to our streets. The American people deserve protection, not excuses.

FULTON COUNTY FAIR

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a treasured northwest Ohio tradition in Ohio's Ninth District, the Fulton County Fair.

It is the second largest fair in the State of Ohio, which has 88 counties, surpassed only by the State fair. Hallelujah, Fulton County. I was honored to spend the day there recently with residents and visitors from other counties.

I was able to listen to farmers and veterans at the hallowed Veterans bean dinner and people both young and old from far and wide. The show barns were full of animals and people, and the weather was heavenly.

I spoke with constituents from six of the eight counties I represent and got a famous Fulton County Dairy Association milkshake, a farm-fresh cheeseburger, and got to meet hundreds from across the vast northwestern Ohio region I represent and beyond, even Michigan.

The Fulton County Fair welcomed a record 180,000 visitors over the opening weekend.

Last but truly not least, I spent time speaking with the dedicated director of the Fulton County Farm Bureau, Roy Norman. I learned about some of the great soil and conservation work being done in this mighty, hardworking county.

Let me invite all visitors from our region and across our country to check out the Fulton County Fair next year. Set up your campers. You won't be disappointed. Onward, Fulton County.

HONORING DONALD MCPHERSON

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of American hero Donald McPherson of Adams, Nebraska, who sadly passed away last month as our Nation's last surviving World War II Ace fighter pilot.

In his F6F Hellcat, Mr. McPherson directly faced our enemies in the skies to defend our country and preserve our liberty, shooting down five enemy aircraft while stationed aboard the USS Essex in the Pacific.

He earned three distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals. In 2015, I proudly congratulated Mr. McPherson on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for his valiant service to our country.

After his wartime service, Mr. McPherson was a dedicated volunteer with the VFW, American Legion, his local church, and youth baseball and

softball leagues. He also served as Scoutmaster for Troop 280.

The legacies of our selfless military heroes, certainly including Mr. McPherson, must be celebrated and protected for future generations to understand the true cost of freedom.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Mr. McPherson for his service to our country and extend my condolences to his family.

WE ALL BELONG IN AMERICA

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am Latina. I am a citizen, and I speak Spanish.

My family has been in "Nuevo"; "New" Mexico for 17 generations.

Today, ICE can now detain me if they hear me talking to my "tia"; "aunt" saying something like:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

As of today, the Supreme Court has put latinos in danger of being detained by ICE.

They have given them permission to detain any person who looks latino, speaks with an accent, or works a humble job.

Instead of protecting its people, this government has just sentenced millions of latinos to live in fear.

We'll see more fathers handcuffed in front of their children, and workers detained while they harvest our food.

We now have to carry our passports, as if being latino were a crime.

This is the kind of racism that goes hand-in-hand with fascism.

Hoy, la Corte Suprema puso a todos los latinos en peligro de ser detenidos por ICE.

Les dieron permiso de detener a cualquier persona que parezca latina, hable con acento, o tenga un trabajo humilde.

En vez de proteger a su gente, este gobierno acaba de condenar a millones de latinos a vivir con miedo.

Veremos más padres esposados frente a sus hijos, y trabajadores detenidos mientras cosechan nuestra comida.

Ahora tenemos que cargar nuestros pasaportes, como si ser latino fuera un crimen.

Esto es el racismo que va mano a mano con el facismo.

In my America, we all belong. In Trump's America, we do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Mexico will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

PRAYERS FOR IRYNA ZARUTSKA

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I ask this

body to join me in praying for the family of Iryna Zarutskya, who was brutally murdered on the Charlotte light rail by a violent, repeat offender who never should have been on the streets in the first place.

Iryna was a 23-year-old woman who fled the war in Ukraine just to meet her horrific fate at the hands of a dangerous criminal who was repeatedly released from jail over and over on serious, dangerous charges.

Iryna had a bright future ahead of her. Sadly, she will never see her home country again. Gone is her chance for a new future here in America. It didn't have to happen.

This criminal had a rap sheet going back nearly two decades, including armed robbery and threats of violence. Yet, because of irresponsible policies by our former Governor Roy Cooper's administration, this brutal thug was set free and allowed to terrorize our community again and again.

Our people deserve commonsense leadership that puts victims first and keeps dangerous criminals behind bars. I will keep fighting to make sure violent offenders stay off the street and that our communities are safe for every family. I will pray for Iryna's family.

□ 1930

TEMPORARY BENEFITS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently held community conversations across Indiana's First Congressional District.

What I heard loud and clear was that families are struggling with rising costs at the grocery store, skyrocketing utility bills, and economic uncertainty that has been created by the chaos from this administration.

My constituents know exactly that this economic pain and unfairness stems from the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act. You can't fool hard-working people. They see the truth as clear as day.

Yes, there are tax breaks on tips and overtime but only for 3 years. This is at the same time that billionaires and those who can afford a \$1 million annual membership to Mar-a-Lago got tax breaks that are permanent. Why is help for working families temporary but handouts for the privileged permanent?

We won't be deceived. Communities in northwest Indiana are struggling with increasing costs, and they know that the Republican bill is unfair toward working families.

It is one of the many reasons that I opposed this unpopular legislation and why I will continue to fight to make the current tax benefits for working families permanent.

CALLING FOR USE OF RECONCILIATION PROCESS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are going to follow up with a theme that has been talked about earlier within our Conference.

Frequently, Republicans have to go home and explain why they aren't getting done what they want to get done. It is because the rules in the Senate require 60 votes to break a filibuster, which means that you need CHUCK SCHUMER to sign off in order to get almost anything done in the Senate.

However, three times in this 2-year period, through the process called reconciliation, we are able to pass a bill out of the Senate with 50 votes or 51 votes with the Vice President. There are Republicans here who do not want to put us in that position.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago in Donald Trump's first term, some of these same Republicans, when we also had three votes—we used one vote for the tax cut, one vote to try and failed to do something on healthcare reform, and a third vote that the Senators didn't want to use. They wanted to restrict the floor votes to votes in which CHUCK SCHUMER signed off.

We are now at the same position this time, and I hope that our talk radio and mouthpieces will wake up and demand that the Republicans use all three reconciliation votes this bien-nium.

RESTORING LIFESAVING FOOD AID FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 37th time to demand that the Trump administration restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

This is Plumpy'Nut. It is manufactured in my district to treat kids who are starving to death.

Mr. Speaker, when children are starving, their organs stop working. They cannot digest regular food. This is their only chance at getting back to health.

It took the Trump administration 10 days to put a stop to USAID's shipments of Plumpy'Nut to starving children around the world. Since then, they have promised over and over again that the program will restart.

They have issued RFPs. They have said that they are going to start shipping again, but it has been 9 months. It took them 10 days to shut down this program and 9 months and counting to get it going again.

Every day that they delay and drag their feet is a day that children are starving. Stop the excuses. Stop the

delay. Restore this program. I will speak out on this floor every day until the program is restored.

BETTER IS POSSIBLE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. McIVER of New Jersey was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, once again, we find ourselves staring down a deadline to fund the government—deadline after deadline after deadline. Once again, we expect to see our colleagues across the aisle use this as an opportunity to put partisanship over people.

Like so many Americans watching from home, I must ask: Why does this keep happening? Why does this keep happening?

My colleagues across the aisle either don't understand, or they simply don't care about how a government shutdown impacts people, real people. They seem to think that it is a tool that they can use to force their cruel agenda onto our communities and a tool to take more from the folks who they have already hurt with their big, ugly bill.

During recess, I conducted a roundtable with school leaders from 18 cities in my district, and they talked about the challenges that students will face with cuts to SNAP benefits and the school lunch program. They spoke of how students will not be able to show up to school ready to learn and how it would impact their learning experience and their school environment.

I spoke to families who told me that they didn't know how they would be able to afford healthcare once their Medicaid is cut, once the effective date kicks in. We talked to many constituents about how they would be able to afford to put food on their tables once SNAP benefit cuts kick in.

The people deserve a government that works, a government that works for the people, one that is stable, functional, and focused on solving real problems, not constantly heading toward a shutdown, not a government engaged in constant cruelty, constant chaos, and constant confusion.

Once again, the American people deserve a government that works for them. That means investing in what matters, such as public safety. How about education, transportation, healthcare, and the services that families and communities rely on the most? Those are the programs we should be investing in, not cutting. We need more investments in these programs.

Mr. Speaker, we must and will oppose attempts to slash those services, and we won't support a partisan, poisonous bill that hurts the people we serve and the people who depend on us, the people who have elected us to work on their behalf and their behalf only. That is as simple as that. We will not support it, point-blank, period.

Better is possible. We know that better is possible. We know better, despite what the other side of the aisle does. That is why we are going to continue to fight like hell for the people we serve because we know that they deserve better.

We will not stop fighting, no matter what. We are fighting not just to pass something to keep the lights on for another few months but for a solution that actually serves the American people, something that makes people's lives better.

Did we forget why we are here and why the people elected us? They elected us to make their lives better, not to hurt them or make their lives worse. That is not our job. Let me remind you: The people elected us. They put their trust in us to make their lives better, not worse.

I invite all of my colleagues to join us. Join us to fight for people and to work for people. Let's get back to the real work in these Chambers. Let's make it make sense why we are here working on behalf of our constituents who have elected us. Let's get back to the people's business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

□ 1940

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my illustrious colleague of the great State of New Jersey for being the lead for tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour to talk about the government, money, funding, keeping this government open, and about why we come here every single day of each week and why some of us are fighting for the American people while others of us are fighting for Donald Trump.

This is a great time to share that Republicans don't care about you—you, all of you. Trump doesn't care about you, none of you. They don't care about your safety. They don't care about your freedom. They don't care about your voice. They don't care about your vote. They don't care about your pocketbook.

Why does the Congresswoman from California say this? Because I have receipts, and I am going to share them.

Earlier this year, Republicans voted on a \$4.5 trillion tax cut for the richest of the rich. In order to pay for that, they passed a honking series of cuts to all the services that you need to help you survive and thrive.

What kinds of services? It is things like shutting down or threatening to shut down Social Security offices in high-rent districts, which would include all of Los Angeles. They are cutting funding to SNAP, which helps young mothers who are looking for baby formula for their babies and folks who need help buying food so that maybe their children's bellies aren't empty when they are going to school. Services by farmers who actually produce goods that are sold into this agricultural program would be cut.

They are cutting funding to the Small Business Administration. Most people in my district are interested in their hustle, their small business that they are trying to get off the ground. I thought that was why the SBA was developed, designed, and created: to help start businesses. Now, we have a President who wants to cut that, maybe because he wants all the money.

We have a President, supported by the Republican Party, who is sending in the National Guard and militarizing soldiers against citizens in those cities and States. They are right here at Union Station in Washington, D.C. The taxpayers are footing a million dollars a day for these National Guard members to pick up trash. They are doing the job that sanitation workers would be doing in the District of Columbia.

We are talking about \$770 billion for Medicare. I talk to young people in my district, Mr. Speaker. They say: "I am not on Medicare." I say: "That is right. Maybe you are not, but your grandmother is, your elderly aunt is, and the doctor you see is able to see you because of the reimbursement they are getting from a Medicare patient."

With these cuts, we are hearing from community clinics. We are hearing from hospitals. We are hearing from doctors and other healthcare providers. They are trying to see if they are able to stay open to help you when you get sick, but that has been cut.

In the last administration, President Biden said that he was going to forgive student loans. This President says: Oh, no. Everybody pays except me. Everybody pays but me.

Not only are we doing away with that forgiveness, but we are actually capping the amount of money that you can get in student loans and in grants to maybe go to medical school because Lord knows we need more doctors, especially in rural communities, willing to help Americans as they search for healthcare.

One place, though, that didn't get cut is ICE and Homeland Security because this is an administration that wants his own personal militia to go after folks who ask for the truth. These cuts also mean and include cuts to Federal jobs. California is a State with the second largest number of Federal workers. These are workers who have been answering the phones when you call, checking on your application when you submit it, and getting back to you about your benefits. Those folks are being terminated, but this is the President who is all about workers first, which is why I had to drive down to the city to the Department of Labor and see the President's face on the big, old banner.

Why are we spending money on these banners but cutting money to farmers? Because dismantling USAID and cutting USAID is more than just what is happening in other countries. You are actually also cutting contracts to American farmers who produce goods and products that we then sell to other

countries. This is all about hurting all of us.

They are cutting funding to the National Institutes of Health. They are cutting cancer research.

In my State of California, we were on the cusp of clinical trials because a cure had been found for breast cancer. We were on the cusp of clinical trials for a cure for prostate cancer. All of that has now stopped because of cuts to the National Institutes of Health.

That is what we are talking about. The party in power has a responsibility to make sure that those basic services—because nothing I talked about was not basic—are not cut.

I am trying to find out why we have a President who is chair of both the World Cup and the Olympics. These are events that will be happening in my district and in my State. The World Cup festivities will be happening in cities across this State. How can you have cities that are preparing for the World Cup and the Olympics when they are being attacked by the Federal Government and when we are not providing them the support that they need to get ready?

Here we are on the verge of the third set of receipts, a funding shutdown, which is imminent and can be stopped by the party in power, the Republicans.

The Republicans have to make a decision. Are they going to prioritize the American people, or are they going to prioritize the President of the United States?

I don't know about you, but the Congresswoman from New Jersey talked about hosting townhalls in her district. I did, too. I didn't meet a constituent who said they wanted the Rose Garden paved at the White House. I haven't met a constituent who said they want to see more gold candelabras in the White House. I have met constituents who said: What is going to happen to my health insurance? When is ICE going to get out of the kindergartens in Los Angeles?

I hope we don't have a government shutdown, but that would require Republicans to make some decisions about who they are going to support. On top of that, which people like to forget, the last thing we did before the beginning of August was that Republicans voted on a rescissions package, which was essentially giving the President back money that Congress had already voted to appropriate to go to the American people.

Some Republicans said let's do this once a month. That is not an exercise. It is like going on a diet once a month. Let's cut more money out of the hands of the American people. It is not funny.

I know people think that Congress is drama and theater, but it is not theater when you talk to a constituent who says, "Thank God you called the agency on my behalf so I could get my benefits back." It is not theater when you have a constituent who is older and is going to get evicted, and they say, "Thank God you called HUD to

make sure that my grandmother doesn't get evicted from her house."

I thought that was what the government was supposed to do. How come no one answers my calls? How come this President doesn't care about me?

This is not theater. We have farmers in trouble. We have young children who are hungry. We have elders who are concerned if they are going to be able to go to the doctor when they get sick. We have young people who don't even know if it is worth going to college because they don't know if they will find a job. We have partners and friends who have opened up businesses in our cities across this country who are afraid to show up to their jobs because they don't know if they will be snatched and deported, even though they are legally allowed to be here.

□ 1950

What is going on? We read these headlines. It does not sound like anything that should be happening in the United States of America.

It is one thing to talk about policy, but it is another thing to cut the benefits of a veteran who put their life on the line to protect us.

It is one thing to debate policy. It is another thing to vote to shut down a hospital.

It is one thing to talk about foreign policy and where we should be and what we should be doing. It is another thing to cut jobs, folks who are building things that keep us safe.

I had a gentleman come into my office a week ago. He is not even from my State. He has a business in Mississippi, and they make the thermostats that we put into refrigerators. They have investments in another country. They have American people, American workers working in Mississippi and in that country, and you know the money they make comes here.

He said: I am going to have to fire all those people and shutdown because of these cuts on top of these tariffs.

Now, that man didn't vote for me. That man probably didn't even vote for my candidate, but he came in my office and said: Can you help? What is going on? What is going on?

My answer was: You have got some people up in here that ain't got no courage. They don't have no courage. I don't owe you nothing, you are not from my State. However, you are trying to create jobs to help American people, give young people an idea about how they can start their own business and be an entrepreneur and come up with a product they can patent that is good for business, that allows them to earn some money, save some money, start a family. All that is in jeopardy because of these cuts, because of these rescissions, and because of this potential government shutdown.

I don't know about you, but when I am in trouble, I don't call somebody and say, hey, are you a Republican or a Democrat? I just call and say: Can you help me?

My dad has got health issues right now. I was on the phone. I wasn't saying: Hey, who did you vote for? I said: Hey, can you help my dad?

That is what Americans across this country are asking, like, are you, the people in power, the people with the gavel, are you going to help me?

Make me drop my notes.

I want the party in power to say: Yeah, I am going to help you. I am going to prioritize you. I am just not going to prioritize you in March of 2026 before my name is on the ballot, I am going to prioritize you right now because American companies, American students, American innovators, American researchers, American veterans, American farmers, American students deserve all of us fighting for them and not for one person who is only looking to hang more banners up and put up more gold candelabras at 1600 Pennsylvania.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I am telling you, it is time for us to work for the people.

I thank the fine gentlewoman from California for those remarks. It is time for us to work for people. That is what we are here for. That is what your constituents voted for you to do; not to make cuts. Think about it. I say this to my colleagues across the aisle, the next time you are out in your district working, ask one of your constituents: Is your life better? Has your life been better since January 20? Is it better? Ask. See what they tell you. I can bet you that it isn't.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the fine gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN), my co-anchor of this Special Order hour.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman McIVER for co-anchoring this Special Order hour tonight.

You don't grow up in the Commonwealth of Virginia without getting history lessons, and those lessons stuck with me. I am cognizant that next year we have the opportunity to celebrate 250 years of an extraordinary, revolutionary, radical idea that had never been tried, truly, before in the world: the idea that the power of government derives from the people, not from brute force, not from getting it from an inheritance, but the consent of the governed to give power to the government.

Why do they do that? It is to meet their needs, to solve their problems. It is an idea that sparked my imagination as a child. It is an idea that as I listened to my parents tell stories of what their life was like growing up during the Depression, growing up during Jim Crow, where they didn't always have their needs met, not because of any fault of their own or their parents, but they saw the best of government through the New Deal, where the Federal Government used its power to help people who couldn't afford to put food on the table, to help people who lost their life savings overnight in the stock market crash, but didn't help all

the people because at the same time, my parents saw the worst of government, a government that oppresses some for the benefit of a few.

That sparked my imagination again to say what can I do to make government a force for good that helps people and solves problems, rather than oppresses some for the benefit of a few? Eventually, that question led me to Congress.

After growing up as a member of Generation X on "Schoolhouse Rock," learning about just a bill's journey to becoming a law, I got here and thought, they didn't get it right because there is no song for what I have seen since coming to Congress, particularly in the 119th.

We stand here today, 22 days before government funding expires. We stand here, House and Senate Democrats, ready to pass a bipartisan funding bill that will improve the health of Americans, that will improve access to quality, affordable healthcare, that will improve the safety and economic well-being of every American.

As a matter of fact, our leaders sent a letter to Republican leadership in the House and the Senate to that effect. The very next day, the President sent down a pocket rescission that the Republican chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee said was unlawful. I happen to agree.

□ 2000

Most of this Congress, we have watched a President ignore the will of Congress, Mr. Speaker, or we have seen, at the President's request, congressional Republicans cut Medicaid, cut SNAP benefits, put lifetime caps on student loans, Federal student loans, cut funding that Congress appropriated for cancer research, for the National Institutes of Health, a whole host of things. People at home are scratching their heads saying: How does this help me? How does this solve my problem? It creates more.

I spent the August recess mostly in my district, but I spread out a little bit beyond my district because I am one of only two Virginians on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Healthcare, in particular, has been very important to me. I spent time talking to my constituents, and listening, more importantly, to their concerns, what they were worried about, what they were afraid of, and then talking particularly to healthcare providers across the Commonwealth.

What I heard was a lot of anxiety and fear, whether it was my farmers who because of tariff policies aren't seeing the kind of orders—particularly for soybeans—that they used to see this time of year going overseas. Mr. Speaker, some can't get the parts to repair their equipment because of tariffs. Some businesses have had to raise prices because they have absorbed them for as long as they can. Yet, they are in between a rock and a hard place where if they raise their prices too

much, especially the small business owners, they are going to go out of business.

I heard from State legislators who wonder how am I going to fill the hole in my State budget caused by cuts to Medicaid, cuts to SNAP, and the requirements on States to pay more when I am also trying to fill the holes in NIH funding and in all the other healthcare funding that helps me meet the needs of my constituents. How am I going to fill the hole when I am still waiting for the Department of Education to send money that was appropriated as schools are about to start.

What my State legislators and my local elected officials told me was—I keep hearing people say about how this big, ugly bill is a tax cut, but what it is doing to me is forcing me to either cut services or raise taxes at the State or at the local level.

Congress has 22 days for Republicans to decide whether we are going to have a government shutdown because they have made clear from day one that they are in charge. They have made clear from day one that the President can just decide not to spend money we have appropriated, and that is okay. They have made clear that they can pass reconciliation bills without giving us a seat at the table. It is up to them whether Congress will pass funding that meets people's needs and solves their problems and keeps the government open or not.

I am usually the eternal optimist. I am a little worried. I am a little worried. Virginia has the second highest number of Federal employees, and since the cuts to the Federal workforce have now seen unemployment increase multiple times before the folks that were paid to stay home until September 30 come off the job rolls, those people are not able to find jobs. Mr. Speaker, unlike what our Governor says: Just because you are a NASA engineer, doesn't mean that you are qualified for the healthcare jobs that our healthcare providers can't fill. The big, ugly bill is going to make all of those issues worse.

I want to share some of what I heard from our healthcare providers. You have the academic research hospitals who are worried they can't attract students, particularly medical students, because of the lifetime cap on student loans which are \$257,000.

Today, I talked to a physician from Roanoke, Virginia, who has \$500,000 in medical school debt. That math doesn't math. When you have enough medical school debt, you have enough debt to pay for somebody's house. Yet now, the next generation of students coming up behind him can only get half of that in Federal student loans. That math doesn't math.

I visited a dental clinic in Abingdon, Virginia. Before the dental clinic, most people west of Roanoke who needed dental services waited until once a year when the RAM Clinic came to Wise County. You would see the long-

est line you have ever seen of people waiting to get dental services because they live in a dental desert.

Now, this clinic was able to open, and 80 percent of their patients are Medicaid recipients. The other 20 percent are uninsured. They are worried what happens when the Medicaid cuts take effect and the 80 percent starts to decline as to how many are actually paying something. They won't be able to cover their costs. When Medicaid reimbursement rates were already too low for them to completely recover their costs, that is going to be even harder.

When I shared with the press what I was hearing from healthcare providers across the State, how they were worried they were going to have to close because of Medicaid cuts, the gentleman who represents that area said that Democrats are just spreading fear.

Well, imagine my surprise—actually not surprised—when last week Augusta Medical Group, which covers parts of southwest Virginia, announced they were closing three primary care centers in western Virginia as part of its response to the one big, ugly bill.

It is not hyperbole. You have rural hospitals that are already operating on the margins who now are going to have to provide more uncompensated care.

□ 2010

Mr. Speaker, when people come off of Medicaid and when the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits for purchasing insurance on the Affordable Care Act Exchange expire if we don't act by the end of this year and more people become uninsured, they are not going to magically never get sick. They are going to get sick.

When they get sick and show up for care, they will go to the emergency rooms. They will be treated. It is going to be more expensive to treat them. It will be uncompensated care. Guess who pays for that? We do when our insurance premiums go up or when the price of care goes up to recover the cost from private insurers.

All of these jobs that are lost, that is also employer-provided health insurance. That is even more uninsured.

My colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee said they are trying to make sure Medicaid is made sustainable for future generations. That bill did not do a thing to address the underlying reasons healthcare costs are going up. It just provided that fewer people would end up getting health insurance, up to 17 million according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Speaker, I heard a lot about the SNAP benefit cuts. I heard from recipients who were worried, but I also heard from grocery stores, rural and urban. I represent Surry County. Surry County has one grocery store. It opened last year. Prior to that, it didn't have a grocery store for 20 years. That meant that people in Surry County drove 30 minutes to go grocery shopping. They couldn't get a lot of perishable items.

They could only get what would fit in a cooler.

The Surry Marketplace helped with that. The Surry Marketplace took forever, but we were able to help them become eligible for SNAP. They would receive SNAP benefits. They knew that certain times of the month the SNAP recipients would come in. It was mostly the seniors living in two senior facilities within walking distance to the grocery store.

The grocery store bought enough fresh food, produce and meat, that made it sustainable for the market to buy fresh food in bulk and know it would be sold. That is 10 percent of their revenue.

Their worry is that when people lose their SNAP benefits, they can't count on that bulk anymore. It will be harder for them to keep their doors open.

I heard the same thing from the market in Church Hill in downtown East End, Richmond. Both of these areas were food deserts before these stores opened. By the way, a lot of their customers are also Medicaid recipients. The same people who lose access to the food benefits and lose access to their healthcare in the HUD funding bill could lose access to rental assistance, as well.

I heard a lot about FEMA cuts. We had a water infrastructure roundtable. I represent cities that have water infrastructure that is over 100 years old. One of them received a grant to help upgrade its water treatment plant and its water infrastructure that failed earlier this year during a storm.

They got a resiliency grant from FEMA to help upgrade that infrastructure so they would know that when there is a natural disaster the water infrastructure will survive it and the people in the region will have clean drinking water. The Department of Homeland Security canceled that grant, saying it had nothing to do with natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all want to be sure that a water infrastructure system will provide clean drinking water when there is a hurricane, a tropical storm, or another natural disaster.

From childcare to healthcare to housing to utility bills, these are just a few of the things that I heard from my constituents about how the price of everything is going up. You name it, Mr. Speaker.

So far, the funding actions of the President and Congress have made it worse. We passed an energy bill last week that gutted the very programs that help people weatherize their homes to reduce their energy costs. We cut in half the very department that has that program.

People ask me: Weren't you elected to help people solve problems?

I was, but we have to work together to do it. Just because Republicans are in the majority does not mean that they only govern over Republicans. Democrats, Independents, and Republicans in Virginia's Fourth District and

across the Commonwealth want us to come together to help them solve their problems. That is what the best of government does. It does not make them worse.

In November, the people made very clear—and they continue to make clear today—the cost of everything is too high. When I talk to Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—rural, urban, and suburban—no matter where they were born, no matter what language they speak, no matter the color of their skin, no matter who they love, no matter how they worship, they want three things: They want to know they live in a thriving and healthy community. They want to know that they have a job that allows them not just to pay their bills but to have a fair shot at a better life for their children than they had. When they get sick, they want to know they can go to the doctor and not go bankrupt.

Every single person that I talked to in my district during the August period said it is getting harder to do that, and they are afraid it is not going to get better.

We answer to our constituents. When we all took our oath of office, we took an oath of office to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and to do our jobs to the best of our ability.

When we see people who are hurting and we have the ability to help, our job—or as Matthew 25 says: When we see somebody who is hungry, we feed them. When we see someone who is homeless, we give them shelter. When we see someone who is sick, we provide them care. When we see a stranger, we welcome them. When someone is in prison, we visit them. At a minimum, how about we make sure they are in conditions that are humane?

We can do a lot better. The American people deserve better. It is going to require us to put politics aside and focus on the people. We have 22 days to do it, Mr. Speaker. We have 22 days to decide: Are we going to come together, find common ground, fund this government in a way that helps people and puts people over politics, or are we going to let it all shut down?

I didn't come here to shut down the government. I also didn't come here to vote for a bill that strips food out of children's mouths and that strips healthcare away from the people that need it. That is not what my constituents sent me here to do.

□ 2020

That is not what my constituents sent me here to do. That is not what this government has done in the past when people were hurting.

I end where I started. My parents saw the best of government, and they saw the worst of government.

If we had another hour, I could walk down the path of how a lot of what I am seeing in 2025 reminds me of what my grandparents saw in 1925 or what my great-grandparents saw in 1905, but

we only have 1 Special Order hour and not 2.

Let me just say: Let's find our better angels and show the American people the best of government, where we come together and put people over politics and meet their needs and solve problems together.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for those remarks, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1880. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the August 2025 cumulative report on rescissions, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685(e)(1); Public Law 93-344, Sec. 1014(e); (88 Stat. 335) (H. Doc. No. 119—91); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

EC-1881. A letter from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard [GN Docket No. 16-142] received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1882. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Cybersecurity and Communication Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Resilient Networks [PS Docket No. 21-346]; Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications [PS Docket No. 15-80]; New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions Communications [ET Docket No. 04-35] received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1883. A letter from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Delete, Delete, Delete [GN Docket No. 25-133] received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1884. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of military action taken on September 2, 2025, in the Caribbean Sea and of the potential for further such actions, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(a)(3); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(a); (87 Stat. 555) (H. Doc. No. 119—92); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-1885. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Traffic in Arms Regulations: U.S. Munitions List Targeted Revisions [Public Notice: 12744] (RIN: 1400-AF42) received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1886. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1887. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1888. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-06; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR-2025-0051, Sequence No. 3] received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1889. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-06; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2025-0051, Sequence No. 3] received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1890. A letter from the Chairwoman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2025 NO FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f); (120 Stat. 3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1891. A letter from the Acting Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a notification of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1892. A letter from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter advising that the Department of Justice has decided not to file a petition for a writ of certiorari in *Reese v. ATF*, No. 23-30033 (5th Cir. Jan. 30, 2025), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1893. A letter from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure 2025-28 received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-1894. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1895. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report to the Congress of the United States On Sanitation Deficiency Levels for Indian Homes and Communities for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 1671; Public Law 94-437, Sec. 701 (as amended by Public Law 102-573, Sec. 801); (106 Stat. 4584); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Submitted September 5, 2025]

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5166. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-236). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted September 8, 2025]

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3423. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-237). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3424. A bill to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-238). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3425. A bill to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-239). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3426. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-240). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3428. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-241). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2591. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-242). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3055. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for prepreparation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees, and for other purposes;

with an amendment (Rept. 119-243, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3446. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to revise the membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-244). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4423. A bill to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, with an amendment (Rept. 119-245). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4429. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-246). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4430. A bill to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer, with an amendment (Rept. 119-247). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4431. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the definition of qualifying venture capital funds, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-248). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4437. A bill to reduce the regulatory burden on certain well managed and well capitalized financial institutions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-249). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4449. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish Offices of Small Business within rule writing divisions of the Securities and Exchange Commission to coordinate on rules and policy priorities related to capital formation (Rept. 119-250). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4460. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain financial agency guidance, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-251). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4478. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to permit Federal banking agencies to examine qualifying insured depository institutions with under \$6 billion in total assets not less than once during each 18-month period, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-252). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4544. A bill to direct certain Federal banking and credit union agencies to promote the formation of de novo regulated institutions through the review of application processes, the review of

capital raising by de novo regulated institutions, and the establishment of various outreach programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-253). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3673. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to increase the exemption from registration threshold for certain investment advisers of private funds to reflect the change in inflation, with an amendment (Rept. 119-254). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3055 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5167. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 5168. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 5169. 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 Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 5170. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve cable franchising authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENTZ (for himself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 5171. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to gray wolves; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 5172. A bill to increase the mandatory minimum sentences applicable to certain crimes in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5173. A bill to require social media companies to use geofencing to block access to their social media platforms on K-12 education campuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 5174. A bill to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. CRANK):

H.R. 5175. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to initiate discussions, through the Quad, with Australia, India, and Japan to identify mutual areas of interest with respect to the formulation of best practices in space, cooperation on space situational awareness, and space industrial policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 5176. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require reporting of certain price increases for covered contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5177. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of certain safety requirements relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. TLAI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 5178. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to enable State Medicaid programs to provide comprehensive, coordinated care through a health home to individuals with sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 5179. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide for the appointment of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 5180. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 to modify and extend the annual report on military and security developments involving the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5181. A bill to amend the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act to make improvements in the program for awarding school choice scholarships to students in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 5182. A bill to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. COMER, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 5183. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to establish a uniform 60-day congressional review period for District of Columbia laws, to clarify the expedited procedures applicable to consideration of resolutions of disapproval of District of Columbia laws, to authority the use of resolutions of disapproval to disapprove provisions of District of Columbia laws and District of Columbia executive orders and regulations, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. HOUSHIN (for herself and Mr. FLOOD):

H.R. 5184. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from enforcing energy efficiency standards applicable to manufactured housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 5185. A bill to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5186. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to support the defense biotechnology supply chain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5187. A bill to establish in the Department of Defense a program to support the expansion of domestic bioindustrial manufacturing capacity; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5188. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish blast safety officer positions in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5189. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require biennial assessments on the nutrition standards of the military departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5190. A bill to expand the contested logistics demonstration and prototyping program to include commercial additive manufacturing facilities in contested logistics environments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5191. A bill to direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to issue guidance for private entities on demonstrating how biobased products meet Department of Defense requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5192. A bill to modify the annual report on the Navy Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 5193. A bill to direct the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a feasibility study on incorporating militarily-relevant applications of emerging biotechnology into wargaming exercises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILEY of California (for himself and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H.R. 5194. A bill to prescribe Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BACON, Mr. CASE, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 5195. A bill to amend section 7014 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to advance toward full Federal funding for impact aid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 5196. A bill to cancel the registration of all uses of the pesticide diquat, and for

other purposes; to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 5197. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit cost sharing for drugs under the Medicare program; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MANNION, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5198. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to maintain standards for qualification as a rural health clinic under the Medicare program; 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. MANN (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CISCOMANI,

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MANNION, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5199. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize physician, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner utilization requirements; 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 Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5200. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5201. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MORRISON (for herself and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 5202. A bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding access to birth centers and exploring more effective payment models for birth center care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MORRISON:

H.R. 5203. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update directives of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the management of acute sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 5204. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 7, title 20, and title 43, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 5205. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize owners or operators of general aviation airports to impose

certain restrictions relating to aircraft noise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CASAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CHU, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. RANDALL, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 5206. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to provide that an individual engaged in a labor dispute may receive unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5207. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the President to make certain extensions of the emergency period during which the President may exercise control over the Metropolitan Police Department; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. GOODLANDER, and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 5208. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to exclude the basic allowance for housing from the calculation of gross household income for purposes of the basic needs allowance for eligible members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WATERS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CHU, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. AMO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5209. A bill to modify the special rules for Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to extend preferential duty treatment program for Haiti under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 5210. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5211. A bill to authorize peace officer standards and training agencies to access criminal history records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 5212. A bill to amend section 9 of the Small Business Act to permit Federal agencies to make awards to small business concerns that have received a Phase II SBIR or STTR award to provide fellowship opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Small Business and Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. JAMES, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina):

H.R. 5213. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prohibit the award of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to States or

units of local government that limit the use of cash bail; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. JAMES, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina):

H.R. 5214. A bill to require mandatory pre-trial and post conviction detention for crimes of violence and dangerous crimes and require mandatory cash bail for certain offenses that pose a threat to public safety or order in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 5215. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5216. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, to issue regulations and guidance to allow certain regional transportation planning organizations to increase spare bus ratios to 30 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. MANN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MANNION, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5217. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove certain limitations on the delivery of behavioral health services at rural health clinics under the Medicare program; 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. BELL (for himself, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CHU, Mr. TRAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 680. A resolution recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem, expressing support for the designation of September 8, 2025, as "988 Day" and the role of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LATTA):

H. Res. 681. A resolution commemorating the service of General Lafayette to the United States on the bicentennial of his farewell tour; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-15. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Washington, relative to Senate Joint Memorial 8008, rescinding, repealing, canceling, void-

ing, nullifying, and superseding any and all prior applications by the Legislature to the Congress of the United States of America to call a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to the terms of Article V of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-16. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Montana, relative to Senate Resolution 14, urging the Congress to include Montanans in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-17. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, relative to House Joint Resolution 17, urging the Congress and the President of the United States to undertake action to unleash American energy by reforming and streamlining permitting obligation and repealing or revising environmental regulations and environmental reviews that do not align with national security interests; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JOYCE:

H.R. 5166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which states, in part that Congress shall have the power to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States . . ." and "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers."

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 5168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 5169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 5170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BENTZ:

H.R. 5171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill will delist the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species Act in the following states of Oregon and Washington.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 5172.

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, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 5174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 to the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 5175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DELUZZO:

H.R. 5176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art 1, Sec 8

By Mr. DUNN of Florida

H.R. 5178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 5179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 5180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 5182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for 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. GOSAR:

H.R. 5183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17, provides Congress with the exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 5184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 5185.

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. 1Sec. 8Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5190.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5191.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5192.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5193.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 5194.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 5195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 5196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 5197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 5198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 5199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 5200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 5201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. MORRISON:

H.R. 5202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consists of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. MORRISON:

H.R. 5203.

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. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 5204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 5206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 5210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 5212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1, Article 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1, Article 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 5215.

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 Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 5217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 39: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 210: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 227: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 280: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 301: Mr. McDOWELL.
H.R. 309: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 336: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 347: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 349: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 404: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 516: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 556: Mr. JACKSON of Texas and Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 590: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 631: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 815: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 842: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FLOOD, and Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 909: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 923: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 924: Ms. SIMON and Ms. ELFRETH.
H.R. 925: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 929: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 951: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 979: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 1046: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. FONG, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, and Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 1055: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1058: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 1144: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1163: Mr. BACON, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 1185: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1186: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1227: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1232: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1266: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 1267: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1275: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1313: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.
H.R. 1410: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. RIVAS, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 1435: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 1464: Ms. SIMON.
H.R. 1509: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1517: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 1592: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1659: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1661: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 1684: Ms. GILLEN.
H.R. 1698: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 1699: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
H.R. 1712: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1810: Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. SIMON.
H.R. 1868: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1877: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 1895: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1993: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 2031: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 2033: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 2048: Mr. COLE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BOST, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 2081: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2168: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2172: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 2189: Mr. BISHOP.
H.R. 2199: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2217: Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 2232: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2233: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2253: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2314: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 2495: Mr. FROST, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2531: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. BALINT, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mrs. MCIVER.
H.R. 2571: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2591: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2595: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 2605: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 2654: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 2665: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2675: Mr. ISSA and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 2766: Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 2812: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 2853: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 2993: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3036: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3045: Mr. COHEN and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 3048: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3067: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3105: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 3112: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 3147: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 3218: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3223: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 3228: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 3261: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 3267: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3270: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3281: Mrs. MCIVER and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3310: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3312: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 3423: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3424: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3447: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 3449: Ms. JACOBS and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 3453: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.
H.R. 3473: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 3495: Mr. MANN, Mr. COLE, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3506: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3514: Mrs. SYKES, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3526: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3552: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 3565: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3592: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 3598: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 3605: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3608: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 3624: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 3682: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3694: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3740: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3743: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3747: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3808: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3810: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3842: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3885: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3904: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3906: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3954: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3988: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BELL.
H.R. 4068: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 4092: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 4106: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 4145: Mr. GOODEN and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 4154: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 4158: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4173: Mr. LATIMER and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4176: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 4182: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4231: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4238: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 4253: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4265: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 4288: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4304: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 4312: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4317: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MANN, and Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4329: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4348: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4398: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4443: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 4472: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 4487: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4492: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4517: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4535: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 4586: Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 4606: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4613: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 4667: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 4708: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
H.R. 4721: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4760: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
H.R. 4763: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 4768: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 4771: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4776: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 4782: Ms. GILLEN and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4796: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ANSARI, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4802: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 4807: Ms. RANDALL and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4821: Ms. ANSARI.
H.R. 4847: Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 4849: Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. AMO, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 4862: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4896: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4922: Mr. FINE and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 4957: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 4961: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 4966: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4967: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4972: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
H.R. 4986: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 4995: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 4998: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 5002: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5010: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 5013: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 5015: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 5016: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 5018: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5021: Ms. KING-HINDS.
H.R. 5026: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5037: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5089: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5100: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. WIED, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. JACK, Mr. DOWNING, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. PATRONIS, and Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 5106: Mr. OGLES, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 5112: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 5113: Mr. BACON and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 5116: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 5140: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 5145: Mr. VAN DREW and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 5150: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
H.R. 5151: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 5156: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5164: Mr. CASE.
H.J. Res. 12: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.J. Res. 54: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.J. Res. 115: Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.J. Res. 116: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. BACON.
H.J. Res. 118: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRANK, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. GILL of Texas.
H. Res. 120: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H. Res. 473: Mr. SORENSSEN.
H. Res. 525: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H. Res. 578: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 583: Mr. FRY.



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No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, God, You are holy, and we daily experience the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. Lord, we are thankful that those who continue to seek You will eventually find You.

Help us to make You our choice and our source of hope as our lawmakers seek to serve You by making choices that honor You. Purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and will act consistent with their speech. Lord, keep them aware of how their thoughts, words, and deeds affect the good fortune of those in need. Sustain the hurting people in our Nation and world, carving tunnels of hope from mountains of despair.

We pray in Your invincible Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BUDD thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President:

For decades, Democrats and Republicans have regularly cooperated to swiftly confirm the many, many individuals selected by each President to serve in their administration.

Regardless of the party in the White House, both sides have long agreed that a President deserves to have his or her administration in place, quickly. That doesn't mean we don't disagree. But it does mean, when nominees are held up, opposed, or blocked—it's for a legitimate purpose, not

for leverage in partisan games, to score political points at the expense of public safety.

Let me just repeat that.

That doesn't mean we don't disagree. But it does mean, when nominees are held up, opposed, or blocked—it's for a legitimate purpose, not for leverage in partisan games, to score political points at the expense of public safety.

Now, none of those words are original to me. So far, I have simply been quoting the Democrat leader from back in 2022. But his words perfectly summarized the longstanding tradition of the Senate—a tradition that Democrats have destroyed this year.

As the Democrat leader correctly stated, "For decades, Democrats and Republicans have regularly cooperated to swiftly confirm the many, many individuals selected by each President to serve in their administration."

Now, on a practical level, that has looked like expediting individual nominees and blocks of nominees by using unanimous consent or voice vote, which is a way, as the Acting President pro tempore knows here in the Senate, of moving things along more quickly.

During President George H. W. Bush's 4 years in office and President Clinton's first 4 years, both Presidents had 98 percent of their civilian nominees—get this: 98 percent—confirmed through unanimous consent or voice vote. George W. Bush—President Bush—and President Obama both had 90 percent of their nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote in their first terms.

Then we get to President Trump's first administration. Democrats, upset at the President's election, introduced an unprecedented new level of partisanship into the historically bipartisan confirmation process, forcing time-consuming votes on civilian nominees who would once have gone by unanimous consent or by voice vote.

But even so, despite this new level of partisanship introduced by Democrats, both President Trump in his first term and President Biden had more than

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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half of their nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Well, fast-forward to today. President Trump has been in office for 8 months, and he has not had one single civilian nominee confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—not one. Democrats have dragged out the process of every single nominee, even on nominees they ended up voting for by large margins. It is Trump derangement syndrome on steroids. That is right—Trump derangement syndrome on steroids.

If this were a matter of historically bad nominees, as the Democrat leader tried to claim, the Democrats wouldn't be voting for a number of these nominees in committee or supporting them on final passage. No, this isn't about the quality of the candidates or any other substantive issue; this is simply the world's longest, most drawn-out temper tantrum over losing an election. Democrats can't stand the fact that President Trump was elected, and so they have destroyed decades upon decades of Senate precedent and turned a historically bipartisan process into an exercise in petty partisanship—an exercise in petty partisanship that is doing a profound disservice to the American people because, of course, Democrats' actions have consequences.

First and foremost, those consequences are delays in filling essential positions throughout the administration—in our government, the people's government. Empty desks do not help the government function, and unnecessary delays rob a duly elected President of the team he needs to carry out his responsibilities.

Dragging out confirmations also ties up the Senate floor. As the senior Senator from Minnesota said last year in what I would say were much less dire confirmation circumstances, “As the Senate spends more of its time working on nominations, this leaves less time for legislating on issues that are important to the American people.” Well, thanks to Democrats' historic obstruction, that is even more true today. We are, in fact, as the senior Democrat from Minnesota said, at risk of becoming a “full-time employment agency.”

This situation has become unsustainable. To clear the current backlog of nominees on the calendar and in committee, we would need to take another 600 votes before the end of the year. Now, let me just repeat that to put it into context. To clear the current backlog of nominees on the calendar and in committee, we would need to take another 600 votes. To put that number in perspective, that is more votes than this recordbreaking Senate has taken all year up until now. Again, that is just for nominations that have already been sent to Congress, not those that are going to be forwarded and that we are going to have to process additionally, on top of the 600 votes, between now and the end of the year. There literally are hundreds more nominations to come from the administration.

So if Democrats' obstruction continues, as Democrats have made abundantly clear that it will, there is no practical way that we can come close to filling all the vacancies in the 4 years of this administration no matter how many hours the Senate works.

So we have a crisis, and it is time to take steps to restore Senate precedent and codify in Senate rules what once was understood to be standard practice, and that is the Senate's acting expeditiously on Presidential nominations to allow a President to get his team into place. So this afternoon, I will be taking the necessary procedural steps to amend the rules. It is an idea, as I said earlier, with a Democrat pedigree. The senior Democrat Senator from Minnesota, along with her colleague in the Democratic caucus, the junior Senator from Maine, made a similar proposal in 2023, which would have codified in Senate rules the long-time Senate precedent of en bloc nominations, of moving nominations in groups.

Our measure is not as extensive as that of my Democrat colleagues. It only applies to nominees at the sub-Cabinet level and not to article III judicial nominees, as theirs did. But the proposals share the same objective, and that is providing for confirming groups of nominees altogether so the President can have his team in place and so the Senate can focus on the important legislative work in its charge or, to quote the senior Democrat from Minnesota on her very similar proposal, “This commonsense reform will help improve efficiency and make sure we're able to fill positions that are vital to our national security, economic success, and more.”

Eight months of petty partisanship is long enough. This Senate has cast more votes up to this point than any Senate going back to the 1980s. We have been in more hours than any Senate going back a couple of decades.

This historic obstruction ends now. Democrats have destroyed Senate precedent, and we are going to fix it—fix it and ensure that in the future, duly elected Presidents of both parties are able to get their teams in place without unnecessary delay so that they can fulfill their responsibilities to the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Friday, we learned the U.S. economy added only 22,000 jobs for the month of

August, a paltry number, an abysmal number, worse than even the already low expectations. Donald Trump has steered our economy straight into an iceberg, and the “SS Trump” is sinking before our eyes.

And I warned my Republican colleagues: The longer you remain aboard, the greater the danger you face of sinking with the ship—because if one thing is certain, it is that the American people don't want to be paying more for things as simple as coffee and beef, fruits, vegetables. They don't want to see their electric bills go up. They don't want to see their rent go up. And they don't want to see it harder to find a job. But that is exactly—exactly—what is happening right now. Senate Republicans remain on board this ship, the “SS Trump,” at their own peril. It is sinking.

And Republicans know perfectly well what Donald Trump is doing is without precedent. Oh, their favorite comeback is: Well, that is what the American people voted for. They shrug their shoulders; they can't do anything about it.

Well, that is nonsense. This summer, big American companies—Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Ace Hardware, and so many others—have said they are raising prices or that costs will go up because of the tariffs. Americans didn't vote for that. Oh, no. Americans are about to see their health insurance go up by the highest amount in 15 years. Do you think they voted for that? No. They didn't vote for more Americans to get sick, although that is what the Trump healthcare plan will do. They didn't vote for more Americans to die, and that will happen as a result of this Big Beautiful Bill.

Americans sure didn't vote for any of that. Americans want us to pass legislation that lowers healthcare costs, expands people's coverage. They do not want us to vote to boot millions off their health insurance. They do not want the closing of hospitals, particularly in rural areas where the hospitals don't have much cushion. They don't want the laying off of doctors and nurses and healthcare workers so they get less good coverage and it takes much longer to get it. Americans didn't vote for that, but that is what happened.

And here is what the data shows: Americans are fed up with Trump. NBC News Decision Desk Poll, September 7: 57 percent disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance, 43 percent approve; 60 percent believe America, under his leadership, is on the wrong track; 61 percent disapprove of the way he is handling inflation. CBS News, September 3 to 5: 56 percent disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance; 62 percent oppose new U.S. tariffs on imported goods.

So it is no wonder that Democrats are winning in State special elections, even in districts that Trump previously won by as many as 10 points, from one end of the country to the other. These

local elections show Americans reject Donald Trump just several months after he got into office.

To put this all together, the story is clear: Donald Trump is sabotaging our economy; he is sending healthcare costs through the roof; Americans are sick of his failures, which brings us to the work of Congress this month. It is less than 20 calendar days until government funding runs out, and a shutdown will happen if nothing is done.

How Congress proceeds is up to our Republican colleagues. They are in charge. They run the House. They run the Senate. They have the Presidency. Well, if our Republican colleagues know what is good for the country and good for them, they will realize that they should no longer remain aboard this sinking ship that Trump is commanding. The greater danger that they will face is sinking with their ship if nothing changes.

What Republicans should do, then, is commit to working on bipartisan legislation to undo some of the terrible things Donald Trump has done during his time in office. Working on bipartisan legislation that has real input from Democrats—that is the way to avoid a shutdown.

Of course, there is another path, a far uglier path. Republicans can continue to go at it alone. They can continue to bow down to Donald Trump. They can continue to surrender Congress's constitutional powers over to the Executive and enable Donald Trump and his evil minion Russell Vought as they illegally cancel and steal congressionally approved funding.

So if Republicans choose the path of "do what we say or go to hell," then they will be the ones paving the bitter road that leads toward a government shutdown. And we Democrats will not accept that. We will not enable Republicans' carnage of this country. We won't bail Republicans out as the cost of healthcare, groceries, school supplies, rent, electricity, and automobiles all go up and up. We still have some time to avoid that dismal outcome.

We Democrats don't want to see a government shutdown, but avoiding one means Republicans have to show they are serious about having real, substantive, serious negotiation. This week, we need to see signs from Republicans that they are serious about avoiding a shutdown, or time will run out. And the American people will know Republicans will be responsible if a shutdown happens.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judicial nominations, this one is hard to believe. It is hard to believe that the nominees for the Federal bench have gone so low, but under Donald Trump's leadership—his lack of morality, his total egotism, his total self-servingness—they have. Listen to this one, this nominee Mr. Artau. And this is why the Democrats are demanding historical levels of scrutiny, because that scrutiny reveals all

of the corruption going on behind the scenes, just like what we learned about Mr. Artau, today's nominee. It is one of the most blatant cases of quid pro quo I have ever seen.

While Artau was begging Donald Trump and Republican Senators for a judgeship—he was begging them to make him a judge—he was, at the same time, part of a panel of judges in Florida hearing Donald Trump's defamation case against the Pulitzer Prize Board.

This guy sues everybody. That has been his MO for decades. He tries to scare people with idiotic lawsuits that have no basis in law. Well, in this case, he was suing the Pulitzer Prize Board in a case of defamation. Well, Artau was on the panel of judges to hear the case.

What would a normal person—you don't need a high degree of honesty, you don't need to be an Eagle Scout to know that this is a direct conflict of interest, and any judge with an ounce of integrity would recuse himself.

But, of course, Artau stayed on the case, didn't even tell anyone about the conflict of interest, and surprise, surprise, surprise, Artau ruled in favor of Trump.

These are the kind of sleazy people Donald Trump wants on the bench. He has no principles. He has no regard for the rule of law. He picks people with blind obedience to him that will bow down to the King. That is not what judges are supposed to do. That is not what nominees to Departments are supposed to do.

He didn't care if the people he picks are corrupt. He doesn't care if they are biased. He doesn't care if they lack any principles, sense of integrity, fidelity to rule of law. One quality only: Are they pro-Trump? Will they do whatever he wants?

That is good enough for a gavel and a robe in this Trump world, and it is good enough for our Republican colleagues who just go along with all of this, knowing how wrong it is and shrugging their shoulders out of fear, obedience, or some other untoward emotion.

The Senate should reject Mr. Artau today.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. President, I would also like to say a few words today about the step Leader THUNE is expected to take later this evening to begin changing Senate precedent and to go nuclear yet again on nominations.

At the end of the last work period, Democrats were working in good faith with Republicans on a nomination package to move through this Chamber. Senator THUNE was very involved. He seemed very willing to come up with an agreement. Then, at the last minute, of course, Donald Trump said, literally, to me, "Go to hell," and the talks fell apart.

Was there any integrity? Was there any backbone? Was there any strength to say to Trump, we have an agreement, take a walk? No way.

So now, rather than giving those talks another chance, Republicans would rather change how the Senate operates to weaken this Chamber's traditional and powerful sense of deliberation. And if Republicans go nuclear, the historically bad nominees we have seen so far under Donald Trump will get only worse.

Let me say that again because this is the crux of the matter. We all know the horrible nominees he puts up. As I said before with Mr. Artau, no sense of integrity, no sense of rule of law, just bow down to Trump.

Well, the kind of people confirmed by this Chamber this year have been unprecedentedly bad, beyond the pale, scandal after scandal, exposé after exposé. Many of them are far worse than any group of nominees we have seen before.

Trump has made a mockery of the nominations process. He lacks any sense of principle. He doesn't care if the people he picks are unqualified, if they are liars, if they are corrupt.

Sometimes it is almost as if the more corrupt the better because then Donald Trump will totally control what they do. It is as if he wants the Senate to confirm people willing to lie for him, to even cheat for him. He wants people who are willing to stand up for him without question. Loyalty is the only quality he sees and to hell with the rest.

If you don't debate nominees, if you don't vote on individual nominees, if there is not some degree of sunlight, what will stop Donald Trump from nominating even worse individuals than we have seen to date, knowing this Chamber will rubberstamp anything he wishes?

I say to my Republican colleagues: Think carefully before taking this step. If you go nuclear, it is going to be a decision you will come to regret.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Democratic whip.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this past Saturday, the President of the United States of America posted a shocking, grotesque message on social media. Accompanied by an AI-generated image of military helicopters flying over a burning Chicago skyline with explosions in the background, the President of the United States posted that he "loves the smell of deportations in the morning."

And he went on to say that Chicago is "about to find out why it is called the Department of War."

Let me remind you that this outrageous vision of an American city that I love under attack from Trump's Department of War comes from a man who aspires to be awarded the Noble Peace Prize.

President Trump attempted to walk back his comments yesterday. But let's be clear, the President of the United States essentially declared war on an American city, a city I am honored to

represent. He may think it is a joke. To me, it is no joke. It is an unprecedented and dangerous threat by a President against the American people.

What is the limit to his power, and where is the line to be drawn if a President is able to go to war against a city he also represents? I cannot imagine. But even if we put this aside for a moment, let's consider the justifications President Trump is using for his threat of a beefed-up immigration raid and deployment of the National Guard in the city of Chicago.

He claims these extraordinary steps are aimed at reducing crime and getting violent criminals off the streets.

Mr. President, you want to reduce crime in Chicago and across this country? Count me in. Let me give you a few ideas of things you can do as President of the United States which can make a serious difference.

No 1., when we take a look at the guns used in crime in the city of Chicago, guess what we find. A large percentage of them come from the neighboring State of Indiana, with lax laws when it comes to background checks on purchases of firearms.

If we get a little tougher and we have actual background checks, we are going to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

That is something you can do, Mr. President. You can show some leadership.

When it comes to fentanyl and narcotics, guess what we find. Seventy percent of the crime guns in Mexico are coming in there from the United States. Our gun dealers are selling guns to the cartels in Mexico, which are using them to gun down police and military in Mexico. What an outrage.

Why don't we do something about that, Mr. President? It might actually reduce crime.

Count me in on reducing crime, but deporting people who are innocent who have no criminal background whatsoever is not the answer.

We can all agree we should be working together to reduce violent crime, but in this case, we know it is just a front when it comes to the Trump administration.

I have learned in the years that I have been involved in politics that when it comes to issues, there is always a good reason and a real reason. So what is the real reason that Donald Trump wants to send National Guardsmen into the city of Chicago?

He is targeting Chicago for political theater. He finds objections to crime in communities that are governed by Democrats but not Republicans. He is attacking Democratic officials so he can distract from the failures of his own policies and scandals plaguing his own administration. He wants his pleas to forget the so-called Big Beautiful Bill—remember that one, Trump's budget bill? It is going to take healthcare protection away from 17 million Americans, and it is going to make it difficult for rural hospitals in my State of Illinois to survive.

Why would any President want to take health insurance protection away from 17 million individuals? Why would they want to jeopardize the hospitals that are so critical for survival in rural America? Well, the reason is obvious.

The President has decided that he wants to take the revenue from cutting back on healthcare and provide for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. Instead of listening to the communities and the families whom I represent, he is listening to the fat cats and providing tax breaks for billionaires.

What do you think it means in tax breaks for average people? Let's assume you are on the low end of income earning, \$35,000 a year. How much is the Trump tax break for you? It turns out to be \$3 a week—\$3 a week.

What if you happen to be Elon Musk, a billionaire with unestablished limits of money that he has raised? We don't know how much it is worth. But how much is the tax break going to be worth, the Trump tax break, for Elon Musk? It is going to be worth \$30,000 a week; \$3 for the families struggling, \$30,000 for Elon Musk.

For what? I don't know why.

When it comes to the subject of these raids, National Guard and other units of government, there has been a lot of speculation about what the President is actually going to do in his so-called Operation Midway Blitz.

So here on the Senate floor, let me set the record straight as to what I know, where it stands.

Earlier today, the administration announced what they are calling Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago to crack down on undocumented immigrants with criminal records. However, if their DC experience is any indication, we know most of the people that they will arrest have no criminal background. They are not rapists, terrorists, murderers, or criminally insane.

So this weekend I traveled to the Naval Station Great Lakes with Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH and Representative BRAD SCHNEIDER. There were reports that DHS intends to use the Navy base to assist in these raids. There were concerns that the Federal Government would operate a sort of deportation "command center" out of the base.

At a productive meeting with leadership on the base, we were ensured the base would not be used as a detention center for detainees.

Here is what happened as part of that Federal assistance request. The base will provide parking, office space, and the ability to store certain nonlethal munitions for the DHS through October 5. Most importantly, the servicemembers at Naval Station Great Lakes will not be aiding in these raids.

Naval Station Great Lakes is known to every Navy family. Every recruit to the Navy goes through training at the Great Lakes. Each Thursday, there is a celebration of the completion of their 9 weeks of training, and families come from all over the United States to cele-

brate their son or daughter who is becoming part of the greatest Navy in the world. That is what they do and do so well and have for decades.

Most importantly, the servicemembers of Naval Station Great Lakes will not see recruitment and training of these young sailors suffer any blow because of the Trump-crazed idea of invading the city of Chicago.

I have been honored to represent Great Lakes as the Senator from the State of Illinois and to provide it with the support and resources needed to train the recruits who walk through those doors.

My concern is to make sure that no exercise of political theater by the current President was an obstacle to the mission at this base. That appears to be the case, but I am going to continue to closely monitor the situation.

However, as part of our visit to the base, we asked to meet with the Department of Homeland Security, which is going to rent an office building for 30 days. We wanted to get firsthand from them what was going to happen in that operation; the expenditure of Federal funds for its purposes, which we were going to ask them to explain.

Do you know what the response was of the Trump Department of Homeland Security when we went to the actual naval base, to the office building which they have rented and are supposedly using as part of this invasion of Chicago? They closed the building. They locked it so we couldn't go inside and announced they were taking administrative leave and would be unavailable to even discuss with us what they are going to do.

Why are they running and hiding if they are proud of the President's policy? If they actually believe that they are there to fight crime? I think they know better. They know the politics of this situation. They locked the doors, and they refused to make anyone available to two Senators and a Congressman representing that area. They fled so we cannot conduct oversight of their secretive effort, which certainly begs the question: What are they trying to hide?

We now have a better understanding of exactly what they want to do. It is all politics.

In addition to our visit to Naval Station Great Lakes, I have been seeking answers to the potential military deployment because the people of Chicago and I do have a right to know. That is why I use all the tools at my disposal to get to the bottom of this despite roadblocks by the administration.

Last week, I sent a letter to Attorney General Bondi, Secretaries Noem and Hegseth, and FBI Director Patel requesting immediate information regarding the increased law enforcement and potential military presence in Chicago. I sent a letter to my colleague and friend on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman GRASSLEY, requesting an immediate hearing on

President Trump's threats to deploy the military to Chicago and other American cities.

If this President and this administration want to join in fighting crime on a cooperative, bipartisan basis, count me in, but political theater, visions of Chicago being blown up by a Department of War—I want no part of it.

As this situation unfolds, my office remains in constant contact and coordination with State and local officials, community leaders, and my colleagues in Congress. I will continue to provide updates to Illinois as we learn more.

These are scary times. The President is using fear to deflect and drive a wedge among us. Unfortunately, he seems to be succeeding to some extent, but the people of Chicago won't take kindly to a bully and a wannabe dictator.

On Saturday evening, thousands of marchers peacefully passed by Trump Tower and filled the streets of Chicago to make their voices heard. They were clear in their call: Mr. President, do not send the military here for political purposes.

I was happy to join in the parade in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago to celebrate Mexican Independence Day.

These are good people, good families, hard-working, churchgoing, doing their best in a tough economy to survive. They are not a threat to anyone's safety, and they are certainly not the cause of crime in Chicago.

At that celebration, there was an attendee by the name of Liliana. She felt it was important to come out on behalf of many who were scared to leave their homes. Standing out on the sidewalk, she said:

We're here. We're not going away. No matter what generation, no matter what threat, no matter what President is in office—we're not going away.

Thank you, Liliana.

She is right. In the face of threats and intimidation, our immigrant community in Chicago as a whole will stand firm and stand tall.

Let us join together as a nation to fight crime and to fight the gun epidemic that is part of violent crime, but arresting and deporting innocent families is not the way to fight crime.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for the second time in a week, I come to the floor to implore my Democratic colleagues to stop partisan obstruction of public safety officials. We have 10 highly qualified nominees on the Senate floor right now waiting for confirmation. Several have blue slips from Democratic Senators. All were reported to the floor by voice vote. There is no reason that we shouldn't get them to work for the American people today.

As I explained just a few days ago, communities around our country are in

desperate need of U.S. attorneys to protect the public and uphold the rule of law. Eighty-one percent of Americans think that crime in large cities is a major problem. If we can agree to put partisanship aside, this body can take a tangible step to address this today by confirming 10 qualified law enforcement officers to their posts.

I am disappointed that my Democratic colleagues have chosen to place partisan obstruction over public safety. I am here again today to give my colleagues a chance to do the right thing.

This blanket obstruction of all nominees is a misguided attempt to score political points. I know that several of my Democratic colleagues agree with me because just a few months ago, some of them stood on the Senate floor and made the same argument that I am making today.

In one speech last Congress, the Democratic whip and chairman of the Judiciary Committee said:

Don't stand up and say you're for law and order, you're for law enforcement, and then turn around and stop the appointment of U.S. attorneys.

In another speech, the same Senator said:

Our communities desperately need top federal prosecutors in place. Interested in stoppingentanyl? I am. Thousands of people are dying. Who's going to prosecute these cases? The U.S. Attorneys—93 of them across the United States. But you can't prosecute the case if you don't have the U.S. Attorney there to lead the effort, coordinate the effort with other branches of government.

My Democratic colleagues continue to claim that their obstruction is justified because two Republican Senators placed holds on some U.S. attorneys in the last administration.

This compares apples with oranges. One of the Senators relented on his hold and allowed U.S. attorneys to be confirmed by voice vote. The other Senator ultimately blocked five U.S. attorneys. A handful of U.S. attorneys being held last Congress, which I opposed, isn't comparable to the blanket hold on all 93 U.S. attorneys that we are facing today. The strategy this Congress is orchestrated by Senate Democratic leadership and is part of a broader, Senate-wide assault on the functioning of the executive branch.

At the end of the day, we can just look at the numbers. During the Biden administration, nearly 94 percent of his U.S. attorney nominees were confirmed by voice vote. So far in the second Trump administration, zero percent of his U.S. attorney nominees have been confirmed by voice vote.

For months, I have repeatedly tried to engage my Democratic colleagues to end their obstruction. I have warned that their tactics ultimately hurt the American people and will lead to lasting damage to the Senate as an institution. I have even offered a compromise where we hold five rollcall votes to compensate for the five nominees returned to the President at the end of March. To my great disappointment, my colleagues haven't relented from

their strategy, and I hope they will relent today with my unanimous consent requests.

I mentioned last week that one of the U.S. attorneys being held up is Daniel Rosen, nominated for the District of Minnesota. Mr. Rosen was reported out of committee by voice vote. He is supported by his home State Senators KLOBUCHAR and SMITH, both Democrats. He is a qualified nominee. He should be responding to the horrific mass shooting of children at the Annunciation Catholic Church but instead is languishing here on the Senate floor as a pawn of partisan obstruction.

This needs to end, and it needs to end today. So I now will ask unanimous consent to confirm 10 U.S. attorneys who have been reported out of committee. I hope that my Democratic colleagues will allow these nominees to get to work. Debate and disagreement about policy is to be expected but should never be at the expense of public safety.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of the following nominations en bloc: No. 176, David Charles Waterman, Iowa; No. 183, Ronald A. Parsons, South Dakota; No. 257, David Metcalf, Pennsylvania; No. 258, Bart McKay Davis, Idaho; No. 316, Kurt Alme of Montana; No. 317, Nicholas Chase, North Dakota; No. 318, Lesley Murphy, Nebraska; No. 319, Daniel Rosen, Minnesota; No. 320, Erik Siebert, Virginia; and No. 321, Kurt Wall, Louisiana; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The minority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object, first, let the public know what they are talking about as obstruction: 2 hours of debate and a vote on some of the worst nominees we have ever seen. They want to pile them all together. Some of these nominees are—the people who know them in their States are appalled that they would be nominated.

Trump has chosen his U.S. attorneys for one reason only: blind obedience to him. That is it. No rule of law. No independence.

So of course our friends are afraid of 2 hours of debate and a vote because so many of these nominees are so bad. Historical bad nominees deserve a historical response.

So we wanted to come to an agreement with our colleagues to let some of the better ones through, but we couldn't—not because of our Senate colleagues. Senator GRASSLEY was involved, and Senator THUNE was involved. We were close to an agreement, and what happened? Donald Trump, who wants these horrible nominees—so many of them—said:

Go to hell.

That is what he said. So instead of our Republican colleagues telling Donald Trump “No, we can work out an agreement that is fair,” they said “OK.” They pedaled back.

Now what is their alternative? They are ready to detonate Senate precedent altogether and go nuclear on all the nominees. So much for oversight. And before they even do that, now they want to rubberstamp another round of nominees—no scrutiny, no debate.

Two hours of debate and a vote for someone as powerful as a U.S. attorney. Most Americans would agree that is the least we could do—the least we could do. So no scrutiny, no debate, and no consent from us.

I want to be very clear. If my colleague from Iowa, who is a good man, wants to resume our negotiations, which we were ready to do—and he knows it. He was part of it. If he is willing to back off threats to go nuclear, we will be open to having a conversation about a nominees package, including the ones on his list. We will be open to negotiations, just as we were at the end of July when we were in that room right across the hall from here and ready to have an agreement, when all of a sudden, Donald Trump says “Go to hell” and the Republican leadership says “OK. We won’t do it because he doesn’t like it” even though he has historically bad, reprehensible nominees.

So if Republicans are dead set on going nuclear, we will not grant consent today.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Well, obviously, I am disappointed that my request has been objected to. I had hoped today we could set a new direction and put the interests of the American people over partisanship.

I want to offer to the Democratic leader an offer he shouldn’t object to because it has both Republican and Democrat support. If we can’t agree to allow 10 U.S. attorneys who have been reported out of committee to be confirmed today, I am going to make a more modest request.

David Waterman is my pick to be U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa—highly qualified. He was reported out of committee by voice vote, no recorded objections. My State needs him to get to work.

I initially recommended him to President Biden during the last administration, and he was nominated and reported out of committee last Congress.

My Democratic colleagues have tried to justify their obstruction by pointing to the hold by then-Senator VANCE last Congress. Well, Mr. Waterman was one of the five U.S. attorneys returned to the President from that hold.

So are we going to confirm a nominee who has been submitted to the Senate by two different Presidents and re-

ported out of committee twice—seems to me like something the Democrats should not object to—or are my Democratic colleague going to continue the objection?

Now, here is another one. They have confidence, surely, in their two Democratic Senators from Minnesota. I have already spoken about Daniel Rosen. Like Mr. Waterman, Mr. Rosen is well qualified to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota. He, too, was reported out of committee by voice vote, and he is supported by both home State Senators KLOBUCHAR and SMITH. So I encourage my Democratic colleagues to send a clear signal to the people of Minnesota that they think they ought to have a law enforcement person at their side.

The District of Minnesota needs its top Federal prosecutor in place to preserve law and order, so we need to confirm Mr. Rosen. So I am now going to ask unanimous consent to confirm Mr. Waterman as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa and Mr. Rosen to be U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc: No. 176, David Charles Waterman, Iowa, and No. 319, David Rosen, Minnesota; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object, I would with respect remind my colleague that all three of these people were on our list that we were negotiating and could have been passed with our agreement.

Donald Trump said:

Go to hell.

You and the Republican leader backed off. So you could have it done with an agreement, a bipartisan agreement—not a partisan agreement where the Republicans just choose whoever they want, no matter.

So the bottom line, once again, is simple: You want to get these things done? Negotiate an agreement in a bipartisan way. Don’t bow down to Donald Trump, who, as I said, has nominated for U.S. attorney in many other places some of the worst nominees, the most conflicted nominees, the least qualified nominees we have ever seen.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. GRASSLEY. You can see the weakness of that objection because here is somebody that has been nominated by President Biden and President Trump, and you have two Democratic Senators supporting him. At least in those 2 instances, out of 93 that are potentially on hold, they could go do their jobs.

I want to make one final request before I yield the floor. The Senate Judiciary Committee—in that committee, it is common practice to report certain nominees by voice vote. We have been doing it for decades—particularly for noncontroversial U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshal nominees. Under my chairmanship, we only conduct voice votes with explicit consent of the ranking member, and we don’t do them if there are any objections to so doing.

Recently, I have heard concern that nominees reported out of committee by voice vote may be challenged or face additional obstruction on the floor to further derail the functioning of the executive branch. I sincerely hope this isn’t the case.

Voice votes are a longstanding practice of our committee and involve complete cooperation between the majority and minority parties on the committee.

On the Senate Judiciary Committee, despite our differences, the ranking member and I have a good working relationship. When we reach a bipartisan agreement about how to manage our committee consistent with our norms, I hope that every Member of this body will respect this agreement.

So this is my unanimous consent request: I ask unanimous consent that no point of order lie with respect to the following U.S. attorney nominees reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by voice vote pursuant to explicit agreement between the offices of the chairman and ranking member, whether those nominations are offered individually or pursuant to a resolution: David Charles Waterman, Ronald A. Parsons, David Metcalf, Bart McKay Davis, Kurt Alme, Nicholas Chase, Lesley Murphy, Daniel Rosen, Erik Siebert, and Kurt Wall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object, once again, negotiate in a fair, bipartisan way with us, and many of these things could be resolved. Do it in a partisan way. Bow down to Donald Trump—no way.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, we are living in a time of growing global unrest. China is accelerating its military buildup in the Indo-Pacific. While I remain hopeful that President Trump can help broker peace between Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy, Russia’s brutal war against Ukraine grinds on. That is why it is more important than ever that we invest in our servicemembers, protect defense spectrum, drive innovation, and strengthen our missile defense systems.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am proud to report that this year’s National Defense

Authorization Act meets this moment. It includes key provisions I secured to modernize our nuclear deterrent and strengthen our national defense.

As chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I fought to upgrade the National Nuclear Security Administration's infrastructure. The bill establishes an annual independent assessment of NNSA's progress toward modernization goals, ensuring our nuclear deterrent remains both effective and up to date.

It requires the deployment of at least 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles across no fewer than 450 launch facilities, maintaining a force structure capable of deterring any nuclear-capable adversary.

It authorizes more than \$4 billion for the Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program, and it requires that it be fielded no later than September 30, 2033.

It accelerates the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile program. And it expands experimentation and prototyping authority to all combatant commands, including U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in my home State of Nebraska.

This is exactly the kind of strategic deterrence that makes our adversaries think twice and say: Not today.

This year's NDAA also safeguards critical defense spectrum. Some in Washington have suggested that the Pentagon is sitting on spectrum bands that could be better used for commercial wireless. That portrayal is both inaccurate, and it is dangerous. The reality is these frequencies are not idle. They are the backbone of America's missile defense and intelligence systems. And we should not be allowing Federal Agencies to sell critical communication channels needed to carry out the Trump administration's priorities, including the Golden Dome missile defense shield. That is why this year's defense bill prohibits any modifications to defense systems in these spectrums bands unless top Pentagon leaders themselves deem it absolutely necessary.

Earlier this summer, I led the effort to secure—for the first time in law—a carve-out that prevents the Federal Communications Commission from auctioning or reallocating these bands for the next decade. The NDAA provision is consistent with these protections, ensuring that we strike the right balance: unleashing America's wireless innovation, while never compromising our national security.

We are also preparing for the threats that we cannot yet see. I secured provisions to assess the readiness of the National Disaster Medical System, to modernize our roadmaps for cloud migration and artificial intelligence, and to ensure that our intelligence community has the meteorological and environmental services that it needs.

But all of these priorities mean little without investing in the brave men and women who carry them out. That is

why I fought to authorize \$19 million above the President's budget request to help recover and identify the remains of our fallen servicemembers from past wars and conflicts. The U.S. military leaves no one behind.

And through this bill, we are directing the Pentagon to explore whether local communities can play a more active role in helping develop the Department's healthcare facilities, similar to my CHIP IN for Veterans Act. This is the very least we can do for the troops and the families who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we hold dear.

Beyond the details, we must keep sight of the bigger picture. Our adversaries—nations that hate America—well, they are sharing weapons and resources and a common goal. They want to weaken American power and dismantle our influence across the globe.

The character of war has evolved rapidly. Breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, hypersonic weapons, next-generation aircraft, and space-based capabilities, they are all reshaping the battlefield. At the same time, we live in a political environment that is too often partisan and divided.

Yet on this issue, I believe most of my colleagues agree that we must confront these threats head-on, and that means rebuilding the arsenal of democracy.

To do so, we need serious reform at the Pentagon. This year's NDAA delivers: modernizing the budget process, cutting redtape, improving efficiency, and unleashing innovation. This is not partisan. This is not political. This is necessity.

Our servicemembers must have the resources they need to carry out their missions and return home to their loved ones. This bill strengthens our military, and it sends a very clear message: America is prepared to meet the moment.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it without delay.

NOMINATION OF EDWARD L. ARTAU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Edward L. Artau to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

I will vote in opposition to Judge Artau's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. There are several reasons why I cannot support his nomination. Based on Judge Artau's record, I do not believe that he will be a neutral arbiter on the Federal bench. In a case involving President Trump's lawsuit against the individual members of the Pulitzer Prize Board for defamation and conspiracy, Judge Artau went beyond ruling on the jurisdictional question at issue. In Judge Artau's concurring opinion, he took it upon himself to zealously make the President's case, opening and closing his opinion echoing the President's own words, "FAKE NEWS."

The partisan tone of Judge Artau's writing and his zealous advocacy of

President Trump's case from the bench leaves the public with no question about his political preferences and raises concerns about his ability to be a neutral arbiter of the law. At a time when this administration's actions are being challenged in courtrooms across the country, it is critical to confirm judges who can assess the merits of each case without favor to any litigant. Judge Artau's concurring opinion makes clear that he would not be able to do this.

I am also troubled by the timing of his nomination and this highly partisan opinion. Judge Artau had been in contact with Senator SCOTT's office about his interest in filling a judicial vacancy in November 2024, a month before he was assigned to this case.

Despite actively seeking President Trump's nomination, Judge Artau claimed that he did not need to recuse himself or inform the parties in the litigation.

Two days after Judge Artau proved his allegiance to President Trump with his opinion, Judge Artau was advised his name would be recommended to the White House. Eight days after the opinion was issued, Judge Artau was contacted by the White House for an interview.

It is hard to believe that the hyperpartisan tone of Judge Artau's opinion and the timing of his nomination is just a coincidence.

I cannot support Judge Artau's nomination and urge my colleagues to reject this overt attempt to install another MAGA loyalist to the bench.

VOTE ON ARTAU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Artau nomination?

Mr. CURTIS. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 504 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Cassidy	Curtis
Barrasso	Collins	Daines
Blackburn	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Britt	Cramer	Graham
Budd	Crapo	Grassley
Capito	Cruz	Hagerty

Hawley	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hoeven	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kennedy	Paul	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Wicker
Lee	Rounds	Young
Lummis	Schmitt	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Coons	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Smith
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallago	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—7

Blunt Rochester	Ossoff	Wyden
McCormick	Risch	
Murkowski	Van Hollen	

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 action.

The majority leader.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. RES. 377

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for the consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 377) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 calendar day.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II ITALIAN CAMPAIGN REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this evening, I want to recognize the upcoming anniversary of an important day in our Nation's history and in our military history. September 9 marks the beginning of the Italian campaign

of World War II in 1943, a campaign that was only successful because of the courage and sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of U.S. and Allied soldiers.

I am introducing a resolution to establish September 9 as the National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day to commemorate their valor and ensure their legacy endures for generations to come.

Eighty-two years ago, Allied forces launched Operation Avalanche, marking the start of the liberation of the Italian Peninsula from fascist Nazi occupation. This military campaign was a testament to the unyielding resolve of U.S. forces and the strength of our foreign military alliances, united by a shared commitment to democratic ideals and the fight against fascism.

The Italian campaign was not just a series of joint and allied military operations; it was a stand against despotism and a defense of the freedoms we value—an important moment in our Nation's and, in fact, in our world's history.

The Italian campaign was fought across treacherous terrain, from the shores of North Africa to the waters of Sicily, along the rugged Amalfi Coast, which ultimately led to the liberation of Rome—the first major European city liberated during World War II. U.S. forces, alongside brave and committed global Allied forces from over 10 nations, including Italian resistance brigades, faced grueling conditions, fierce combat, and severe materiel constraints. Battles such as Monte Cassino and Anzio stand as two of the most intense of the war, costing countless lives.

Today, fewer than half a percent of the more than 16 million Americans who served in World War II are still living today. The veterans of the Italian campaign, including my father SSG Raymond Moran of the 603rd Armament Maintenance Battalion are dwindling in number. My father dedicated 2 years of his life to the liberation of Italy, repairing rifles and other small arms weapons under the regular threat of attack to make certain U.S. forces were equipped to win.

I am joined in this resolution by my colleague from Florida Senator RICK SCOTT, whose father also served in this campaign, in recognizing the personal and collective sacrifices of these heroes.

The Italian campaign spanned 602 days, culminating in the surrender at Caserta, just north of Naples, on April 29, 1945, when nearly 1 million Axis troops capitulated—the largest surrender of German forces at that point in the war. The following day, Adolf Hitler's death marked the collapse of the Nazi regime—a turning point made possible by the military operations comprising the Italian campaign.

This resolution acknowledges the tremendous and significant cost of the Italian campaign, with hundreds of thousands of U.S. and Allied casualties, many of whom rest in the serene and

pristine American cemeteries across Italy.

Our resolution reaffirms that the victory was driven by an unwavering force of will, ironclad military alliances, and the enduring power of democratic values and principles that remain vital in today's global conflicts.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in honoring the memory of those who fought and died in the Italian campaign, to salute the surviving veterans, and to recognize the families who carry on their legacy. Let us designate September 9 as "National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day" to ensure their sacrifices are not forgotten and are memorialized here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. 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.

HONORING OFFICER SUZANNE O

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I join people on Maui and across Hawaii in honoring the life and service of Maui Police Department officer Suzanne O, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on August 15, 2025.

Over the course of her service with the Maui Police Department, Officer O protected the Kihei and Wailuku communities with honor and an abiding commitment to helping others. She went above and beyond to support her colleagues and neighbors, volunteering for duty during busy periods and supporting the dispatch team even on her days off. Fittingly, she was remembered by those who knew and worked with her as a compassionate and dedicated servant to her community.

In times of crisis, Officer O demonstrated remarkable courage and integrity. Her bravery was beyond measure, and she was duly awarded a Certificate of Merit for her heroic efforts during the fires in Upcountry Maui in August of 2023. Officer O's generosity and sacrifice were an example to everyone, and they will not be forgotten by her fellow officers whom she stood shoulder-to-shoulder with or the communities she so valiantly served.

I extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt aloha to the family and loved ones of the late Officer O. May her memory be a blessing.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING PARKERSBURG PHARMACY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Parkersburg Pharmacy of Parkersburg, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2010, Tom Reinart established Parkersburg Pharmacy as a trusted healthcare provider. In 2023, Brent Bovy took ownership when Reinart decided to step back from the business. Reinart has continued to take occasional shifts to help ensure a smooth transition. In addition to Parkersburg, Bovy owns and operates Reinbeck Pharmacy in Reinbeck, IA. Parkersburg Pharmacy's team of 10 strives to provide excellent personalized care and customer support for the town. The business also features a gift shop, offering home decor, children's toys, greeting cards, jewelry, and locally made food items.

Bovy and Reinart recognize the perks of operating in a small town, ensuring patients are using medication correctly and utilizing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program—PDMP—to double-check patient prescriptions and prevent medication abuse. Bovy has highlighted the important role independent pharmacies play in protecting public health across Iowa.

In 2020, Bovy's wife Val joined the team and has been instrumental in the successful operation of the pharmacy, demonstrating a family commitment to patient well-being. Together, they have worked to maintain and enhance the personalized service that Parkersburg residents rely on.

Bovy and his team are also deeply involved in the community. Parkersburg Pharmacy is a proud member of the Parkersburg Chamber of Commerce. Bovy serves as chair of the Reinbeck Economic Development Board, where he plays a key role in driving business development and community advancement. He is also a member of the Lions Club and serves as a volunteer firefighter in Dike, IA. In 2023, Bovy was recognized as one of the "20 Under 40" by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for his leadership, entrepreneurial drive, and service to the community. From pharmacy operations to civic leadership, Bovy is passionate about growing and revitalizing the towns he serves.

Over the years, Parkersburg Pharmacy has gone above and beyond in providing exceptional patient care while maintaining a strong commitment to the community. The pharmacy has grown into a trusted healthcare provider for Parkersburg. It is my honor to recognize Tom Reinart, Brent Bovy, Val Bovy, and the entire Par-

kersburg Pharmacy team for their remarkable work and dedication to the community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Young Construction of Mason City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2001 by Dan and Tami Young, Young Construction started as a small roof installation company. What began as a small startup has since grown to offer a full range of exterior services, including roofing, siding, gutters, and installation. For more than 20 years, Young Construction has worked to protect homeowners through its outstanding craftsmanship and generosity. The team of 25 employees takes pride in their attention to detail and quality workmanship, delivering a seamless, stress-free experience for every customer. Their main goal is to give homeowners peace of mind with every exterior project. Always looking to expand, Young Construction opened a new location in Albert Lea, MN, in 2024. Young Construction serves all of Iowa, southern Minnesota, and Venice, FL.

Young Construction is also deeply involved in the community and has made it their mission to give back to the people who helped them succeed. They are proud members of both the Mason City Chamber of Commerce and the Albert Lea-Freeborn Chamber of Commerce. In 2023, the company was awarded the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award. They also rank among the top 1 percent of the Nation's roofing contractors, as Platinum Preferred members of Owens Corning Roofing Contractor Network. Through the Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project, the Youngs launched YC Roof Rescue, an initiative that provides a free roof to a deserving family and a local veteran each year. They have also donated roofs to vital community-based organizations, including the local homeless shelter and the Youth Baseball Complex. Through its YC Cares program, Young Construction supports MercyOne's north Iowa Thanksgiving dinner for employees working through the holiday and provides funding to four local families each Christmas to cover gift shopping and to spread the holiday cheer. The company also donates to local schools and daycares, a cause close to the Young family's hearts.

Over the past two decades, Young Construction has built a reputation for excellence and community service. What began with a truck has grown

into something truly special in Iowa and beyond. It is my honor to recognize the Young family and the entire Young Construction team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING SUE VEER

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the legacy and extraordinary work of the late Sue Veer from Greenwood, SC. Sue was the president and CEO of Carolina Health Centers, Inc., a community health center serving over 26,000 patients in rural Greenwood, SC. Sue was born in Springfield, OH, and raised in Florida. She earned her B.A. from Carlow University, attended Penn State University, and later received her MBA from Winthrop University. She is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, and a wide circle of extended family and friends.

She previously worked at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh and Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. In addition to leading Carolina Health Centers for 19 years, she was a member of the executive committee for the National Association of Community Health Centers, NACHC, helped to lead the NACHC 340B Working Group, and served as a member of the board of directors for the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association.

Veer gained recognition both across South Carolina and nationally for her expertise in community health centers and the 340B Drug Pricing Program. She often traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with my office and other congressional offices on health policy. She testified numerous times in committees in both the House and the Senate.

Veer once said, "Nothing in the professional realm has brought greater purpose to my life than participating in the process of ensuring everyone has access to comprehensive health care, along with the knowledge and motivation for them to seek better health and well-being for themselves and those they love and care about."

Today, it is my pleasure to recognize the late Sue Veer and her dedication to making a difference in the health of Greenwood, SC, and our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL THORIN

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, it is hard to truly comprehend just all that our veterans face, even after returning home from the battlefield. They often bring home some form of scars—both visible and invisible—that they carry with them for the rest of their lives.

That is true for Michael Thorin of Gardendale. After enlisting in the

Army at 17 years old, he spent the next 19 years putting the safety of others above his own both in the Army and the Army National Guard. Michael went on two overseas deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq where he worked as a medic, cavalry scout, and a communications specialist.

He received numerous awards and recognitions, including three Army Commendation Medals and five Army Achievement Medals. Despite being in a war zone, Michael's faith deepened while in Iraq. He saw firsthand where many Bible stories took place.

Michael says his time in the military trained him to stay calm in high-intensity situations as he returned home to serving those around him in a new way. Michael came back to central Alabama and worked as a firefighter for the next few years. During this time, he received the awful news that altered the course of his life: His lungs were failing him.

Michael was forced to quit his job, resulting in him and his family losing everything—their home, cars, and credit. This time, Michael had to lean on his friends for help, as he fought through redtape at the VA to get his benefits. Michael admits that his challenges left him with thoughts of ending his life, but his faith kept him pushing forward. Through all of these trials, Michael and his family have kept their heads held high.

He is a true hero, and words fall short in relaying our gratitude for his service. September is Veterans Suicide Awareness Month, and we appreciate Michael reminding us of the need to support the men and women who have served in our military all year long. It is my honor to recognize SGT Michael Thorin as the September Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4553. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 377. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

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-1643. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to designation of an acting officer for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1644. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR); FAR Case 2023-018, Clarification of System for Award Management Preaward Registration Requirements" (RIN9000-AO66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1645. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-05, Introduction" (FAC 2025-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1646. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-05, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2025-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1647. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-05, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2025-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1648. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-128, "Vacant to Vibrant Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1649. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, a report relative to military action taken on September 2, 2025, in the Caribbean Sea and of the potential for further such actions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1650. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-129, "Parity in Workers' Compensation Recovery Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1651. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-130, "Congress Cove Court Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1652. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-131, "Elmore-Friendship Court Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1653. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-132, "Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1654. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-133, "Parkside Canopy Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1655. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-134, "Strengthening Probate Administration Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1656. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-135, "Long Bridge Project Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1657. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-136, "DC Water and Sewer Authority Billing and Disconnection Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1658. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-137, "Personal Delivery Device Weight Limit Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1659. A communication from the Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Expired 1-Year Grace Period for Data Extensions" (RIN1010-AE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1660. A communication from the Acting Associate Director of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Offshore Downhole Commingling Regulatory Updates" (RIN1014-AA68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1661. A communication from the Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Renewable Energy Leasing Schedule" (RIN1010-AE35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1662. A communication from the Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Cross References" (RIN1010-AE30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1663. A communication from the Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources" (RIN1010-AE11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1664. A communication from the Program Analyst, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness: Gulf of America" (RIN1010-AE25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1665. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1666. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1667. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Oversight and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The 81-Month Rule for Dependents' Education Assistance" (RIN2900-AS30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1668. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1669. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1670. A communication from the Senior Counsel of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for 2025" (Docket No. OLP 178) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1671. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Visa Bond Pilot Program" (RIN1400-AG01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1672. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office's fiscal year 2024 report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1673. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Regulations for Continuing Professional Education Requirements of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries" (RIN1545-BQ30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1674. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2025-28" (Rev. Proc. 2025-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1675. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals (IPPS) and the Long Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Policy Changes and Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Rates; Changes to the FY 2025 IPPS Rates Due to Court Decision; Requirements for Quality Programs; and Other Policy Changes; Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Electronic Prescribing, Real-Time Prescription Benefit and Electronic Prior Authorization (CMS-1833-F and CMS-1808-F)" ((RIN0938-AV45) (RIN0938-AV34) (RIN0955-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1676. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; FY 2026 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Program Requirements" (RIN0938-AV49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1677. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; FY 2026 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System - Rate Update" (RIN0938-AV46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1678. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program" (RIN0938-AV48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1679. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2026" (RIN0938-AV47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1680. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of 15 proposed rescissions of budget authority; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as amended by the order of April 11, 1986; to the

Committees on Appropriations; the Budget; and Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 606. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells (Rept. No. 119-61).

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1081. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit certain reports to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-62).

By Mr. CASSIDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1440. A bill 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).

By Mr. CASSIDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CASSIDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2301. A bill to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

By Mr. CASSIDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2398. A bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2730. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to innovative treatment options for end-stage renal disease under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 2731. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to provide that an individual engaged in a labor dispute may receive unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2732. A bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2733. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2734. A bill to provide a one-time grant for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center to commemorate the events, and honor the victims, of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2735. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HUSTED:

S. Res. 375. A resolution recognizing September 8 through 14, 2025, as "Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Week"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 376. A resolution recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem, expressing support for the designation of September 8, 2025, as "988 Day" and the role of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 377. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; placed on the executive calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 754

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 1420

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1420, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to increase the amount of reimbursements under the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1782

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1782, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1984

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1984, a bill to prohibit an employer from terminating the coverage of an employee under a group health plan while the employer is engaged in a lock-out or while the employee is engaged in a lawful strike, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2070

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New

Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, a bill to provide limited authority to use the Armed Forces to suppress insurrection or rebellion and quell domestic violence.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office".

S. 2309

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2309, a bill to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practitioner learns of such death, and for other purposes.

S. 2534

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2534, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2548

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2548, a bill to designate the Camp Hutchins Wilderness and establish Special Management Areas in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 331

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 331, a resolution calling upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

S. RES. 374

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 374, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. does not have the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully carry out the duties of his office and should be removed from his position.

AMENDMENT NO. 3143

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3143 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. 3182

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3182 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. 3209

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3209 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. 3210

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3210 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. 3256

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3256 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. 3592

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3592 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 con-

struction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3668

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3668 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. 3702

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3702 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2735. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce Shingle Springs Band Miwok Indians Land Transfer Act of 2025. This bill would place approximately 80 acres of land currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management into trust for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and place into trust 185 acres of fee land already owned by the Tribe.

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is a federally recognized Tribe located near Placerville, CA. The Tribe's current land base is limited, just 160 acres, and their reservation access was significantly disrupted decades ago when Highway 50 was constructed across their only entrance. While the Tribe has since invested in an off-ramp to restore access, their existing land remains insufficient to meet the needs of their citizens, particularly related to housing.

Today, more than 180 Tribal families are on a housing waitlist. To address this crisis, the Tribe purchased 118 acres of nearby land with the goal of building housing for their citizens, which this bill would place into trust.

The land owned by BLM cannot be placed into trust without an act of Congress, making this bill essential to meeting the Tribe's goals of housing,

fire risk management, and responsible land stewardship.

This legislation is a commonsense step forward that will empower the Tribe to build much needed housing and better manage its ancestral lands. I want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this legislation, and I also want to thank Republican Congressman TOM MCCLINTOCK, who also represents this land, for introducing companion legislation in the House.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 375—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH 14, 2025, AS "INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS' WEEK"

Mr. HUSTED submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 375

Whereas, each year, the Senate recognizes the invaluable contributions of interscholastic athletic administrators to the physical, academic, and emotional development of students in the United States;

Whereas interscholastic athletic programs play a critical role in forming a well-rounded educational experience for students;

Whereas participation in sports is proven to improve concentration, memory, and academic behavior, such as school attendance;

Whereas participation in sports results in higher levels of confidence and self-esteem, reducing the risk of suicidal thoughts and other mental health struggles in teenagers and young adults;

Whereas research shows that participation in sports can reduce the rate of youth violence and crime by providing youth with access to personal growth opportunities;

Whereas participation in sports plays a critical role in the development of leadership skills and resiliency in students;

Whereas interscholastic athletic administrators—

(1) work tirelessly every day to ensure the safety and well-being of all student athletes;

(2) often work long and unpredictable hours to ensure that every student athlete has access to the training and assistance they need; and

(3) tirelessly dedicate themselves to the athletic, academic, and personal development of their students and players, building mature and hardworking young men and women;

Whereas more than 8,000,000 student athletes in the United States rely on the hard work of interscholastic athletic administrators for guidance, coaching, and mentorship; and

Whereas the athletic programs led by interscholastic athletic administrators promote values of leadership, service, hard work, and teamwork in schools and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 8 through 14, 2025, as "Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Week";

(2) commends interscholastic athletic administrators for their commitment and their leadership of student athletes at the secondary school level;

(3) recognizes the critical role school athletic programs play in student leadership development; and

(4) commends the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the leading organization that prepares individuals who lead secondary school athletics throughout the United States, providing continuous learning, compassion, and preparation within the profession.

SENATE RESOLUTION 376—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, AS “988 DAY” AND THE ROLE OF 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 376

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”), in 2023—

(1) suicide was the second-leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 34;

(2) suicide was responsible for more than 49,000 deaths, or about 1 death every 11 minutes;

(3) suicide was the eleventh-leading cause of death in the United States overall;

Whereas, according to the CDC, from 1999 through 2018, the national suicide rate increased by 35 percent;

Whereas suicide and attempts have a devastating and long-lasting impact on individuals, families, and communities across the United States;

Whereas over 90 percent of individuals who die by suicide were living with a diagnosable mental health condition at the time of their death, conditions that are frequently undiagnosed or untreated;

Whereas untreated mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders, significantly increase the risk of suicide;

Whereas access to timely and effective mental health services and crisis support is a vital component of suicide prevention;

Whereas, on July 16, 2022, 988 became the nationwide, three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, now known as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (referred to in this preamble as the “988 Lifeline”);

Whereas the 988 Lifeline is operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (referred to in this preamble as “SAMHSA”) and connects individuals in crisis to a national network of over 200 State and locally funded crisis centers that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;

Whereas the 988 Lifeline offers services in over 150 languages, and provides support through phone, chat, and TTY services for the deaf and hard of hearing, as well as specialized options, including a veterans crisis line, services for Spanish speakers, and services tailored for at-risk populations;

Whereas, since the launch of the 988 Lifeline in July 2022, it has routed nearly 18,000,000 contacts, including calls, texts, and chats;

Whereas, according to SAMHSA, a recent study found that 98 percent of callers reported the 988 Lifeline was helpful and 88 percent of callers said the 988 Lifeline prevented them from harming themselves;

Whereas, since the original launch of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in 2005, annual contact volume increased steadily by approximately 14 percent, with the number

of interactions growing from 46,000 in 2005 to over 2,600,000 in 2020;

Whereas, in August 2022, the 988 Lifeline received 112,000 more contacts than the Lifeline did in August 2021, a 45 percent increase;

Whereas, from July 2022 to July 2024, the 988 Lifeline received 10,800,000 contacts, and in May 2024 alone, the 988 Lifeline received over 500,000 contacts, an increase of 33 percent over May 2023 and 80 percent over May 2022; and

Whereas SAMHSA annually recognizes September 8th as 988 Day, which is observed by organizations nationwide to raise awareness of the service and promote mental health support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of September 8, 2025, as “988 Day”;

(2) recognizes suicide as a serious and growing public health concern in the United States;

(3) commends the development and implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as a critical component of the national mental health safety net;

(4) encourages continued public education and outreach regarding the availability and importance of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, particularly for high-risk populations;

(5) supports Federal, State, and local efforts to expand access to mental health services and crisis intervention programs; and

(6) supports the goals and ideals of 988 Day as a way to recognize the essential role of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in saving lives and supporting mental health across all communities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 377—EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 377

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 89: Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) Calendar Number 105: Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

(3) Calendar Number 107: Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

(4) Calendar Number 121: Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

(5) Calendar Number 122: Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

(6) Calendar Number 123: Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

(7) Calendar Number 124: Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

(8) Calendar Number 132: Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(9) Calendar Number 133: Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

(10) Calendar Number 135: Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(11) Calendar Number 136: Sean O’Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(12) Calendar Number 137: Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

(13) Calendar Number 139: Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(14) Calendar Number 141: William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

(15) Calendar Number 142: Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

(16) Calendar Number 152: Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

(17) Calendar Number 153: Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(18) Calendar Number 154: Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

(19) Calendar Number 156: Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

(20) Calendar Number 157: Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

(21) Calendar Number 161: Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of 5 years.

(22) Calendar Number 177: Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

(23) Calendar Number 180: Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

(24) Calendar Number 185: John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(25) Calendar Number 251: Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(26) Calendar Number 276: Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

(27) Calendar Number 277: William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

(28) Calendar Number 278: Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

(29) Calendar Number 279: Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

(30) Calendar Number 283: George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

(31) Calendar Number 285: Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

(32) Calendar Number 289: Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(33) Calendar Number 290: Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(34) Calendar Number 297: Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(35) Calendar Number 298: Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

(36) Calendar Number 303: Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(37) Calendar Number 305: Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029.

(38) Calendar Number 324: Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

(39) Calendar Number 344: Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

(40) Calendar Number 346: Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(41) Calendar Number 352: Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

(42) Calendar Number 356: 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 15 years.

(43) Calendar Number 362: Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

(44) Calendar Number 365: Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador.

(45) Calendar Number 149: Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

(46) Calendar Number 286: Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

(47) Calendar Number 302: Christine Toretto, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

(48) Calendar Number 350: Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3797. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 3798. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3799. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3800. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3801. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3802. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3803. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3804. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3805. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3806. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3807. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3808. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3809. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3810. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3811. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3812. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3813. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3814. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3815. Mr. BANKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3816. Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3817. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3818. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3819. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3820. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mrs. SHAHEEN to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3821. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3822. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3823. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3824. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3825. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3826. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3827. Mr. MORAN (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SA 3828. Mr. MORAN (for Mr. CRAMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 452, to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

SA 3829. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3797. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Helping Allies Respond to Piracy, Overfishing, and Oceanic Negligence Act

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Helping Allies Respond to Piracy, Overfishing, and Oceanic Negligence Act” or the “HARPOON Act”.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **COMMANDANT.**—The term “Commandant” means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) **ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING; IUU FISHING.**—The terms “illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing” and “IUU fishing” mean activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 1093. COUNTER-IUU FISHING PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Commandant, in coordination with the Secretary of State, may seek to engage with foreign partners to establish joint patrols to enhance counter-IUU fishing efforts, combat transnational crime, and enhance regional security.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Commandant, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on engagements with foreign partners under subsection (a), including—

(A) an identification of specific regions and countries interested in increased cooperation to combat IUU fishing;

(B) a description of any limitations on enhanced counter-IUU fishing partnerships due to insufficient resources or authorities;

(C) recommendations for increased program effectiveness in counter-IUU fishing operations;

(D) an assessment of the effectiveness of ongoing counter-IUU fishing partner operations;

(E) an identification of authorities provided in sections 331 and 333(a) of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which such counter-IUU fishing operations are conducted; and

(F) any other information the Secretary, the Commandant, and the Secretary of State consider appropriate.

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3798. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERS OF UNITED STATES DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES AMONG BALTIC STATES.

(a) **EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER.**—

(1) **RETRANSFERS AMONG BALTIC STATES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2753(a)(2)) and Section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 USAC 2314(a)(1)), retransfers of defense articles related to United States-origin mobile rocket artillery systems among Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia shall not require prior Presidential consent.

(B) **EXPIRATION.**—The authority provided in subparagraph (A) shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **CONSENT TO TRANSFER NOT REQUIRED.**—An agreement between the United States and a Baltic State under section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)) with respect to defense articles or defense services related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States shall not require the Baltic state to seek approval from the United States to transfer the defense article or defense service to any other Baltic state.

(B) **MODIFICATION.**—With respect to any agreement under section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)(2)) in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act that requires the consent of the President before a Baltic state may transfer a defense article or defense service related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States, at the request of any Baltic state, the United States shall modify such agreement so as to remove such requirement with respect to such a transfer to any other Baltic state.

(b) **COMMON COALITION KEY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish among the Baltic states a common coalition key or other technological solution within the Baltic states for the purpose of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) among the Baltic states for training and operational purposes.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **BALTIC STATE.**—The term “Baltic state” means the following:

(A) Estonia.

(B) Lithuania.

(C) Latvia.

(2) **DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE.**—The terms “defense article” and “defense service” have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 3799. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 VII, add the following:

SEC. 718. PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI.

(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, shall conduct an assessment of the adequacy of health care services available to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An evaluation of the ability of the local area to provide adequate access to care for the covered beneficiary population surrounding Fort Leonard Wood.

(2) An evaluation of potential impacts to access and quality of care for such beneficiaries if the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital were to be realigned, downgraded, or have its scope of services reduced.

(3) An evaluation of the ability to establish additional partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the provision of health care service at the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

(4) Such other matters as the Secretary considers relevant for determining the continued viability of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

(c) **PROHIBITION.**—The Secretary of Defense may not close, downgrade, or reduce the scope of care offered by the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital unless—

(1) the Secretary—

(A) completes the assessment required by subsection (a) and delivers such assessment to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and

(B) certifies to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that any such changes would not reduce or degrade the health care services available to covered beneficiaries and the local community; and

(2) the Chief of Staff of the Army certifies to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that there will be no degradation of medical readiness of units assigned to Fort Leonard Wood as a result of any changes to the status of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

SA 3800. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 title X, insert the following:

Subtitle H—FISH Act of 2025**SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025” or the “FISH Act of 2025”.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) **BENEFICIAL OWNER.**—The term “beneficial owner” means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) **FISH.**—The term “fish” means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) **FORCED LABOR.**—The term “forced labor” has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) **IUU FISHING.**—The term “IUU fishing” means activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, and unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(6) **REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “regional fisheries management organization” and “RFMO” have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) **SEAFOOD.**—The term “seafood” means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 1093. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 1094. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IUU VESSEL LIST.

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) **IUU VESSEL LIST.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Com-

missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial owners of foreign vessels or foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the ‘IUU vessel list’).

“(2) **INCLUSION ON LIST.**—The IUU vessel list shall include any foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet for which the Secretary determines there is clear and convincing evidence to believe that a foreign vessel is any of the following (even if the Secretary has only partial information regarding the vessel):

“(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization.

“(B) A vessel knowingly taking part in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an international fishery management organization’s conservation and management measures, including a vessel—

“(i) exceeding applicable international fishery management organization catch limits; or

“(ii) that is operating inconsistent with relevant catch allocation arrangements of the international fishery management organization, even if operating under the authority of a foreign country that is not a member of the international fishery management organization.

“(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country, identified and reported by United States authorities to an international fishery management organization to be conducting IUU fishing when the United States has reason to believe the foreign country to which the vessel is registered or documented is not addressing the allegation.

“(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by United States authorities to be conducting IUU fishing.

“(E) A vessel that knowingly provides services (excluding emergency or enforcement services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, including transshipment, resupply, refueling, or pilotage.

“(F) A vessel that is a fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the United States without a permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

“(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial owner as another vessel on the IUU vessel list at the time of the infraction.

“(3) **NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE IUU VESSEL LIST.**—The Secretary may receive nominations for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list from—

“(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

“(B) a country that is a member of the Combined Maritime Forces; or

“(C) civil organizations that have data-sharing agreements with a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

“(4) **PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after notification to the vessel’s beneficial owner and a review of any information that the owner provides within 90 days of the notification.

“(B) **HEARING.**—A beneficial owner may request a hearing on the evidence if the owner’s vessel is placed on the IUU vessel list under subparagraph (A) and may present new evidence to the Interagency Working Group

on IUU Fishing described in paragraph (3)(A). Such Working Group shall review the new evidence and vote on whether the vessel shall remain on the IUU vessel list or not.

“(5) **PUBLIC INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on, and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on a website, which shall be updated any time a vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include the following information (as much as is available and confirmed) for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

“(A) The name of the vessel and previous names of the vessel.

“(B) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number of the vessel, or other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state permit number or authorized vessel number issued by an international fishery management organization).

“(C) The maritime mobile service identity number and call sign of the vessel.

“(D) The business or corporate address of each beneficial owner of the vessel.

“(E) The country where the vessel is registered or documented, and where it was previously registered if known.

“(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU vessel list of the vessel.

“(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), if applicable.

“(H) Any other identifying information on the vessel, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under paragraph (2).

“(d) **ACTION.**—The Secretary may take the action described in subsection (c)(2) of this section in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025 against a vessel on the IUU vessel list and the owner of such vessel.

“(e) **PERMANENCY OF IUU VESSEL LIST.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall remain on the IUU vessel list.

“(2) **APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL REMOVAL.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In consultation with the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Secretary may remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the vessel submits an application for removal to the Secretary that meets the standards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

“(B) **CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.**—In considering an application for removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant information from all sources.

“(3) **REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.**—The Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was put on the list because it was a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery management organization removed the vessel from its IUU vessel list.

“(f) **REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Secretary shall issue regulations to set a process for establishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible for such addition or removal.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

“(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘beneficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

“(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

“(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

“(3) FOREIGN VESSEL.—The term ‘foreign vessel’ has the meaning given the term in section 110 of title 46, United States Code).

“(4) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘international fishery management organization’ means an international organization established by any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement for the conservation and management of fish.

“(5) IUU FISHING.—The term ‘IUU fishing’ has the meaning given the term ‘illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e).

“(6) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’ means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

SEC. 1095. VISA SANCTIONS FOR FOREIGN PERSONS.

(a) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign person is described in this subsection if the foreign person is the owner or beneficial owner of a vessel on the IUU vessel list developed under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i(c)).

(b) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(1) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

(B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(i) take effect; and

(ii) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the person’s possession.

(c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person if doing so is in the national interest of the United States.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or

national security activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to a person providing provisions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(4) EXEMPTIONS.—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to a person described in subsection (a), if such person was listed as the owner of a vessel described in that subsection through the use of force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1096. AGREEMENTS.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to combat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor as long as such considerations do not come at the expense of higher priority national interests of the United States.

(b) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.—The Federal Government should encourage other nations to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing to which the United States is a party, including the High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement and the Port State Measures Agreement, and pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts, as long as clear burden sharing arrangements with partner nations are determined. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor, such as the practice of transshipment, flags

of convenience vessels, and government subsidies of the distant water fishing industry.

(c) TRANSPARENCY FOR NON-BINDING INSTRUMENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THIS SECTION.—Any memorandum of understanding or other non-binding instrument to further the objectives of this section shall be considered a qualifying non-binding instrument for purposes of section 112b of title 1, United States Code.

SEC. 1097. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall strive to increase, from year to year, its observation of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent practicable.

(b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional fisheries management organizations to determine what corrective measures each country has taken after vessels that are registered or documented by the country have been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with information management rules of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the total number of bilateral agreements utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU patrols and future patrol plans for operations with partner nations where bilateral agreements are required to effectively execute the counter-IUU mission and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral agreements;

(2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to the respective country where the vessel is registered or documented, and what actions are taken to document or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack thereof, taken by the country;

(3) the country where the vessel is registered or documented, the country where the vessel was previously registered and documented if known, and status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast Guard;

(4) incident details on vessels observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding refusals, and what action was taken; and

(5) any other potential enforcement actions that could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

SEC. 1098. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING.—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly focusing on nations identified under section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

“(16) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against associated abuses, such as fishing that involves the use of forced labor and other illegal labor practices, and increasing enforcement and other actions across relevant import control and assessment programs, using as resources—

“(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112);

“(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107);

“(C) United States Customs and Border Protection’s Forced Labor Division and enforcement activities and regulations authorized under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307); and

“(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-145).”.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

(1) identify regional fisheries management organizations that the United States is party to that do not have a high seas boarding and inspection program; and

(2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or existing efforts to increase implementation of these programs, and take action as appropriate.

SEC. 1099. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.

Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

“(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvester Act of 2025, the Working Group shall identify information and resources to prevent fish and fish products from IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor from entering United States commerce without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the following:

“(1) Identification of relevant data streams collected by Working Group members.

“(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or other barriers to the sharing of such data.

“(3) In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, recommendations for joint enforcement protocols, collaboration, and information sharing between Federal agencies and States.

“(4) Recommendations for sharing and developing forensic resources between Federal agencies and States.

“(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity for United States Customs and Border Protection and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct more effective field investigations and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement officials.

“(6) Recommendations for improving data collection and automated risk-targeting of seafood imports within the United States’ International Trade Data System and Automated Commercial Environment.

“(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor analysis and information to those governmental and non-governmental entities that could use it for action and awareness, with the aim to establish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

“(8) Recommendations for an implementation strategy, including measures for ensuring that trade in seafood not linked to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor is not impeded.

“(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United States consideration.”.

SEC. 1099A. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, are encouraged to increase support to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional capacity, and investment to nations’ fisheries sectors for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor. The focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

(b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall analyze United States capacity-building expertise and resources to provide support to nations’ fisheries sectors. This analysis may include an assessment of potential avenues for in-country public-private collaboration and multilateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science, fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and maritime judicial capabilities.

SEC. 1099B. STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING FORCED LABOR.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in coordination with the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant United States Government data to identify imports of seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

(2) publish information regarding the strategy developed under paragraph (1) on the website of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 1099C. REPORTS.

(a) IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with support from the Administrator and the Working Group established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031), shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new technology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, development of risk assessment tools and data-sharing software, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels, satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fishing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and fishing involving the use of forced labor) and propose ways to integrate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement and management.

(b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES’ INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the collaboration between the Russian and Chinese fishing industries and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (including that of raw materials originating in Russia) in global seafood markets and its impact on United States seafood importers, processors, and consumers; and

(2) complete a report on the study that includes classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary of State determines necessary.

(c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FISHING INVOLVING THE USE OF FORCED LABOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with relevant members of the Working Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

“(A) An analysis that quantifies the occurrence and extent of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor among all flag states.

“(B) An evaluation of the costs to the United States economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

“(C) An assessment of the costs to the global economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

“(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of response strategies to counter IUU fishing, including both domestic programs and foreign capacity-building and partnering programs.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$2,000,000.”.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies; and

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry.

SEC. 1099D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025”; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “fiscal years 2021 through 2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

SEC. 1099E. EXCEPTION RELATED TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements provided in this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not include any authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods or related to sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good”—

(1) means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment; and

(2) excludes technical data.

SA 3801. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 515. LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPACE FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO THE SPACE FORCE.

Section 514 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159; 10 U.S.C. 20001 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

“(k) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as—

“(1) authorizing the transfer of a member of the Air National Guard of the United States other than on a one-time basis as specified in subsection (c); or

“(2) setting future precedent with respect to waiving the applicability of any provision of title 32.”.

SA 3802. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2850. PROHIBITION ON USE OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS TO DETAIN MIGRANTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for military construction purposes may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility for the purposes of detention of migrants by the Department of Defense or to facilitate detention of migrants by the Department of Homeland Security, including by housing personnel of the Department of Homeland Security.

SA 3803. Mr. MARKEY 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 XV, add the following:

SEC. 1522. RESTRICTION ON FIRST-USE NUCLEAR STRIKES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war.

(2) The framers of the Constitution understood that the monumental decision to go to war, which can result in massive death and the destruction of civilized society, must be made by the representatives of the people and not by a single person.

(3) As stated by section 2(c) of the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148; 50 U.S.C. 1541), “the constitutional powers of the President as Commander-in-Chief to introduce United States Armed Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly in-

dicated by the circumstances, are exercised only pursuant to (1) a declaration of war, (2) specific statutory authorization, or (3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces”.

(4) Nuclear weapons are uniquely powerful weapons that have the capability to instantly kill millions of people, create long-term health and environmental consequences throughout the world, directly undermine global peace, and put the United States at existential risk from retaliatory nuclear strikes.

(5) A first-use nuclear strike carried out by the United States would constitute a major act of war.

(6) A first-use nuclear strike conducted absent a declaration of war by Congress would violate the Constitution.

(7) The President has the sole authority to authorize the use of nuclear weapons, an order which military officers of the United States must carry out in accordance with their obligations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(8) Given its exclusive power under the Constitution to declare war, Congress must provide meaningful checks and balances to the President's sole authority to authorize the use of a nuclear weapon.

(b) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that no first-use nuclear strike should be conducted absent a declaration of war by Congress.

(c) **PROHIBITION.**—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended to conduct a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a war declared by Congress that expressly authorizes such strike.

(d) **FIRST-USE NUCLEAR STRIKE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “first-use nuclear strike” means an attack using nuclear weapons against an enemy that is conducted without the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff first confirming to the President that there has been a nuclear strike against the United States, its territories, or its allies (as specified in section 3(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(b)(2))).

SA 3804. Mr. MARKEY 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 XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. COUNTERING SAUDI ARABIA'S PURSUIT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

(a) **SHORT TITLES.**—This section may be cited as the “Stopping Activities Underpinning Development In Weapons of Mass Destruction Act” or the “SAUDI WMD Act”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People's Republic of China (referred to in this section as “China”), became a full-participant of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004, committing it to apply a strong presumption of denial in exporting nuclear-related items that a foreign country could divert to a nuclear weapons program.

(2) China also committed to the United States, in November 2000, to abide by the foundational principles of the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime (referred to in this section as “MTCR”) to not “assist, in

any way, any country in the development of ballistic missiles that can be used to deliver nuclear weapons (i.e., missiles capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kilograms to a distance of at least 300 kilometers)”.

(3) In the 1980s, China secretly sold the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (referred to in this section as “Saudi Arabia”) conventionally armed DF-3A ballistic missiles, and in 2007, reportedly sold Saudi Arabia dual-use capable DF-21 medium-range ballistic missiles of a 300 kilometer, 500 kilogram range and payload threshold which should have triggered a denial of sale under the MTCR.

(4) The 2020 Department of State Report on the Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments found that China “continued to supply MTCR-controlled goods to missile programs of proliferation concern in 2019” and that the United States imposed sanctions on nine Chinese entities for covered missile transfers to Iran.

(5) A June 5, 2019, press report indicated that China allegedly provided assistance to Saudi Arabia in the development of a ballistic missile facility, which if confirmed, would violate the purpose of the MTCR and run contrary to the longstanding United States policy priority to prevent weapons of mass destruction proliferation in the Middle East.

(6) The Arms Export and Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 93-329) requires the President to sanction any foreign person or government who knowingly “exports, transfers, or otherwise engages in the trade of any MTCR equipment or technology” to a country that does not adhere to the MTCR.

(7) China concluded 2 nuclear cooperation agreements with Saudi Arabia in 2012 and 2017, respectively, which may facilitate China's bid to build 2 reactors in Saudi Arabia to generate 2.9 Gigawatt-electric (GWe) of electricity.

(8) On August 4, 2020, a press report revealed the alleged existence of a previously undisclosed uranium yellowcake extraction facility in Saudi Arabia allegedly constructed with the assistance of China, which if confirmed, would indicate significant progress by Saudi Arabia in developing the early stages of the nuclear fuel cycle that precede uranium enrichment.

(9) Saudi Arabia's outdated Small Quantities Protocol and its lack of an in force Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement severely curtails IAEA inspections, which has led the Agency to call upon Saudi Arabia to either rescind or update its Small Quantities Protocol.

(10) On January 19, 2021, in response to a question about Saudi Arabia's reported ballistic missile cooperation with China, incoming Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken stated that “we want to make sure that to the best of our ability all of our partners and allies are living up to their obligations under various nonproliferation and arms control agreements and, certainly, in the case of Saudi Arabia that is something we will want to look at”.

(11) On March 15, 2018, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin-Salman, stated that “if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we would follow suit as soon as possible,” raising questions about whether a Saudi Arabian nuclear program would remain exclusively peaceful, particularly in the absence of robust international IAEA safeguards.

(12) An August 9, 2019, study by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights found that the Saudi Arabia-led military coalition airstrikes in Yemen and its restrictions on the flow of humanitarian assistance to the country, both of which have

disproportionately impacted civilians, may be violations of international humanitarian law.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON; PERSON.—The terms “foreign person” and “person” mean—

(A) a natural person that is an alien;

(B) a corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, or any other non-governmental entity, organization, or group, that is organized under the laws of a foreign country or has its principal place of business in a foreign country;

(C) any foreign governmental entity operating as a business enterprise; and

(D) any successor, subunit, or subsidiary of any entity described in subparagraph (B) or (C).

(3) MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA.—The term “Middle East and North Africa” means those countries that are included in the Area of Responsibility of the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

(d) DETERMINATION OF POSSIBLE MTCR TRANSFERS TO SAUDI ARABIA.—

(1) MTCR TRANSFERS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written determination, and any documentation to support that determination detailing—

(A) whether any foreign person knowingly exported, transferred, or engaged in trade of any item designated under Category I of the MTCR Annex item with Saudi Arabia during the previous 3 fiscal years; and

(B) the sanctions the President has imposed or intends to impose pursuant to section 11B(b) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4612(b)) against any foreign person who knowingly engaged in the export, transfer, or trade of that item or items.

(2) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any provision of paragraphs (3) through (7) of section 11(B)(b) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4612(b)), the President may only waive the application of sanctions under such section with respect to Saudi Arabia if that country is verifiably determined to no longer possess an item designated under Category I of the MTCR Annex received during the previous 3 fiscal years.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The determination required under paragraph (1) shall be unclassified and include a classified annex.

(e) PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA IF IT IMPORTS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall not sell, transfer, or authorize licenses for export of any item designated under Category III, IV, VII, or VIII on the United States Munitions List pursuant to section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)) to Saudi Arabia, other than ground-based missile defense systems, if Saudi Arabia has, during any of the previous 3 fiscal years—

(A) knowingly imported any item classified as “plants for the separation of isotopes of uranium” or “plants for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear reactor fuel elements” under Part 110 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission export licensing authority; or

(B) engaged in nuclear cooperation related to the construction of any nuclear-related

fuel cycle facility or activity that has not been notified to the IAEA and would be subject to complementary access if an Additional Protocol was in force.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the prohibition under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign country if the Secretary submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a written certification that contains a determination, and any relevant documentation on which the determination is based, that Saudi Arabia—

(A) has brought into force an Additional Protocol to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement based on the model described in IAEA INFCIRC/540;

(B) has concluded a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States under section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153) or another supplier that prohibits the enrichment of uranium or separation of plutonium on its own territory; and

(C) has rescinded its Small Quantities Protocol and is not found by the IAEA Board of Governors to be in noncompliance with its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as superseding the obligation of the President under section 502B(a)(2) or section 6201(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(a)(2), 22 U.S.C. 2378-1(a)), respectively, to not furnish security assistance to Saudi Arabia or any country if the Government of Saudi Arabia—

(A) engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or

(B) prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance.

(f) MIDDLE EAST NONPROLIFERATION STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first report published after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress, as an appendix to the Report on the Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments, a report on MTCR compliance and a United States strategy to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and missiles in the Middle East.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of China’s compliance, during the previous fiscal year, with its November 2000 commitment to abide by the MTCR and United States diplomatic efforts to address noncompliance.

(B) A description of every foreign person that, during the previous fiscal year, engaged in the export, transfer, or trade of MTCR items to a country that is a non-MTCR adherent, and a description of the sanctions the President imposed pursuant to section 11B(b) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4612(b)).

(C) A detailed strategy to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missile and sensitive nuclear technology in the Middle East and North Africa from China and other foreign countries, including the following elements:

(i) An assessment of the proliferation risks associated with concluding or renewing a civilian nuclear cooperation “123” agreement with any country in the Middle-East and North Africa and the risks of such if that same equipment and technology is sourced from a foreign state.

(ii) An update on United States bilateral and multilateral diplomatic actions to commence negotiations on a Weapons of Mass

Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) since the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference.

(iii) A description of United States Government efforts to achieve global adherence and compliance with the Nuclear Suppliers Group, MTCR, and the 2002 International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation guidelines.

(D) An account of the briefings to the appropriate committees of Congress in the reporting period detailing negotiations on any new or renewed civilian nuclear cooperation “123” agreement with any country consistent with the intent of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be unclassified and include a classified annex.

SA 3805. Mr. MARKEY 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 XV, add the following:

SEC. 1522. SMARTER APPROACHES TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Smarter Approaches to Nuclear Expenditures Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States continues to maintain an excessively large and costly arsenal of nuclear delivery systems and warheads that are a holdover from the Cold War.

(2) The current nuclear arsenal of the United States includes approximately 3,748 total nuclear warheads in its military stockpile, of which approximately 1,770 are deployed with five delivery components: land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, long-range strategic bomber aircraft armed with nuclear gravity bombs, long-range strategic bomber aircraft armed with nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missiles, and short-range fighter aircraft that can deliver nuclear gravity bombs. The strategic bomber fleet of the United States comprises 74 B-52 and 20 B-2 aircraft, over 66 of which contribute to the nuclear mission. The United States also maintains 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 14 Ohio-class submarines, up to 12 of which are deployed. Each of those submarines is armed with approximately 90 nuclear warheads.

(3) According to the Congressional Budget Office, the projected cost to sustain and modernize the United States nuclear arsenal has increased significantly. From 2025 to 2034, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the cost will be \$946,000,000,000 to operate, sustain, and modernize current nuclear forces, an average of \$95,000,000,000 annually. When accounting for inflation and rising program expenses, the cost could easily surpass \$1,000,000,000,000 in the 10 year period after the date of the enactment of this Act. Current estimates from the Congressional Budget Office for the period between 2025 and 2034 have already ballooned by 25 percent, or \$190,000,000,000, more than the 2023 estimate for the period between 2023 and 2032. Further calls to increase the nuclear arsenal would increase these projections.

(4) According to the Government Accountability Office, the National Nuclear Security

Administration has still not factored affordability concerns into its planning as was recommended by the Government Accountability Office in 2017, with the warning that “it is essential for NNSA to present information to Congress and other key decision makers indicating whether the agency has prioritized certain modernization programs or considered trade-offs (such as deferring or cancelling specific modernization programs)”. Instead, the budget estimate of the Department of Energy for nuclear modernization activities during the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 was \$83,619,000,000—\$15,410,000,000 more than the 2020 budget estimate of the Department for the same period.

(5) A December 2020 Congressional Budget Office analysis showed that the projected costs of nuclear forces over the next decade can be reduced by \$15,380,000,000 to \$16,870,000,000 by trimming back current plans, while still maintaining a triad of delivery systems. Even larger savings would accrue over the subsequent decade.

(6) The Department of Defense’s June 2013 nuclear policy guidance entitled “Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States” found that force levels under the April 2010 Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms between the United States and the Russian Federation (commonly known as the “New START Treaty”) “are more than adequate for what the United States needs to fulfill its national security objectives” and can be reduced by up to ⅓ below levels under the New START Treaty to 1,000 to 1,100 warheads.

(7) President Trump expanded the role of, and spending on, nuclear weapons in United States policy at the same time that he withdrew from, unsigned, or otherwise terminated a series of important arms control and nonproliferation agreements.

(C) REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR FORCES.—

(1) REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR-ARMED SUBMARINES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for purchasing more than eight Columbia-class submarines.

(2) REDUCTION OF GROUND-BASED MISSILES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year 2026, the forces of the Air Force shall include not more than 150 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(3) REDUCTION OF DEPLOYED STRATEGIC WARHEADS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year 2026, the forces of the United States Military shall include not more than 1,000 deployed strategic warheads, as that term is defined in the New START Treaty.

(4) LIMITATION ON NEW LONG-RANGE PENETRATING BOMBER AIRCRAFT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for any of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for purchasing more than 80 B-21 long-range penetrating bomber aircraft.

(5) PROHIBITION ON F-35 NUCLEAR MISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be used to make the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

(6) PROHIBITION ON NEW AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made

available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of the long-range stand-off weapon or any other new air-launched cruise missile or for the W80 warhead life extension program.

(7) PROHIBITION ON NEW INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for the research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of the LGM-35 Sentinel, previously known as the ground-based strategic deterrent, or any new intercontinental ballistic missile.

(8) TERMINATION OF URANIUM PROCESSING FACILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the Uranium Processing Facility located at the Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

(9) PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEW LOW-YIELD WARHEAD.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended to deploy the W76-2 low-yield nuclear warhead or any other low-yield or nonstrategic nuclear warhead.

(10) PROHIBITION ON NEW SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of a new submarine-launched cruise missile capable of carrying a low-yield or nonstrategic nuclear warhead, as the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review found this system “no longer necessary”.

(11) LIMITATION ON PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for expanding production of plutonium pits at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, or the Savannah River Site, South Carolina, until the Administrator for Nuclear Security submits to the appropriate committees of Congress an integrated master schedule and total estimated cost for the National Nuclear Security Administration’s overall plutonium pit production effort during the period of 2026 through 2036.

(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHEDULE.—The schedule required to be submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) include timelines, resources, and budgets for planned work; and

(ii) be consistent with modern management standards and best practices as described in guidelines of the Government Accountability Office.

(12) PROHIBITION ON SUSTAINMENT OF B83-1 BOMB.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for

(13) fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the sustainment of the B83-1 bomb, as the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review declared the B83-1 “will be retired”.

(14) PROHIBITION ON SPACE-BASED MISSILE DEFENSE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of a space-based missile defense system.

(15) PROHIBITION ON THE W-93 WARHEAD.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the procurement and deployment of a W-93 warhead on a submarine launched ballistic missile.

(d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report outlining the plan of each Secretary to carry out subsection (c).

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report outlining the plan of each Secretary to carry out subsection (c), including any updates to previously submitted reports.

(3) ANNUAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ACCOUNTING.—Not later than September 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the President shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing a comprehensive accounting by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget of the amounts obligated and expended by the Federal Government for each nuclear weapon and related nuclear program during—

(A) the fiscal year covered by the report; and

(B) the life cycle of such weapon or program.

(4) COST ESTIMATE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report outlining the estimated cost savings that result from carrying out subsection (c).

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SA 3806. Mr. MARKEY 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 C of title XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3125. REPORT ON DANGERS POSED BY NUCLEAR REACTORS IN AREAS THAT MIGHT EXPERIENCE ARMED CONFLICT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report assessing the following:

(1) The dangers posed to the national security of the United States, to the interests of allies and partners of the United States, and to the safety and security of civilian populations, by nuclear reactors and nuclear power plants in existence as of such date of enactment or scheduled to be completed during the 10-year period beginning on such date of enactment and located in the following areas:

(A) Regions that have experienced armed conflict in the 25 years preceding such date of enactment.

(B) Areas that are contested or likely to experience armed conflict during the life span of such reactors and plants.

(C) Areas that would be involved in any of the following hypothetical conflicts:

(i) An attack by the Russian Federation on the eastern European countries of Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, Lithuania, or Poland.

(ii) A conflict between India and Pakistan.

(iii) A conflict regarding Taiwan.

(iv) An attack by North Korea on South Korea.

(2) Steps the United States or allies and partners of the United States can take to prevent, prepare for, and mitigate the risks to the national security of the United States, to the interests of allies and partners of the United States, and to the safety and security of civilian populations, posed by nuclear reactors and power plants in places that may experience armed conflict.

(b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 3807. Mr. MARKEY 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 XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3119. LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Departments of Defense or the Department of Energy may be used for the transfer of plutonium to private industry.

(b) REPORT.—The surplus plutonium dilute and dispose program may not be terminated, until the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An explanation of how the Trump administration plans to discourage countries of proliferation concern from extracting weapons-usable plutonium from civilian fuel if the United States engages in such extraction.

(2) A justification as to why the Federal Government would facilitate the development and export of proliferation-prone reprocessing technologies by private companies, given the proliferation risks of plutonium.

(3) A justification as to why the Federal Government would promote a technology that would make nuclear energy of the United States less economically competitive, given that plutonium processing is very costly, due to safety and security concerns, both to extract from nuclear waste and to fabricate into fuel, which increases the cost of reactor fuel by 10 times or more.

(4) A full accounting of any weapons plutonium parts that will be disassembled or transferred, including how much of the plutonium to be transferred to private industry will come from intact pits, the types of pits to be used, and what the impact of such transfer would be on plans to produce new pits at Los Alamos National Laboratory or to reuse pits in the future.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SA 3808. Mr. MARKEY 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 XV, add the following:

SEC. 1522. HASTENING ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Hastening Arms Limitations Talks Act of 2025” or the “HALT Act of 2025”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The use of nuclear weapons poses an existential threat to humanity, a fact that led President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to declare in a joint statement in 1987 that a “nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, a sentiment affirmed by the People’s Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States in January 2022.

(2) On June 12, 1982, an estimated 1,000,000 people attended the largest peace rally in United States history, in support of a movement to freeze and reverse the nuclear arms race, a movement that helped to create the political will necessary for the negotiation of several bilateral arms control treaties between the United States and former Soviet Union, and then the Russian Federation. Those treaties contributed to strategic stability through mutual and verifiable reciprocal nuclear weapons reductions.

(3) Since the advent of nuclear weapons in 1945, millions of people around the world have stood up to demand meaningful, imme-

diate international action to halt, reduce, and eliminate the threats posed by nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons testing, and nuclear war, to humankind and the planet.

(4) In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968 (21 UST 483) (commonly referred to as the “Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty” or the “NPT”), entered into force, which includes a binding obligation on the 5 nuclear-weapon states (commonly referred to as the “P5”), among other things, “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race . . . and to nuclear disarmament”.

(5) Bipartisan United States global leadership has curbed the growth in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons and has slowed overall vertical proliferation among countries already possessing nuclear weapons, as is highlighted by a more than 90 percent reduction in the United States nuclear weapons stockpile from its Cold War height of 31,255 in 1967.

(6) The United States testing of nuclear weapons is no longer necessary as a result of the following major technical developments since the Senate’s consideration of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (commonly referred to as the “CTBT”) in 1999:

(A) The verification architecture of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty Organization (commonly referred to as the “CTBTO”)—

(i) has made significant advancements, as seen through its network of 300 International Monitoring Stations and its International Data Centre, which together provide for the near instantaneous detection of nuclear explosives tests, including all 6 such tests conducted by North Korea between 2006 and 2017; and

(ii) is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(B) Since the United States signed the CTBT, confidence has grown in the science-based Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan of the Department of Energy, which forms the basis of annual certifications to the President regarding the continual safety, security, and effectiveness of the United States nuclear deterrent in the absence of nuclear testing, leading former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz to remark in 2015 that “lab directors today now state that they certainly understand much more about how nuclear weapons work than during the period of nuclear testing”.

(7) Despite the progress made to reduce the number and role of, and risks posed by, nuclear weapons, and to halt the Cold War-era nuclear arms race, tensions between countries that possess nuclear weapons are on the rise, key nuclear risk reduction treaties are under threat, significant stockpiles of weapons-usable fissile material remain, and a qualitative global nuclear arms race is now underway with each of the countries that possess nuclear weapons spending tens of billions of dollars each year to maintain and improve their arsenals.

(8) The Russian Federation is pursuing the development of destabilizing types of nuclear weapons that are not presently covered under any existing arms control treaty or agreement and the People’s Republic of China, India, Pakistan, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea have each taken concerning steps to diversify their more modest sized, but nonetheless very deadly, nuclear arsenals.

(9) The 2022 Nuclear Posture Review was right to label the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile as “no longer necessary”, as that missile, if deployed, would have the effect of lowering the threshold for nuclear weapons use.

(10) On February 3, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden preserved binding and verifiable limits on the deployed and non-deployed strategic forces of the largest two nuclear weapons powers through the five-year extension of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed April 8, 2010, and entered into force February 5, 2011 (commonly referred to as the “New START Treaty”).

(11) In 2013, the report on a nuclear weapons employment strategy of the United States submitted under section 492 of title 10, United States Code, determined that it is possible to ensure the security of the United States and allies and partners of the United States and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent while safely pursuing up to a ½ reduction in deployed nuclear weapons from the level established in the New START Treaty.

(12) On January 12, 2017, then-Vice President Biden stated, “[G]iven our non-nuclear capabilities and the nature of today’s threats—it’s hard to envision a plausible scenario in which the first use of nuclear weapons by the United States would be necessary. Or make sense.”

(13) In light of moves by the United States and other countries to increase their reliance on nuclear weapons, a global nuclear freeze would seek to halt the new nuclear arms race by seeking conclusion of a comprehensive and verifiable freeze on the testing, deployment, and production of nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles for such weapons.

(14) The reckless and repeated nuclear threats by Russian President Vladimir Putin since the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation underscore the need for a global nuclear freeze.

(c) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—The following is the policy of the United States:

(1) The United States should build upon its decades long, bipartisan efforts to reduce the number and salience of nuclear weapons by leading international negotiations on specific arms-reduction measures as part of a 21st century global nuclear freeze movement.

(2) Building on the 2021 extension of the New START Treaty, the United States should engage with all other countries that possess nuclear weapons to seek to negotiate and conclude future multilateral arms control, disarmament, and risk reduction agreements, which should contain some or all of the following provisions:

(A) An agreement by the United States and the Russian Federation on a resumption of on-site inspections and verification measures per the New START Treaty and a follow-on treaty or agreement to the New START Treaty that may lower the central limits of the Treaty and cover new kinds of strategic delivery vehicles or non-strategic nuclear weapons.

(B) An agreement on a verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and further deployment of all nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles for such weapons.

(C) An agreement that establishes a verifiable numerical ceiling on the deployed shorter-range and intermediate-range and strategic delivery systems (as defined by the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the “Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty”), and the New START Treaty, respectively) and the nuclear warheads associated with such systems belonging to the P5, and to the extent possible,

all countries that possess nuclear weapons, at August 2, 2019, levels.

(D) An agreement by each country to adopt a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons or provide transparency into its nuclear declaratory policy.

(E) An agreement on a proactive United Nations Security Council resolution that expands access by the International Atomic Energy Agency to any country found by the Board of Governors of that Agency to be non-compliant with its obligations under the NPT.

(F) An agreement to refrain from configuring nuclear forces in a “launch on warning” or “launch under warning” nuclear posture, which may prompt a nuclear armed country to launch a ballistic missile attack in response to detection by an early-warning satellite or sensor of a suspected incoming ballistic missile.

(G) An agreement not to target or interfere in the nuclear command, control, and communications (commonly referred to as “NC3”) infrastructure of another country through a kinetic attack or a cyberattack.

(H) An agreement on transparency measures or verifiable limits, or both, on hypersonic cruise missiles and glide vehicles that are fired from sea-based, ground, and air platforms.

(I) An agreement to provide a baseline and continuous exchanges detailing the aggregate number of active nuclear weapons and associated systems possessed by each country.

(3) The United States should rejuvenate efforts in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament toward the negotiation of a verifiable Fissile Material Treaty or Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, or move negotiations to another international body or fora, such as a meeting of the P5. Successful conclusion of such a treaty would verifiably prevent any country’s production of highly enriched uranium and plutonium for use in nuclear weapons.

(4) The United States should convene a series of head-of-state level summits on nuclear disarmament modeled on the Nuclear Security Summits process, which saw the elimination of the equivalent of 3,000 nuclear weapons.

(5) The President should seek ratification by the Senate of the CTBT and mobilize all countries covered by Annex 2 of the CTBT to pursue similar action to hasten entry into force of the CTBT. The entry into force of the CTBT, for which ratification by the United States will provide critical momentum, will activate the CTBT’s onsite inspection provision to investigate allegations that any country that is a party to the CTBT has conducted a nuclear test of any yield.

(6) The United States should—

(A) refrain from developing any new designs for nuclear warheads or bombs, but especially designs that could add a level of technical uncertainty into the United States stockpile and thus renew calls to resume nuclear explosive testing in order to test that new design; and

(B) seek reciprocal commitments from other countries that possess nuclear weapons.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year thereafter, or authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year before fiscal year 2026 and available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act, may be obligated or expended to conduct or make preparations for any explosive nuclear weapons test that produces any yield until such time as—

(A) the President submits to Congress an addendum to the report required by section 4205 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2525) that details any change to the condition of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile from the report submitted under that section in the preceding year; and

(B) there is enacted into law a joint resolution of Congress that approves the test.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Paragraph (1) does not limit nuclear stockpile stewardship activities that are consistent with the zero-yield standard and other requirements under law.

SA 3809. Mr. MARKEY 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 XV, insert the following:

SEC. 15. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE-BASED INTERCEPTOR CAPABILITY.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—None the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the development and deployment of a next-generation air and missile defense architecture (known as “Golden Dome”) may be obligated or expended to design or develop a space-based interceptor capability until the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the following:

(1) A complete architecture plan and lifecycle system costs for the constellation of satellites required for the space-based interceptor capability.

(2) A certification by the President that the deployment of space-based interceptor capability would not have a negative impact on strategic stability with Russia and China.

(3) A written commitment that the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation will be provided with the resources necessary to provide effective oversight of the space-based interceptor testing program and that space-based interceptors will undergo realistic operational testing before deployment.

(4) An independent technical review by the National Academy of Sciences on the military and cost effectiveness of space-based interceptors to counter intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(b) **FORM.**—Any submission to the congressional defense committees described in subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3810. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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. REVIEW AND PROHIBITIONS BY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(14) AGRICULTURE.—The term ‘agriculture’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

“(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

“(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether to—

“(aa) request the submission of a notice under clause (i) of subparagraph (C) or a declaration under clause (v) of such subparagraph pursuant to the process established under subparagraph (H); or

“(bb) initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D).

“(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘reportable agricultural land transaction’ means a transaction—

“(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction;

“(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person, other than an excepted investor or an excepted real estate investor, as such terms are defined in regulations prescribed by the Committee; and

“(III) 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)).

“(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to apply to the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States.”;

(3) in subsection (k)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (I), (J), and (K), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) The Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to any covered transaction related to the purchase of agricultural land or agricultural biotechnology or otherwise related to the agriculture industry in the United States.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(r) PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO PURCHASES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Committee, in conducting a review under this section, determines that a transaction described in clause (i), (ii), or (iv) of subsection (a)(4)(B) would result in the purchase or lease by a covered foreign person of real estate described in paragraph (2) or would result in control by a covered foreign person of a United States business engaged in agriculture, the President shall prohibit the transaction unless a party to the transaction voluntarily chooses to abandon the transaction.

“(2) REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED.—Subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee,

real estate described in this paragraph is agricultural land (as defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)) in the United States that is in close proximity (subject to subsection (a)(4)(C)(ii)) to a United States military installation or another facility or property of the United States Government that is—

“(A) sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subsection (a)(4)(B)(ii)(II)(bb); and

“(B) identified in regulations prescribed by the Committee.

“(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis, the requirement to prohibit a transaction under paragraph (1) after the President determines and reports to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

“(4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON DEFINED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee, the term ‘covered foreign person’—

“(i) means any foreign person (including a foreign entity) that acts as an agent, representative, or employee of, or acts at the direction or control of, the government of a covered country; and

“(ii) does not include a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States.

“(B) COVERED COUNTRY DEFINED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘covered country’ means any of the following countries, if the country is determined to be a foreign adversary pursuant to section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation):

“(i) The People’s Republic of China.

“(ii) The Russian Federation.

“(iii) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

“(iv) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”;

(b) SPENDING PLANS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each department or agency represented on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States shall submit to the chairperson of the Committee a copy of the most recent spending plan required under section 1721(b) of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4565 note).

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct, subject to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the issuance of regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall take effect not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the date that is 30 days after the effective date of the regulations under subsection (c)(2); and

(2) apply with respect to a covered transaction (as defined in section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565)) that is proposed, pending, or completed on or after the date described in paragraph (1).

SA 3811. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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 title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity

SECTION 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act”.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Western Balkans countries (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia) form a pluralistic, multi-ethnic region in the heart of Europe that is critical to the peace, stability, and prosperity of that continent.

(2) Continued peace, stability, and prosperity in the Western Balkans is directly tied to the opportunities for democratic and economic advancement available to the citizens and residents of those six countries.

(3) It is in the mutual interest of the United States and the countries of the Western Balkans to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in the region.

(4) The reforms and integration with the European Union pursued by countries in the Western Balkans have led to significant democratic and economic progress in the region.

(5) Despite economic progress, rates of poverty and unemployment in the Western Balkans remain higher than in neighboring European Union countries.

(6) Out-migration, particularly of youth, is affecting demographics in each Western Balkans country, resulting in population decline in all six countries.

(7) Implementing critical economic and governance reforms could help enable investment and employment opportunities in the Western Balkans, especially for youth, and can provide powerful tools for economic development and for encouraging broader participation in a political process that increases prosperity for all.

(8) Existing regional economic efforts, such as the Common Regional Market, the Berlin Process, and the Open Balkan Initiative, could have the potential to improve the economic conditions in the Western Balkans, while promoting inclusion and transparency.

(9) The Department of Commerce, through its Foreign Commercial Service, plays an important role in promoting and facilitating opportunities for United States investment.

(10) Corruption, including among key political leaders, continues to plague the Western Balkans and represents one of the greatest impediments to further economic and political development in the region.

(11) Disinformation campaigns targeting the Western Balkans undermine the credibility of its democratic institutions, including the integrity of its elections.

(12) Vulnerability to cyberattacks or attacks on information and communication technology infrastructure increases risks to the functioning of government and the delivery of public services.

(13) United States Cyber Command, the Department of State, and other Federal agencies play a critical role in defending the national security interests of the United States, including by deploying cyber hunt forward teams at the request of partner nations to reinforce their cyber defenses.

(14) Securing domestic and international cyber networks and ICT infrastructure is a national security priority for the United States, which is exemplified by offices and programs across the Federal Government that support cybersecurity.

(15) Corruption and disinformation proliferate in political environments marked by autocratic control or partisan conflict.

(16) Dependence on Russian sources of fossil fuels and natural gas for the countries of the Western Balkans ties their economies and politics to the Russian Federation and inhibits their aspirations for European integration.

(17) Reducing the reliance of the Western Balkans on Russian natural gas supplies and fossil fuels is in the national interest of the United States.

(18) The growing influence of China in the Western Balkans could also have a deleterious impact on strategic competition, democracy, and economic integration with Europe.

(19) In March 2022, President Biden launched the European Democratic Resilience Initiative to bolster democratic resilience, advance anti-corruption efforts, and defend human rights in Ukraine and its neighbors in response to Russia's war of aggression.

(20) The parliamentary and local elections held in Serbia on December 17, 2023, and their immediate aftermath are cause for deep concern about the state of Serbia's democracy, including due to the final report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which—

(A) found “unjust conditions” for the election;

(B) found “numerous procedural deficiencies, including inconsistent application of safeguards during voting and counting, frequent instances of overcrowding, breaches in secrecy of the vote, and numerous instances of group voting”; and

(C) asserted that “voting must be repeated” in certain polling stations.

(21) The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe also noted that Serbian officials accused primarily peaceful protestors, opposition parties, and civil society of “attempting to destabilize the government”, a concerning allegation that threatens the safety of important elements of Serbian society.

(22) Democratic countries whose values are in alignment with the United States make for stronger and more durable partnerships.

SEC. 1273. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is a sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) encourage increased business links and investment between the United States and allies and partners in the Western Balkans;

(2) expand United States assistance to regional integration efforts in the Western Balkans;

(3) strengthen and expand regional economic integration in the Western Balkans, especially enterprises owned by and employing women and youth;

(4) work with allies and partners committed to improving the rule of law, energy resource diversification, democratic and economic reform, and the reduction of poverty in the Western Balkans;

(5) increase United States business links and investment with the Western Balkans, particularly in ways that support countries' efforts—

(A) to decrease dependence on Russian energy sources and fossil fuels;

(B) to increase energy diversification, efficiency, and conservation; and

(C) to facilitate the transition to cleaner and more reliable sources of energy, including renewables, as appropriate;

(6) continue to assist in the development, within the Western Balkans, of—

(A) strong civil societies;

(B) public-private partnerships;

(C) independent media;

(D) transparent, accountable, citizen-responsive governance, including equal representation for women, youth, and persons with disabilities;

(E) political stability; and

(F) modern, free-market based economies.

(7) support the accession of those Western Balkans countries that are not already members to the European Union and to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as “NATO”) for countries that—

(A) desire membership;

(B) are eligible for membership,

(C) are supported by all allies to proceed with an invitation for such membership; and

(D) are in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and meaningfully contribute to the collective security of NATO;

(8) support—

(A) maintaining the full European Union Force (EUFOR) mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina as being in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) encouraging NATO and the European Union to review their mission mandates and posture in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure they are playing a proactive role in establishing a safe and secure environment, particularly in the realm of defense;

(9) acknowledge the European Union membership aspirations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia and support those countries to meet the benchmarks required for their accession;

(10) continue to support the cultural heritage, and recognize the languages, of the Western Balkans;

(11) coordinate closely with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and other allies and partners on sanctions designations in Western Balkans countries and work to align efforts as much as possible to demonstrate a clear commitment to upholding democratic values;

(12) expand bilateral security cooperation with non-NATO member Western Balkans countries, particularly efforts focused on regional integration and cooperation, including through the Adriatic Charter, which was launched at Tirana on May 2, 2003;

(13) increase efforts to combat Russian malign influence campaigns and any other destabilizing or disruptive activities targeting the Western Balkans through engagement with government institutions, political stakeholders, journalists, civil society organizations, and industry leaders;

(14) develop a series of cyber resilience standards, consistent with the Enhanced Cyber Defence Policy and Readiness Action Plan endorsed at the 2014 Wales Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to expand cooperation with partners and allies, including in the Western Balkans, on cyber security and ICT infrastructure;

(15) articulate clearly and unambiguously the United States commitment to supporting democratic values and respect for international law as the sole path forward for the countries of the Western Balkans; and

(16) prioritize partnerships and programming with Western Balkan countries that demonstrate commitment toward strengthening their democracies and show respect for human rights.

SEC. 1274. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) ICT.—The term “ICT” means information and communication technology.

(3) WESTERN BALKANS.—The term “Western Balkans” means the region comprised of the following countries:

(A) The Republic of Albania.

(B) Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(C) The Republic of Kosovo.

(D) Montenegro.

(E) The Republic of North Macedonia.

(F) The Republic of Serbia.

(4) WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRY.—The term “Western Balkans country” means any country listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (3).

SEC. 1275. CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated for the imposition of sanctions under an executive order described in subsection (c) as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated, except as provided in subsections (d) and (f).

(b) CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS AUTHORITIES.—Each authority to impose sanctions provided for under an executive order described in subsection (c) shall remain in effect.

(c) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—The executive orders specified in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans); and

(2) Executive Order 14033 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans), as amended by Executive Order 14140 (90 Fed. Reg. 2589; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the situation in the Western Balkans), as in effect on the date of the enactment of Executive Order 14140.

(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under Executive Order 14033, as amended by Executive Order 14140, with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

(1) the person is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for such sanction or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping such activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in activity subject to such sanction in the future.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DELISTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDERS 13219 AND 13304.—Nothing in subsection (d) may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans).

(f) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if the President—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) not less than 15 days before the granting of the waiver, submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(2) FORM.—The waiver described in paragraph (1) may be transmitted in classified form.

(g) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions authorized under this section shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or ordinarily incident to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions authorized under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien is necessary—

(A) to comply with United States obligations under—

(i) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(ii) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(iii) any other international agreement; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions authorized under this section shall not apply to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(h) RULEMAKING.—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authorities of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(j) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have force or effect beginning on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1276. DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVES.

(a) ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE.—The Secretary of State, through ongoing and new programs, should develop an initiative that—

(1) seeks to expand technical assistance in each Western Balkans country, taking into account local conditions and contingent on the agreement of the host country government to develop new national anti-corruption strategies;

(2) seeks to share best practices with, and provide training, including through the use of embedded advisors, to civilian law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions, and other relevant administrative bodies, of the Western Balkans countries, to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of such agencies and institutions;

(3) strengthens existing national anti-corruption strategies—

(A) to combat political corruption, particularly in the judiciary, independent election oversight bodies, and public procurement processes; and

(B) to strengthen regulatory and legislative oversight of critical governance areas, such as freedom of information and public procurement, including by strengthening cyber defenses and ICT infrastructure networks;

(4) includes the Western Balkans countries in the European Democratic Resilience Initiative of the Department of State, or any equivalent successor initiative, and considers the Western Balkans as a recipient of anti-corruption funding for such initiative; and

(5) seeks to promote the important role of an independent media in countering corruption through engagements with governments of Western Balkan countries and providing training opportunities for journalists on investigative reporting.

(b) PRIORITIZING CYBER RESILIENCE, REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY, AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) promoting stronger economic, civic, and political relationships among Western Balkans countries will enable countries to better utilize existing resources and maximize their economic security and democratic resilience by reinforcing cyber defenses and increasing economic activity among other countries in the region; and

(B) United States private investments in and assistance toward creating a more integrated region ensures political stability and security for the region.

(2) 5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN WESTERN BALKANS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a regional economic development and democratic resilience strategy for the Western Balkans that complements the efforts of the European Union, European nations, and other multilateral financing institutions—

(A) to consider the full set of tools and resources available from the relevant agencies;

(B) to include efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the European Union, the World Bank, and other relevant assistance frameworks;

(C) to include an initial public assessment of—

(i) economic opportunities for which United States businesses, or those of other like-minded partner countries, would be competitive;

(ii) legal, economic, governance, infrastructural, or other barriers limiting United States economic activity and investment in the Western Balkans;

(iii) the effectiveness of all existing regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Open Balkan initiative and the Western Balkans Common Regional Market; and

(iv) ways to increase United States economic activity and investment within the Western Balkans;

(D) to develop human and institutional capacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of economies, including clean energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise development, health, and cyber-security;

(E) to assist with the development and implementation of programs or initiatives to increase economic development and prosperity in the region;

(F) to support small- and medium-sized businesses, including women-owned enterprises;

(G) to promote government and civil society policies and programs that combat corruption and encourage transparency (including by supporting independent media by promoting the safety and security of journalists), free and fair competition, sound governance, judicial reform, environmental stewardship, and business environments conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(H) to include a public diplomacy strategy that describes the actions that will be taken by relevant agencies to increase support for the United States relationship by citizens of Western Balkans countries.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress that describes the progress made towards developing the strategy required under paragraph (2).

(c) REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, may coordinate a regional economic connectivity and development initiative for the region comprised of each Western Balkans country and any European Union member country that shares a border with a Western Balkans country (referred to in this subsection as the “Western Balkans region”) in accordance with this subsection.

(2) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) promote private sector growth and competitiveness and increase the capacity of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Western Balkans region;

(B) aim to increase intraregional exports to countries in the Balkans and European Union member states;

(C) aim to increase United States economic activity and investments in countries in the Western Balkans;

(D) support startup companies, including companies led by youth or women, in the Western Balkans region by—

(i) providing training in business skills and leadership; and

(ii) providing opportunities to connect to sources of capital;

(E) encourage and promote increased economic activity and investment in the Western Balkans through engagement with the Western Balkans diaspora communities in the United States and abroad;

(F) provide assistance to the governments and civil society organizations of Western Balkans countries to develop—

(i) regulations to ensure fair and effective investment; and

(ii) screening tools to identify and deter malign investments and other coercive economic practices;

(G) identify areas where application of additional resources and workforce retraining could expand successful programs to 1 or more countries in the Western Balkans region by building on the existing experience and program architecture;

(H) compare existing single-country sector analyses to determine areas of focus that would benefit from a regional approach with respect to the Western Balkans region; and

(I) promote intraregional economic connectivity throughout the Western Balkans region through—

(i) programming, including grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance;

(ii) expanding awareness of the availability of loans and other financial instruments from the United States Government; and

(iii) coordinating access to existing instruments to promote economic activity and investment that are available through allies and partners in the Western Balkans region, including the European Union and international financial institutions.

(3) **SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) should facilitate and prioritize support for regional infrastructure projects, including—

(A) transportation projects that build roads, bridges, railways and other physical infrastructure to facilitate travel of goods and people throughout the Western Balkans region;

(B) technical support and investments needed to meet United States and European Union standards for air travel, including screening and information sharing;

(C) the development of telecommunications networks with trusted providers;

(D) infrastructure projects that connect Western Balkans countries to each other and to countries with which they share a border;

(E) information exchange on effective tender procedures and transparent procurement processes;

(F) investment transparency programs that will help countries in the Western Balkans analyze gaps and establish institutional and regulatory reforms necessary—

(i) to create an enabling environment for economic activities and investment; and

(ii) to strengthen protections against suspect investments through public procurement and privatization and through foreign direct investments;

(G) sharing best practices learned from the United States and other international partners to ensure that institutional and regulatory mechanisms are fair, nonarbitrary, effective, and free from corruption;

(H) projects that support regional energy security and reduce dependence on Russian energy;

(I) technical assistance and generating private investment in projects that promote connectivity and energy-sharing in the Western Balkans region;

(J) technical assistance to support regional collaboration on environmental protection that includes governmental, political, civic, and business stakeholders; and

(K) technical assistance to develop financing options and help create linkages with potential financing institutions and investors.

(4) **REQUIREMENTS.**—All programming under the initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be open to the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia;

(B) be consistent with European Union accession requirements;

(C) be focused on retaining talent within the Western Balkans;

(D) promote government policies in Western Balkans countries that encourage free and fair competition, sound governance, environmental protection, and business environments that are conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(E) include a public diplomacy strategy to inform local and regional audiences in the

Western Balkans region about the initiative, including specific programs and projects.

(d) **UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, should consider including a regional office with responsibilities for the Western Balkans within the Corporation's plans to open new regional offices.

(2) **JOINT REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Secretary of State shall submit a joint report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes—

(A) an assessment of the benefits of providing sovereign loan guarantees to countries in the Western Balkans to support infrastructure and energy diversification projects;

(B) an outline of additional resources, such as tools, funding, and personnel, which may be required to offer sovereign loan guarantees in the Western Balkans; and

(C) an assessment of how the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in coordination with the United States Trade and Development Agency and the Export-Import Bank of the United States, can deploy its insurance products in support of bonds or other instruments issued to raise capital through United States financial markets in the Western Balkans.

SEC. 1277. PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) promoting partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans advances United States foreign policy goals and requires a whole-of-government approach, including the utilization of public-private partnerships; and

(2) such partnerships would provide opportunities for exchanging academic ideas, technical expertise, research, and cultural understanding for the benefit of the United States and may provide additional beneficial opportunities for cooperation in the private sector.

(b) **UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS.**—The President, working through the Secretary of State, is authorized to promote partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, including—

(1) supporting research and analysis on cyber resilience;

(2) working with partner governments to reform policies, improve curricula, strengthen data systems, train teachers and students, including English language teaching, and to provide quality, inclusive learning materials;

(3) encouraging knowledge exchanges to help provide individuals, particularly at-risk youth, women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable, marginalized, or underserved communities, with relevant education, training, and skills for meaningful employment;

(4) promoting teaching and research exchanges between institutions of higher education in the Western Balkans and in the United States; and

(5) encouraging alliances and exchanges with like-minded institutions of education within the Western Balkans and the larger European continent.

SEC. 1278. YOUNG BALKAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) regular people-to-people exchange programs that bring religious leaders, journalists, civil society members, politicians, and other individuals from the Western Balkans to the United States will strengthen existing relationships and advance United States interests and shared values in the Western Balkans region; and

(2) the Department of State, through BOLD, a leadership program for young leaders in certain Western Balkans countries, plays an important role to develop young leaders in improving civic engagement and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of State should continue the BOLD Leadership Program, which shall hereafter be known as the “Young Balkan Leaders Initiative”, to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals in the Western Balkans who have demonstrated a passion to contribute to the continued development of the Western Balkans region.

(c) **CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.**—The goals of the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative should include—

(1) building the capacity of young Balkan leaders in the Western Balkans in the areas of business and information technology, cyber security and digitization, agriculture, civic engagement, and public administration;

(2) supporting young Balkan leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, public administration, and journalism;

(3) supporting young political, parliamentary, and civic Balkan leaders in collaboration on regional initiatives related to good governance, environmental protection, government ethics, and minority inclusion; and

(4) providing increased economic and technical assistance to young Balkan leaders to promote economic growth and strengthen ties between businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs in the United States and in Western Balkans countries.

(d) **FELLOWSHIPS.**—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State is authorized to award fellowships to young leaders from the Western Balkans who—

(1) are between 18 and 35 years of age;

(2) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;

(3) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions, including by promoting cross-regional and multiethnic cooperation; and

(4) represent a cross-section of geographic, gender, political, and cultural diversity.

(e) **BRIEFING ON CERTAIN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress that describes the status of exchange programs involving the Western Balkans region.

SEC. 1279. SUPPORTING CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support for cybersecurity, cyber resilience, and secure ICT infrastructure in Western Balkans countries will strengthen the region's ability to defend itself from and respond to malicious cyber activity conducted by nonstate and foreign actors, including foreign governments, that seek to influence the region;

(2) insecure ICT networks that are vulnerable to manipulation can increase opportunities for—

(A) the compromise of cyber infrastructure, including data networks, electronic infrastructure, and software systems; and

(B) the use of online information operations by adversaries and malign actors to undermine United States allies and interests; and

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to support the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of Western Balkans countries.

(b) **INTERAGENCY REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that contains—

(1) an overview of interagency efforts to strengthen cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries;

(2) a review of the information environment in each Western Balkans country;

(3) a review of existing United States Government cyber and digital initiatives that—

(A) counter influence operations and safeguard elections and democratic processes in Western Balkans countries;

(B) strengthen ICT infrastructure, digital accessibility, and cybersecurity capacity in the Western Balkans;

(C) support democracy and internet freedom in Western Balkans countries; and

(D) build cyber capacity of governments who are allies or partners of the United States;

(4) an assessment of cyber threat information sharing between the United States and Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of—

(A) options for the United States to better support cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries through changes to current assistance authorities; and

(B) the advantages or limitations, such as funding or office space, of posting cyber professionals from other Federal departments and agencies to United States diplomatic posts in Western Balkans countries and providing relevant training to Foreign Service Officers; and

(6) any additional support needed from the United States for the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of the following NATO Allies: Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

SEC. 1280. RELATIONS BETWEEN KOSOVO AND SERBIA.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Agreement on the Path to Normalization of Relations, which was agreed to by Kosovo and Serbia on February 27, 2023, with the facilitation of the European Union, is a positive step forward in advancing normalization between the two countries;

(2) Serbia and Kosovo should seek to make immediate progress on the Implementation Annex to the agreement referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) once sufficient progress has been made on the Implementation Annex, the United States should consider advancing initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations with both countries, which could include—

(A) establishing bilateral strategic dialogues with Kosovo and Serbia; and

(B) advancing concrete initiatives to deepen economic ties and investment with both countries; and

(4) the United States should continue to support a comprehensive final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia based on mutual recognition.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States Government that—

(1) it shall not pursue any policy that advocates for land swaps, partition, or other forms of redrawing borders along ethnic lines in the Western Balkans as a means to settle disputes between nation states in the region; and

(2) it should support pluralistic democracies in countries in the Western Balkans as a means to prevent a return to the ethnic strife that once characterized the region.

SEC. 1280A. REPORTS ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other Federal departments or agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives regarding Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Balkan countries that seek—

(1) to undermine democratic institutions;

(2) to promote political instability; and

(3) to harm the interests of the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member and partner states in the Western Balkans.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the objectives of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China regarding malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries—

(A) to undermine democratic institutions, including the planning and execution of democratic elections;

(B) to promote political instability; and

(C) to manipulate the information environment;

(2) the activities and roles of the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies in countering Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns;

(3) an assessment of—

(A) each network, entity and individual, to the extent such information is available, of Russia, China, or any other country with which Russia or China may cooperate, that is supporting such Russian or Chinese malign influence operations or campaigns, including the provision of financial or operational support to activities in a Western Balkans country that may limit freedom of speech or create barriers of access to democratic processes, including exercising the right to vote in a free and fair election; and

(B) the role of each such entity in providing such support;

(4) the identification of the tactics, techniques, and procedures used in Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of the effect of previous Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns that targeted alliances and partnerships of the United States Armed Forces in the Western Balkans, including the effectiveness of such operations and campaigns in achieving the objectives of Russia and China, respectively;

(6) the identification of each Western Balkans country with respect to which Russia

or China has conducted or attempted to conduct a malign influence operation or campaign;

(7) an assessment of the capacity and efforts of NATO and of each individual Western Balkans country to counter Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries;

(8) the efforts by the United States to combat such malign influence operations in the Western Balkans, including through the Countering Russian Influence Fund and the Countering People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund;

(9) an assessment of the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, determines are likely to be used in future Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries; and

(10) activities that the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies could use to increase the United States Government's capacity to counter Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries.

(c) **FORM.**—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3812. Mr. MARKEY 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 XV, add the following:

SEC. 1522. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR SENTINEL INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not more than \$2,600,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be used for the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program until the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the following:

(1) The written record of the Milestone B Engineering and Manufacturing Development approval decision for the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program pursuant to section 4252(e) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) A notification that the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program has been approved under the Trump administration's April 2025 policy that any program more than 15 percent behind schedule or 15 percent over cost will be scrutinized for cancellation.

(3) A comprehensive report on how the Air Force plans to extend the life of the Minuteman III missile to 2050 or until the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile is operational.

(b) **FORM.**—Any submission to the congressional defense committees required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3813. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and

Mr. REED) 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. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) **TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.**—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.”.

(b) **BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking “the Secretary may make payments” and inserting “beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall make payments”.

(c) **QUARTERLY REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) **EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**—Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “April 30, 2032”.

SA 3814. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. IMPROVEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF CARE FOR VETERANS FROM FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **OUTREACH ON AVAILABLE CARE.**—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct outreach to increase awareness among veterans enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, of the ability of those veterans to receive care at military medical treatment facilities.

(b) **TRAINING ON REFERRALS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure training for staff and contractors involved in scheduling, or assisting in scheduling, appointments for care under the community care program specifically includes training regarding options for referral to facilities and providers of the Department of Defense.

(c) **PREFERRED PROVIDERS.**—Subsection (g) of section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND PREFERRED PROVIDERS” after “NETWORK”; and

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

“(3) The Secretary shall consider providers under subsection (c)(2) to be preferred providers under this section.”.

(d) **ACTION PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement action plans at covered facilities—

(A) to expand the partnership between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the provision of health care;

(B) to improve communication between the Department of Veterans Affairs and pertinent command and director leadership of military medical treatment facilities;

(C) to increase utilization of military medical treatment facilities with excess capacity;

(D) to increase case volume and complexity for graduate medical education programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) to improve resource sharing agreements or permits, as applicable, between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which would also ensure lessened barriers to shared facility spaces; and

(F) to increase access to care for veterans described in subsection (a) in areas in which a military medical treatment facility is located that is identified by the Secretary of Defense as having excess capacity.

(2) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The action plans required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Cross-credentialing and privileging of health care providers, including nurses, medical technicians, and other support staff, to jointly care for beneficiaries in medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Expediting access to installations of the Department of Defense for staff and beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) Including in-kind or non-cash payment or reimbursement options for expenses incurred by either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(D) Allowing eligible veterans to seek certain services at military medical treatment facilities without referral or preauthorization from the Department of Veterans Affairs, for which reimbursement to the Department of Defense will be made.

(E) The designation of a coordinator within each covered facility to serve as a liaison between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs and to lead the implementation of such action plan.

(F) A mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of such action plan on an ongoing basis, to include establishing relevant performance goals and collecting data to assess progress towards those goals.

(G) Prioritize the integration of relevant information technology and other systems or processes to enable seamless information sharing, referrals and ancillary orders, payment methodologies and billing processes,

and workload attribution when Department of Veterans Affairs personnel provide services at Department of Defense facilities or when Department of Defense personnel provide services at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

(H) Any other matter that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider appropriate.

(3) **APPROVAL OF ACTION PLANS.**—Before implementing any action plan required under paragraph (1) at a covered facility or covered facilities, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that approval for the action plan is obtained from—

(A) the co-chairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established under section 320 of title 38, United States Code;

(B) the local installation commander for the covered facility of the Department of Defense; and

(C) the director of the relevant medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to any covered facility or covered facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the action plans required under paragraph (1).

(B) **SUBSEQUENT REPORT.**—Not later than one year after submitting the report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing—

(i) a status update on the progress of implementing the action plans required under paragraph (1); and

(ii) recommendations for developing subsequent action plans for each facility with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(e) **REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SHARING AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) **LEAD COORDINATOR.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that there is a lead coordinator at each facility of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, as the case may be, with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(2) **LIST OF AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall maintain on a publicly available website a list of all sharing agreements in place between medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(f) **TREATMENT OF EXISTING LAWS REGARDING SHARING OF HEALTH CARE RESOURCES.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out this section notwithstanding any limitation or requirement under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use funds available in the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund established under section 8111(d)(2) of title 38, United States Code, to implement this section.

(h) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to require veterans to seek care in facilities of the Department of Defense.

(i) **EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**—Section 5503(d)(7) of title

38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “April 30, 2032”.

(j) 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 Veterans Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.—The term “community care program” means the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) COVERED FACILITY.—The term “covered facility” means—

(A) a military medical treatment facility as defined in section 1073c(j) of title 10, United States Code; or

(B) a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs located nearby a military medical treatment facility described in subparagraph (A).

(4) SHARING AGREEMENT.—The term “sharing agreement” means an agreement for sharing of health-care resources between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(5) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3815. Mr. BANKS 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 A of title IX, add the following:

SEC. 909. INCLUSION OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN PILOT PROGRAM OF OFFICE OF STRATEGIC CAPITAL ON CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL BASE.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

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

“(bb) The Director may waive the requirement under item (aa) with respect to—

“(AA) an investment if the investment is determined by the Secretary of Defense to be vital to the national security of the United States; or

“(BB) loans that includes an equity feature, if the Director reasonably believes the rate of return on the portfolio of such loans will exceed the rate of return on investment of a loan at the yield on marketable securities of a similar maturity to the maturity of the loan on the date of execution of the loan agreement.”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D)(i) The Director may support an eligible investment under this subsection with funds or use other mechanisms for the purpose of purchasing, and may make and fund commitments to purchase, invest in, make pledges in respect of, or otherwise acquire, equity of an eligible entity receiving support for the eligible investment or any of its parent or subsidiary entities, including as a lim-

ited partner or other investor in investment funds, upon such terms and conditions as the Director may determine.

“(ii) The Director shall develop criteria, taking into consideration the national security and economic interests of the United States, pursuant to which the Office may hold, sell, or otherwise liquidate support for an investment made under clause (i).

“(iii) Solely for the purposes of purchasing equity securities under this subparagraph, the Office shall be treated as—

“(I) a qualified purchaser, as defined in section 2(a)(51) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)(51)); and

“(II) an accredited investor, as defined in Rule 501 of Regulation D under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.).”; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking “a use” and all that follows through “subsection” and inserting “the formal approval of the use of any capital assistance under this subsection”;

(2) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as follows:

“(1) The term ‘capital assistance’ means—

“(A) a loan, loan guarantee, or technical assistance; or

“(B) the purchase of or investment in equity (including options, warrants, or other financing in a security with subordination or nonamortization characteristics that the Director determines to be substantially similar to equity financing).”.

SA 3816. Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. KELLY) 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, add the following:

SEC. 10. WAIVER OF OVERTIME CAPS FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS.

Section 1701 of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note; Public Law 117-43) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024” and inserting “2021 or any calendar year thereafter”; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking “Services” and inserting “services”; and

(ii) by striking “subsection” and inserting “subsection.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024” and inserting “the applicable calendar year”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024” and inserting “the applicable calendar year”.

SA 3817. Mr. SHEEHY 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, add the following:

SEC. CONTINUED OPERATION OF CERTAIN AIRPORTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any agreement or consent decree, any real property conveyed by the United States pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-457; 58 Stat. 765) for use as an airport shall be deemed a defense asset and shall remain in operation as a public airport, and may not be permanently closed, disposed of, or converted to a non-airport use except as specifically authorized by an Act of Congress. The Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure compliance with this section.

SA 3818. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) 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 E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION AND RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED UKRAINIAN CHILDREN.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Abducted Ukrainian Children Recovery and Accountability Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a White House press release, dated March 25, 2025, “The United States and Ukraine agreed that the United States remains committed to helping achieve the exchange of prisoners of war, the release of civilian detainees, and the return of forcibly transferred Ukrainian children.”.

(2) To implement the commitment referred to in paragraph (1), the United States Government requires an organized and resourced policy approach to assist Ukraine with—

(A) investigations of Russia’s abduction of Ukrainian children;

(B) the rehabilitation and reintegration of children returned to Ukraine; and

(C) justice and accountability for perpetrators of the abductions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SUPPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Justice and the Department of State are authorized—

(A) to provide law enforcement and intelligence technical assistance, training, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine in support of the commitment described in subsection (b)(1); and

(B) to advance the objectives described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.—The law enforcement and intelligence technical assistance authorized under paragraph (1)(A) may include—

(A) training regarding the utilization of biometric identification technologies in abduction and trafficking in persons investigations;

(B) assistance with respect to collecting and analyzing open source intelligence information;

(C) assistance in the development and use of secure communications technologies; and

(D) assistance with respect to managing and securing relevant databases.

(3) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 30 days after the determination to provide assistance in any category identified in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(A) the amount of assistance determined to be obligated;

(B) the type of assistance to be utilized; and

(C) any information on the technology operationalized to support the means identified in this subsection.

(d) **COORDINATION.**—

(1) **NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Department of Justice and the Department of State may coordinate with, and provide grants to, nongovernmental organizations to carry out the assistance authorized under subsection (c).

(2) **FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The National Security Council may coordinate with appropriate representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), and other Federal agencies, as needed, to carry out the assistance authorized under subsection (c).

(e) **REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of State is authorized to provide support to the Government of Ukraine and nongovernmental organizations and local civil society groups in Ukraine for the purpose of providing Ukrainian children (including teenagers) who have been abducted, forcibly transferred, or held against their will by the Russian Federation with—

(A) medical and psychological rehabilitation services;

(B) family reunification and support services; and

(C) services in support of the reintegration of such children into Ukrainian society, including case management, legal aid, and educational screening and placement.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes all current or planned foreign assistance programs that will provide the assistance authorized under paragraph (1).

(f) **ATROCITY CRIMES ADVISORY GROUP FOR UKRAINE.**—The Department of State is authorized to support the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group for Ukraine by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General, and other relevant components of the Government of Ukraine, for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting cases involving abducted children, and other atrocity crimes.

(g) **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**—The Department of Justice is authorized to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine through its Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training, which shall be coordinated by the Resident Legal Adviser at the United States Embassy in Kyiv, for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting cases involving abducted children, and other atrocity crimes.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of

the House of Representatives that describes current and planned United States Government support for the Government of Ukraine's work to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes; and

(2) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that outlines—

(A) any discrepancies between the sanctions regimes of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union with respect to those responsible for the abduction of Ukrainian children; and

(B) efforts made by the United States Government to better align such sanction regimes.

SA 3819. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) 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 add the following:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This division may be cited as the “Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of content for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Sec. 5001. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 5002. Definitions.

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

Sec. 5101. Report on vetting of Foreign Service Institute language instructors.

Sec. 5102. Training limitations.

Sec. 5103. Language incentive pay for civil service employees.

Sec. 5104. Options for comprehensive evaluations.

Sec. 5105. Job share and part-time employment opportunities.

Sec. 5106. Promoting reutilization of language skills in the Foreign Service.

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

Sec. 5201. Periodic briefings from Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Sec. 5202. Support for congressional delegations.

Sec. 5203. Notification requirements for authorized and ordered departures.

Sec. 5204. Strengthening enterprise governance.

Sec. 5205. Establishing and expanding the Regional China Officer program.

Sec. 5206. Report on China's diplomatic posts.

Sec. 5207. Notification of intent to reduce personnel at covered diplomatic posts.

Sec. 5208. Foreign affairs manual changes.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

Sec. 5301. Supporting Department of State data analytics.

Sec. 5302. Post Data Pilot Program.

Sec. 5303. Authorization to use commercial cloud enclaves overseas.

Sec. 5304. Reports on technology transformation projects at the Department of State.

Sec. 5305. Commercial spyware.

Sec. 5306. Review of science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Sec. 5401. Foreign information manipulation and interference strategy.

Sec. 5402. Lifting the prohibition on use of Federal funds for World's Fair pavilions and exhibits.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Sec. 5501. Report concerning Department of State consular officers joining Coast Guard and Navy missions to Pacific island countries.

Sec. 5502. Report on security conditions in Damascus, Syria, required for the reopening of the United States diplomatic mission.

Sec. 5503. Embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations return to standards report.

Sec. 5504. Visa operations report.

Sec. 5505. Reauthorization of overtime pay for protective services.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 5551. Submission of federally funded research and development center reports to Congress.

Sec. 5552. Quarterly report on diplomatic pouch access.

Sec. 5553. Report on utility of instituting a processing fee for ITAR license applications.

Sec. 5554. HAVANA Act payment fix.

Sec. 5555. Establishing an inner Mongolia section within the United States embassy in Beijing.

Sec. 5556. Report on United States Mission Australia staffing.

Sec. 5557. Facilitating regulatory exchanges with allies and partners.

Sec. 5558. Pilot program to audit barriers to commerce in developing partner countries.

Sec. 5559. Strategy for promoting supply chain diversification.

Sec. 5560. Extensions.

Sec. 5561. Permitting for international bridges and land ports of entry.

Sec. 5562. Updating counterterrorism reports.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

SEC. 5101. REPORT ON VETTING OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the execution of requirements under section 6116 of the Department of State Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023 (22 U.S.C. 4030) that includes—

(1) a description of all steps taken to date to carry out that section;

(2) a detailed explanation of the suitability or fitness reviews, background investigations, and post-employment vetting, as applicable, of relevant Foreign Service Institute instructors who provide language instructions; and

(3) a description of planned additional steps required to execute such section.

SEC. 5102. TRAINING LIMITATIONS.

The Department shall require the approval of the Secretary for eliminations of long-term training assignments.

SEC. 5103. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to civil service employees who serve in domestic positions requiring critical language skills that are located in the fifty United States, the District of Columbia, and non-foreign areas (United States territories and possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The amounts of such incentives should be similar to the language incentive pay provided to members of the Foreign Service pursuant to section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

SEC. 5104. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assess options for integrating 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) EVALUATION SYSTEMS.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) one or more options to integrate 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including consideration of automated reference requests; and

(2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—

(1) any legal constraints or considerations;

(2) the timeline required for implementation;

(3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison to current processes;

(4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and

(5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

SEC. 5105. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job-sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility at the Department, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

(d) EXCEPTION FOR THE BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.—The policy described in subsection (a) shall not apply to officers and employees of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

SEC. 5106. PROMOTING REUTILIZATION OF LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) foreign language skills are essential to effective diplomacy, particularly in high-priority positions, such as Chinese- and Russian-language designated positions focused on the People's Republic of China and Russia;

(2) reutilization of acquired language skills creates efficiencies through the reduction of language training overall and increases regional expertise;

(3) often, investments in language skills are not sufficiently utilized and maintained throughout the careers of members of the Foreign Service following an initial assignment after language training;

(4) providing incentives or requirements to select “out-year bidders” for priority language-designated assignments would decrease training costs overall and encourage more expertise in relevant priority areas; and

(5) incentives for members of the Foreign Service to not only acquire and retain, but reuse, foreign language skills in priority assignments would reduce training costs in terms of both time and money and increase regional expertise to improve abilities in those areas deemed high priority by the Secretary.

(b) INCENTIVES TO REUTILIZE LANGUAGE SKILLS.—Section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “and reutilize” after “to acquire or retain proficiency in”.

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 5201. PERIODIC BRIEFINGS FROM BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least every 90 days thereafter for at least the next 3 years, the Secretary shall offer to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint briefing facilitated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research and including other bureaus, as appropriate, on—

(1) any topic requested by one or more of the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) any topic of current importance to the national security of the United States; and

(3) any other topic the Secretary considers necessary.

(b) LOCATION.—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall be held at a secure facility that is suitable for review of information that is classified at the level of “Top Secret/SCI”.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5202. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with applicable laws and the Secretary of State's security responsibilities, the Secretary shall re-

affirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of congressional travel and shall direct all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees to the extent feasible considering capacity and security considerations, when authorized by applicable congressional travel procedures to include the congressional authorization letter and congressional travel legislation and policies. The Secretary shall reaffirm the Department's policies to support such travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays when required to complete congressional responsibilities and, to the extent practical, requiring the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.—The requirement under subsection (b) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

SEC. 5203. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZED AND ORDERED DEPARTURES.

(a) DEPARTURES REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees listing every instance of an authorized or ordered departure during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in the report required under paragraph (1)—

(A) the name of the post and the date of the approval of the authorized or ordered departure;

(B) the basis for the authorized or ordered departure; and

(C) the number of chief of mission personnel that departed, categorized by agency, as well as their eligible family members, if available.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Any instance of an authorized or ordered departure shall be notified to appropriate committees not later than 3 days after the Secretary authorized an authorized or ordered departure. The details in the notification shall include—

(1) the information described in subsection (a)(2);

(2) the mode of travel for chief of mission personnel who departed;

(3) the estimated cost of the authorized or ordered departure, including travel and per diem costs; and

(4) the destination of all departed personnel and changes to their work activities due to the departure.

(c) TERMINATION.—This requirements under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5204. STRENGTHENING ENTERPRISE GOVERNANCE.

(1) ORGANIZATION.—The Chief Information Officer and the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of State should report directly to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources or, in the event such position is vacant, to the Deputy Secretary of State.

(2) ADJUDICATION OF UNRESOLVED BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—Adjudication

of unresolved budget and management decisions should be made by the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources in consultation, as appropriate, with the Deputy Secretary of State.

SEC. 5205. ESTABLISHING AND EXPANDING THE REGIONAL CHINA OFFICER PROGRAM.

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be established at the Department a Regional China Officer (RCO) program to support regional posts and officers with reporting, information, and policy tools, and to enhance expertise related to strategic competition with the People's Republic of China. RCOs shall, to the greatest extent possible, have appropriate fluency.

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to the Department of State to expand the RCO program, including for—

(A) the hiring of locally employed staff to support Regional China Officers serving abroad; and

(B) the establishment of full-time equivalent positions to assist in managing and facilitating the RCO program.

(3) PROGRAM FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 for each Regional China Officer to support programs and public diplomacy activities of the Regional China Officer.

SEC. 5206. REPORT ON CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit to appropriate committees of Congress a report on the diplomatic presence of the People's Republic of China worldwide, including—

(1) the number of diplomatic posts currently maintained by People's Republic of China in each country; and

(2) the estimated number of diplomatic personnel stationed abroad.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC POST.—The term “consular or diplomatic post” does not include a post to which only personnel of agencies other than the Department of State are assigned.

SEC. 5207. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO REDUCE PERSONNEL AT COVERED DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary of State carries out a reduction in United States Foreign Service personnel of at least 10 percent at a covered diplomatic post, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a notification of the intent to carry out such a reduction, which shall include a certification by the Secretary that such reduction will not negatively impact the ability of the United States to compete with the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a security risk to personnel at a covered diplomatic post.

(c) COVERED DIPLOMATIC POST DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered diplomatic post” means a United States diplomatic post in a country in which the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation also have a diplomatic post.

SEC. 5208. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL CHANGES.

Section 5318(c)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2021 (22 U.S.C. 2658a) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “8 years”.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to the Secretary for fiscal year 2026 to carry out the “Bureau Chief Data Officer Program”.

SEC. 5302. POST DATA PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) POST DATA AND AI PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to establish a program, which shall be known as the “Post Data Program” (referred to in this section as the “Program”), overseen by the Department's Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer.

(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall include the following:

(A) Cultivating a data and artificial intelligence culture at diplomatic posts globally, including data fluency and data collaboration.

(B) Promoting data integration with Department of State Headquarters.

(C) Creating operational efficiencies, supporting innovation, and enhancing mission impact.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an implementation plan that outlines strategies for—

(A) advancing the goals described in subsection (a)(2);

(B) hiring data and artificial intelligence officers at United States diplomatic posts; and

(C) allocation of necessary resources to sustain the Program.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the status of the implementation plan required under paragraph (1).

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5303. AUTHORIZATION TO USE COMMERCIAL CLOUD ENCLAVES OVERSEAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of State shall issue internal guidelines that authorize and track the use of enclaves deployed in overseas commercial cloud regions for OCONUS systems categorized at the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) high baseline.

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY REGULATIONS.—The enclave deployments shall be consistent with existing Federal cybersecurity regulations as well as best practices established across National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and ISO 27000 security controls.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the Act, and before issuing the new internal guidelines required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the proposed new guidelines, including—

(1) relevant risk assessments; and

(2) any security challenges regarding implementation.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5304. REPORTS ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” includes—

(A) artificial intelligence and machine learning systems;

(B) cybersecurity modernization tools or platforms;

(C) cloud computing services and infrastructure;

(D) enterprise data platforms and analytics tools;

(E) customer experience platforms for public-facing services; and

(F) internal workflow automation or modernization systems.

(3) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “technology transformation project” means any new or significantly modified technology deployed by the Department with the purpose of improving diplomatic, consular, administrative, or security operations.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “technology transformation project” does not include a routine software update or version upgrade, a security patch or maintenance of an existing system, a minor configuration change, a business-as-usual information technology operation, a support activity, or a project that costs less than \$1,000,000.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on all technology transformation projects completed during the preceding two fiscal years.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) For each project, the following:

(i) A summary of the objective, scope, and operational context of the project.

(ii) An identification of the primary technologies and vendors used, including artificial intelligence models, cloud providers, cybersecurity platforms, and major software components.

(iii) A report on baseline and post-implementation performance and adoption metrics for the project, including (if applicable) with respect to—

(I) operational efficiency, such as reductions in processing time, staff hours, or error rates;

(II) user impact, such as improvements in end-user satisfaction scores and reliability;

(III) security posture, such as enhancements in threat detection, incident response time;

(IV) cost performance, including budgeted costs versus actual costs and projected cost savings or cost avoidance;

(V) interoperability and integration, including level of integration achieved with existing systems of the Department of State;

(VI) artificial intelligence (if applicable); and

(VII) adoption, including, if applicable—

(aa) an estimate of the percentage of eligible end-users actively using the system within the first 3, 6, and 12 months of deployment;

(bb) the proportion of staff trained to use the system;

(cc) the frequency and duration of use, disaggregated by bureau or geographic region if relevant;

(dd) summarized user feedback, including pain points and satisfaction ratings; and

(ee) a description of the status of deprecation or reduction in use of legacy systems, if applicable.

(iv) A description of key challenges encountered during implementation and any mitigation strategies employed.

(v) A summary of contracting or acquisition strategies used, including information on how the vendor or development team supported change management and adoption, including user testing, stakeholder engagement, and phased rollout.

(B) For any project where adoption metrics fell below 50 percent of estimated usage within 6 months of launch:

(i) A remediation plan with specific steps to improve adoption, including retraining, user experience improvements, or outreach.

(ii) An assessment of whether rollout should be paused or modified.

(iii) Any plans for iterative development based on feedback from employees.

(3) **PUBLIC SUMMARY.**—Not later than 60 days after submitting a report required by paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of State shall publish an unclassified summary of the report on the publicly accessible website of the Department of State, consistent with national security interests.

(c) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE EVALUATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the extent to which the Department has implemented and reported on technology transformation projects in accordance with the requirements under this section;

(B) the effectiveness and reliability of the Department's performance and adoption metrics for such projects;

(C) whether such projects have met intended goals related to operational efficiency, security, cost-effectiveness, user adoption, and modernization of legacy systems; and

(D) the adequacy of oversight mechanisms in place to ensure the responsible deployment of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; and

(2) including any recommendations to improve the Department's management, implementation, or evaluation of technology transformation efforts.

SEC. 5305. COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a national security need for the legitimate and responsible procurement and application of cyber intrusion capabilities, including efforts related to counterterrorism, counternarcotics, and countertrafficking;

(2) the growing commercial market for sophisticated cyber intrusion capabilities has enhanced state and non-state actors' abilities to target and track for nefarious pur-

poses individuals, such as journalists, human rights defenders, members of civil society groups, members of ethnic or religious minority groups, and others for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the family members of these targeted individuals;

(3) the proliferation of commercial spyware presents significant and growing risks to United States national security, including to the safety and security of United States Government personnel; and

(4) ease of access into and lack of transparency in the commercial spyware market raises the probability of spreading potentially destructive or disruptive cyber capabilities to a wider range of malicious actors.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to oppose the misuse of commercial spyware to target individuals, including journalists, defenders of internationally recognized human rights, and members of civil society groups, members of ethnic or religious minority groups, and others for exercising their internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the family members of these targeted individuals;

(2) to coordinate with allies and partners to prevent the export of commercial spyware tools to end-users likely to use them for malicious activities;

(3) to maintain robust information-sharing with trusted allies and partners on commercial spyware proliferation and misuse, including to better identify and track these tools; and

(4) to work with private industry to identify and counter the abuse and misuse of commercial spyware technology; and

(5) to work with allies and partners to establish robust guardrails to ensure that the use of commercial spyware tools are consistent with respect for internationally recognized human rights, and the rule of law.

SEC. 5306. REVIEW OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) **SECURITY REVIEW.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal science agencies and the intelligence community, shall conduct a security review of the United States-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement (STA). The review shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the potential risks of maintaining the STA, including the transfer under such agreement of technology or intellectual property capable of harming the national security interests of the United States.

(2) An assessment of the Secretary of State's ability to monitor compliance of the People's Republic of China's commitments established under the STA.

(3) An evaluation of the benefits of the STA agreement to the economy, military, and industrial base of the People's Republic of China and the United States.

(4) An evaluation of the value of the information and data the United States Government receives under the STA related to the People's Republic of China that the United States otherwise would not have access to should it withdraw its participation in the STA.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after completion of the review of the STA required in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the findings of the review. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate committees of Congress whether it is in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA through its current duration.

(d) **GUIDANCE.**—If Secretary certifies that it is no longer in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA, the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after submitting the certification, and in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, promulgate guidance on United States Federal agency interactions with counterpart agencies in the People's Republic of China.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science of Technology, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term "intelligence community" has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(3) **STA.**—The term "STA" means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed at Washington January 31, 1979, its protocols, and any implementing agreements entered into pursuant to such Agreement on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5401. FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with other relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive strategy to combat foreign information manipulation and interference, which shall be carried out by the Department.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) Conducting analysis of foreign state and non-state actors' foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating from United States non-state adversaries, including the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and Iran.

(2) Working together with allies and partners to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and Iran.

(3) Supporting non-state actors abroad, including independent media and civil society groups, which are working to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, North Korea, or Iran.

(4) Coordinating efforts to expose and counter foreign information manipulation and interference across Federal departments and agencies.

(5) Protecting the First Amendment rights of United States citizens.

(6) Creating guardrails to ensure the Department of State does not provide grants to organizations engaging in partisan political activity in the United States.

(c) COORDINATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be led and implemented by the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in coordination with relevant bureaus and offices at the Department of State.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

(1) actions the Department has taken to preserve the institutional capability to counter foreign nation-state influence operations from the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation since the termination of the Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (R/FIMI) hub;

(2) a list of active and cancelled Countering PRC Influence Fund (CPIF) and Countering Russian Influence Fund (CRIF) projects since January 21, 2025;

(3) actions the Department has taken to improve Department grantmaking processes related to countering foreign influence operations from nation-state adversaries; and

(4) an assessment of recent foreign adversarial information operations and narratives related to United States foreign policy since January 21, 2025, from the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5402. LIFTING THE PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS AND EXHIBITS.

Section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) is hereby repealed.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

SEC. 5501. REPORT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONSULAR OFFICERS JOINING COAST GUARD AND NAVY MISSIONS TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Pacific island countries, especially, but not limited to, the Freely Associated States, include close United States partners located across highly strategic waters critical for United States national security; and

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments and the citizens of Pacific island countries.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Chief of Naval Operations, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in the Pacific Island countries.

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

(A) an assessment of the current demand for consular services from citizens of Pacific Island countries and challenges that these citizens face in obtaining services;

(B) an assessment of the approximate value, including in time and resources saved, such an initiative could save citizens of Pacific Island countries that do not host United States embassies to have their United States

visas adjudicated or to receive other services;

(C) an assessment of the cost for the Department of State, United States Coast Guard, United States Indo-Pacific Command, and United States Navy, including potential alternative cost-effective options and recommendations for providing consular services to Pacific Island countries;

(D) an assessment of the frequency and duration of United States Coast Guard and United States Navy deployments to Pacific Island countries, including—

(i) deployment frequency measured against desired number of visits;

(ii) amount of time typically spent in port for such visits; and

(iii) disruption to planned United States Coast Guard and United States Navy missions in order to visit locations needing consular assistance; and

(E) an evaluation of the logistical issues to be addressed including, including—

(i) analysis of spacing requirements to host Department of State personnel and equipment aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(ii) analysis of the information technology and connectivity requirements to conduct consular affairs activities;

(iii) the feasibility of printing visas aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(iv) maintaining physical security of consular officers and relevant adjudication equipment, including computer systems and visa foils, during such missions;

(v) impacts to United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels' operations and security; and

(vi) the estimated amount of time that consular officers would spend on board United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels between visits to Pacific Island countries.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5502. REPORT ON SECURITY CONDITIONS IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA, REQUIRED FOR THE REOPENING OF THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has a national security interest in a stable Syria free from the malign influence of Russia and Iran, and which cannot be used by terrorist organizations to launch attacks against the United States or United States allies or partners in the region.

(2) Permissive security conditions are necessary for the reopening of any diplomatic mission.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the Syrian government's progress towards meeting the security related benchmarks described in paragraph (2).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of the Syrian government's progress on counterterrorism especially as it relates to United States designated terrorist organizations that threaten to attack the United States or our allies and partners.

(B) An assessment of the security environment of the potential sites for a future building of the United States Embassy in Damascus and the conditions necessary for resuming embassy operations in Damascus.

(C) An analysis of the Syrian government's progress in identifying and destroying any remnants of the Assad regime's chemical weapons program, including any stockpiles, production facilities, or related sites.

(D) An assessment of the Syrian government's destruction of the Assad regime's captagon and other illicit drug stockpiles, to include infrastructure.

(E) An assessment of the Syrian government's relationship with the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to include access, basing, overflight, economic relationships, and impacts on United States national security objectives.

(F) A description of the Syrian government's cooperation with the United States to locate and repatriate United States citizens.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5503. EMBASSIES, CONSULATES, AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS RETURN TO STANDARDS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes the impacts of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's initiative known as “Return to Standards” on the security needs of United States embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations outside the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall describe the impacts of the Return to Standards initiative and other reductions in staffing and resources from the beginning of the initiative to the date of enactment of this Act for all embassies, consulates, and other overseas diplomatic installations, including detailed descriptions and explanations of all reductions of personnel or other resources, including their effects on—

(1) securing facilities and perimeters;

(2) transporting United States personnel into the foreign country; and

(3) executing any other relevant operations for which they are responsible.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5504. VISA OPERATIONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on visa backlogs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall address—

(1) the status of visa backlogs and wait times, including internal and external recommendations to streamline and improve consular processes, as required by the joint exploratory statement for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), including the rationale and justification for the implementation of each such recommendation;

(2) the impact of reductions in force on improvement of the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants;

(3) the extent to which non-consular Department personnel have been used to improve the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants during periods of high demand;

(4) the viability of temporarily assigning non-consular Department personnel during periods of high demand; and

(5) in consultation with any other appropriate Department, an evaluation of the impact of the visa backlogs on the United States tourism industry and recommendations for how to remediate those impacts.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5505. REAUTHORIZATION OF OVERTIME PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

Section 6232(g) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118-31; 5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2027”.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 5551. SUBMISSION OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 30 days after receiving a report or other written product provided to the Department by federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs) and consultant groups that were supported by funds congressionally appropriated to the Department, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees the report or written product, including the original proposal for the report, the amount provided by the Department to the FFRDC, and a detailed description of the value the Department derived from the report.

SEC. 5552. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC POUCH ACCESS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for the next 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) a list of every overseas United States diplomatic post where diplomatic pouch access is restricted or limited by the host government;

(2) an explanation as to why, in each instance where an overseas United States diplomatic post is restricted or limited by the host government, the host government has failed to do so; and

(3) a detailed explanation outlining the steps the Department is taking to gain diplomatic pouch access in each instance where such access has been restricted or limited by the host government.

SEC. 5553. REPORT ON UTILITY OF INSTITUTING A PROCESSING FEE FOR ITAR LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility and effect of establishing an export licensing fee system for the commercial export of defense items and services to partially or fully finance the licensing costs of the Department, if permitted by statute. The report should consider whether and to what degree such an export license application fee system would be preferable to relying solely on the existing registration fee system and the feasibility of a tiered system of fees, considering such options as volume per applicant over time and discounted fees for small businesses.

SEC. 5554. HAVANA ACT PAYMENT FIX.

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2016” each place it appears and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of a” and inserting “of an”.

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

“(4) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) in a fiscal year may only be made using amounts appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph in such fiscal year.

“(B) MATTER OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) using amounts appropriated for such purpose shall be made on a first come, first serve, or pro rata basis.

“(C) AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of funding obligated for payments under subsections (a) and (b) may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for providing payments under such paragraph during its period of availability.”.

SEC. 5555. ESTABLISHING AN INNER MONGOLIA SECTION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING.

(a) INNER MONGOLIA SECTION IN UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING, CHINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should consider establishing an Inner Mongolian team within the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, to follow political, economic, and social developments in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and other areas designated by the People's Republic of China as autonomous for Mongolians, with due consideration given to hiring Southern Mongolians as Locally Employed Staff.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Responsibilities of a team devoted to Inner Mongolia should include reporting on internationally recognized human rights issues, monitoring developments in critical minerals mining, environmental degradation, and PRC space capabilities, and access to areas designated as autonomous for Mongolians by United States Government officials, journalists, non-governmental organizations, and the Southern Mongolian diaspora.

(3) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary should ensure that the Department of State has sufficient proficiency in Mongolian language in order to carry out paragraph (1), and that the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, has sufficient resources to hire Local Employed Staff proficient in the Mongolian language, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the staffing described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5556. REPORT ON UNITED STATES MISSION AUSTRALIA STAFFING.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Australia is one of the closest allies of the United States and integral to United States national security interests in the Indo-Pacific;

(2) the United States-Australia alliance has seen tremendous growth, including through AUKUS, as part of which, the United States plans to rotate up to four Virginia-class attack submarines out of the Australian port of Perth by 2027; and

(3) current United States staffing and facilities across United States Mission Australia do not appear adequately resourced to support an expanding mission set and are no longer commensurate with strategic developments, as the United States will need to station many more United States civilian and military personnel in western Australia to support the maintenance and supply of these vessels.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding staffing and facility requirements at United States Mission Australia.

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

(A) an assessment of how many United States civilian and military personnel and their dependents the Department of State expects in the Perth area and across Australia in the next two years;

(B) an assessment of what requirements those United States personnel will have, including housing, schooling, and office space;

(C) a description of how many United States personnel are currently working in the United States Consulate in Perth and their roles;

(D) information regarding the Department of State's actions to transfer United States personnel from elsewhere within Mission Australia to increase staffing in Perth and the tradeoffs of such personnel moves;

(E) a status update on the interagency process begun in 2024 to assess the needs of Mission Australia;

(F) an assessment of the impact of the Department of State reorganization and workforce reduction on the staffing contemplated by that process; and

(G) an estimated total cost of expanding Perth staffing to sufficiently serve the increased presence of United States personnel in the area and to achieve any other United States foreign policy objectives.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5557. FACILITATING REGULATORY EXCHANGES WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should establish and develop a voluntary program to facilitate and encourage regular dialogues between interested United States Government regulatory and technical agencies and their counterpart organizations in allied and partner countries, both bilaterally and in relevant multilateral institutions and organizations—

(1) to promote best practices in regulatory formation and implementation;

(2) to collaborate to achieve optimal regulatory outcomes based on scientific, technical, and other relevant principles;

(3) to seek better harmonization and alignment of regulations and regulatory practices; and

(4) to build consensus around industry and technical standards in emerging sectors that will drive future global economic growth and commerce.

(b) **PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES.**—In facilitating expert exchanges under subsection (a), the Secretary should prioritize—

(1) bilateral coordination and collaboration with countries where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or communication and dialogue between technical agencies is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States;

(2) multilateral coordination and collaboration where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or dialogue on other relevant regulatory matters is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States, including with the members of—

(A) the European Union;

(B) the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

(C) the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);

(D) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(E) the Pacific Alliance; and

(F) multilateral development banks; and

(3) regulatory practices and standards-setting bodies focused on key economic sectors and emerging technologies.

(c) **PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.**—With regard to the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary may facilitate the participation of relevant organizations and individuals with relevant expertise, as appropriate and to the extent that such participation advances the goals of such program.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The authorities provided by this section are intended solely to provide United States embassy and related Department support for dialogues which may occur outside the United States, on a strictly voluntary basis and as agreed to by the relevant United States Federal department or agency with their foreign counterparts, and are not intended to obligate in any way the participation of any other Federal department or agency in such dialogues.

SEC. 5558. PILOT PROGRAM TO AUDIT BARRIERS TO COMMERCE IN DEVELOPING PARTNER COUNTRIES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary, is authorized to establish a pilot program—

(1) to identify and evaluate barriers to commerce in developing countries that are allies and partners of the United States; and

(2) to provide assistance to promote economic development and commerce to those countries.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—Under the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, in partnership with the countries selected under subsection (c)(1)—

(1) seek to identify possible barriers in those countries that limit international commerce with the goal of setting priorities for the efficient use of United States economic assistance;

(2) focus relevant United States economic assistance on building self-sustaining institutional capacity for expanding commerce with those countries, consistent with their international obligations and commitments; and

(3) further the national interests of the United States by—

(A) expanding prosperity through the elimination of foreign barriers to commercial exchange;

(B) assisting such countries to identify and reduce commercial restrictions, including through the deployment of targeted foreign assistance, as appropriate, to increase international commerce and investment;

(C) assisting each selected country in undertaking reforms that will promote economic growth, and promote conditions favorable for business and commercial development and job growth in the country; and

(D) assisting, as appropriate, private sector entities in those countries to engage in reform efforts and enhance productive global supply chain partnerships with the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(c) **SELECTION OF COUNTRIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall select countries for participation in the pilot program established under subsection (a) from among developing countries—

(A) that are allies and partners of the United States;

(B) the governments of which have clearly demonstrated a willingness to make appropriate legal, policy, and regulatory reforms that may stimulate economic growth and job creation, consistent with international trade rules and practices; and

(C) that meet such additional criteria as may be established by the Secretary, in consultation with, as appropriate, the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.**—In establishing additional criteria under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and address structural weaknesses, systemic flaws, or other impediments within countries that may be considered for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) that impact the effectiveness of United States assistance to and make recommendations for addressing those weaknesses, flaws, and impediments;

(B) set priorities for commercial development assistance that focus resources on countries where the provision of such assistance can deliver the best value in identifying and eliminating commercial barriers; and

(C) developing appropriate performance measures and establishing annual targets to monitor and assess progress toward achieving those targets, including measures to be used to terminate the provision of assistance determined to be ineffective.

(3) **NUMBER AND DEADLINE FOR SELECTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary should select countries for participation in the pilot program.

(B) **NUMBER.**—The Secretary should select for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) not fewer than 3 countries during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **PRIORITIZATION BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHIEFS OF MISSION.**—In selecting countries under paragraph (1) for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall prioritize—

(A) countries recommended by chiefs of mission—

(i) that will be able to substantially benefit from expanded commercial development assistance; and

(ii) the governments of which have demonstrated the political will to effectively and sustainably implement such assistance; or

(B) groups of countries, including groups of geographically contiguous countries, includ-

ing as recommended by chiefs of mission, that meet the criteria under subparagraph (A) and as a result of expanded United States commercial development assistance, will contribute to greater intra-regional commerce or regional economic integration.

(d) **PLANS OF ACTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall lead in engaging relevant officials of each country selected under subsection (c)(1) to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) with respect to the development of a plan of action to identify and evaluate barriers to economic and commercial development that then informs United States assistance.

(2) **ANALYSIS REQUIRED.**—The development of a plan of action under paragraph (1) shall include a comprehensive analysis of relevant legal, policy, and regulatory constraints to economic and job growth in that country.

(3) **ELEMENTS.**—A plan of action developed under paragraph (1) for a country shall include the following:

(A) Priorities for reform.

(B) Clearly defined policy responses, including regulatory and legal reforms, as necessary, to achieve improvement in the business and commercial environment in the country.

(C) Identification of the anticipated costs to establish and implement the plan.

(D) Identification of appropriate sequencing and phasing of implementation of the plan to create cumulative benefits, as appropriate.

(E) Identification of best practices and standards.

(F) Considerations with respect to how to make the policy reform investments under the plan long-lasting.

(G) Appropriate consultation with affected stakeholders in that country and in the United States.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5559. STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSIFICATION.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, shall develop, implement, and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a diplomatic strategy to support efforts to increase supply chain resiliency and security by promoting and strengthening efforts to incentivize the relocation of supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be informed by consultations with the governments of allies and partners of the United States;

(2) provide a description of how supply chain diversification can be pursued in a complementary fashion to strengthen the national interests of the United States;

(3) include an assessment of—

(A) the status and effectiveness of current efforts by governments, multilateral development banks, and the private sector to attract investment by private entities who are seeking to diversify from reliance on the People's Republic of China;

(B) major challenges hindering those efforts; and

(C) how the United States can strengthen the effectiveness of those efforts;

(4) identify United States allies and partners with comparative advantages for sourcing and manufacturing critical goods and countries with the greatest opportunities and alignment with United States values;

(5) identify how activities by the International Trade Administration and other relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary, can effectively be leveraged to strengthen and promote supply chain diversification, including nearshoring to Latin America and the Caribbean as appropriate;

(6) advance diplomatic initiatives to secure specific national commitments by governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake efforts to create favorable conditions for nearshoring in the region, including commitments—

(A) to develop formalized national strategies to attract investment from the United States ;

(B) to address corruption and rule of law concerns;

(C) to modernize digital and physical infrastructure of these nations;

(D) to improve ease of doing business; and

(E) to finance and incentivize nearshoring initiatives that transfer supply chains from the People's Republic of China to the nations of the Americas;

(7) advance, in coordination with the National Institute of Standards [and] Technology, diplomatic initiatives towards mutually beneficial dialogues on standards and regulations; and

(8) in coordination with the International Trade Administration, develop and implement assistance programs to finance, incentivize, or otherwise promote supply chain diversification in accordance with the assessments and identifications made pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), including, at minimum, programs—

(A) to help develop physical and digital infrastructure;

(B) to promote transparency in procurement processes;

(C) to provide technical assistance in implementing national nearshoring strategies;

(D) to help mobilize private investment; and

(E) to pursue commitments by private sector entities to relocate supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(c) **COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**—In implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, should, as appropriate, cooperate with the World Bank Group and the regional development banks through the Secretary of the Treasury.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5560. EXTENSIONS.

(a) **SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEMBERS TO EVALUATE THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTS.**—Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p et seq.) is amended in section 1630(c) by striking “5-year period” and inserting “10-year period”.

(b) **INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUITANT WAIVER.**—The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212; 124 Stat. 2332) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2031.

(c) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTER-**

NATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.—Section 9601(b) of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2023 and 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028”.

SEC. 5561. PERMITTING FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND LAND PORTS OF ENTRY.

Section 6 of the International Bridge Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 535d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “December 31, 2024,” and inserting “December 31, 2035,”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), and inserting the following:

“(A) An international bridge between the United States and Mexico.

“(B) An international bridge between the United States and Canada.

“(C) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Mexico.

“(D) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Canada.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”;

(4) in subsection (f), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge” each place it appears.

SEC. 5562. UPDATING COUNTERTERRORISM REPORTS.

Section 140(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(a)) is amended by striking “April 30” and inserting “October 31”.

SA 3820. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for Mr. Risch) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Deterring Aggression Against Taiwan

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act”.

SEC. 1272. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States must be prepared to take immediate action to impose sanctions with respect to any military or non-military entities owned, controlled, or acting at the direction of the Government of the PRC or the Chinese Communist Party that are supporting actions by the Government of the PRC or by the Chinese Communist Party—

(1) to overthrow or dismantle the governing institutions in Taiwan;

(2) to occupy any territory controlled or administered by Taiwan;

(3) to violate the territorial integrity of Taiwan; or

(4) to take significant action against Taiwan, including—

(A) conducting a naval blockade of Taiwan;

(B) seizing any outlying island of Taiwan;

or

(C) perpetrating a significant physical or cyber attack on Taiwan that erodes the ability of the governing institutions in Taiwan to operate or provide essential services to the citizens of Taiwan.

SEC. 1273. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) **PRC.**—The term “PRC” means the People's Republic of China.

(3) **PRC SANCTIONS TASK FORCE; TASK FORCE.**—The terms “PRC Sanctions Task Force” and “Task Force” mean the task force established pursuant to section 1274.

SEC. 1274. PRC SANCTIONS TASK FORCE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator for Sanctions of the Department of State and the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall establish an interagency task force to identify military and non-military entities that could be subject to sanctions or other economic actions imposed by the United States immediately following any action taken by the PRC that demonstrates an attempt to achieve, or has the significant effect of achieving, the physical or political control of Taiwan, including by taking any of the actions described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 1272.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the PRC Sanctions Task Force, the Task Force shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees for identifying proposed targets for sanctions or other economic actions referred to in subsection (a), which shall—

(1) assess how existing sanctions programs could be used to impose sanctions with respect to entities identified by the Task Force;

(2) develop or propose, as appropriate, new sanctions authorities that might be required to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) analyze the potential economic consequences to the United States, and to allies and partners of the United States, of imposing various types of such sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) assess measures that could be taken to mitigate the consequences referred to in paragraph (3), including through the use of licenses, exemptions, carve-outs, and other approaches;

(5) include coordination with allies and partners of the United States—

(A) to leverage sanctions and other economic tools including actions targeting the PRC's financial and industrial sectors to deter or respond to aggression against Taiwan;

(B) to identify and resolve potential impediments to coordinating sanctions-related

efforts or other economic actions with respect to responding to or deterring aggression against Taiwan; and

(C) to identify industries, sectors, or goods and services where the United States and allies and partners of the United States can take coordinated action through sanctions or other economic tools that will have a significant negative impact on the economy of the PRC; and

(D) to coordinate actions with partners and allies to provide economic support to Taiwan and other countries being threatened by the PRC, including measures to counter economic coercion by the PRC;

(6) assess the resource gaps and needs at the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to most effectively use sanctions and other economic tools to respond to the threats posed by the PRC;

(7) recommend how best to target sanctions and other economic tools against individuals, entities, and economic sectors in the PRC, which shall take into account—

(A) the role of such targets in supporting policies and activities of the Government of the PRC, or of the Chinese Communist Party, that pose a threat to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States;

(B) the negative economic implications of such sanctions and tools for the Government of the PRC, including its ability to achieve its objectives with respect to Taiwan; and

(C) the potential impact of such sanctions and tools on the stability of the global financial system, including with respect to—

(i) state-owned enterprises;

(ii) officials of the Government of the PRC and of the Chinese Communist Party;

(iii) financial institutions associated with the Government of the PRC; and

(iv) companies in the PRC that are not formally designated by the Government of the PRC as state-owned enterprises; and

(8) identify any foreign military or non-military entities that would likely be used to achieve the outcomes specified in section 1272, including entities in the shipping, logistics, energy (including oil and gas), maritime, aviation, ground transportation, and technology sectors.

SEC. 1275. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the briefing required under section 1274(b), and annually thereafter, the PRC Sanctions Task Force shall submit a classified report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes information regarding—

(1) any entities identified pursuant to section 1274(b)(8);

(2) any new authorities required to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) potential economic impacts on the PRC, the United States, and allies and partners of the United States resulting from the imposition of sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) mitigation measures that could be employed to limit any deleterious economic impacts on the United States and allies and partners of the United States of such sanctions;

(5) the status of coordination with allies and partners of the United States regarding sanctions and other economic tools identified under this subtitle;

(6) resource gaps and recommendations to enable the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury to use sanctions to more effectively respond to the malign activities of the Government of the PRC; and

(7) any additional resources that may be necessary to carry out the strategies and

recommendations included in the report submitted pursuant to section 1274(b).

SA 3821. Mr. PADILLA 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 515. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF DOMESTIC USE OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than 15 days after the date on which the President deploys or otherwise uses members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces at a location in the United States pursuant to chapter 13 or 15 of title 10, United States Code, or any other law or authority—

(1) the President shall submit to Congress a report on the use or deployment that includes—

(A) the precise legal basis and goals of the President for the deployment or other use, including any evidence substantiating the assessment of the President;

(B) a description of the effect of such deployment or use on any situation identified in such justification, including any specific reports of any interactions between members of the Armed Forces and civilians engaged in violence or threats of violence;

(C) reports from local and State law enforcement agencies describing any such interactions, including the extent of actual violence or threat of violence, and the assessment of such agencies of the propriety of deployment or other use of members of the Armed Forces;

(D) an identification of the total cost to the Federal Government of such deployment or use, including any indirect costs borne by the Department of Defense and civilians called up to serve in the National Guard; and

(E) a certification that such deployment or use of the members of the reserve component will not interfere with the ability of the Armed Forces to respond in the event of a disaster that could be covered by a presidential declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(2) the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall provide to Congress a briefing on whether the deployment or use of the reserve components resulted in a reduction of violence and met the stated goals identified by the President under paragraph (1)(A).

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the use or deployment of members of the Armed Forces at a location in the United States pursuant to a presidential declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in response to a natural disaster or other weather-related event.

SA 3822. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION COOPERATION INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall establish an initiative to cooperate with defense innovation partners in the Middle East for the purpose of developing a strong international community of defense innovation entities among such partners—

(1) to create opportunities to procure the leading commercial technology from international companies, including United States companies and such companies located in countries that are defense innovation partners in the Middle East, so as to meet the needs of warfighters that are such partners;

(2) to develop interoperable solutions compatible with capabilities of the United States and such partners;

(3) to build defense technology and defense innovation capacity in the United States and in countries that are such partners;

(4) to mature and expand the reach and impact of the innovation ecosystems within and among such partners;

(5) to strengthen the collective defense innovation bases and security posture of the United States and such partners through co-development, co-production, and co-sustainment opportunities; and

(6) to implement other partnerships, as the Secretary of Defense considers necessary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the initiative established under subsection (a) is to address—

(1) shared challenges facing the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East from—

(A) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(B) Iran-backed terrorist threats, including Hamas, the Houthis, and Hezbollah; and

(C) any other violent extremist organization within the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command; and

(2) any other such shared challenge, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities.

(c) FOCUS.—The initiative established under subsection (a) shall focus on the following capabilities:

(1) Unmanned systems, including unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles, and unmanned surface vehicles.

(2) Capabilities to counter unmanned systems, including kinetic, high-power microwave, and directed energy capabilities.

(3) Advanced intelligence and its defense applications.

(4) Any other capability necessary to resolve the shared challenges described in subsection (b), as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities.

(d) EXPLORATORY DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS.—To implement the initiative established under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall seek to enter into exploratory defense innovation partnerships with defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(e) DETERMINATION ON ENTERING IN MATURE DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall issue a determination as to whether it is feasible for the United States to enter into a mature defense innovation partnership described in paragraph (2).

(2) MATURE DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS DESCRIBED.—A mature defense innovation partnership described in this paragraph may include—

(A) the signing of a memorandum of understanding or defense innovation cooperation agreement between or among the United States and one or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East to facilitate joint defense innovation;

(B) the implementation of liaison officer exchange programs to deepen the integration of defense innovation efforts of the United States and one or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East;

(C) the implementation of commercial opportunities programming, including—

- (i) prize challenges;
- (ii) dual-use accelerators; and
- (iii) educational series; and

(D) the solicitation, through commercial solutions openings, of innovative defense solutions from companies located within the country of one or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall make the determination required by paragraph (1) based on the following considerations:

(A) An evaluation as to the whether the implementation of exploratory defense innovation partnerships has served the interests of United States national security.

(B) An assessment of potential benefits and risks to United States national security interests from pursuing mature defense innovation partnerships described in paragraph (2), including the risks posed by defense and technology relationships between defense innovation partners in the Middle East and the People's Republic of China.

(C) An evaluation as to whether the pursuit of such a mature defense innovation partnership will unacceptably reduce the ability of the Defense Innovation Community of Entities to pursue defense innovation partnerships with allies and partners in the areas of responsibility of the United States Europe Command and the United States Indo-Pacific Command.

(D) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers relevant.

(4) REVISION.—In the case of a determination under paragraph (1) that it is not feasible to enter into a mature defense innovation partnership described in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may—

(A) at any time if circumstances have changed to make such a partnership feasible, revise such determination; and

(B) not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a justification for the revision of such determination, enter into such a partnership.

(f) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, with respect to each country described in paragraph (2), shall submit to the appropriate commit-

tees of Congress a certification as to whether the country—

(A) has in place and is fulfilling comprehensive and effective measures to protect and prevent the transfer of United States military technology to third parties; and

(B) is intentionally misusing defense articles procured or developed through the initiative under this section, including against civilians or civilian infrastructure.

(2) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—The countries described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Israel.

(B) The United Arab Emirates.

(C) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(D) The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

(E) Qatar.

(F) The Kingdom of Bahrain.

(G) Each country within the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command selected by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, as an ideal partner for collaboration in the area of defense innovation.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

(1) a description of the implementation of exploratory defense innovation partnerships; and

(2) the determination required by subsection (e) and a justification for such determination.

(h) PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, shall take all necessary steps to ensure the protection from foreign actors of the intellectual property of United States companies that participate in the initiative established under subsection (a).

(i) 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 Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNER IN THE MIDDLE EAST.—The term “defense innovation partner in the Middle East” means a country with respect to which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has submitted a certification under subsection (f)(1) that the country—

(A) has in place and is fulfilling comprehensive and effective measures to protect and prevent the transfer of United States military technology to third parties; and

(B) is not intentionally misusing defense articles procured or developed through initiative under this section, including against civilians or civilian infrastructure.

(3) EXPLORATORY DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP.—The term “exploratory defense innovation partnership” means a partnership that involves the following collaborative activities between the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East:

(A) Convening events focused on defense innovation, with participation of representatives of government, industry, and investors of the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(B) Information exchanges between the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East to share best practices with respect to the acquisition of commercial technology that meets the needs of warfighters.

(C) Meetings to share lessons learned on rapidly prototyping, experimenting, and scaling innovative defense solutions during an ongoing military conflict.

(D) Any other collaborative activity to improve and integrate the defense innovation base of the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

SA 3823. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERS OF UNITED STATES DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES AMONG BALTIC STATES.

(a) EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER.—

(1) RETRANSFERS AMONG BALTIC STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2753(a)(2)) and Section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 USC 2314(a)(1)), retransfers of defense articles related to United States-origin mobile rocket artillery systems among Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia shall not require prior Presidential consent.

(B) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided in subparagraph (A) shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—

(A) CONSENT TO TRANSFER NOT REQUIRED.—An agreement between the United States and a Baltic State under section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)) with respect to defense articles or defense services related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States shall not require the Baltic state to seek approval from the United States to transfer the defense article or defense service to any other Baltic state.

(B) MODIFICATION.—With respect to any agreement under section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)(2)) in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act that requires the consent of the President before a Baltic state may transfer a defense article or defense service related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States, at the request of any Baltic state, the United States shall modify such agreement so as to remove such requirement with respect to such a transfer to any other Baltic state.

(b) COMMON COALITION KEY.—The Secretary of Defense may establish among the Baltic states a common coalition key or other technological solution within the Baltic states for the purpose of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) among the Baltic states for training and operational purposes.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BALTIC STATE.—The term “Baltic state” means the following:

- (A) Estonia.
- (B) Lithuania.
- (C) Latvia.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE.—The terms “defense article” and “defense service” have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 3824. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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:

In section 136 of title I of division A, strike subsection (a) and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9062(1)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “During” and all that follows through “retire more than 68 F-15E aircraft;” and inserting “The Secretary of the Air Force may not—

“(A)(i) retire any F-15E aircraft during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 and ending on September 30, 2026; and

“(ii) retire more than 54 F-15E aircraft beginning on October 1, 2026, of which the Secretary may not retire more than 24 during the period beginning on October 1, 2026 and ending on September 30, 2027;”.

SA 3825. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. GALLEGOS, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Pursuant to the authority provided in chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may establish and carry out an initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security Initiative”, for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the military forces of the Baltic countries.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall be carried out pursuant to the authorities provided in title 10, United States Code.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of an initiative established under subsection (a) should include—

(1) to achieve United States national security objectives by—

(A) deterring aggression by the Russian Federation; and

(B) implementing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s new Strategic Concept, which seeks to strengthen the alliance’s deterrence and defense posture by denying po-

tential adversaries any possible opportunities for aggression;

(2) to enhance regional planning and cooperation among the military forces of the Baltic countries, particularly with respect to long-term regional capability projects, including—

(A) long-range precision fire systems and capabilities;

(B) integrated air and missile defense;

(C) maritime domain awareness;

(D) land forces development, including stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

(E) command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(F) special operations forces development;

(G) coordination with and security enhancements for Poland, which is a neighboring North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

(H) other military capabilities, as determined by the Secretary; and

(3) with respect to the military forces of the Baltic countries, to improve cyber defenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a strategy for the Department of Defense to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

(A) security assistance programs for the Baltic countries authorized as of the date on which the strategy is submitted;

(B) the ongoing security threats to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s eastern flank posed by Russian aggression, including as a result of the Russian Federation’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

(C) the ongoing security threats to the Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive economic policies, and other malign activities of the People’s Republic of China.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028 to carry out an initiative established under subsection (a).

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should seek to require matching funds from each of the Baltic countries that participate in such an initiative in amounts commensurate with amounts provided by the Department for the initiative.

(f) BALTIC COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Baltic countries” means—

(1) Estonia;

(2) Latvia; and

(3) Lithuania.

SA 3826. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025

SEC. 1270. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

PART I—DEFINITIONS AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS

SEC. 1271. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1402 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRY.—The term ‘advancing income country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is—

“(A) greater than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development graduation process; and

“(B) is equal to or less than the per capita income threshold for classification as a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank).”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(3) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term ‘country of concern’ means any of the following countries:

“(A) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

“(B) The Republic of Cuba.

“(C) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“(D) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

“(E) The People’s Republic of China.

“(F) The Russian Federation.

“(G) Belarus.

“(4) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRY.—The term ‘high-income country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country with a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank) at the start of such fiscal year.”; and

(4) by striking paragraph (5), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(5) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY.—The term ‘less developed country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is equal to or less than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction Development graduation process.”.

SEC. 1272. LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.

Section 1412 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9612) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “and countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies” and inserting “countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies, and other eligible foreign countries”; and

(B) by inserting “and national security” after “foreign policy”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

“(1) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.—The Corporation shall prioritize the provision of support under title II in less developed countries.

“(2) ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in an advancing income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees, that such support will be provided

in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(2). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

“(3) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in a high-income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such support will be provided in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(3). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may be submitted in classified or confidential form, that includes—

“(i) a list of all high-income countries in which the Corporation anticipates providing support in the subsequent fiscal year (and, with respect to the first such report, the then-current fiscal year); and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, a description of the type of projects anticipated to receive such support.

“(C) PROJECTS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN REPORT.—The Corporation may not provide support for a project in a high-income country in any year for which that high-income country is not included on the list required by subparagraph (B)(i), unless, not later than 15 days before final management approval, the Corporation consults with and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification describing how the proposed project advances the foreign policy interests of the United States.

“(d) STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish policies, which shall be applied on a project-by-project basis, to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects and investments in advancing income countries and high-income countries.

“(2) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in an advancing income country shall require that such projects—

“(A) advance—

“(i) the national security interests of the United States in accordance with United States foreign policy, as determined by the Secretary of State; or

“(ii) significant strategic economic competitiveness imperatives;

“(B) are designed in a manner to produce significant developmental outcomes or provide developmental impacts to the poorest populations of such country; and

“(C) are structured in a manner that maximizes private capital mobilization.

“(3) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in high-income countries shall require that—

“(A) each such project meets the requirements described in paragraph (2);

“(B) with respect to each project in a high-income country—

“(i) private sector entities have been afforded an opportunity to support the project on viable terms in place of support by the Corporation; and

“(ii) such support does not exceed more than 25 percent of the total cost of the project;

“(C) with respect to support for all projects in all high-income countries, the aggregate amount of such support does not exceed 8 percent of the total contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding as of the date on which any such support is provided in a high-income country; and

“(D) the Chief Executive Officer submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may be submitted as an appendix to a report required by section 1446, that—

“(i) certifies that the Corporation has applied the policy to each supported project in a high-income country; and

“(ii) describes whether such support—

“(I) is a preferred alternative to state-directed investments by a foreign country of concern; or

“(II) otherwise furthers the strategic interest of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern.

“(e) INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—The Corporation shall not provide support for a project in a country of concern.

“(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the Corporation should continuously operate in a manner that advances its core mission and purposes, as described in this title; and

“(2) resources of the Corporation should not be diverted for domestic or other activities extending beyond the scope of such mission and purpose.”.

PART II—MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION

SEC. 1273. STRUCTURE OF CORPORATION.

Section 1413(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(a)) is amended by inserting “a Chief Strategic Investment Officer,” after “Chief Development Officer.”.

SEC. 1274. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(iii), by striking “5 individuals” each place it appears and inserting “3 individuals”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) SUNSHINE ACT COMPLIANCE.—Meetings of the Board are subject to section 552b of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Government in the Sunshine Act’).”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Board shall—

“(1) hold at least 2 public hearings each year in order to afford an opportunity for any person to present views with respect to whether—

“(A) the Corporation is carrying out its activities in accordance with this division; and

“(B) any support provided by the Corporation under title II in any country should be suspended, expanded, or extended;

“(2) as necessary and appropriate, provide responses to the issues and questions discussed during each such hearing following the conclusion of the hearing;

“(3) post the minutes from each such hearing on a website of the Corporation and, consistent with applicable laws related to privacy and the protection of proprietary business information, the responses to issues and questions discussed in the hearing; and

“(4) implement appropriate procedures to ensure the protection from unlawful disclosure of the proprietary information submitted by private sector applicants marked as business confidential information unless—

“(A) the party submitting the confidential business information waives such protection

or consents to the release of the information; or

“(B) to the extent some form of such protected information may be included in official documents of the Corporation, a nonconfidential form of the information may be provided, in which the business confidential information is summarized or deleted in a manner that provides appropriate protections for the owner of the information.”.

SEC. 1275. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Section 1413(d)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) RELATIONSHIP TO BOARD.—The Chief Executive Officer shall—

“(A) report to and be under the direct authority of the Board; and

“(B) take input from the Board when assessing the performance of the Chief Risk Officer, established pursuant to subsection (f), the Chief Development Officer, established pursuant to subsection (g), and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer, established pursuant to subsection (h).”.

SEC. 1276. CHIEF RISK OFFICER.

Section 1413(f) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “who—” and inserting “who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Risk Officer shall—

“(A) report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) support the risk committee of the Board established under section 1441 in carrying out its responsibilities as set forth in subsection (b) of that section, including by—

“(i) developing, implementing, and managing a comprehensive framework and process for identifying, assessing, and monitoring risk;

“(ii) developing a transparent risk management framework designed to evaluate risks to the Corporation’s overall portfolio, giving due consideration to the policy imperatives of ensuring investment and regional diversification of the Corporation’s overall portfolio;

“(iii) assessing the Corporation’s overall risk tolerance, including recommendations for managing and improving the Corporation’s risk tolerance and regularly advising the Board on recommended steps the Corporation may take to responsibly increase risk tolerance; and

“(iv) regularly collaborating with the Chief Development Officer and the Chief Strategic Investments Officer to ensure the Corporation’s overall portfolio is appropriately balancing risk tolerance with development and strategic impact.”.

SEC. 1277. CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413(g) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “in development” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through “shall be” subparagraph (B) and inserting “in international development and development finance, who shall be”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND RESPONSIBILITIES” after “DUTIES”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), and (I), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on international development policy matters and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to international development;

“(C) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States international development interests;”;

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “United States Government” and all that follows and inserting “Federal departments and agencies, including by directly liaising with the relevant members of United States country teams serving overseas, to ensure that such Federal departments, agencies, and country teams have the training and awareness necessary to fully leverage the Corporation’s development tools overseas;”;

(E) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “under the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer,”;

(ii) by inserting “the development impact of Corporation transactions, including” after “evaluating”; and

(iii) by striking “United States Government” and inserting “Federal”;

(F) by striking subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(F) coordinate implementation of funds or other resources transferred to and from such Federal departments, agencies, or overseas country teams in support of the Corporation’s international development projects or activities;”;

(G) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by inserting “manage the reporting responsibilities of the Corporation under” after “1442(b) and”;

(H) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(I) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

“(J) oversee implementation of the Corporation’s development impact strategy and work to ensure development impact at the transaction level and portfolio-wide;

“(K) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States international development policy and interests;

“(L) coordinate within the Corporation to ensure United States international development policy and interests are considered together with the Corporation’s foreign policy and national security goals; and

“(M) coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies to explore investment opportunities that bring evidence-based, cost effective development innovations to scale in a manner that can be sustained by markets.”.

SEC. 1278. CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

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

“(h) CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a Chief Strategic Investment Officer, from among individuals with experience in United States national security matters and foreign investment, who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Chief Strategic Investment Officer shall—

“(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on national security and foreign policy matters and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to United States national security and foreign policy;

“(C) coordinate efforts to develop the Corporation’s strategic investment initiatives—

“(i) to counter predatory state-directed investment and coercive economic practices of adversaries of the United States;

“(ii) to preserve the sovereignty of partner countries; and

“(iii) to advance economic growth and national security through the highest standards of transparency, accessibility, and competition;

“(D) provide input into the establishment of performance measurement frameworks and reporting on development outcomes of strategic investments, consistent with sections 1442 and 1443;

“(E) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States national security and foreign policy priorities, including by complementing United States domestic investments in critical and emerging technologies;

“(F) manage employees of the Corporation that are dedicated to ensuring that the Corporation’s activities advance United States national security and foreign policy interests, including through—

“(i) long-term strategic planning;

“(ii) issue and crisis management;

“(iii) the advancement of strategic initiatives; and

“(iv) strategic planning on how the Corporation’s foreign investments may complement United States domestic production of critical and emerging technologies;

“(G) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States national security and foreign policy interests; and

“(H) collaborate with the Chief Development Officer to ensure United States national security interests are considered together with the Corporation’s development policy goals.”.

SEC. 1279. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Section 1413(i) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(i)), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, officers, employees, and agents shall be selected and appointed by, or under the authority of, the Chief Executive Officer, and shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Chief Executive Officer may determine.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “50” and inserting “70”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and such positions shall be reserved for individuals meeting the expert qualifications established by the Cor-

poration’s qualification review board” after “United States Code”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “, provided that no such officer or employee may be compensated at a rate exceeding level II of the Executive Schedule” after “respectively”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(C) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”.

SEC. 1280. DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY FINANCE COUNCIL.

Section 1413(j) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(j)), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Development Advisory Finance Council (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Council’) that shall advise the Board and the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group established by subsection (k) on the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Board, on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, and shall be composed of not more than 9 members broadly representative of non-governmental organizations, think tanks, advocacy organizations, foundations, private industry, and other institutions engaged in international development finance, of whom not fewer than 5 members shall be experts from the international development and humanitarian assistance sector.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) BOARD MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet with the Council at least twice each year and engage directly with the Board on its recommendations to improve the policies and practices of the Corporation to achieve the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.

“(5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Board shall—

“(A) prioritize maintaining the full membership and composition of the Council;

“(B) inform the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives when a vacancy of the Council occurs, including the date that the vacancy occurred; and

“(C) for any vacancy on the Council that remains for 120 days or more, submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives explaining why a vacancy is not being filled and provide an update on progress made toward filling such vacancy, including a reasonable estimation for when the Board expects to have the vacancy filled.”.

SEC. 1281. STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, there shall be established a Congressional Strategic Advisory Group (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Group’), which shall meet not less frequently than annually, including after the budget of the President submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Group shall be composed of the following:

“(A) The Chief Executive Officer.

“(B) The Chief Development Officer.

“(C) The Chief Strategic Investment Officer.

“(D) The Strategic Advisors of the Senate, as described in paragraph (3)(A).

“(E) The Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives, as described in paragraph (3)(B).

“(3) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE.—

“(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the ‘Strategic Advisors of the Senate’.

“(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

“(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

“(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

“(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

“(B) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the ‘Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives’.

“(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

“(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

“(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

“(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

“(4) OBJECTIVES.—The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Development Officer, and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer of the Corporation shall consult with the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives established under paragraph (3) in order to solicit and receive congressional views and advice on the strategic priorities and investments of the Corporation, including—

“(A) the challenges presented by adversary countries to the national security interests of the United States and strategic objectives of the Corporation’s investments;

“(B) priority regions, countries, and sectors that require focused consideration for strategic investment;

“(C) the priorities and trends pursued by similarly-situated development finance institutions of friendly nations, including opportunities for partnerships, complementarity, or co-investment;

“(D) evolving methods of financing projects, including efforts to partner with public sector and private sector institutional investors;

“(E) institutional or policy changes required to improve efficiencies within the Corporation; and

“(F) potential legislative changes required to improve the Corporation’s performance in meeting strategic and development imperatives.

“(5) MEETINGS.—

“(A) TIMES.—The chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives

shall determine the meeting times of the Group, which may be arranged separately or on a bicameral basis by agreement.

“(B) AGENDA.—Not later than 7 days before each meeting of the Group, the Chief Executive Officer shall submit a proposed agenda for discussion to the chair and the vice-chair of each strategic advisory group referred to in subparagraph (A).

“(C) QUESTIONS.—To ensure a robust flow of information, members of the Group may submit questions for consideration before any meeting. A question submitted orally or in writing shall receive a response not later than 15 days after the conclusion of the first meeting convened wherein such question was asked or submitted in writing.

“(D) CLASSIFIED SETTING.—At the request of the Chief Executive Officer or the chair and vice-chair of a strategic advisory group established under paragraph (3), business of the Group may be conducted in a classified setting, including for the purpose of protecting business confidential information and to discuss sensitive information with respect to foreign competitors.”

SEC. 1282. FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) BIENNIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.—

“(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Based upon guidance received from the Group established pursuant to section 1413(k), the Chief Executive Officer shall develop a Strategic Priorities Plan, which shall provide—

“(A) guidance for the Corporation’s strategic investments portfolio and the identification and engagement of priority strategic investment sectors and regions of importance to the United States; and

“(B) justifications for the certifications of such investments in accordance with section 1412(c).

“(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Strategic Priorities Plan should determine the objectives and goals of the Corporation’s strategic investment portfolio by evaluating economic, security, and geopolitical dynamics affecting United States strategic interests, including—

“(A) determining priority countries, regions, sectors, and related administrative actions;

“(B) plans for the establishment of regional offices outside of the United States;

“(C) identifying countries where the Corporation’s support—

“(i) is necessary;

“(ii) would be the preferred alternative to state-directed investments by foreign countries of concern; or

“(iii) otherwise furthers the strategic interests of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern;

“(D) evaluating the interest and willingness of potential private finance institutions and private sector project implementers to partner with the Corporation on strategic investment projects; and

“(E) identifying bilateral and multilateral project finance partnership opportunities for the Corporation to pursue with United States partner and ally countries.

“(3) REVISIONS.—At any time during the relevant period, the Chief Executive Officer may request to convene a meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group for the purpose of discussing revisions to the Strategic Priorities Plan.

“(4) TRANSPARENCY.—The Chief Executive Officer shall publish, on a website of the Corporation—

“(A) descriptions of entities that may be eligible to apply for support from the Corporation;

“(B) procedures for applying for products offered by the Corporation; and

“(C) any other appropriate guidelines and compliance restrictions with respect to designated strategic priorities.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Corporation, during the 2-year period beginning on October 1, 2025, should consider—

(1) advancing secure supply chains to meet the critical minerals needs of the United States and its allies and partners;

(2) making investments to promote and secure the telecommunications sector, particularly undersea cables; and

(3) establishing, maintaining, and supporting regional offices outside the United States for the purpose of identifying and supporting priority investment opportunities.

SEC. 1283. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Secretary of State, acting through the Director of the Foreign Service Institute and in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, shall conduct a review and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the utility of establishing elective training classes or programs on development finance within the School of Professional and Area Studies for all levels of the foreign service.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a description of how a proposed class would be structured to ensure an appropriate level of training in development finance, including descriptions of—

“(A) the potential benefits and challenges of development finance as a component of United States foreign policy in promoting development outcomes and in promoting United States interests in advocating for the advancement of free-market principles;

“(B) the operations of the Corporation, generally, and a comparative analysis of similarly situated development finance institutions, both bilateral and multilateral;

“(C) how development finance can further the foreign policies of the United States, generally;

“(D) the anticipated foreign service consumers of any proposed classes on development finance;

“(E) the resources that may be required to establish such training classes, including through the use of detailed staff from the Corporation or temporary fellows brought in from the development finance community; and

“(F) other relevant issues, as determined by the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation determines appropriate.”

SEC. 1284. INTERNSHIPS.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) INTERNSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish the Development Finance Corporation Student Internship Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to offer internship opportunities at the Corporation to eligible individuals to provide

important professional development and work experience opportunities and raise awareness among future development and international finance professionals of the career opportunities at the Corporation and to supply important human capital for the implementation of the Corporation's critically important development finance tools.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY.**—An individual is eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant—

“(A) is a United States citizen;

“(B) is enrolled at least half-time at—

“(i) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a))); or

“(ii) an institution of higher education based outside the United States, as determined by the Secretary of State; and

“(C) satisfies such other qualifications as established by the Chief Executive Officer.

“(3) **SELECTION.**—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish selection criteria for individuals to be admitted into the Program that includes a demonstrated interest in a career in international relations and international economic development policy.

“(4) **COMPENSATION.**—

“(A) **HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—The Chief Executive Officer may provide housing assistance to an eligible individual participating in the Program whose permanent address is within the United States if the location of the internship in which such individual is participating is more than 50 miles away from such individual's permanent address.

“(B) **TRAVEL ASSISTANCE.**—The Chief Executive Officer shall provide to an eligible individual participating in the Program, whose permanent address is within the United States, financial assistance that is sufficient to cover the travel costs of a single round trip by air, train, bus, or other appropriate transportation between the eligible individual's permanent address and the location of the internship in which such eligible individual is participating if such location is—

“(i) more than 50 miles from the eligible individual's permanent address; or

“(ii) outside of the United States.

“(5) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel any individual who is a participant in an internship program of the Corporation to participate in the collection of the data or divulge any personal information. Such individuals shall be informed that any participation in data collection under this subsection is voluntary.

“(B) **PRIVACY PROTECTION.**—Any data collected under this subsection shall be subject to the relevant privacy protection statutes and regulations applicable to Federal employees.

“(6) **SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, with respect to the number of interns to be hired under this subsection each year, may—

“(A) select, appoint, and employ individuals for up to 1 year through compensated internships in the excepted service; and

“(B) remove any compensated intern employed pursuant to subparagraph (A) without regard to the provisions of law governing appointments in the competitive excepted service.

“(7) **AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Internships offered and compensated by the Corporation under this subsection shall be funded solely by available amounts appropriated after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025 to the Corporate Capital Account established under section 1434.”.

SEC. 1285. INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.

Section 1415 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9614) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNCTIONS.**—Not later than 90 days after enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Board shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees describing any efficiencies that may be gained through the consolidation of functions of the independent accountability mechanism under the authorities of the Office of the Inspector General of the Corporation under section 1414. The report shall include an outline as to how the Inspector General of the Corporation would develop an internal environmental, social, and governance expertise to adequately replace the independent accountability mechanism's environmental, social, and governance expertise.”.

PART III—AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PROVISION OF SUPPORT

SEC. 1286. EQUITY INVESTMENT.

(a) **CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND.**—Section 1421(c) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) **CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ‘Development Finance Corporate Equity Investment Account’ (referred to in this division as the ‘Equity Investment Account’), which shall be administered by the Corporation as a revolving account to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(B) **PURPOSE.**—The Corporation shall—

“(i) manage the Equity Investment Account in ways that demonstrate a commitment to pursuing catalytic investments in less developed countries in accordance with section 1412(c)(1) and paragraph (1); and

“(ii) collect data and information about the use of the Equity Investment Account to inform the Corporation's record of returns on investments and reevaluation of equity investment subsidy rates prior to the termination of the authorities provided under this title.

“(C) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Equity Investment Account \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

“(D) **OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS AND FUNDS.**—Earnings and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, and fees, credits, and other collections from, the equity investments of the Corporation under the Equity Investment Account shall be retained and deposited into the Fund and shall remain available to carry out this subsection without fiscal year limitation without further appropriation.

“(E) **IMPACT QUOTIENT.**—The Corporation shall ensure that at least 25 percent of its obligations from funds authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (C) or otherwise made available for the Fund for Corporation projects are rated as highly impactful on the Impact Quotient assessment developed pursuant to section 1442(b)(1).”.

(b) **GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA.**—Section 1421(c)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)(3)), is amended in subparagraph (C) by inserting “, localized workforces, and partner country economic security” after “markets”.

(c) **LIMITATIONS ON EQUITY INVESTMENTS.**—Section 1421(c)(4)(A) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act

of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)(4)(A)), by striking “30” and inserting “40”.

SEC. 1287. SPECIAL PROJECTS.

Section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.**—The Corporation may administer and manage special projects and programs in support of specific transactions undertaken by the Corporation—

“(1) for the provision of post-investment technical assistance for existing projects of the Corporation, including programs of financial and advisory support that provides private technical, professional, or managerial assistance in the development of Human Resources, skills, technology, or capital savings; or

“(2) subject to the nondelegable review and approval of the Board, to create holding companies or investment funds where the Corporation is the general partner, to provide international support that advance both the development objectives and foreign policy interests outlined in the purposes of this division if, not later than 30 days prior to entering into an agreement or other arrangement to provide support pursuant to this section, the Chief Executive Officer—

“(A) notifies the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) includes in the notification required by subparagraph (A) a certification that such support—

“(i) is designed to meet an exigent need that is critical to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) could not otherwise be secured utilizing the authorities under this section.”.

SEC. 1288. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Section 1422 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) The Corporation shall, with respect to providing any loan guaranty to a project, require the parties to the project to bear a risk of loss on the project in an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the amount of such guaranty. The Corporation shall continue to work with the President to streamline the process for securing waivers that would enable the Corporation to may guarantee up to 100 percent of the amount of a loan, provided that risk of loss in the project borne by the parties to the project is equal to at least 20 percent of the guaranty amount.”; and

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

“(c) **BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT USURIOUS OR ABUSIVE LENDING BY INTERMEDIARIES.**—

“(1) The Corporation shall ensure that terms, conditions, penalties, rules for collections practices, and other finance administration policies that govern Corporation-backed lending, guarantees and other financial instruments through intermediaries are consistent with industry best practices and the Corporation's rules with respect to direct lending to its clients.

“(2) The Corporation shall develop required truth in lending rules, guidelines, and related implementing policies and practices to govern secondary lending through intermediaries and shall report such policies and practices to the appropriate committees not later than 180 days of enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, with annual updates, as needed, thereafter.

“(3) In developing such policies and practices required by paragraph (2), the Corporation shall—

“(A) take into account any particular vulnerabilities faced by potential applicants

or recipients of micro-lending and other forms of micro-finance;

“(B) develop and apply, generally, rules and terms to ensure Corporation-backed lending through an intermediary does not carry excessively punitive or disproportionate penalties for customers in default;

“(C) ensure that such policies and practices include effective safeguards to prevent usurious or abusive lending by intermediaries, including in the provision of microfinance; and

“(D) ensure the intermediary includes in any lending contract an appropriate level of financial literacy to the borrower, including—

“(i) disclosures that fully explain to the customer both lender and customer rights and obligations under the contract in language that is accessible to the customer;

“(ii) the specific loan terms and tenure of the contract;

“(iii) any procedures and potential penalties or forfeitures in case of default;

“(iv) information on privacy and personal data protection; and

“(v) any other policies that the Corporation determines will further the goal of an informed borrower.

“(4) The Corporation shall establish appropriate auditing mechanisms to oversee and monitor secondary lending, provided through intermediaries in partner countries in each annual report to Congress required under paragraph (2), a summary of the results of such audits.”.

SEC. 1289. TERMINATION.

Section 1424(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9624) is amended by striking “the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

PART IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1290. OPERATIONS.

Section 1431 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9631) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the Corporation is obligated to consult with and collect input from current employees, on plans to substantially reorganize the Corporation prior to implementation of such plan; and

“(2) the Corporation should consider preference, experience and, when relevant, seniority, when reassigning existing employees to new areas of work.”.

SEC. 1291. CORPORATE POWERS.

Section 1432(a)(10) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9632(a)(10)) is amended by striking “until the expiration of the current lease under predecessor authority, as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 1292. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

Section 1433 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9633) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1433. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The maximum contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding at any one time shall not exceed in the aggregate \$200,000,000,000.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The maximum contingent liability shall apply to all extension of liability by the Corporation regardless of the authority cited thereto.”.

SEC. 1293. PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING.

Section 1442 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9652) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “to be known as the Corporation’s Impact Quotient, which shall—

“(A) serve as a metrics-based measurement system to assess a project’s expected outcomes and development impact on a country, a region, and populations throughout the sourcing, origination, management, monitoring, and evaluation stages of a project’s lifecycle;

“(B) enable the Corporation to assess development impact at both the project and portfolio level;

“(C) provide guidance on when to take appropriate corrective measures to further development goals throughout a project’s lifecycle; and

“(D) inform congressional notification requirements outlining the Corporation’s project development impacts;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “method for ensuring, appropriate development performance” and inserting “method for evaluating and documenting the development impacts”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) develop standards for, and a method for ensuring, appropriate monitoring of the Corporation’s compliance with environmental and social standards consistent with the guidance published by the Corporation following broad consultation with appropriate stakeholders to include civil society; and

“(6) develop standards for, and a method for ensuring, appropriate monitoring of the Corporation’s portfolio, including standards for ensuring employees or agents of the Corporation identify and conduct in-person site visits of each high-risk loan, loan guarantee, and equity project, as necessary and appropriate, after the initial disbursement of funds.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

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

“(c) REQUIRED PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—At any meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group, the Corporation shall be prepared discuss the standards developed in subsection (b) for all ongoing projects.”; and

(4) by inserting at the end the following:

“(f) STAFFING FOR PORTFOLIO OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CAPACITY.—The Corporation shall maintain an adequate number of full-time personnel with appropriate expertise to fulfill its obligations under this section and section 1443, including—

“(A) monitoring and evaluating the financial performance of the Corporation’s portfolio;

“(B) evaluating the development and strategic impact of investments throughout the program lifecycle;

“(C) preparing required annual reporting on the Corporation’s portfolio of investments, including the information set forth in section 1443(a)(6); and

“(D) monitoring for compliance with all applicable laws and ethics requirements.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Personnel assigned to carry out the obligations described in paragraph (1) shall possess demonstrable professional experience in relevant areas, such as development finance, financial analysis, investment portfolio management, monitoring and evaluation, impact measurement, or legal and ethics expertise.

“(3) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.—The Corporation shall maintain such personnel within 1 or more dedicated units or offices, which shall—

“(A) be functionally independent from investment origination teams;

“(B) be managed by senior staff who report to the Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Officer; and

“(C) be allocated resources sufficient to fulfill the Corporation’s obligations under this section and to support transparency and accountability to Congress and to the public.

“(4) INSULATION FROM REDUCTIONS.—The Corporation may not reduce the staffing, funding, or organizational independence of the units or personnel responsible for fulfilling the obligations under this section unless—

“(A) the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such reductions are necessary due to operational exigency, statutory change, or budgetary shortfall; and

“(B) the Corporation includes in its annual report a detailed explanation of the impact of any such changes on its capacity to analyze and report on portfolio performance.”.

SEC. 1294. ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 1443 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9653) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

“(5) the United States strategic, foreign policy, and development objectives advanced through projects supported by the Corporation; and

“(6) the health of the Corporation’s portfolio, including an annual overview of funds committed, funds disbursed, default and recovery rates, capital mobilized, equity investments’ year on year returns, and any difference between how investments were modeled at commitment and how they ultimately performed; to include a narrative explanation explaining any changes.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) the desired development impact and strategic outcomes for projects, and whether or not the Corporation is meeting the associated metrics, goals, and development objectives, including, to the extent practicable, in the years after conclusion of projects;

“(B) whether the Corporation’s support for projects that focus on achieving strategic outcomes are achieving such strategic objectives of such investments over the duration of the support and lasting after the Corporation’s support is completed;

“(C) the value of private sector assets brought to bear relative to the amount of support provided by the Corporation and the value of any other public sector support;

“(D) the total private capital projected to be mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation during that year, including an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used;

“(E) the total private capital actually mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation that were fully funded by the end of that year, including—

“(i) an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used; and

“(ii) a comparison with the private capital projected to be mobilized for the projects described in this paragraph;

“(F) a breakdown of—

“(i) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries in the previous fiscal year; and

“(ii) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries and high-income countries averaged over the last 5 fiscal years;

“(G) a breakdown of the aggregate amounts and percentage of the maximum contingent liability of the Corporation authorized to be outstanding pursuant to section 1433 in less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries;

“(H) the risk appetite of the Corporation to undertake projects in less developed countries and in sectors that are critical to development but less likely to deliver substantial financial returns; and

“(I) efforts by the Chief Executive Officer to incentivize calculated risk-taking by transaction teams, including through the conduct of development performance reviews and provision of development performance rewards;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) to the extent practicable, recommendations for measures that could enhance the strategic goals of projects to adapt to changing circumstances; and”.

SEC. 1295. PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PROJECT INFORMATION.

Section 1444 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9654) is amended in paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) maintain a user-friendly, publicly available, machine-readable database with detailed project-level information, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, including a description of the support provided by the Corporation under title II, which shall include, to the greatest extent feasible for each project—

“(A) the information included in the report to Congress under section 1443;

“(B) project-level performance metrics; and

“(C) a description of the development impact of the project, including anticipated impact prior to initiation of the project and assessed impact during and after the completion of the project; and”.

SEC. 1296. NOTIFICATIONS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION.

Section 1446 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9656) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “the Corporation’s impact quotient outlining” after “asset and”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) information relating to whether the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors in the project, activity, or asset; and

“(B) for all projects, activities, or assets that the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors the Corporation shall include a description of the substantive policy rationale required by section 1422(b)(12) that influenced the decision to accept such a creditor status.”; and

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

“(d) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—For every equity investment above \$10,000,000 that the Corporation enters into, the Corporation shall submit to Congress a notification that includes—

“(1) the information required by section (b); and

“(2) a plan for how the Corporation plans to use any Board seat the Corporation is entitled to as a result of such equity investment, including any individual the Corporation plans to appoint to the Board and how the Corporations plans to use such Board seat to further United States strategic goals.”.

SEC. 1297. LIMITATIONS AND PREFERENCES.

Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5 percent” and inserting “2.5 percent”;;

(2) in subsection (e)(3) by inserting “, consistent with international financial institution standards,” after “best practices”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES, ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES, AND COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—

“(1) POLICY.—The Corporation shall develop appropriate policies and guidelines for support provided under title II for a project involving a state-owned enterprise, sovereign wealth fund, or a parastatal entity to ensure such support is provided consistent with appropriate principles and practices of competitive neutrality.

“(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

“(A) ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for a project that involves a private sector entity engaged in anticompetitive practices.

“(B) COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for projects—

“(i) that involve partnerships with the government of a country of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern; or

“(ii) that would be operated, managed, or controlled by the government of a country of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The President may waive the restriction under subparagraph (B)(i) on a project-by-project basis if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(i) a certification, which may be included as a classified or confidential annex to a report required by section 1446, that such support is important to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) a written justification of how such support directly counters or significantly limits the influence of an entity described in such subparagraph.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE.—The term ‘state-owned enterprise’ means any enterprise established for a commercial or business purpose that is directly owned or controlled by one or more governments, including any agency, instrumentality, subdivision, or other unit of government at any level of jurisdiction.

“(B) CONTROL.—The term ‘control’, with respect to an enterprise, means the power by any means to control the enterprise regardless of—

“(i) the level of ownership; and

“(ii) whether or not the power is exercised.

“(C) OWNED.—The term ‘owned’, with respect to an enterprise, means a majority or

controlling interest, whether by value or voting interest, of the shares of that enterprise, including through fiduciaries, agents, or other means.”.

SEC. 1298. REPEAL OF EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2019.

The European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (title XX of division P of Public Law 116-94; 22 U.S.C. 9501 note) is repealed.

SA 3827. Mr. MORAN (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 371, honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota; as follows:

In the first whereas clause, strike “mass” and insert “Mass”.

SA 3828. Mr. MORAN (for Mr. CRAMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 452, to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic “Miracle on Ice”, revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team competed at the 1980 Winter Olympics, officially the XIII Olympic Winter Games and known as the 1980 Lake Placid games, from February 13 to 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York.

(2) Team USA, comprised of collegiate players, defeated the defending Olympic champion the Soviet Union 4-3 on February 22, 1980, in the final round of the 1980 Winter Olympics men’s ice hockey tournament.

(3) The 1980 United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team roster included—

(A) Bill Baker (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);

(B) Neal Broten (Roseau, Minnesota);

(C) Dave Christian (Warroad, Minnesota);

(D) Steve Christoff (Richfield, Minnesota);

(E) Jim Craig (North Easton, Massachusetts);

(F) Mike Eruzione (Winthrop, Massachusetts);

(G) John Harrington (Virginia, Minnesota);

(H) Steve Janaszak (Saint Paul, Minnesota);

(I) Mark Johnson (Madison, Wisconsin);

(J) Rob McClanahan (Saint Paul, Minnesota);

(K) Ken Morrow (Flint, Michigan);

(L) Jack O’Callahan (Charlestown, Massachusetts);

(M) Mark Pavelich (Eveleth, Minnesota);

(N) Mike Ramsey (Minneapolis, Minnesota);

(O) Buzz Schneider (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);

(P) Dave Silk (Scituate, Massachusetts);

(Q) Eric Strobel (Rochester, Minnesota);

(R) Bob Suter (Madison, Wisconsin);

(S) Mark Wells (St. Clair Shores, Michigan); and

(T) Phil Verchota (Duluth, Minnesota).

(4) The "Miracle on Ice" United States and Soviet Union final round game aired on tape delay on Feb 22, 1980, from Lake Placid and drew 34,200,000 average viewers. The match is remembered as a "miracle" as collegiate ice hockey players defied expectations in defeating a Soviet team that won 4 consecutive gold medals dating back to 1964.

(5) Team USA defeated Finland 4-2 in its final game to win the gold medal, its first gold medal since 1960 in men's ice hockey.

(6) Herb Brooks, the last player cut from the 1960 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team that won gold at Squaw Valley, guided the 1980 team to its historic gold medal. Known as a motivator, Brooks molded a team built around hard work, belief in oneself, and belief in teammates. He reminded his team when they played the Soviets, "you were born to be hockey players, everyone one of you . . . and you were meant to be here".

(7) The tournament occurred at a time when the United States was struggling with rampant stagflation, high gas prices, hostages held in Iran, and increased tensions with the Soviet Union whose invasion of Afghanistan led to the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics.

(8) The Miracle on Ice was a turning point for ice hockey in the United States. The game was named the greatest sports moment of the 20th century by Sports Illustrated.

(9) The historic win brought ice hockey to the front-page of newspapers everywhere, and forever opened the door to the National Hockey League for players born in the United States. The impact of the event was far-reaching and is still being felt today.

(10) Since 1980, interest in the United States in the sport of ice hockey has increased exponentially. Registrations with USA Hockey have increased by nearly 400 percent since 1980 from 136,000 to over 564,000, and the number of National Hockey League players from the United States has increased from 72 in 1980 to 245 in 2024.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 3 gold medals of appropriate design to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a)—

(1) one gold medal shall be given to the Lake Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate;

(2) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate; and

(3) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it

shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SA 3829. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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:

Strike section 920.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE MASS SHOOTING AT THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 371) honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Klobuchar amendment to the preamble at the desk be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that 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. 371) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3827) to the preamble is as follows:

(Purpose: To correct a capitalization error)

In the first whereas clause, strike "mass" and insert "Mass".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 371), with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 371

Honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Whereas, on August 27, 2025, congregants gathered at the Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for a Mass to welcome back students for their first week of school;

Whereas their sense of peace was shattered when a shooter opened fire while they were in prayer, killing 2 children and injuring 21 others;

Whereas first responders, including members of the Minneapolis Police Department, emergency medical teams, hospital staff, and Federal law enforcement officers, community members, and volunteers responded with courage and compassion; and

Whereas the Annunciation Catholic Church and School community, local schools, families, and neighbors have shown strength and resilience in the face of this tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns this senseless act of violence and offers its condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured in the tragedy;

(2) honors the memory of the victims and stands in solidarity with survivors, the Catholic community, and the broader Minneapolis community;

(3) commends the bravery and service of law enforcement, first responders, school and church staff, and community members who acted swiftly to protect and help others;

(4) stands with the Annunciation Catholic Church and School community and all Minnesotans in the face of this terrible tragedy;

(5) expresses hope that the Annunciation community, together with other communities scarred by gun violence across the country, will heal through unity, compassion, and shared faith;

(6) declares that there is no place for violence in our communities, and that everyone deserves to feel safe in their sacred places of worship and schools; and

(7) expresses solidarity with all faith communities and schools that have been scarred by such violence.

MIRACLE ON ICE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 452 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 452) to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at

the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, based upon that, I ask unanimous consent that the Cramer substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3828) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team competed at the 1980 Winter Olympics, officially the XIII Olympic Winter Games and known as the 1980 Lake Placid games, from February 13 to 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York.

(2) Team USA, comprised of collegiate players, defeated the defending Olympic champion the Soviet Union 4-3 on February 22, 1980, in the final round of the 1980 Winter Olympics men's ice hockey tournament.

(3) The 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team roster included—

(A) Bill Baker (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);
(B) Neal Broten (Roseau, Minnesota);
(C) Dave Christian (Warroad, Minnesota);
(D) Steve Christoff (Richfield, Minnesota);
(E) Jim Craig (North Easton, Massachusetts);

(F) Mike Eruzione (Winthrop, Massachusetts);

(G) John Harrington (Virginia, Minnesota);
(H) Steve Janaszak (Saint Paul, Minnesota);

(I) Mark Johnson (Madison, Wisconsin);
(J) Rob McClanahan (Saint Paul, Minnesota);

(K) Ken Morrow (Flint, Michigan);
(L) Jack O'Callahan (Charlestown, Massachusetts);

(M) Mark Pavelich (Eveleth, Minnesota);
(N) Mike Ramsey (Minneapolis, Minnesota);

(O) Buzz Schneider (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);

(P) Dave Silk (Scituate, Massachusetts);
(Q) Eric Strobil (Rochester, Minnesota);
(R) Bob Suter (Madison, Wisconsin);
(S) Mark Wells (St. Clair Shores, Michigan); and

(T) Phil Verchota (Duluth, Minnesota).

(4) The "Miracle on Ice" United States and Soviet Union final round game aired on tape delay on Feb 22, 1980, from Lake Placid and drew 34,200,000 average viewers. The match is remembered as a "miracle" as collegiate ice hockey players defied expectations in defeating a Soviet team that won 4 consecutive gold medals dating back to 1964.

(5) Team USA defeated Finland 4-2 in its final game to win the gold medal, its first gold medal since 1960 in men's ice hockey.

(6) Herb Brooks, the last player cut from the 1960 United States Olympic Men's Ice

Hockey Team that won gold at Squaw Valley, guided the 1980 team to its historic gold medal. Known as a motivator, Brooks molded a team built around hard work, belief in oneself, and belief in teammates. He reminded his team when they played the Soviets, "you were born to be hockey players, everyone one of you . . . and you were meant to be here".

(7) The tournament occurred at a time when the United States was struggling with rampant stagflation, high gas prices, hostages held in Iran, and increased tensions with the Soviet Union whose invasion of Afghanistan led to the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics.

(8) The Miracle on Ice was a turning point for ice hockey in the United States. The game was named the greatest sports moment of the 20th century by Sports Illustrated.

(9) The historic win brought ice hockey to the front-page of newspapers everywhere, and forever opened the door to the National Hockey League for players born in the United States. The impact of the event was far-reaching and is still being felt today.

(10) Since 1980, interest in the United States in the sport of ice hockey has increased exponentially. Registrations with USA Hockey have increased by nearly 400 percent since 1980 from 136,000 to over 564,000, and the number of National Hockey League players from the United States has increased from 72 in 1980 to 245 in 2024.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 3 gold medals of appropriate design to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a)—

(1) one gold medal shall be given to the Lake Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate;

(2) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate; and

(3) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

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(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 452), as amended, was passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be returned to committee: Calendar Nos. 176, 183, 257, 258, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, and 321.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9; 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 to resume consideration of Calendar No. 262, Maria Lanahan, and notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:45 a.m., the Senate execute the order of September 3 with respect to the Lanahan nomination; further, following the cloture vote on Calendar No. 269, Robert Law, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings, and at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Law nomination followed by cloture on Calendar No. 293, Kyle Dudek; and, finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the order with respect to the 10 U.S. attorneys agreed to just moments ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
WATERMAN NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 176 and make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
PARSONS NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 183, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
METCALF NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 257, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
DAVIS NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 258, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the

nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
ALME NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 316, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
CHASE NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Again, Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 317, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
MURPHY NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 318, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
ROSEN NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 319, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the

nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
SIEBERT NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 320, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
WALL NOMINATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 321, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

Mr. MORAN. For the information of all Senators, there are two votes at 11:45 a.m., two votes at 2:15 p.m., and further votes are expected later in the day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. MORAN. 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 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 8, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

EDWARD L. ARTAU, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF GEOFFREY MARK ALLEN

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I honor this day the life and service of my dear friend, Geoffrey Mark Allen.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Mark was a devoted husband, father, veteran, firefighter, business owner and man of steadfast faith whose dedicated service to others permeated every aspect of his life. Whether in his nearly three decades in the Louisiana National Guard, twenty-five years as a Shreveport firefighter, or as the founder of his company, Industrial Safety Solutions, he carried the values of integrity and faith everywhere he went and in everything he did.

During his military service, Mark was deployed to Iraq, where he successfully led his company in transporting equipment through combat zones while ensuring everyone returned home. His firefighting career was also marked by those same traits of heroism and courage, earning him commendations and recognition as Training Officer of the Year.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mark's deepest devotion was to God and his family. He and his wife Karen shared thirty-one incredible years of marriage, filled with traveling, laughter, and most importantly, raising their children, Drew and Maddie, in a home centered around Christ. Mark's favorite line of Scripture, Ephesians 2:8, was not only inscribed on his company's logo, but also written on the tablet of his heart.

It is my honor to dedicate a U.S. flag in honor of Mark and his legacy of service, faith, and love that will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. His absence will be deeply felt by myself and many others from our community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TED CORRIGAN AFTER 35 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ted Corrigan on the occasion of his retirement. Through more than three decades of steady leadership at Des Moines Water Works, Ted has played a central role in ensuring clean, reliable water for families across Central Iowa.

Since joining Des Moines Water Works in 1990, Ted has been a trusted steward of one of Iowa's most critical resources. He helped oversee major infrastructure improvements, expanded watershed protection programs, and worked with partners across the region to

strengthen collaboration among local water providers. His leadership helped bring about the creation of Central Iowa Water Works, a new regional utility model built on cooperation and long-term planning.

Ted guided the DMWW through both steady progress and unforeseen challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when basic services could not be taken for granted, he made certain that more than 500,000 Iowans continued to receive safe drinking water without interruption. His leadership during that period and beyond earned the Water Works national recognition, including the 2024 Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Management from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

Ted also understood that public service extends beyond pipes and pumps. He championed the transformation of Water Works Park into a welcoming community space, helping to lead the development of the Lauridsen Amphitheater and creating new opportunities for Iowans to gather, enjoy outdoor recreation, and build stronger community ties.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ted on matters of regional infrastructure and public health. His professionalism, clarity, and focus on long-term solutions made him a valuable partner to many, and his example has helped strengthen public trust in the institutions that serve our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ted Corrigan for his decades of committed service to the Des Moines community and to the people of Iowa. We extend our best wishes to him and his family as he enters this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RONALD NUNN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Ron Nunn. Born on April 8, 1933, Ron was a proud lifelong resident of Brentwood, California. He graduated from Liberty High School in 1951 as a three-sport varsity athlete and went on to play football at the University of the Pacific and Stanford University. He later played semi-pro football for the Antioch Hornets. Additionally, Ron courageously served in the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, fighting in the Korean War.

After his time in service, Ron returned to Brentwood where he raised his three children alongside his wife, Shirley. Ron was a passionate advocate for education and a key member of our community. In recognition of his service on the Brentwood School Board, a new elementary school was named in his honor in 1991. Ron was also a very successful farmer and developer. He continued to lead his family's farming operations, a legacy that

dates back to the 1880's. Ron expanded operations to build RRS partnership, which manages thousands of acres of farmland, including the largest wine grape operation in Contra Costa County. Ron also led the development of over 5,000 homes in the area through his partnership with the Blackhawk Corporation. Beyond his professional pursuits, Ron enjoyed many interests including cars, wine making, flying planes, and skiing with family and friends.

Sadly, Ron passed away on August 8, 2025 at the age of 92. Ron will be remembered for his leadership, dedication to his family, and for his incredible impact on East County. Please join me in honoring Ron Nunn for his many contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LILLIAN BENJAMIN "LIL" BOYSEN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lillian Benjamin Boysen, affectionately known to all as Lily Belle or just "Lil". Born on October 16, 1944, in Windber, Pennsylvania, Lil was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and overall, a friend. With profound sadness, we honor Lil following her passing on August 12, 2025. Lil was a woman whose warmth, leadership, and unwavering compassion profoundly impacted all who knew her, and her legacy will continue to inspire our community for years to come.

Lil was a patriot whose love for her community and her country guided everything she did. After high school, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked as a secretary for the Judge Advocate General. However, her greatest calling was at home, where she and her beloved husband, Rob, and four children, built a family that grew to include ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Lil was a passionate public servant and devoted herself to service, becoming a true pillar of faith and civic life in Lower Bucks County. At Trevoze United Methodist Church, she helped guide the congregation as a member of the Board of Directors. Supporting the programs for families and youth, mentoring younger members, and giving countless hours to strengthen the church community until its closing in 2011.

Beyond the church, she played a vital role in organizing civic efforts across our community, bringing neighbors together, encouraging participation, and engaging people in the issues that shaped their families and their future. She gave her time freely to charitable causes, offered guidance and encouragement to those in need, and worked to create spaces where community voices were heard and respected.

The lesson of Lil's life is that service is not an obligation, it is a way of living. She lived

• 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.

her faith not only in words but in action; through her generosity of spirit, her gift of time, and her devotion to others. She believed in unity—bringing people together, strengthening families, and building community. Her patriotism was steady and genuine, rooted in love of neighbors and love of country. Lil showed us that a meaningful life is not measured by titles or recognition, but by the compassion we show, the people we help, and the community we leave stronger and more united than we found it.

It is through the work of people like Lil that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stood as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can positively ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. We remember Lil not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

May we all strive to embody the same compassion and commitment to lifting others up that Lil demonstrated throughout her life. She will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, as we say farewell to Lillian Benamin Boysen, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and deeply loved. Her spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her, and her contributions to the world will be long remembered. As a woman who served her community and loved her family, it is with deep respect that I honor her memory today. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomew.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros (today, Gökçeada, Turkey), His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. His formal office is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century.

The role of the Ecumenical Patriarch as the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian world and transnational figure of global significance has increased exponentially during the tenure of His All-Holiness.

He has co-sponsored international peace conferences, as well as meetings about racism and fundamentalism, bringing together Christians, Muslims and Jews for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. He has advanced Christian-Muslim relations in such places as former Yugoslavia, advocating for peace-building measures to diffuse global conflict in the region, while supporting many traditionally Orthodox countries emerging from decades of wide scale religious persecution and oppression behind the Iron Curtain. Moreover, he has initiated international meetings and theological

conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance on a global level, proving a pioneer in interfaith encounters and traveling to Muslim countries rarely visited by Christian leaders.

He has organized international, inter-faith and inter-disciplinary symposia and summits to address ecological problems of the world, earning him the title "Green Patriarch" and prestigious international awards. His efforts to promote religious freedom and human rights, his initiatives to advance religious tolerance among the world's religions, together with his work toward international peace and environmental protection, have justly placed him at the forefront of global visionaries as an apostle of love, peace and reconciliation.

In 1997, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the United States Congress. The Guardian recognized him as one of the world's leaders in raising environmental awareness. And, in its category of Leaders and revolutionaries, Time Magazine named him as one of the world's most influential people. Now, he is being rightfully honored with the Templeton Prize, previously received by Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others. Congratulations to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on this honor and I thank him for his life of service.

RECOGNIZING DELTA AIR LINES'
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Delta Air Lines, a remarkable milestone for one of the world's most innovative and enduring airlines.

As Delta commemorates a century of service in 2025, we in Minnesota are especially proud to reflect on the deep roots this company has in our state through the history and legacy of Northwest Airlines. Founded in 1926, Northwest Airlines grew from humble beginnings into a global carrier headquartered in the Twin Cities. Northwest played a central role in shaping Minnesota's economy, creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, and connecting our communities to the Nation and the world. Its story is inextricably linked to our state's modern history.

One of the earliest chapters of that story is written at Holman Field in Saint Paul, the city's historic downtown airport. Holman Field bears the name of Charles "Speed" Holman, the pioneering aviator and Minnesota native who was hired as Northwest's first pilot in 1926. Holman's legacy as a fearless pilot and a trail-blazer in American aviation is preserved every time a plane lands at that field along the Mississippi River.

In 2008, when Delta and Northwest Airlines merged, it marked not the end of Northwest's legacy, but its continuation. Delta wisely built upon Northwest's deep roots in Minnesota and throughout the Upper Midwest, ensuring that the Twin Cities would remain a vital hub for international travel and commerce. Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP) now stands as one of Delta's largest hubs, carrying forward a proud tradition of service,

safety, and innovation that began nearly a century ago.

That same spirit of innovation continues today through the Minnesota Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Hub at MSP. This partnership, led by Greater MSP, brings together partners such as Delta, Ecolab, Xcel Energy, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission in the Nation's first large-scale hub committed to scaling production of sustainable aviation fuel to replace conventional jet fuel. As an anchor partner of the Minnesota SAF Hub, Delta is helping to create an industrial-scale supply chain for sustainable aviation fuel, anchored in Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, Delta's 100th anniversary is not only a milestone for the company, but also a moment to honor the people who make up Delta's legacy and current workforce. From Charles "Speed" Holman and the thousands of dedicated Northwest employees who made aviation history, in Minnesota, to the tens of thousands of Delta's current employees—many of whom belong to a union—pilots, flight attendants, customer service agents, and the skilled technicians, engineers, and mechanics who ensure Delta flights are safe and enjoyable—this centennial reflects a shared story of vision, resilience, and progress.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, I extend my warmest congratulations to Delta Air Lines on 100 years of service and innovation, and I look forward to its continued success in the century ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call vote No. 236, On Agreeing to the Amendment of Perry of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 32, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Stockton, a congregation whose presence has helped define the heart and history of the city since 1850.

Founded the same year Captain Charles M. Weber established the City of Stockton, St. John's stands as one of the oldest Episcopal churches on the West Coast and one of the few that remains on its original site. The church's legacy is not only one of remarkable longevity, but also of deep service and enduring community impact.

Its original Gothic brick building was consecrated in 1858. The current Norman-style sanctuary, completed in 1892, preserved several historic elements—stained glass windows

believed to be the oldest in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as the original baptismal font and pipe organ.

Over the past 175 years, St. John's has hosted more than 9,000 Sunday services and an untold number of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and holy observances. Yet its mission has always reached beyond its walls. Through initiatives like the HUB—Helping Urban Bicyclists—founded by Deacon Rev. Stephen Bentley, the church provides refurbished bicycles to those without transportation. The program has grown to include mobile showers, laundry services, meals, medical care, and case management, offering vital support to Stockton's unsheltered community.

St. John's is a church where everyone is welcomed with dignity and joy. Whether attending Sunday service, receiving a meal, or arriving with a dog—who are greeted each week with a biscuit and a blessing—each visitor becomes part of a tradition rooted in compassion. Above the church doors, the words "Enter, Rest, Pray" offer a simple but powerful invitation—one that has endured through generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church for 175 years of faithful service, inclusivity, and leadership in Stockton.

RECOGNIZING JAY VARNEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Varney, Madera County's Chief Administrator, for his service and accomplishments as he retires after four decades of public service.

Mr. Varney earned his Master of Science degree in Criminology from Fresno State and his Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Development from Michigan State University.

He went on to serve with the Dallas Police Department and the Lansing, Michigan, Police Department before becoming Police Chief and then City Administrator for the City of Chowchilla, California.

In 2014, Mr. Varney came to Madera and was elected to serve as the Madera County Sheriff. In 2020, the Madera County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Varney as County Administrative Officer, overseeing 25 county departments and a half-billion-dollar budget.

COVID hit almost as soon as he was hired, and Mr. Varney found himself navigating Madera County through one of the most challenging times in recent history. He played a vital role in helping Madera County survive and thrive through COVID. Thanks to his hard work, Madera County played an important part in the reopening of Madera Community Hospital.

Under Mr. Varney's direction and guidance, Madera County has seen significant growth in revenue, housing and business. Capital improvements flourished under his watch with the Madera County Justice Center as well as Fire Station No. 3 and the upgrading of Fire Station No. 11 through a cooperative, grant-funded project with North Fork Mono. He also oversaw Madera County's continuing expansion

along Highway 41 with the Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo developments.

Mr. Varney was instrumental in establishing the Sheriff's Foundation, which has raised more than a half-million dollars. The Sheriff's Foundation has secured vital search-and-rescue equipment like the county's Cessna 172 aircraft, giving law enforcement a better view from above, and the Screamer Seats first responders attach to helicopters, which has already saved one stranded hiker's life. The Sheriff's Foundation also helped create and build the county's K9 unit. Every dog on the road in Madera County today has been provided by funding from the Sheriff's Foundation.

Please join me in honoring Jay Varney for his dedication, commitment and public service for more than 42 years to the people of Madera County.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BATZER

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of Judge James M. Batzer, who passed away on August 28, 2025, at the age of 81.

James was born on December 14, 1943, in Manistee, Michigan, where he was raised and graduated from Manistee High School in 1961. He then attended Albion College and graduated with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 1968.

After college, he received his master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University, and his Juris Doctorate in 1978 from Wayne State University Law School, where he received awards for his writing and scholastic achievement. James went on to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan's Division of Mental Health where he represented the state in various fields of law.

In November of 1984, he was elected to serve the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties as Circuit Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit. Judge Batzer served his community in this position for 30 years until his retirement in January 2015. Judge Batzer dedicated his life to service and left a legacy on the bench of keeping his community safe and running a fair and fact-based courtroom.

On behalf of Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge James M. Batzer for his lifelong commitment to the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEVEN STUDENTS FROM ARKANSAS'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable

achievements of seven exceptional students from Arkansas's 2nd Congressional District:

Jack Koon, Ethan Chen, Fredrick Zawislak, Timothy Garrison, Yassin Bahgat, Jack Lowenthal, and Muhammad Younus.

These students have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to their academic pursuits, earning them the prestigious U.S. Merit Scholarship. This \$2,500 award recognizes their hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence.

Each of these young scholars has proven themselves as leaders in their schools and communities, balancing rigorous coursework with extracurricular involvement and service.

Their achievements serve as an inspiration to their peers and a testament to the bright future of our district.

Please join me in congratulating these students on this well-deserved honor. We look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the years to come.

HONORING DARYL RICHARDS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Mississippian, Mr. Daryl Richards, Jr., for his dedication, leadership, and service to the elders of the Mississippi Delta as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for the South Delta Planning and Development District (SDPDD).

Mr. Richards was born and raised in Greenville, the heart of the Mississippi Delta. A proud graduate of Greenville-Weston High School, Class of 2010, he went on to attend the University of Mississippi, where he earned dual degrees in Political Science and Business Administration. He later pursued graduate studies at Belhaven University, earning a Master of Business Administration.

During his junior year of college, Mr. Richards began an internship with the SDPDD. A few years later, after gaining management experience in the private sector, he was called back to serve his community. In 2019, at the age of 27, he was appointed as Director—becoming the youngest AAA Director in both the history of the District and the State of Mississippi.

In this role, Mr. Richards has embraced his calling to be a voice for Mississippi's elderly population. Under his leadership, the Agency provides critical services to seniors and their families across thirty-five municipalities and six counties. These include congregate meal sites, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, respite care, legal assistance, ombudsman services, adult day care, State Health Insurance Assistance, access to care programs, preventative health classes, elder abuse prevention, and a range of information and referral resources. Through these efforts, Mr. Richards and his team ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities are not forgotten.

Mr. Richards is inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "What are you doing for others?" This guiding principle motivates him daily to advocate for those who cannot

advocate for themselves. His commitment reflects not only in his professional service but also in his extensive community involvement. He is actively engaged with Walking in Love Ministries, has served as Chairman of the Community Foundation of Washington County, is Treasurer of 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta, Presidential Director of Delta Council, a board member of the Washington County United Way, a Mississippi Aging TAC Member, and a board member of the Three Rivers CDE Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Daryl Richards, Jr., for his tireless service to the people of the Mississippi Delta. He stands as a shining example of leadership, compassion, and commitment, and he continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of our elders and their families.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY MASTER SERGEANT
TOMMY J. KING AS SEPTEMBER
2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Master Sergeant Tommy J. King, a proud veteran of the United States Army and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for September 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to duty, excellence, and patriotism embody the very best of American service.

Master Sergeant King is a native of Houston, Texas, who answered the call to serve his country in February of 1994 at the young age of 18. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, followed by Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia, where he trained as an Automated Logistics Specialist (92A).

Over the course of 20 years in uniform, his service took him across the globe with assignments at Camp Casey, Korea; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Drum, New York; Kaiserslautern, Germany; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He also served as an instructor for the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Lee, Virginia. While deployed to Iraq as a Platoon Sergeant and First Sergeant with the 65th Engineer Battalion, Master Sergeant King earned the Bronze Star for his leadership and valor. He personally planned and led 72 combat logistics patrol missions throughout Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, accomplishing each without the loss of a single soldier.

Later, Master Sergeant King deployed to Afghanistan as part of PEO Soldier Weapons and PEO Soldier Sensor and Lasers under the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. There, he played a critical role in fielding and training troops on Individual Gunshot Detection equipment, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our warfighters during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following his retirement from active duty, Master Sergeant King remained with his family in Michigan. He supported the University of

Michigan's ROTC program before rejoining TACOM as a Logistics Management Specialist. Over the years, he rose through the ranks to become a GS-13 Team Lead for the Organic Industrial Base, demonstrating the same commitment to mission success that defined his military career. In August 2025, he concluded more than 35 years of combined military and civilian service to our Nation.

Master Sergeant King now plans to dedicate his time to supporting fellow veterans and strengthening the bonds of community that have guided his life of service. His journey reflects not only a lifetime of personal sacrifice, but also an enduring devotion to the United States Army, his fellow soldiers, and the freedoms we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, let us extend our deepest appreciation to Master Sergeant Tommy J. King for his decades of selfless service to this great Nation. His legacy of leadership, sacrifice, and patriotism will continue to inspire generations to come, and it is my distinct honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING LEWIS M.
UNTERMAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and proud constituent, Mr. Lewis M. Unterman, who will reach the remarkable milestone of 100 years young on November 7, 2025. Born in New York on November 7, 1925, Mr. Unterman represents a generation of Americans whose courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to freedom helped shape the course of history. At the age of 18, in the midst of World War II, Lewis answered the call to serve his country. On September 8, 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably as a Seaman First Class.

During his military service, Lewis demonstrated exceptional bravery and dedication. His valor was recognized through the awarding of multiple service decorations, including the Combat Action Ribbon, the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Victory Medal. These honors reflect his direct contribution to the global fight for peace and liberty during one of the most defining conflicts of the 20th century.

Following his military service, Lewis continued to embody the values of duty, service, and community. He now resides in Beverly Hills, Florida, where he remains an active and respected member of VFW Post 10087, continuing to advocate for his fellow veterans and keep the memory of their sacrifices alive.

Lewis and his beloved wife, Ellie, are shining examples of American patriotism and community spirit. Together, they have left an indelible mark on those around them, reminding us all of the strength and integrity that have long defined the American character.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to honor Mr. Lewis M. Unterman for his lifetime of service and sacrifice. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on his upcoming 100th birth-

day and offer best wishes for continued health, happiness, and the gratitude of a grateful Nation. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING JOE BONAMASSA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bonamassa, a celebrated blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter, for his tireless efforts in preserving and promoting the blues genre. Through the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation (KTBA), Bonamassa has become a beacon of hope for aspiring musicians, educators, and enthusiasts alike. Our Nation recognizes Joe Bonamassa's contributions to the blues community, the mission and impact of the KTBA Foundation, and the significance of his legacy in keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Joe Bonamassa is a renowned figure in the world of blues music, revered for his exceptional talent as a guitarist and his unwavering dedication to the preservation of the genre. He is seen by many as the best guitarist of his generation. In addition to his prolific career as a recording artist and performer, Bonamassa is the founder of the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting music education and preserving the rich heritage of the blues.

Joe Bonamassa's love affair with the blues began at a young age, inspired by the music of legends like B.B. King, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. With his prodigious talent and soulful playing style, Bonamassa quickly established himself as one of the preeminent blues guitarists of his generation. His extensive discography, which spans over two decades, showcases his mastery of the genre and his ability to breathe new life into classic blues songs.

Beyond his achievements as a performer, Bonamassa has been a passionate advocate for the blues community. He has used his platform to raise awareness about the importance of preserving this uniquely American art form and has worked tirelessly to ensure its continued relevance in the modern music landscape. Through his music, Bonamassa pays homage to the blues tradition while also pushing the boundaries of the genre, attracting new audiences and inspiring future generations of musicians.

In 2011, Joe Bonamassa founded the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation with the mission of providing resources and support to music education programs and aspiring musicians. The foundation offers scholarships, instrument donations, and grants to schools and organizations that are dedicated to teaching and preserving the blues. Through these initiatives, KTBA aims to empower young musicians and ensure that the blues remains a vibrant and thriving art form for years to come.

Since its inception, the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation has made a significant impact on the blues community, funding music programs in schools across the country and providing instruments to aspiring musicians who may not have had access otherwise. In addition to its financial support, KTBA also

hosts events, workshops, and educational programs that celebrate the blues and foster a sense of community among musicians and fans.

Joe Bonamassa's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a musician. Through his advocacy work with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, he has become a champion for the blues, ensuring that its rich legacy endures for future generations. His passion, talent, and generosity have earned him the respect and admiration of fans and fellow musicians alike, cementing his status as one of the genre's most influential figures.

As we celebrate Joe Bonamassa and his contributions to the blues community, we are reminded of the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift. Through his music and his philanthropy, Bonamassa has touched the lives of countless individuals and left an indelible mark on the world of blues music. As we look to the future, we are confident that his legacy will continue to shine brightly, keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Bonamassa's dedication to the blues and his efforts with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation have had a profound impact on the music community. Through his music, advocacy, and philanthropy, Bonamassa has helped to preserve the legacy of the blues while also ensuring its continued relevance in the 21st century. As we honor his contributions, we are reminded of the importance of supporting music education and nurturing the next generation of blues musicians. Joe Bonamassa's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift for years to come.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, Minnesotans are feeling the heat, literally. The Twin Cities have experienced 10 days over 90 degrees this summer, and wildfire smoke has resulted in 18 air quality alerts, nearing the record of 22 days in 2023. This is not a fluke. It's a sign of a worsening climate crisis that threatens our life, health, safety and economic security.

Instead of investing in solutions to this crisis, the Republican majority in Congress is advancing legislation that would raise energy costs for American households and businesses, make us less competitive and weaken our national security.

Last month, the House Appropriations Committee passed H.R. 4553, the fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. As the only Minnesotan on the Appropriations Committee, I will vote against advancing this bill. Its cuts will harm Minnesota and our Nation.

Our global competitors like China are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in clean-energy development, but Republicans are choosing to cut U.S. investments that create high-wage jobs, drive innovation and lower energy bills for Americans. Republicans' bill slashes energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the Department of Energy by \$1.6

billion, a staggering 47 percent cut. For Minnesota, this cut means we'll lose over \$6.7 million in federal funding if Republicans' Energy and Water bill becomes law.

If that wasn't bad enough, Republicans on the Appropriations Committee voted for a 44 percent cut to the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households lower their utility bills by improving home energy efficiency. This program helps roughly 1,200 Minnesotans weatherize their homes each year, saving families about \$372 annually on their energy bills. While most U.S. households spend 3 percent of their income on energy costs, low-income households often spend 15 percent or more. Under the MAGA Republican plan, many senior citizens and families would be forced to choose between buying groceries or cooling their homes during record-breaking heat.

It could get even worse for these families. President Donald Trump has proposed eliminating funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Trump calls LIHEAP "unnecessary," but for thousands of Minnesotans, it is a lifeline that helps to keep the heat on during our brutal winters.

As House Republicans' Energy and Water bill increases Minnesotans' energy costs, their funding cuts will have a chilling effect on clean-energy jobs—a sector that has been growing five times faster than Minnesota's overall job growth. More than 62,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, and more than 44,000 of them work in energy efficiency. More than 300 local contractors alone work on projects directly supported by the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Since taking office, Trump has been jeopardizing clean-energy jobs in Minnesota by terminating clean-energy incentives in his so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," canceling grants and illegally withholding funds from state, local and tribal governments. These actions are stalling clean-energy projects and eliminating high-wage jobs.

The Trump administration is also attacking workforce development for clean energy. In May, the Department of Labor shut down Job Corps, closing the doors of the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in St. Paul. For 44 years, Job Corps provided job training, education and housing for thousands of low-income, at-risk youth, preparing Minnesota's workforce to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, including jobs in renewable energy and efficiency.

We cannot afford to abandon these investments during a worsening climate crisis. American families are already struggling with high energy bills. But the need to develop our own homegrown clean and sustainable energy isn't just a matter of economic security; it's also about our national security.

The Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security concern. Climate change is making nations around the world more unstable and less safe. It's also hurting our military readiness here at home, with sea-level rise and extreme weather flooding our bases. Permafrost thaw is making Alaskan runways unusable. Radar stations are at risk of falling into the sea.

Mr. Chair, we don't have the luxury of ignoring the very real effects of climate change happening around us—especially when they're affecting our lives and livelihoods and our national security. Future generations will pay the highest costs of Republicans' failure to act.

As a Minnesota representative, I will fight to defend these critical investments because Minnesotans deserve better. The children deserve better.

RECOGNIZING SADIE PIREZ, CHEVROLET PLAY BALL PLAYER OF THE MONTH

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sadie Pirez of Readington, New Jersey, who has been recognized nationally as a Chevrolet Play Ball Player of the Month by Major League Baseball. This program highlights outstanding young athletes across the country who demonstrate exceptional talent, sportsmanship, and dedication to the game. Sadie has achieved remarkable success both on and off the field. She has been a part of three championship teams over the past three seasons and was selected for the Branchburg Recreation Spring 2025 All-Star Team. Sadie led her travel team to the Parkway League Spring Division Championship and was team leader in runs scored and RBI's, carrying an impressive .521 batting average and .662 on-base percentage this past spring.

Off the field, Sadie is a two-time Hunterdon Art Museum Young Artist Award recipient and has been featured in the Holland Brook School Bobcat Bulletin. She also maintains straight A's in all core subjects. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Sadie and her remarkable achievements, and I look forward to seeing Sadie continue to be successful both on and off the field for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the Roll Call vote on H.J. Res. 106. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 225.

HONORING PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among American men, with one in eight men receiving diagnosis in their lifetime. This disease also affects African American men at higher rates. Yet through early detection and effective medical treatment, many men can lead fulfilling lives. This month emphasizes the importance of regular doctors' visits and testing as well as reminds us of the need to normalize open and honest conversations with our loved

ones about their health. We can eradicate this deadly disease through continued awareness, elevating stories, and supporting innovative research for the men we hold dear in our lives.

While the fight is far from over, it is incumbent upon us to do our part. As the daughter of a brave survivor of prostate cancer, recognizing September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is a small token of appreciation for all that have taken part in this fight against this disease. Today, I uplift my father, Joseph Crockett, and all prostate cancer survivors who are living testimonies of overcoming one of life's most challenging experiences. I also honor all we have lost, knowing their deaths are not in vain, but instead strengthen our resolve for finding a cure. Their tenacious spirit lives within all of us.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JENNIFER FUHS

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

MR. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Jennifer Fuhs, a beloved mother, grandmother, and fighter from Lewiston, Idaho, who is courageously facing the final stages of her battle with cancer.

Jennifer dedicated her career as a compassionate defense attorney, advocating for individuals in Lewiston who faced uncertain life circumstances. She approached her work with empathy and conviction, always seeking fairness and justice for those in need.

Beyond her professional service, Jennifer is a devoted mother to her five children and a proud grandmother to her four grandchildren, whom she adores deeply. She is witty, organized, hardworking, and spunky, and she carries a spirit of generosity that inspires everyone around her. She loves to laugh, spend time with her friends and family, and she lives each day with purpose and joy.

Her strength and grace in the face of illness is a source of inspiration, not only to her loved ones but to her entire community. She embodies the very best of the American spirit—resilience, compassion, and unwavering love for others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jennifer Fuhs for the life she lives, the example she has set, and the legacy she continues to build. May she be surrounded with peace, comfort, and the knowledge that her impact will endure for generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

MR. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 14, 2025, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 191, 192, and 193. Had I been present, I would have voted as followed: YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

HONORING PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
REVOLUTIONARY WAR MILITIA
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JACOB
REED

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

MR. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Society Daughters of American Revolution (NSDAR), Towamencin Chapter, which is an organization in my district. The NSDAR was founded in 1890 to promote Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism across the United States. Members seek to honor their heritage as daughters of Patriots who supported the Revolutionary War while making a difference in their communities.

The Towamencin Chapter, NSDAR has collaborated with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in their initiative to celebrate the semiquincentennial of our Nation in 2026. This program offers grants to commemorate historical points of interest significant to the Revolutionary War period. The Towamencin Chapter, NSDAR, along with the assistance of the Hatfield Historical Society and Museum, were grateful that one of the historical sites chosen belonged to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) Jacob Reed, a Patriot from Hatfield, Pennsylvania.

Lt. Col. Jacob Reed was born on July 6, 1730, in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He died on November 2, 1820, in New Britain Township, Pennsylvania. He married Magdalena Leidy and had 9 children together. Jacob Reed came from a very patriotic family with his father paying the Supply Tax in 1781 in Hatfield Township and all his brothers and brothers-in-law participating in the Revolutionary War. Two of his sons also fought in the Revolutionary War.

Lt. Col. Jacob Reed resided in Hatfield from 1770 to 1793, having secured a 215-acre land warrant from the sons of William Penn. His original log home, built in the 18th century, still stands today as part of the current farmhouse on the property.

A respected farmer, church elder, and public servant, Jacob Reed's legacy is deeply embedded in the fabric of Hatfield's history. During the Revolutionary War, he served as Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, making him the highest-ranking military officer from Hatfield at the time. He played critical roles in the Battles of Germantown and Brandywine, and was later elected Major of the 5th Battalion, Pennsylvania Troops, continuing his service until the war's end.

His unwavering faith in the American cause had brought attacks on Reed's life and home. Yet, Jacob Reed never swayed. Reed's intimate knowledge of the region's terrain and demographics proved to secure him as an invaluable asset to General George Washington.

Additionally, the Forst family who are members of our district, were instrumental in saving this property from development. Bill Forst bought the property and then used his own funds and time to restore the property to what it is today. The property has now passed to his daughters, Wendy Forst Ferrell and Fay Forst Younger, who allowed the Towamencin

Chapter, NSDAR to install the marker on their property as well as hold a dedication ceremony recognizing the contributions of Lt. Col. Jacob Reed and his willingness to fight for his beliefs.

Through these acts of endless patriotism and dedication, the Forst family, Daughters of the Revolution, Towamencin Chapter, William G. Pomeroy Foundation, and the Hatfield Historical Society demonstrated their unwavering commitment to serving the Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TERESA BOWEN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

MR. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize Terry Bowen as she retires from her role with Gray-Bowen-Scott.

Teresa Bowen has worked tirelessly to bring transportation and development initiatives to life throughout the Bay Area. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in Civil Engineering and began her career with Contra Costa Public Works Department, where she served as a Senior Civil Engineer. In 1986, Terry joined what is now known as Gray-Bowen-Scott as the organization's fourth employee. Throughout her tenure with Gray-Bowen-Scott, she has lent her expertise in local government to help countless clients navigate the system to make their projects a reality. Terry has fostered relationships with key partners such as Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, the California Transportation Commission, and other regional transportation agencies. She prides herself on the strong relationships she's built with these stakeholders and her work has helped to deliver transportation and land development projects for our community for over forty years. Additionally, Terry was instrumental in the Sunol Grade Express Lane Project in Alameda County. Throughout this project, Terry worked closely with environmental groups, advocated for necessary state legislation, and secured funding to help complete the first express lane project in the Bay Area. Her work on this has set a precedent for how these projects are handled throughout the region. Terry's approach has demonstrated collaborative, creative problem-solving to address complex transportation issues.

Beyond her work at Gray-Bowen-Scott, Terry previously served as Chair of the East Bay Leadership Council, where she further demonstrated her commitment to improving quality of life for Bay Area residents and bolstering our region's economy. Outside of her professional accomplishments, Terry enjoys seeking out new learning opportunities, a good red wine, dancing, and spoiling her four-legged friends. Terry's work has been critical in shaping our region and her leadership has left an indelible impact on our community.

Please join me in congratulating Terry Bowen on her retirement after decades of dedicated service and wishing her well as she begins this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF DAN HOUSTON

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dan Houston on the occasion of his retirement and to honor his more than 40 years of service at Principal Financial Group. From his first role in the retirement division to serving as Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Dan has exemplified steady leadership, a deep sense of responsibility, and a commitment to doing right by others. His career reflects the integrity and work ethic that define our state.

Throughout his four decades at Principal, Dan helped guide the company through times of change and growth while staying true to its mission of serving everyday Americans. Under his leadership, Principal remained a reliable partner for working families and small businesses, helping them prepare for the future, plan for retirement, and weather economic uncertainty. He championed a people-first approach to financial services that created long-term security for those Principal served.

Beyond the workplace, Dan remains a strong supporter of education, civic engagement, and local leadership. He serves on the boards of the Iowa Business Council, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa State University College of Business, the Partnership for a Healthier America, and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Through these roles, he continues to lift others up and strengthen the communities we call home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dan Houston for his commitment to Iowa, his more than 40 years of service at Principal Financial Group, and in wishing him well as he steps into this new chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN GROTHMAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 171, I am not recorded because I was held up in an important meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 171.

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 infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine evaluating perspectives on deposit insurance reform.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness

To hold hearings to examine America's AI action plan.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine a discussion draft of the Wildfire Emissions Prevention Act, and S. 881, to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.

SD-562

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census

To hold hearings to examine America's fire apparatus crisis.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of William Kirkland, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine Federal programs at the Department of Energy.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Georgia's anti-American turn.

2358C-RHOB

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a pending nomination.

SR-418

SEPTEMBER 11

9 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 472, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 1279, to redesignate the Halls Cove Visitor Center at Acadia National Park as the George J. Mitchell Visitor Center, S. 1453, to confirm the use of certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, for public purposes, S. 909 and H.R. 1043, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and the nominations of Laura Swett, of Virginia, and David LaCerte, of Louisiana, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SD-G50

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Joshua D. Dunlap, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, William W. Mercer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Stephen Chad Meredith, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Arch Capito, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years, David Dunavant, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years, Matthew Harvey, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years, John Heekin, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years, Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years, Leif Olson, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years, Adam Sleeper, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years, and David Toepfer, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie Stuft, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, and Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom

of Morocco, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine certain pending nominations.	SEPTEMBER 17		POSTPONEMENTS	
	2:30 p.m.	Committee on Indian Affairs	SEPTEMBER 11	
SD-419		To hold hearings to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service.	9:30 a.m.	Committee on Appropriations
				Business meeting to markup “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026”.
		SD-628		SD-106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6391–S6441

Measures Introduced: Six bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2730–2735, and S. Res. 375–377. **Pages S6401–02**

Measures Reported:

S. 606, to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells. (S. Rept. No. 119–61)

S. 1081, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit certain reports to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 119–62)

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. 2292, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2301, to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

S. 2398, to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S6401

Measures Passed:

Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 452, to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they

defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6439–40**

Moran (for Cramer) Amendment No. 3828, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6440**

Honoring the Victims and Survivors of the Mass Shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 371, honoring the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at the Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6439**

Moran (for Klobuchar) Amendment No. 3827, to correct a capitalization error. **Page S6439**

Nominations Sent Back to Committee—Agreement: In Executive Session, Chair sustained a point of order that the following nominations were not properly reported and will be returned to committee: **Page S6440**

David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota, David Metcalf, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho, Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Erik Siebert, of Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana. **Pages S6440–41**

Lanahan, Law, and Dudek Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, post-cloture, and notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:45 a.m., Senate execute the order of Wednesday, September 3, 2025, with respect to the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan; that 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked on the nomination of Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, followed by the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Page S6440

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 504), Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Pages S6391–98

Messages from the House: Page S6400

Measures Held Over/Under Rule: Page S6400

Executive Communications: Pages S6400–01

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6402–03

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6403–05

Additional Statements: Pages S6399–S6400

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6405–39

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—504) Pages S6397–98

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6441.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 51 public bills, H.R. 5167–5217; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 680–681, were introduced.

Pages H3890–92

Additional Cosponsors: Page H3894

Reports Filed: A report was filed on September 5, 2025 as follows:

H.R. 5166, making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–236).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3423, to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–237);

H.R. 3424, to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–238);

H.R. 3425, to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen

oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–239);

H.R. 3426, to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–240);

H.R. 3428, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–241);

H.R. 2591, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–242);

H.R. 3055, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–243, Part 1);

H.R. 3446, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to revise the membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–244);

H.R. 4423, to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–245);

H.R. 4429, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–246);

H.R. 4430, to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–247);

H.R. 4431, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the definition of qualifying venture capital funds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–248);

H.R. 4437, to reduce the regulatory burden on certain well managed and well capitalized financial institutions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–249);

H.R. 4449, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish Offices of Small Business within rule writing divisions of the Securities and Exchange Commission to coordinate on rules and policy priorities related to capital formation (H. Rept. 119–250);

H.R. 4460, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain financial agency guidance, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–251);

H.R. 4478, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to permit Federal banking agencies to examine qualifying insured depository institutions with under \$6 billion in total assets not less than once during each 18-month period, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–252);

H.R. 4544, to direct certain Federal banking and credit union agencies to promote the formation of de novo regulated institutions through the review of application processes, the review of capital raising by de novo regulated institutions, and the establishment of various outreach programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–253); and

H.R. 3673, to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to increase the exemption from registration threshold for certain investment advisers of pri-

vate funds to reflect the change in inflation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–254). **Page H3890**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kim to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3865**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3869**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Pages H3869–70**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3880**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025: H.R. 4550, to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act; **Pages H3870–72**

Mental Health in Aviation Act of 2025: H.R. 2591, amended, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition; **Pages H3872–74**

Transitioning Retiring and New Service Members to Port Ocean Rail and Truck Jobs Act: H.R. 3055, amended, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for pre-separation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees; **Pages H3874–75**

Facility for Runway Operations and Safe Transportation Act: H.R. 3423, amended, to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development; **Pages H3875–76**

Shared Property Agency Collaboration and Engagement Act of 2025: H.R. 3424, to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 397 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 240; **Pages H3876–77, H3880–81**

Personnel Oversight and Shift Tracking Act of 2025: H.R. 3425, amended, to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 402 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 241; and **Pages H3877–79, H3881–82**

Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Review Act: H.R. 3428, to require the Comptroller General

of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions. **Pages H3879–80**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3880–81 and H3881.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; STOP ILLEGAL ENTRY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee began a hearing on H.R. 3838, the “Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026”; and H.R. 3486, the “Stop Illegal Entry Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers of Alabama, and Representatives Smith of Washington, Wilson of South Carolina, Fine, and Onder.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D858)

H.R. 2170, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. ‘Bud’ Lomell, VA Clinic. Signed on September 5, 2025. (Public Law 119–35)

H.R. 2808, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances. Signed on September 5, 2025. (Public Law 119–36)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine how the corruption of science has impacted public perception and policies regarding vaccines, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine

whistleblower allegations that Meta buried child safety research, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Nutrition and Foreign Agriculture, hearing entitled “Exploring State Options in SNAP”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill, 11 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Unmasking Union Antisemitism”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Public Safety Communications in the United States”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Building the American Dream: Examining Affordability, Choice, and Security in Appliance and Buildings Policies”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Evaluating the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Promoting the Health of the Banking Sector: Reforming Resolution and Broadening Funding Access for Long-Term Resilience”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “The State of Our Nation’s Federal Forests”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 681, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and for other purposes; H.R. 3654, the “TERRA Act”; H.R. 3903, the “Chugach Alaska Land Exchange Oil Spill Recovery Act of 2025”; H.R. 3925, the “Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Land Exchange Act”; and H.R. 4463, to amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Exploring the Economic Potential of the Golden Age of American Energy Dominance”, 2:15 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, hearing entitled “Restoring Public Trust Through UAP Transparency and Whistleblower Protection”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled “Better Meals, Fewer Pills: Making Our Children Healthy Again”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, continue hearing on H.R. 3838, the “Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026”; and H.R. 3486, the “Stop Illegal Entry Act”, 7:30 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5100, to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes, 10:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, joint hearing entitled “Untapped Talent in America: Removing Barriers to Work and Supporting Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 9 through September 12,
2025

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robert Law, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination after a period of debate.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: September 11, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 9:15 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 10, business meeting to consider the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine evaluating perspectives on deposit insurance reform, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 10, Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine America’s AI action plan, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 11, business meeting to consider S. 472, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 1279, to redesignate the Hulls Cove Visitor Center at Acadia National Park as the George J. Mitchell Visitor Center, S. 1453, to confirm the use of certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, for public purposes, S. 909 and H.R. 1043, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and the nominations of Laura Swett, of Virginia, and David LaCerte, of Louisiana, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 9 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 10, to hold hearings to examine a discussion draft of the Wildfire Emissions Prevention Act, and S. 881, to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Finance: September 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 11, business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Sean O’Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, and Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine certain pending nominations, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 9, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine how the corruption of science has impacted public perception and policies regarding vaccines, 2 p.m., SH-216.

September 10, Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census, to hold hearings to examine America’s fire apparatus crisis, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 10, business meeting to consider the nomination of William Kirkland, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine Federal programs at the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 9, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine whistleblower allegations that Meta buried child safety research, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

September 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Joshua D. Dunlap, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, William W. Mercer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Stephen Chad Meredith, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Arch Capito, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years, David Dunavant, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years, Matthew Harvey, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years, John Heekin, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years, Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years, Leif Olson, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years, Adam Sleeper, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years, and David Toepfer, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: September 10, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 10, to hold hearings to examine a pending nomination, 4 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 9, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

September 10, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, September 10, Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture, hearing entitled "Promoting Forest Health and Resiliency Through Improved Active Management", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, September 10, Full Committee, markup on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies FY 2026 Appropriations Bill, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, September 10, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "From Playground to Classroom: The Spread of Antisemitism in K-12 Schools", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 10, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 4262, to reauthorize programs related to health professions education, and for other purposes; H.R. 3593, the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025"; H.R. 2493, the "Improving Care in Rural America Reauthorization Act of 2025"; H.R. 3419, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs; H.R. 3302, the "Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2025"; H.R.

2846, 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); and H.R. 4709, the "Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2025", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Proxy Power and Proposal Abuse: Reforming Rule 14a-8 to Protect Shareholder Value", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4371, the "Kayla Hamilton Act"; H.R. 4323, the "Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2025"; H.R. 3770, the "FIREARM Act"; H.R. 3592, the "Protect LNG Act of 2025"; H.R. 4465, to amend chapters 4, 10, and 131 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to keep those chapters current and to correct related technical errors; H.R. 4499, to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; H.R. 4523, to make technical amendments to title 49, United States Code, as necessary to improve the Code; H.R. 4584, to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions which were formerly classified to chapters 14 and 19 of title 25, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; legislation to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; legislation to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors; legislation to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; to make technical amendments to update statutory references in certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; and to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 7, title 20, and title 43, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 10, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 573, the "Studying NEPA's Impact on Projects Act"; H.R. 4503, the "ePermit Act"; and H.R. 4776, the "SPEED Act", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 10, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the District of Columbia Home Rule Improvement Act; H.R. 2693, the "District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal of Legislation Act"; H.R. 5103, the "Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act"; legislation on the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act; legislation on the Strong Sentences for Safer D.C. Streets Act; legislation to repeal D.C.'s Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 and the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022; H.R. 5163, the "Clean and Managed Public Spaces

Act”; H.R. 4922, the “DC Criminal Reforms to Immediately Make Everyone Safer Act”; H.R. 5140, the “District of Columbia Juvenile Sentencing Reform Act”; legislation on the SOAR Act Improvements Act; H.R. 5107, the “Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act”; H.R. 5143, the “District of Columbia Policing Protection Act”; H.R. 5125, the “District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act”; and legislation on the District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act, 10 a.m., HVC–210 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, September 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5089, the “Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 10, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, hearing entitled “Leveling the Playing Field: Fostering Opportuni-

ties for Small Business Contractors”, 9:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 10, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Water Resources Development Acts Implementation: Review and Oversight of Past Provisions”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 10, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Intelligence Authorization Act, 10 a.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This markup is closed.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: September 10, to hold hearings to examine Georgia’s anti-American turn, 2:30 p.m., 2358C–RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robert Law, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on

the nomination of Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination after a period of debate.

Additional votes are expected during Tuesday's session.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Law until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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