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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Rev. Elliott J. Powell, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign and gracious God, we give You thanks for the United States of America as it marks 250 years of democratic life.

Thank You for the privilege of self-governance, government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and for those called to serve within this Chamber on behalf of the Nation.

Your Word declares:

"There is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been established by God."

As You have established these men and women in service, equip them, I pray, with all they need. Bestow upon them clarity and courage, conviction and civility.

Be their strength in a time of uncommon burdens. Be their shield in a season too often shadowed by politically motivated violence, and may it be that the fruit of their labors is the flourishing of all people across this great Nation.

All this I pray in the strong and saving name of Jesus Christ.

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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

WELCOMING REV. ELLIOTT J. POWELL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and delight to hear the familiar voice of my pastor, Elliott Powell, opening up the people's House with prayer, a tradition that began at the very first Congress in 1789.

Reverend Powell is the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lubbock, Texas, USA. He is joined today in the Chamber gallery by his wife, Shannon Aycock Powell, and their three children: Lila, Karissa, and Adam; and his niece, Chloe.

My wife, Anne, and I have been blessed beyond measure to be a part of the Westminster community, and we are exceedingly grateful for the prayers, support, and friendship of our fellow parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, the 19-century French philosopher, Alexis de Tocqueville, traveled across the United States in the early 1800s in search of what he said was "America's genius and greatness." He said that it wasn't in the commodious harbors or the fertile fields, not the public schools or institutions of higher learning, not the democratic Congress even, or our matchless Constitution, believe it or not.

He said that it wasn't until I entered into the churches of America and with their pulpits aflame with the Gospel of Jesus that I understood "the secret of her genius and power."

That is when he coined that famous phrase: "America is great because America is good."

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless America through the goodness of His church and His many faithful under-shepherds like my dear friend, Elliott Powell.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(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, today is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, a day to remember the brave men and women who served their country and have not returned home.

Currently, there are more than 80,000 American servicemembers who are still missing and remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf wars.

Our servicemembers answered the call to protect and defend our country in times of war and in times of peace. We have a sacred compact with the men and women who serve, and we will never stop searching for the ones who remain missing and unaccounted for until they are returned to their loved ones.

That is why today I reintroduced a resolution that urges our trading partners to aid in the search and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, we will never stop searching until all our servicemembers are brought home. They and their loved ones deserve no less.

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

□ 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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H4459

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE GLADYS TONEY BRANSFORD

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Gladys Toney Branford.

Gladys was born in the Jim Crow South in Madison County, Alabama. To grow up in that era and go on to serve as a judge is truly remarkable.

In 1986, then-Mayor Kathy Whitmire appointed her to the bench in Houston, and I had the profound honor of swearing her in.

She was a great judge, Mr. Speaker, tough and fair, and always giving everyone a full hearing in their day in court.

She built shores of sisterhood as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta and through her decades in The Links, Incorporated.

Above it all, Judge Branford often said that her greatest joy was her family: three accomplished children and six beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Branford was a friend and a dear colleague, and it is especially an honor for me to be able to lift her life here today and on the floor of the United States Congress.

HONORING DR. STEVE HURTE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an extraordinary man of God and a true pillar in our community. Dr. Steve Hurte is the pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Anderson, South Carolina, and I am blessed to call him my pastor. This year, he is celebrating 50 years in ministry.

Dr. Hurte felt the call to preach at the early age of 8, and by 20 years old had devoted his life to serving the Lord.

Since 2013, Dr. Hurte has faithfully pastored at Temple Baptist Church. Though he carries himself with humility and gentleness, when he speaks from the Word, there is a strength and an authority that can only be described as God working through him. He is unafraid to speak the hard truths of Scripture even when they are unpopular.

Dr. Hurte is proof of what God can do with a life fully surrendered to Him. He has touched thousands of lives, including mine, and South Carolina is better because of his faithfulness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Dr. Steve Hurte for 50 years of unwavering service.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress in 2019, I knew it was a time of great tension, yet I was motivated all the more to do this work.

In the almost 7 years since, our empathy and our common humanity has been tested in unimaginable ways.

The latest is the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk.

Beyond the horror of such a vile act is the pervasive ugly rise in political violence.

We have witnessed it in my home State of Pennsylvania with the attempted assassination of Donald Trump in Butler; and, again, with the arson attack on Governor Josh Shapiro's home on Passover with his family sleeping upstairs; and again in Minnesota with the murder of House Speaker Emerita Melissa Horton, her husband, Mark, and their dog in their home; and now, again, at Utah Valley University.

We must condemn political violence in all its forms and in all its twisted motivations and perverse ideologies.

We must, instead, commit ourselves to civic engagement and education, commit ourselves to decency, dignity, and the truth for the good of this Nation, our neighbors, our families, and most especially our children.

□ 0910

WHAT I LEARNED FROM CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 9 days ago in my district, a loving husband and father of two children, a public figure who debated vigorously conservative values and a representative for free speech, was assassinated by a deranged coward who felt that violence was the only way to deal with voices that he opposed.

Mr. Speaker, from Charlie Kirk's example, I have learned that we should live boldly, without fear. We should address and confront the cowards of the world who will oppose with violence those who seek to destroy free speech.

I have also learned from Charlie Kirk that we should debate vigorously, that we have opinions, and in this Hall, this sacred Hall, we can debate those opinions with respect and vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I have also learned that we should love completely. Charlie Kirk never degraded an individual that he debated. He always approached them with respect. With a loving approach, he tried to push forward his views and offer them as an alternative to those who debated him.

Mr. Speaker, I also point out that a widow and two amazing children are now left without a husband and a father.

To Erika and those children, I will just say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows of the world. Since ancient times, such as the widow Zarephath with Elijah, the mite that the widow cast into the temple treasury, as well as Jesus Christ' own mother, Mary, a widow, whom Jesus on the cross, while He suffered and died for all mankind, offered that widow, his mother, to His most beloved apostle to take care of for the rest of her life and make sure that she was cared for.

For Erika and her children, I will say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows and for the orphans. They also have a special place not only in my heart but in the hearts of millions as they suffer through the loss of her husband as well as the father of her children.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Charlie Kirk and his example and the fact that his life now transcends not only his life and his message, but he stands for something more important now, which is freedom of speech, a constitutional privilege that our Nation will fight vigorously to protect.

I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to shun and eschew violence and to pursue freedom of speech through the rest of my days.

God bless America, Charlie Kirk, and his widow as we move forward.

LIFESAVING FOOD AID

(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 for the 43rd time today to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for starving children around the world.

Edesia Nutrition, an organization in my district, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, manufactures Plumpy'Nut, a nutritional supplement that is needed to get starving children back to health. When kids are starving, their organs break down, and they cannot digest conventional food.

Millions of lives have been saved by this product, and now there are thousands of boxes sitting in a warehouse in Rhode Island because the Trump administration has stopped this program.

They continue to promise that they are going to bring it back online. Over and over again, they have said that this program will continue. They have even named the organization in my district. They have said that it will continue, but it has been 9 months, and we are still waiting.

We are about to debate and vote on a budget. What is the purpose of passing a budget if the administration will just ignore it?

I have spoken on this floor about the humanitarian necessity to restore this program, the national security necessity to restore this program, but it is a constitutional necessity as well because the legislative branch has the authority to pass budgets and the executive must execute on them.

I will continue to speak on this floor every day until this program is restored.

HONORING DR. JOHN THOMAS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and brother in Christ, Dr. John Thomas, a devoted husband, father, and community leader, who dedicated his life to serving his neighbors in west Texas and those around the world.

Dr. Thomas was a skilled surgeon, but his true calling was healing hearts and lifting souls.

In 1999, he founded Operation HOPE, a nonprofit that deployed teams of healthcare professionals to underserved areas across the globe.

His faith was his compass, Mr. Speaker, as he lived the words of Jesus to love thy neighbor and to do unto the least of these through his tireless medical missions, disaster relief efforts, and unwavering advocacy for the sanctity of life.

For Keri and Andrew and the entire Thomas family, our hearts and prayers are with them.

I can assure you that Dr. Thomas' light will continue to shine through the countless lives he touched and especially and most of all in his wife, Keri, and in his beloved son, Andrew. May God comfort them.

PROTECTING RURAL HEALTHCARE

(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 rise to share concerns I have heard from people back home.

I have traveled across eastern North Carolina, and residents have pulled me aside. They have texted our office. They have called or emailed, and many conveyed the same concern about rural healthcare.

We have already seen the closure of Martin General Hospital. We are working hard to reopen it as a rural emergency hospital.

Eastern North Carolinians face some of the greatest healthcare disparities in our State. Nearly 70,000 in my district rely on the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits. People in rural America are struggling. Many are trying to do everything just to make ends meet while raising children.

Every time it seems like we take one step forward, we are taking two or three backward. No matter if it is healthcare, trade, or infrastructure, Congress must not leave rural America behind.

WHAT CHARLIE KIRK STOOD FOR

(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, it seems hard to believe that it is not even 10 days since Charlie Kirk was assassinated.

We all know why he was assassinated. He was assassinated in part because he stood by our Constitution and believed in the limited government that our forefathers wanted. He was also killed for his Christianity. I have come to realize he was far more of a religious leader than he was a political leader.

We have to now follow what he would have wanted, had he survived. I think that is two things. First of all, in America right now, church attendance was down. We can all be wonderful Christians without going to church, but it is a bad sign that church attendance was going down.

Let's all redouble our efforts to support our local churches. Look for Bible-believing churches, as Charlie Kirk wanted, and hopefully they will grow and thrive.

In Congress, let's try to get back one more time to the limited government that our Constitution so clearly demanded and stop asking the Federal Government to add another program after program after program, but instead, have the type of government that encourages self-reliance and strong families.

□ 0920

CELEBRATING EL SALVADOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate El Salvador's Independence Day, a day marking the end of Spanish colonial rule 204 years ago.

This week, El Salvadorans across the globe celebrated with music, parades, and cultural traditions. I celebrated with food. I am honored to represent a vibrant and growing El Salvadoran community in Virginia.

"God, Union, Liberty"; "Dios, Union, Libertad."

Happy Independence Day to El Salvador.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the recent reports of violence against minority communities, including Hindus in Bangladesh.

In the aftermath of Bangladesh's change in government, we have heard, including from my constituents, accounts of looting and vandalism of homes and damage to religious sites like temples.

These acts represent a pattern of violence against communities around the world. While we continue to work toward stability in places like Ban-

gladesh, we simply have to acknowledge what is going on and not turn a blind eye to it.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Following my appointment to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, effective today.

Sincerely,
MAXWELL ALEJANDRO FROST,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 722, I call up the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 722, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5371

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 "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE.
Sec. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.
Sec. 3. REFERENCES.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

DIVISION B—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

DIVISION C—HEALTH EXTENDERS

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DIVISION D—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDERS

Title I—Health Care Matters
Title II—Benefits
Title III—Housing
Title IV—Other Matters

DIVISION E—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any

division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2025 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2025, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119–4), except sections 1110, 1113, 1114, and 1207; the proviso in paragraph (4) of section 1602; and sections 1708 and 1808; and except section 11104 shall be applied by substituting “2020, and 2021” for “and 2020”; and except sections 774 and 778 of division B, section 540 of division C, and sections 110 and 112 of division D of Public Law 118–42 as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119–4; and except section 7069(b) of division F of Public Law 118–47, as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119–4.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2025 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2025 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2025.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations

Act for fiscal year 2026, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) November 21, 2025.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2026 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in an appropriations Act specified in section 101, for expenses authorized under section 324 of title 38, United States Code, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2025 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a)(1) For each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was

previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, each provision of law designating each such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section shall not apply.

(2) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 in the following provisions of law are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives: section 11206(4) of division A of Public Law 119–4 and 7068(b) of division F of Public Law 118–47, as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119–4.

(b) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget.

(c) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated in division B of Public Law 117–159, division J of Public Law 117–58, or in section 443(b) of division G of Public Law 117–328 by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as an amount specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

SEC. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act, may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2025, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than November 7, 2025, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: *Provided*, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2025, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Domestic Food Programs—Food

and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)” may be apportioned at the rate for operations necessary to maintain participation.

SEC. 117. Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) and section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 118. Section 8302(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a(b)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “October 1, 2023”.

SEC. 119. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Justice—United States Marshals Service—Salaries and Expenses” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain program operations.

(b) In addition to amounts provided by section 101, for “Department of Justice—United States Marshals Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$30,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until September 30, 2027, to carry out protective operations.

SEC. 120. (a) For the closeout of all Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs, amounts that have expired but have not been cancelled in the Exploration, Space Operations, Human Space Flight, Space Flight Capabilities, and Exploration Capabilities appropriations accounts shall remain available through fiscal year 2030 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred during the period of fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2013.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2025, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2025.

SEC. 121. Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 101, the first proviso in each of sections 8092 and 8096 of title VIII of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “advances” for “reimbursements”.

SEC. 123. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force” shall be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for the E-7 Wedgetail program, in an amount not to exceed \$199,676,000, only for the purpose of continued rapid prototyping activities to maintain program schedule and transition to production for the E-7 Wedgetail program.

SEC. 124. Of the unobligated balance of funds available to the Department of Defense for the E-7 program under the heading “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force” in Public Law 119-4, \$200,000,000 is hereby transferred to and merged with amounts available for the E-7 program under the heading “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force” only for the purpose of continued rapid prototyping activities to maintain program schedule and transition to production for the E-7 Wedgetail program.

SEC. 125. Section 717(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4564(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 of this Act to the Department of Defense for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations

necessary to fund completion of prior year shipbuilding programs for the fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2018 Virginia Class Submarine Programs, in an amount not to exceed \$154,000,000.

SEC. 127. During the period covered by this Act, section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) shall be applied by substituting “\$32,600,000” for “\$30,000,000”.

SEC. 128. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 in the first proviso under the heading “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current operations for the safe, secure transport of nuclear weapons.

(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 129. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “Office of Personnel Management—Salaries and Expenses” in title V of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$197,446,000” for “\$219,076,000”, and the second proviso under such heading in such title of such division of such Act shall be applied by substituting “\$214,605,000” for “\$192,975,000”.

SEC. 130. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading “District of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2024 (title IV of division B of Public Law 118-47) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year 2026 Local Budget Act of 2025 (D.C. Bill No. 26-260) as modified as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding section 101, paragraph (1) under the heading “Department of the Treasury—Departmental Offices—Salaries and Expenses” in title I of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$1,350,000” for “\$350,000”. *Provided*, That such amounts may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the fiscal year 2026 President’s Budget, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, and accompanying justification materials.

SEC. 132. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under paragraphs (1) through (35) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), for commitments to guarantee trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)), for commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697), and for commitments to guarantee debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)).

SEC. 133. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of the Treasury—Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence—Salaries and Expenses” at a rate for operations of \$237,662,000.

SEC. 134. Notwithstanding section 101, section 1605 of Public Law 119-4 shall be applied by substituting “through the end of the last applicable pay period that commences on or before the date specified in section 106(3) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026” for

“through the date specified in section 1106 of this Act”.

SEC. 135. Section 1(b) of Public Law 117-25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984; 138 Stat. 1771; 139 Stat. 46) shall be applied in each of paragraphs (3) and (4) by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 136. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101 for “The Judiciary—Supreme Court of the United States—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$28,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended, for the protection of the Supreme Court Justices, including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344, to be expended as the Chief Justice may approve.

SEC. 137. Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 138. Section 225(e) of division A of Public Law 116-6 (49 U.S.C. 44901 note) shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2019 through the date specified in section 106 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026” for “fiscal years 2019 through 2025”.

SEC. 139. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 140. Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 141. Section 111(a) of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1510(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 142. Section 2220A(s)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 665g(s)(1)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 143. During the period covered by this Act, section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b(b)(2)(C)) shall be applied by substituting “2027” for “2026”.

SEC. 144. During the period covered by this Act, section 1701 of title VII of division B of Public Law 117-43, as amended, shall be applied by substituting “calendar years 2021 through 2026” for “2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 145. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management” and “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for wildfire suppression activities.

SEC. 146. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services” at a rate for operations of \$72,265,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health

Facilities” at a rate for operations of \$8,050,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

SEC. 147. Of the amounts made available in the third paragraph under the heading “Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants” in the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division N of Public Law 117–328), up to \$54,000,000 shall be available for technical assistance and grants under section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(b)) in areas where the President declared an emergency in August of fiscal year 2022 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, are designated as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 148. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division D of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied by adding the following after the second proviso: “*Provided further*, That for purposes of section 640(a)(2)(B)(v) of such Act, the base grant for each of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be \$8,000,000, and shall be considered equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdictions under such Act for the prior fiscal year.”.

SEC. 149. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated—

(1) For payment to Ashley Paige Turner, heir of Sylvester Turner, late a Representative from the State of Texas, \$174,000.

(2) For payment to Ramona Grijalva, widow of Raúl M. Grijalva, late a Representative from the State of Arizona, \$174,000.

(3) For payment to Catherine M. Smith, widow of Gerald E. Connolly, late a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia, \$174,000.

SEC. 150. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 151. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for “Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements”, there is appropriated \$30,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended, for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108–458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds made available in this section in this Act shall be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

SEC. 152. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter under the heading “Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account” in title II of division A of Public Law 118–42 shall be applied by adding the following new paragraph: In addition, for the cost of direct loans, \$6,865,235, as authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$75,000,000.”.

SEC. 153. Section 1424(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9624(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 154. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 106, and sections 1101, 1106, and 11201 of Public Law 119–4, the fifth and sixth provisos under the heading “Millennium Challenge Corporation” in title III of division F of Public Law 118–47 shall be amended by substituting “December 31, 2026” for “December 31, 2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 155. Notwithstanding section 106, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use the unobligated balances of amounts made available in prior fiscal years in paragraphs (2), (3), and (8) under the heading “Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” to support additional allocations under subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of such heading to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding in the calendar year 2025 funding cycle: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SEC. 156. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain Essential Air Service program operations.

SEC. 157. Section 4144(d) of the Motor Carrier Safety Reauthorization Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 31100 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106 of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026”.

DIVISION B—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

SEC. 101. UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS.

The authorities (including any limitations on the authorities) provided by each provision of the United States Grain Standards Act (Public Law 90–487; 7 U.S.C. 74 et seq.) and each provision of law amended by that Act, as in effect on September 30, 2025, shall continue, and the authorities (and any such limitations) shall be carried out, until the later of—

- (1) November 21, 2025; and
- (2) the date specified in the provision of that Act or the provision of law amended by that Act.

DIVISION C—HEALTH EXTENDERS

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “(K) \$606,904,110 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025; and”.

(b) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (J), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(L) \$49,150,685 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025.”.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(G) \$24,931,507 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025.”.

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117–328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 2101(d) of division B of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” and inserting “section 2101(d) of division B of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, and section 101(d) of title I of division C of the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(H) \$22,652,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–3(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(H) \$22,652,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended

by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(1)(D)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(c) Section 319L-1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7f(b)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10b(g)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

TITLE II—MEDICARE

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “in fiscal year 2026” and inserting “during the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on November 22, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, and in fiscal year 2027”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(i) by inserting “or portion of a fiscal year” after “for a fiscal year”; and

(ii) by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through 2025”;

(B) in subclause (III), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through 2025”; and

(C) in subclause (IV), by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on November 22, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, and fiscal year 2027”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or during the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through 2025”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through 2025”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ““(In general.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through fiscal year 2025”.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by inserting “, or the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025” after “through fiscal year 2025”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “October 1, 2025” each place it appears and inserting “November 22, 2025” in each such place.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 205. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xiv) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000” and inserting “November 21, 2025, \$32,136,986”.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000” and inserting “November 21, 2025, \$32,136,986”.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025, \$10,000,000” and inserting “November 21, 2025, \$10,712,329”.

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “September 30, 2025, \$30,000,000” and inserting “November 21, 2025, \$32,136,986”.

SEC. 206. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”.

SEC. 207. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES.

(a) REMOVING GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXPANDING ORIGINATING SITES FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “ending September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending November 21, 2025”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on November 21, 2025”.

(b) EXPANDING PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on November 21, 2025”.

(c) EXTENDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on November 21, 2025”.

(d) DELAYING THE IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS UNDER MEDICARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) DELAY IN REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.—Section 1834(m)(7)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)(B)(i)) is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “on or after October 1, 2025” and inserting “on or after November 22, 2025”.

(2) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(y)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”.

(3) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “November 22, 2025”.

(e) ALLOWING FOR THE FURNISHING OF AUDIO-ONLY TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on November 21, 2025”.

(f) EXTENDING USE OF TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER PRIOR TO RECERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPICE CARE.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on November 21, 2025”.

(g) PROGRAM INSTRUCTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 208. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES.

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-7(a)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 209. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.

Section 1860D-2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 210. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR MEDICARE HOSPICE SURVEYS.

Section 3(a)(2) of the IMPACT Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-185) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(C) \$6,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025.”.

SEC. 211. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “fiscal year 2027”; and

(2) by striking “\$1,804,000,000” and inserting “\$664,000,000”.

TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES

SEC. 301. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025”; and
 (ii) by striking “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”; and
 (B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A)—
 (I) by striking “through 2023” and inserting “through 2025”;
 (II) by striking “fiscal year 2024 or 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”; and
 (III) by inserting “(or, with respect to the applicable period, for fiscal year 2026)” after “an application for the fiscal year”; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “2024 or 2025” and inserting “2026”; and
 (2) in subsection (f)(1) by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2023, and for fiscal year 2025, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2025”.

SEC. 302. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—
 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—
 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025”; and
 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025”;
 (2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “2024 or 2025” and inserting “2026”; and
 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount

appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2025”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)) is amended—
 (1) in clause (vii), by striking “and” at the end;
 (2) in clause (viii), by adding “; and” at the end; and
 (3) by adding at the end the following new clause:
 “(ix) \$854,795 for the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025.”

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

SEC. 401. MODIFYING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **EXTENDING TENNESSEE DSH ALLOTMENTS.**—Section 1923(f)(6)(A)(vi) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(6)(A)(vi)) is amended—
 (1) in the heading, by inserting “AND A PORTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026” after “2025”; and
 (2) by inserting “, and the DSH allotment for Tennessee for the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning October 1, 2025, and ending November 21, 2025, shall be \$7,564,932” before the period.
 (b) **DELAYING DSH ALLOTMENT REDUCTIONS.**—Section 1923(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)) is amended—
 (1) in paragraph (7)(A)—
 (A) in clause (i)—
 (i) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “For each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028” and inserting “For the period beginning November 22, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, and for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028”;
 (ii) in subclause (I), by inserting “or period” after “the fiscal year”; and
 (iii) in subclause (II), by inserting “or period” after “in the fiscal year”; and
 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028” and inserting “for the period beginning November 22, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, and for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028”; and
 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking “2027” and inserting “2028”.

TITLE V—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments”.

SEC. 502. FINDING.

Congress finds that the fees authorized by the amendments made in this title will be dedicated to over-the-counter (OTC) monograph drug activities, as set forth in the goals identified for purposes of part 10 of sub-

chapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.), in the letters from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, as set forth in the Congressional Record.

SEC. 503. DEFINITIONS.

Section 744L(9)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71(9)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;
 (2) in clause (vi)—
 (A) by striking “addition” and inserting “the addition”; and
 (B) by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and
 (3) by adding at the end the following:
 “(vii) the addition or modification of a testing procedure applicable to one or more OTC monograph drugs, provided that such additional or modified testing procedure reflects a voluntary consensus standard with respect to pharmaceutical quality that is—
 “(I) established by a national or international standards development organization; and
 “(II) recognized by the Secretary through a process described in guidance for industry, initially published in July 2023, or any successor guidance, publicly available on the website of the Food and Drug Administration, which addresses voluntary consensus standards for pharmaceutical quality.”

SEC. 504. AUTHORITY TO ASSESS AND USE OTC MONOGRAPH FEES.

(a) **TYPES OF FEES.**—Section 744M(a)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(a)(1)) is amended—
 (1) in subparagraph (A)—
 (A) by striking “on December 31 of the fiscal year or at any time during the preceding 12-month period” and inserting “at any time during the applicable period specified in clause (ii) for a fiscal year”;
 (B) by striking “Each person” and inserting the following:
 “(i) **ASSESSMENT OF FEES.**—Each person”; and
 (C) by adding at the end the following:
 “(ii) **APPLICABLE PERIOD.**—For purposes of clause (i), the applicable period is—
 “(I) for fiscal year 2026, the 12-month period ending on December 31, 2025;
 “(II) for fiscal year 2027, the 9-month period ending on September 30, 2026; and
 “(III) for fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year, the 12-month period ending on September 30 of the preceding fiscal year.”;
 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by amending subclause (I) to read as follows:
 “(I) has ceased all activities related to OTC monograph drugs prior to—
 “(aa) for purposes of fiscal year 2026, January 1, 2025;
 “(bb) for purposes of fiscal year 2027, January 1, 2026; and
 “(cc) for purposes of fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year, October 1 of the preceding fiscal year; and”; and
 (3) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:
 “(D) **DUE DATE.**—
 “(i) **FISCAL YEAR 2026.**—For fiscal year 2026, the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due on the later of—
 “(I) the first business day of June of such year; or
 “(II) the first business day after the enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for such year.

“(i) FISCAL YEAR 2027.—For fiscal year 2027, the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due—

“(I) in a first installment representing 50 percent of such fee, on the later of—

“(aa) October 1, 2026; or

“(bb) the first business day after the enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for such year; and

“(II) in a second installment representing the remaining 50 percent of such fee, on—

“(aa) February 1, 2027; or

“(bb) if an appropriations Act described in subclause (I)(bb) is not in effect on February 1, 2027, the first business day after enactment of such an appropriations Act.

“(iii) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year, the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due on the later of—

“(I) the first business day on or after October 1 of the fiscal year; or

“(II) the first business day after the date of enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for the fiscal year.”.

(b) FEE REVENUE AMOUNTS.—Section 744M(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) FEE REVENUE AMOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030, fees under subsection (a)(1) shall be established to generate a total facility fee revenue amount equal to the sum of—

“(A) the annual base revenue for the fiscal year (as determined under paragraph (2));

“(B) the dollar amount equal to the inflation adjustment for the fiscal year (as determined under subsection (c)(1));

“(C) the dollar amount equal to the operating reserve adjustment for the fiscal year, if applicable (as determined under subsection (c)(2));

“(D) additional direct cost adjustments (as determined under subsection (c)(3));

“(E) an additional dollar amount equal to—

“(i) \$2,373,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(ii) \$1,233,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

“(iii) \$854,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

“(F) in the case of a fiscal year for which the Secretary applies the one-time facility fee workload adjustment under subsection (c)(4), the dollar amount equal to such adjustment.

“(2) ANNUAL BASE REVENUE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the dollar amount of the annual base revenue for a fiscal year shall be—

“(A) for fiscal year 2026, the dollar amount of the total revenue amount established for fiscal year 2025 under this subsection as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments, not including any adjustments made for such fiscal year 2025 under subsection (c)(2), as so in effect; and

“(B) for fiscal years 2027 through 2030, the dollar amount of the total revenue amount established under this subsection for the previous fiscal year, not including any adjustments made for such previous fiscal year under subsection (c)(2) or (c)(3).”.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS; ANNUAL FEE SETTING.—Section 744M(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(B)”; and

(ii) by striking “fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each fiscal year”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal year 2022” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “a fiscal year shall be equal to the product of—

“(i) for fiscal year 2026—

“(I) the fee for fiscal year 2025 under subsection (a)(2); and

“(II) the inflation adjustment percentage under subparagraph (C); and

“(ii) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030—

“(I) the applicable fee under subsection (a)(2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(II) the inflation adjustment percentage under subparagraph (C).”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “the sum of” after “is equal to”;

(ii) by striking clause (i);

(iii) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(iv) by striking “(ii) for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the sum of—”; and

(v) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV” and inserting “Washington-Arlington-Alexandria-DC-VA-MD-WV”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “fiscal year 2021 and subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “each fiscal year”;

(ii) by striking “subsections (b)(1)(B) and (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(C)”; and

(iii) by striking “the number of weeks specified in subparagraph (B)” and inserting “10 weeks”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (4) establishing” and inserting “paragraph (5) publishing”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(D)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(D)”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following:

“(A) \$135,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(B) \$300,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(C) \$55,000 for fiscal year 2028;

“(D) \$30,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

“(E) \$0 for fiscal year 2030.”; and

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

“(4) ONE-TIME FACILITY FEE WORKLOAD ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the adjustments under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), the Secretary may further increase the fee revenues and fees through a one-time adjustment made for fiscal year 2028, 2029, or 2030, in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT DESCRIBED.—

“(i) CONDITIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT.—An adjustment under this paragraph may be made for a fiscal year only if—

“(I) an adjustment under this paragraph had not been made for any prior fiscal year;

“(II) the average number of OTC monograph drug facilities subject to a facility fee under subsection (a)(1) over the period of the preceding 3 fiscal years exceeds 1,625; and

“(III) with respect to facilities described in subclause (II), the average number of such facilities (expressed as a percentage) that appeared on the arrears lists pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(A)(i) over the period of the preceding 3 fiscal years is less than 30 percent.

“(ii) AMOUNT OF ADJUSTMENT.—An adjustment under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall equal the product of—

“(I) the total facility revenue amount determined under subsection (b) for the fiscal year, exclusive of the adjustment under this paragraph for such fiscal year; and

“(II) the excess facility percentage described in clause (iii).

“(iii) EXCESS FACILITY PERCENTAGE.—The excess facility percentage described in this clause is—

“(I) the amount by which the average number of OTC monograph drug facilities subject to a facility fee under subsection (a)(1) over the preceding 3 fiscal years exceeds 1,625; divided by

“(II) 1.625.

“(5) ANNUAL FEE SETTING.—The Secretary shall, not later than 60 days before the first day of each fiscal year—

“(A) establish for such fiscal year, based on the revenue amounts under subsection (b) and the adjustments provided under this subsection—

“(i) OTC monograph drug facility fees under subsection (a)(1); and

“(ii) OTC monograph order request fees under subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) publish such fee revenue amounts, facility fees, and OTC monograph order request fees in the Federal Register.”.

(d) CREDITING AND AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—Section 744M(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(D)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS”; and

(B) by striking “(after fiscal year 2021)”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “2021 through 2025” and inserting “2026 through 2030”.

SEC. 505. REAUTHORIZATION; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Section 744N of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-73) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Beginning with fiscal year 2021, and not later than 120 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year thereafter” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year”;

(B) by striking “section 3861(b) of the CARES Act” and inserting “section 2 of the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Beginning with fiscal year 2026, the annual report under this subsection shall include—

“(A) the progress of the Food and Drug Administration in achieving the goals, and future plans for meeting the goals, including—

“(i) the number of Tier 1 OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(ii) the number of Tier 2 OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(iii) the number of specified safety OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(iv) the number of generally recognized as safe and effective finalization OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(v) the average timeline for processing OTC monograph order requests, in the aggregate and by submission type, in the previous fiscal year; and

“(vi) postmarket safety activities with respect to OTC monograph drugs, including—

“(I) collecting, developing, and reviewing safety information on OTC monograph drugs, including adverse event reports;

“(II) developing and using improved analytical tools, adverse event data-collection systems, including information technology systems, to assess potential safety problems, including access to external databases; and

“(III) activities under section 760;

“(B) information regarding registration of OTC monograph drug facilities and contract manufacturing organization facilities and payment of registration fees by such facilities, including—

“(i) the OTC monograph drug facilities and contract manufacturing organization facilities that were first registered under section 510(c) or 510(i) in the fiscal year; and

“(ii) for each OTC monograph drug facility and contract manufacturing organization facility that was assessed a facility fee under section 744M(a) in the fiscal year, whether the facility paid such fee;

“(C) the status of implementation of evidence and testing standards under section 505G(r) for nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration, including—

“(i) the application of evidence or testing standards; and

“(ii) the number of active ingredient requests for nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration reviewed using the standards under section 505G(b); and

“(D) the progress of the Food and Drug Administration in allowing nonclinical testing alternatives to animal testing for the consideration of sunscreen active ingredients.

“(3) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of information that is prohibited from disclosure under section 301(j) of this Act or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or that is subject to withholding under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal year 2021 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each fiscal year”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “2025” each place it appears and inserting “2030”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) MINUTES OF NEGOTIATION MEETINGS.—

“(A) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make publicly available, on the public website of the Food and Drug Administration, robust written minutes of all negotiation meetings conducted under this subsection between the Food and Drug Administration and the regulated industry, not later than 30 days after each such negotiation meeting.

“(B) CONTENT.—The robust written minutes described under subparagraph (A) shall contain, in detail, any substantive proposal made by any party to the negotiations as well as significant controversies or differences of opinion during the negotiations and their resolution.”.

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2027, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) the overall stability of the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs;

(B) what information is collected by the Food and Drug Administration with respect to the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs;

(C) how the Food and Drug Administration uses information collected on the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs to inform regulatory decisions;

(D) how the Food and Drug Administration coordinates with other Federal agencies to monitor and mitigate disruptions to the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs; and

(E) the unique characteristics of the over-the-counter monograph drug marketplace and what additional authorities or information the Food and Drug Administration may need to ensure the stability of the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs.

SEC. 506. TREATMENT OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505G of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(r) EVIDENCE AND TESTING STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) EVIDENCE AND TESTING STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) in evaluating the generally recognized as safe and effective status of active ingredients used in nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration for purposes of subsection (a), utilize standards that allow for the use of real world evidence (as defined in section 505F(b)), as appropriate, as part of a comprehensive evaluation of scientific evidence to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of such active ingredients, to supplement evidence from traditional clinical trials, provided that such standards allow the Secretary to evaluate whether the benefits of such active ingredients outweigh the risks; and

“(B) apply subsection (b)(6)(C) to the regulation of active ingredients used in drugs intended for topical administration.

“(2) NON-ANIMAL TESTING METHODS FOR TOPICAL ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider the types of nonclinical tests described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of the first subsection (z) of section 505 (as inserted by section 3209(a)(2) of the Health Extenders, Improving Access to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and Strengthening Public Health Act of 2022 (division FF of Public Law 117-328)), or any other alternative to animal testing that the Secretary determines appropriate, in the consideration of drugs intended for topical administration under this section.

“(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue new draft guidance on how sponsors can use nonclinical testing alternatives to animal testing, as appropriate, to meet safety and efficacy standards under this section for drugs intended for topical administration.

“(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter, supersede, or limit the standards for making determinations of whether a drug is generally recognized as safe and effective under section 201(p) or the standards set forth under section 505 for determining the safety and effectiveness of drugs.”.

(b) SUNSCREEN FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER.—A final administrative order on nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients issued under section 3854 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136; 21 U.S.C. 360fff-3 note) shall—

(1) account for historical data regarding the safety of sunscreen active ingredients that have previously been accepted for marketing in the United States;

(2) account for the role of broad spectrum sunscreens with a Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher in effective skin cancer prevention; and

(3) incorporate the evidence and testing standards for sunscreen active ingredients detailed in section 505G(r) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h) (as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 507. INCREASING THE CLARITY AND PREDICTABILITY OF THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS FOR RX-TO-NONPRESCRIPTION SWITCHES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) RX-TO-NONPRESCRIPTION SWITCHES.—

“(A) MEETINGS.—Any person planning to submit an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch may submit to the Secretary a written request for a meeting, for purposes of developing a plan for such application that addresses the potential risks to public health of such switch and the evidence necessary to support such application, including the design of any necessary studies, and the format and content of the planned application. The Secretary may grant such a meeting, as appropriate, consistent with established procedures for granting meetings with, and providing written responses to, applications under this section. Each such meeting shall be documented in meeting minutes.

“(B) GUIDANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall issue guidance to increase the clarity and predictability of the process and standards for approval of applications for nonprescription drugs under this section, including in the case of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch, especially with respect to prescription drugs with well-established safety profiles for which an applicant may seek approval for nonprescription use.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—The guidance under clause (i) shall—

“(I) describe how published reports in medical literature, any previous finding of safety or effectiveness for the drug under this section, the results of significant human experience with the drug, unpublished studies and other data, and other sources of information may be used to support an application for a nonprescription drug, including in the context of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch;

“(II) set forth procedures for sponsors to request meetings described in subparagraph (A) and document the recommendations made in such meetings;

“(III) describe evidentiary expectations to support approval of an application for a nonprescription drug, including in the context of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch, including how sponsors can demonstrate that consumers can appropriately self-select and use the drug and comprehend the nonprescription drug label; and

“(IV) provide recommendations for how mechanisms, in addition to the required Drug Facts Label, such as mobile applications and decisions aids, can be incorporated into the information submitted in support of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

“(C) PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall develop and make publicly

available on the website of the Food and Drug Administration a plan to engage stakeholders on steps and factors for application holders and other stakeholders to consider in identifying approved prescription drugs that may be promising candidates for applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

“(D) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘Rx-to-nonprescription switch’ means the approval of an application, or supplemental application, as applicable, submitted under this section by the holder of an approved application for a prescription drug seeking approval to market such drug as a nonprescription drug, including for—

“(i) a full Rx-to-nonprescription switch, under which a drug previously approved for prescription use only is—

“(I) approved for nonprescription use under the same conditions as applied to the drug when approved for prescription use; or

“(II) approved for nonprescription use subject to one or more additional conditions for nonprescription use; and

“(ii) a partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch, under which the drug is approved for nonprescription use only under certain conditions described in the approved labeling, while the drug otherwise remains approved for prescription use only.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to—

“(i) supersede or modify the authority of the Secretary under section 505G with respect to the regulation of OTC monograph drugs; or

“(ii) authorize the disclosure by the Secretary of confidential commercial information or trade secrets.”.

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates—

(A) the number of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch approved during the period beginning on October 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the report;

(B) the number of drugs for which an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch was approved during such period subject to an additional condition for nonprescription use;

(C) among the drugs for which an application for a full or partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch was approved during such period, the average length of time from receipt by the Food and Drug Administration of the application to the approval of such application;

(D) the number of partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch applications approved during such period, and the number of applications for such a partial switch not approved;

(E) any barriers to timely and predictable review of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch;

(F) engagement by the Food and Drug Administration with public stakeholders, including public meetings or additional activities to support review of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch; and

(G) opportunities for collaboration between the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for the purpose of analyzing health insurance claims data for commonly prescribed drugs that appear to be suitable for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “Rx-to-nonprescription switch” has the meaning given such term in paragraph (7) of section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 244(b)), as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 508. REGULATION OF CERTAIN NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT ARE MARKETED WITHOUT AN APPROVED DRUG APPLICATION.

(a) DEVELOPMENT ADVICE TO SPONSORS OR REQUESTORS.—Section 505G(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h(h)) is amended by striking “sponsors or requestors” and inserting “sponsors, requestors, or organizations nominated by sponsors or requestors to represent their interests in a proceeding”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 505G(b)(2)(A)(iv)(III) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h(b)(2)(A)(iv)(III)) is amended by striking “requestors” and inserting “sponsors or requestors”.

SEC. 509. SUNSET DATES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Sections 744L and 744M of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71; 379j-72) shall cease to be effective October 1, 2030.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 744N of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-73) shall cease to be effective January 31, 2031.

SEC. 510. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2025, or the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later, except that fees under part 10 of subchapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.) shall be assessed beginning October 1, 2025, regardless of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 511. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Notwithstanding the amendments made by this title, part 10 of subchapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to be in effect with respect to assessing and collecting any fee required by such part for a fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2026.

TITLE VI—NO SURPRISES ACT IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 601. EXTENDING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR NO SURPRISES ACT IMPLEMENTATION.

Section 118(a) of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) is amended—

(1) by striking “otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services” and inserting the following: “otherwise appropriated—

“(1) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as so inserted, by striking “September 30, 2025.” and inserting “November 21, 2025; and”; and

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

“(2) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated under paragraph (1), \$15,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on November 21, 2025.”.

DIVISION D—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDERS

TITLE I—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 201(j) of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-171; 38 U.S.C. 1720F note) is amended by striking “the date that is three years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under this section” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF RURAL ACCESS NETWORK FOR GROWTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 2(d) of the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-21; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

TITLE II—BENEFITS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS ON ADMINISTRATION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO DETERMINATIONS REGARDING PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION BASED ON TOXIC EXPOSURE.

Section 202(b)(2) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168) is amended by striking “On a quarterly basis during the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,” and inserting “On a quarterly basis during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2026.”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT RELATING TO RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Section 3699(c)(2)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CLARIFICATION OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.

Section 2002(a)(4) of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “five years” and inserting “six years”.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE IN REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

TITLE III—HOUSING

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN RE-INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by

striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Section 2033(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for “Medical Services”, \$92,000,000 shall be available until November 21, 2025, to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 2044 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for “Medical Services”, \$833,333 shall be available until November 21, 2025, for the purposes of the program under section 2061 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FOR DISABLED VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2108(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 307. IMPROVEMENTS TO PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **CLARIFICATION OF RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POWERS OF SECRETARY.**—Section 3720(h) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “of subsection (a)” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “of subsection (a) in conjunction with the purchase of a loan under section 3732(a)(2) of this title unless the Secretary determines the purchase would be made consistent with section 3732(d) of this title.”.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION OF PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM.**—Section 3737 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “first lien guaranteed loan for such property” and inserting “amount of indebtedness under the guaranteed loan that the Secretary does not purchase”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking “120 days” and inserting “180 days”; and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

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

“(A) shall not alter the guaranty calculation specified by section 3703 of this title;

“(B) shall be included, for the purpose of a liquidation sale, in the same manner as any other advance allowed by the Secretary; and

“(C) shall not be claimed under the guaranty or increase the Secretary’s cost of acquisition of the property securing the defaulted loan.”.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS OF LOAN HOLDER.**—Section (d)(1) of such section is amended by inserting “and servicing the loan” after “documents”.

(d) **DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE.**—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an individual who” and all that follows through

the period at the end and inserting the following: “a borrower who defaults on a partial claim shall be liable to the Secretary for any loss suffered by the Secretary with respect to such default, and such loss may be recovered in the same manner as any other debt due the United States. The Secretary shall not restore housing loan entitlement under section 3702(b) of this title until such loss is repaid in full.”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) The Secretary may charge administrative costs, fees, and interest, as appropriate, with respect to any default under a partial claim in a manner similar to the interest and administrative costs charged under section 5315 of this title.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) Notwithstanding section 2410 of title 28, a nonjudicial sale of real property to satisfy a loan guaranteed under this chapter shall discharge the property from a partial claim interest held by the Secretary, provided that the holder of the guaranteed loan conducts the non-judicial sale and distributes the sale proceeds, if any, in accordance with the State or local law where such property is situated.”.

(e) **GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.**—Subsection (h) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(h) **GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may, before prescribing regulations, issue administrative guidance with respect to the Partial Claim Program under this section and the loss mitigation options prescribed under section 3732(d) of this title, including any additional terms, conditions, and requirements the Secretary determines necessary.”.

SEC. 308. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTS ON PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OTHER MATTERS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter until the Partial Claim Program terminates, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report and disaggregated by quarter, the following:

(A) Key data on the performance of the Partial Claim Program, including—

(i) the number of partial claims filed and approved; and

(ii) the redefault and foreclosure rates of loans for which a partial claim was made.

(B) A comparison of the data described in subparagraph (A) with data on the performance of other loss mitigation options provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) The number of housing loans insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code.

(D) The number of applications for housing loan benefits under such chapter denied.

(E) The number of housing loans insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary under such chapter refinanced under section 3710(a)(8) or 3712 of title 38, United States Code.

(F) The number of veterans who owe a payment on a mortgage associated with a loan insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary under such chapter that is at least—

(i) 60 days late; and

(ii) 90 days late.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year before the Partial Claim Program terminates, the Comptroller General shall—

(A) conduct an assessment of the benefits and challenges of the Partial Claim Program; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to that assessment.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consider the following:

(A) The characteristics of borrowers for whom a partial claim was made compared to the characteristics of borrowers provided other loss mitigation options by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) The performance of loans guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, following various loss mitigation actions.

(C) The information the Department considered in determining whether a borrower would benefit from a partial claim compared to other loss mitigation options.

(D) The costs to taxpayers of the Partial Claim Program compared to the costs of other loss mitigation options provided by the Department.

(E) Any similarities and differences in the Department’s administration and use of the Partial Claim Program compared to the Department’s administration and use of the COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program established under subpart F of part 36 of title 38, Code of Regulations.

(F) The information the Department learned from the COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program and the extent to which those lessons learned were applied to the Partial Claim Program.

(G) The types of information the Department collected to monitor the performance and effectiveness of the Partial Claim Program and how the Department used that information to make any needed adjustments to the program.

(H) How the use by the Department of partial claims compares to the use of partial claims by other Federal housing agencies, including, for each partial claim program—

(i) the volume of loans for which partial claims have been made;

(ii) the results for borrowers (including redefault and foreclosure rates); and

(iii) the costs to taxpayers.

(c) **PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “Partial Claim Program” means the Partial Claim Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out under section 3737 of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 312(d)(7)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 111A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOAN PROGRAM.

Section 3733(a)(8) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY.

Section 8118(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “November 21, 2025”.

DIVISION E—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 101. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of divisions B through D shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of divisions B through D shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) **CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of divisions B through D shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee of Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026.

This Congress has a fundamental responsibility to fund the government and keep it open and serving the American people. It is a duty I take seriously and one that I have worked diligently to lead on.

Over the past year, the House Committee on Appropriations has acted to fulfill our fiscal year 2026 responsibilities. Constraints and challenges didn't stop us from doing the hard work, line by line, to uphold fiscal discipline and effective governance.

I am proud to say our markup process delivered all 12 regular appropriations bills out of committee. We have also passed three of these bills across the floor, representing more than 60 percent of overall discretionary spending.

That momentum has continued with our move to conference on the three-bill package covering Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and the Legislative Branch bills. This marks the first conference on major appropriations legislation in close to a decade, and it is a critical step for this institution and for restoring regular order.

We are certainly moving forward productively, and a bipartisan, bicameral agreement is firmly within our grasp. We just need more time to sustain negotiations and complete our work.

That is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker. The continuing resolution before us is simple. It extends funding until November 21. It is a clean, short-term stopgap that protects the fiscal year 2026 progress we have made and allows the appropriations process to advance toward full-year bills. It allows us to return the appropriations process to regular order, where it should be.

This is the responsible path. I want to remind my friends on the other side of the aisle what this measure is. It is a clean CR that keeps the lights on for the American people while we finish our work. It contains no poison pills or partisan riders. It provides essential security measures for all three branches of government. It is a short extension of just 7 weeks.

By keeping our government funded, it protects our military and defense needs, supports our veterans, and sustains critical services for our constituents, from roads, parks, and water projects to infrastructure, research, and job training.

This tailored, straightforward approach is exactly what Democrats previously asked for. Now, they are rejecting it to manufacture a partisan fight over provisions totally unrelated to appropriations.

Let me be very clear: A shutdown would do nothing to help our work on full-year bills or to support the American people. If Members want stability for the American people, time for negotiations in good faith, and regular order, they will support this CR. Any other vote would be reckless, not just for both parties but for the entire Nation.

I have said this previously, but it remains relevant today: Republicans and Democrats are more effective when they negotiate rather than provoke partisan confrontations, and the country is better off when Republicans and Democrats actually work together.

Let's do that now. We must act today for our country, for our national security, and for our constituents. I hope that all will join me in keeping the government open and serving the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have chosen a partisan route. In essence, the negotiation around the continuing resolution was a consensus that it should have been a bipartisan negotiation. That consensus was abrogated.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans choose a partisan route. They would rather shut down the government than sit down and talk with Democrats about lowering costs for millions of Americans, preventing people from getting kicked off their healthcare, and stopping President Trump and Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought from stealing from our communities and our constituents.

Democrats will not support the partisan Republican spending bill because it continues to gut healthcare for the American people.

We are now 9 months into this administration, and the cost-of-living crisis has only gotten worse. Americans are struggling with the rising costs for everyday necessities. They live paycheck to paycheck.

Instead of lowering prices, President Trump and Republicans passed a bill to strip healthcare coverage from more than 15 million people, threatened Medicare benefits owed to America's seniors, and slashed nutrition benefits for working families, which will cause an additional 1 million kids to go hungry.

The majority did this to pass trillions of dollars in tax cuts for big corporations and for billionaires. They add \$4 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

Republicans' funding bills are cut from the same cloth: They help billionaires and big corporations grow their power and raise prices on the backs of the middle class and the working class.

What is coming out of the White House is even worse. President Trump's administration, led by Russ Vought, is unlawfully stealing funds that Democrats and Republicans passed into law, the agreements that we have reached over the years. Democrats, Republicans, House and Senate, have said yes, and they have been signed into law. Now, an unelected official, Russ Vought, is stealing that money and using it—for what purposes, we don't even know.

This administration continues to freeze, terminate, and cancel \$410 billion in commitments to families, farmers, children, small businesses, and communities in every part of our country. Billions of these commitments will soon be lost forever if Congress refuses to rein in this administration's illegal actions.

As much as \$5 billion for the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be wasted.

Money promised to help farmers and ranchers drive advancements in agriculture is at risk.

Over \$1 billion in nonprofit security grants and homeland security grants that keep our communities safe may disappear.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in resources to help Americans deal with the increasing cost of housing will evaporate.

Put simply, this White House seeks to undo any agreement made by Congress. Russ Vought wants a shutdown, and House Republican leadership is handing it to him on a silver platter.

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He wants the confusion so he can keep stealing from our communities without accountability.

These are not normal times. We are not considering this funding during normal circumstances. A vote for this bill is a vote for the status quo, but now is the time to stand up to the theft and disregard for the middle class, the working class, and vulnerable Americans. Now is the time to prevent the healthcare crisis and to lower costs.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will say that healthcare costs are not germane to this bill. They should take a look at their continuing resolution because 67 of the 91 pages of that resolution deal with healthcare issues, whether they are healthcare extenders or whether they are healthcare for veterans. It is absolutely appropriate that we talk about how the administration has gutted healthcare, caused a healthcare crisis while increasing costs for people.

Now is the time to put an end to the Trump administration's corruption that hardworking Americans are paying for. Democrats want to lower costs, deliver critical services to all Americans, and that can be achieved through the continuing resolution that Senator PATTY MURRAY and I introduced yesterday. It cannot be achieved through a Republican shutdown.

This partisan bill reflects a broken political system. Democrats want to protect the millions of working Americans who will be forced to choose between paying for food or their healthcare or the cancer patients and people struggling with chronic disease who will have to choose between having healthcare coverage at all or keeping a roof over their family's head.

The Republican majority ignores the democratically elected Representatives for half of the country to appease their leader. Let us hope the majority does not drive us straight to a Republican shutdown, but if they do shut the government down, I have no doubt the American people will know who is to blame. I urge Members to vote "no" on this bill that fails to address the needs of Americans and join Democrats at the table.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my very good friend and a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE and our ranking member for their leadership as we move toward regular order in the appropriations process. I appreciate the ranking member's passion because of this issue, but we are not here today, Mr. Speaker, to talk about Russ Vought. We are here to talk about keeping the government open and avoiding a SCHUMER shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this short-term CR, the continuing resolution.

This CR will ensure the Federal Government remains open and working for our constituents. It ensures that our troops get paid on time and that our veterans continue getting the healthcare they need and other benefits that they have earned.

It also ensures the Trump administration can continue its work to secure our border, secure our communities from violent crime, and secure a stronger economy.

Under the leadership of Chairman COLE, we have passed all 12 spending bills out of committee on a condensed timeline and for the first time in years, regular appropriation bills are now headed to conference committee, showing that appropriators are engaged in good-faith, bipartisan, bicameral negotiations.

Keeping our government open and working for the American people should not be a partisan issue, but it appears our Democrat colleagues want to make it one.

As you will see throughout this debate today, Democrats' proposal is full of partisan priorities that would explode the Federal debt by \$1.5 trillion.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker: If our Democrat colleagues vote against this clean CR to keep our government open, they will own the shutdown. This will be a SCHUMER shutdown. The media will not be able to spin it. The American people will see straight through their gaslighting and political posturing to the contrary. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the continuing resolution and keep our government open.

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like the gentleman from Missouri to understand that without the increase in the premium subsidies that were in the ACA that have been cut back in his district, the premiums will go up \$760 for folks and almost 266,000 people will lose their healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to object to this Republican funding scam that simply continues the relentless financial pain America's families, seniors, and businesses face right now.

The reason I object so strenuously is because it absolutely does not have to be this way. Democrats have a funding proposal that cancels cruel cuts, lowers costs, and saves Americans' healthcare coverage. Our plan prevents 24 million Americans from enduring a massive 93 percent spike in their healthcare premium costs.

How could any Republican vote for a funding bill with that kind of financial sledgehammer hanging over your constituents' heads? The Democrats' plan values families, not billionaires and big corporations. It prevents nursing homes from closing. It ensures 15 million Americans don't lose health coverage.

Republicans refuse to sit down and figure this out, just like every family does at their kitchen table each week. Republicans are choosing to go it alone no matter the consequences. What Democrats will not do is support a partisan spending bill that guts healthcare for the American people. We will not support a plan that lets Trump freeze funds promised to our communities and hold up lifesaving medical research, including for kids with cancer.

Democrats will never support that. What we will support is our plan which saves a family of four earning \$64,000 a year from seeing their annual healthcare premiums go up by \$2,571, or 197 percent. Democrats will support permanently extending health insurance tax credits to keep coverage affordable.

What we will not do is make this Republican-created healthcare coverage crisis worse. We need to pass a budget that doesn't force Americans to raid their 401(k), cancel vacations, or go to the pawn shop just to pay for skyrocketing premiums.

In my State alone, more than 4 million people will feel the financial crunch from these higher premium costs, and they will feel it each and every month. A quarter of the Americans facing higher premiums have a chronic illness they are managing, and these price spikes will also put 1.6 million children at risk of losing essential healthcare.

How can any Republican claim to be a champion of small businesses and entrepreneurs when 3.3 million small business owners and self-employed workers would see premiums skyrocket? That will cripple startups and handcuff mom-and-pop shops across America.

Budgets reflect values and priorities, and Republicans chose a spending plan that guts healthcare and lavishes the wealthy and big corporations. That is the Republicans' choice that they must live with. Democrats stand ready to pass a funding bill that cancels the cruel Republican spending cuts, lowers costs for everyone, and saves the healthcare coverage of millions of Americans.

That is what Democrats fight for, and we will not support this Republican spending plan that drags families

further into the healthcare crisis created by Republicans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) is recognized to control the time for the majority.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, history has shown that government shutdowns accomplish nothing.

The last major shutdown cost our economy \$11 billion, delayed wages for Federal workers, and disrupted businesses that hardworking Americans rely on.

This isn't a partisan issue. Keeping our government open means protecting servicemembers, honoring veterans, supporting mothers and infants, keeping our border secure, and helping small businesses access the loans they need.

As we approach the government funding deadline, I support this clean, short-term continuing resolution. It prevents a costly shutdown, preserves progress on appropriations, and gives Congress time to finish the job responsibly. We were not sent here to play political games with people's livelihoods. A shutdown doesn't score points. It only hurts those we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, put the American people first, and support this measure.

□ 0940

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentlewoman that in her district, premiums will go up \$3,300, and in her State almost 2.4 million people will lose their healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this bill. President Trump and congressional Republicans have created a healthcare crisis and waged a war on the American healthcare system.

On the 4th of July, President Trump celebrated our Nation's birthday by signing Republicans' big, ugly bill into law, cutting more than a trillion dollars from our healthcare system. You can't cut a trillion dollars without creating devastating consequences for our constituents. Their new law will cruelly take healthcare coverage away from 15 million Americans.

We are already seeing the chaotic impacts of their actions. Just 2 months after enactment of the big, ugly bill, we are hearing from hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes across the country that are being forced to close their doors and cut services.

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital in Lavonia, Georgia, recently announced it will shut down its maternity unit next month, and they pointed to "recent congressional cuts to Medicaid" as the reason for the closure.

In rural Virginia, August Medical Group is closing an urgent care and two primary care clinics, citing their "ongoing response" to Republicans' healthcare cuts. This is only going to get worse.

Congressional Republicans are also taking away tax credits that help millions of Americans afford their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to enhanced tax credits included in the Inflation Reduction Act, a record 24 million Americans have coverage through the ACA marketplaces, but Republicans refuse to extend these tax credits for middle-class Americans in their big, ugly bill.

If we don't act now, millions of Americans are going to be hit with huge premiums for the upcoming year. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that these premium increases will lead to 4.2 million Americans losing their health insurance.

Trump and congressional Republicans had no problem giving their billionaire friends tax breaks in their big, ugly bill, but they refuse to extend tax credits that make healthcare more affordable for millions of middle-class families.

This is an outrage. We can't allow this to happen. Democrats believe we must address this healthcare crisis before millions of people lose their health coverage, see their costs spike, and their hospitals close.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my Republican colleagues to join us in ending the chaos. This has to be addressed in this spending bill. It doesn't. The Republican spending bill does not address the healthcare crisis, and for that reason I am opposed.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my very good friend, the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and commend Mr. COLE for his commitment to controlling costs in the stewardship of taxpayers' hard-earned treasure.

Meanwhile, my Democratic colleagues are demanding an audacious \$1.4 trillion in new spending or they will shut the people's government down. We should let the people know what that \$1.4 trillion includes. It would extend a failed and what they called temporary COVID tax credit that went to people making \$600,000 because there was no income limit. CBO said there were 4.5 million phantom enrollees. That is fraud in Plainview, Texas. CMS said 2.3 million ineligible people received this temporary COVID tax credit, tens of billions of dollars in waste and fraud, and this is what they demand or they will shut the government down.

They also want to remove safeguards that we recently put in important safety net programs, safeguards against what? The safeguards keep ineligible people from receiving these social serv-

ices, people who are in this country illegally from receiving taxpayer-funded services, and people who are able to work but refuse to work. That is the sum of the people who should not receive the hard-earned, taxpayer-funded services, and those are the measures to root out waste, fraud, and abuse that they want to rip away so that we waste more of our tax dollars and continue on this slippery slope of bankrupting our country.

Mr. Speaker, this is the party whose failed policies of tax, regulation, borrowing, and unbridled spending gave us the worst cost-of-living crisis in the last half century. I urge my colleagues to reject their demands and support Chairman COLE and the appropriators in this CR so we can work responsibly to fund the people's government and avoid a costly and disruptive shutdown.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman from Texas that in his district, premiums will go up \$430. He will have to explain that to his constituents. In the State, 1.6 million people will be jettisoned from their healthcare. Explain that, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, let's look at the numbers: 15 million people are about to be kicked off their health insurance because of the big, ugly law; 24 million Americans are going to pay higher premiums, in some cases, up to 75 percent.

I am in opposition to this Republican plan because they would rather shut down the government than bring costs down for the American people.

Everything costs more. Unemployment is on the rise, and it is only going to get worse because of their healthcare premiums rising by up to 75 percent.

Let's say it again: Republicans would rather shut down the government than bring down healthcare costs.

Two months ago, they found it possible to permanently extend tax cuts for the super wealthy and the biggest companies that were all scheduled to expire. They have turned their backs on the American people, but they found time once again to cut taxes for people at the very top.

My friend, the budget chairman, said before that Democrats have added to the debt. Is there anybody on their side right now that is willing to stand up and say that in 2017 they didn't borrow \$2.3 trillion for their tax cut? That is what I thought.

Is there anybody willing to say that they didn't add \$4 trillion to the debt with the last measure they passed called the big, ugly bill?

Trillions of dollars being borrowed for a tax cut, and the bill is so popular, what they did with that legislation, it is so popular, at the White House right now they are trying to figure out how to rebrand it. We have already branded

it. It is the big, ugly bill that is going to penalize middle-class Americans. We have the highest healthcare premium increases in 15 years. Prices are up. Unemployment is rising, and the Trump economy with their tariffs are failing the American people who need it the most.

This morning, Democrats are not going to be party to these attacks on the American people. We have a simple plan here. Let's extend these healthcare benefits. We can move on to the next legislative business in terms of the regular order. The American people know this morning Democrats have their backs, and we intend to defend their health insurance plans.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE), my very good friend.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this debate about keeping the government open is not just an academic debate. I have been here about 8 months. Before that, for about 10 years, I had the opportunity to write budgets for our State of North Carolina in our State legislature. We showed how you can lower taxes, cut regulations, and turn things around, which we have done successfully. I am new in this game here in Washington.

I want to talk about something that is very important to my home State, and that is disaster relief after Hurricane Helene, which has been almost a year ago when that happened, and the ongoing efforts that are happening right now. I want my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to hear this very loudly and clearly. If the government is shut down, those relief efforts, which are vital to my State and other States, including California, that are dealing with cleaning up from disasters, those efforts will stop. That is malpractice. We cannot do that. It is vital to make sure that those things continue.

I am reminded, and I am going to give a shout-out to Chairman COLE here. Back before I was a Member last year, we came up with a delegation from North Carolina. We met with the chairman and other members of the Appropriations Committee. I am very proud of the way that they, on a bipartisan basis, funded that initial tranche of relief for our State and that we have done additional work.

□ 0950

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue the efforts to make sure that we rebuild in western Carolina and any other part of the country that has been impacted.

My request to my friends on the other side of the aisle: There is time to debate all of these other issues as this appropriations bill passes through the process, but this CR simply gives additional time to work through this and will make sure that these disaster re-

lief efforts continue unabated. This is important. We owe it to the people of my district, of my State, and, frankly, to everyone in this Nation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman from North Carolina that I think his constituents are just going to be very unhappy about an additional almost \$600 in increased costs for their healthcare premiums, and almost 652,000 people in his State will be jettisoned from healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is less than Americans deserve. We need to address the cost-of-living crisis and ensure this country has high-quality, affordable healthcare. The Republican proposal before us today does neither of those things.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would allow the House to vote on the funding proposal that myself and Senator MURRAY introduced in each Chamber yesterday and would gain overwhelmingly bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just recall what I said early on in my comments. My Republican colleagues have, once again, chosen a partisan route.

There was consensus amongst the people who, in fact, deal with the appropriations process on both sides of the aisle. We achieved consensus on the three bills in terms of the allocations and the top lines. We said, yes, we are going to move forward in a bipartisan way to deal with those bills. There was also consensus on a bipartisan CR.

Lo and behold, there were no conversations with Democrats on a continuing resolution. As a matter of fact, if I can quote the President of the United States, he said that it is "a waste of time" to talk with JEFFRIES and SCHUMER. The President said that. In addition, he has told Republicans to pass this Republican continuing resolution, to jam it down the Democrats' throats.

That is the direction that the President would like to take us. He would like to take us to a shutdown, and the Republican leadership in this House

has taken this partisan route. Democrats have been overwhelmingly interested in sitting down and talking about how we keep the government open.

The fact of the matter is, the issues that are on the table here in this effort that are critically important, yes, are healthcare issues. What are we fighting against? We are not going to support a partisan Republican bill that guts healthcare for the American people.

When they continue to want to say that the issues that we bring up are not germane to this bill, it really is a fallacy. That is the fallacy because 67 pages of the 91 pages in this continuing resolution deal with healthcare extensions in one way or another. Whether they are for veterans or whether they are for others, that is what is in there.

It is absolutely germane that what we talk about is how they have slashed Medicaid, the largest cut in history; that 15 million people are going to lose their healthcare; and how they raise the premiums for copays and deductibles.

I am happy to share with all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, how much that increase is going to cost their constituents in their districts and also tell them how many people in their State are going to lose that healthcare coverage that they have.

It is in black and white. It is there. The people of their districts and their communities are going to know all about it. They set in motion \$536 billion in cuts to Medicare.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, I have watched them shut off funding for medical research, including for kids with cancer, vaccines, and public health.

This is a partisan Republican bill that guts healthcare, increases healthcare costs for the American people, and allows the continuation of an unelected official to steal the money that both Democrats and Republicans in this House and in the Senate have moved forward on to meet the needs of the American people.

That has to stop. That is, in fact, the reason why Democrats are opposed to this continuing resolution. They are foursquare for keeping the government open but dealing with the needs of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Connecticut for her leadership and for yielding as we debate this partisan, reckless Republican spending bill that continues to gut the healthcare of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to legislation that continues the relentless Republican attack on the healthcare of the American people.

What we have seen throughout this year—notwithstanding Republican promises to lower the high costs of living, which Republicans promised to do on day one of the Trump Presidency. We know costs aren't going down. Here in the United States of America, they continue to go up. Inflation is going up. Life is becoming more expensive for the American people, in part, as a result of Donald Trump's tariffs that House Republicans continue to rubberstamp.

Democrats recognize that the cost of living in the United States of America is far too high. We have to fix our broken healthcare system, and we also have to clean up corruption in this town so that we don't have a government of the elites, by the elites, and for the elites. We deserve a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That is why we oppose this reckless Republican spending bill.

The Republican assault on healthcare has been relentless: the largest cut to Medicaid in American history, and millions of Americans losing their healthcare as a result of the Republican one big, ugly bill. Hungry children have had food stolen from their mouths as a result of the one big, ugly bill. That is going to make them vulnerable to sickness, illness, and disease.

□ 1000

Mr. Speaker, all of this was done so that Republicans could reward billionaire donors with massive tax breaks.

In addition to the unprecedented assault on Medicaid, as a result of the Republicans' one big, ugly bill, the American people are confronting the possibility that Medicare could be cut by \$536 billion this year, the largest cut to Medicare in American history, as a result of what Republicans have done and as part of their relentless assault on the healthcare of the American people.

Premiums, copays, and deductibles are skyrocketing. Over the next few weeks, tens of millions of Americans are about to confront dramatic increases in their healthcare. They will confront thousands of dollars, and in some cases, tens of thousands of dollars, in additional expense per year because of what Republicans have unleashed on the American people as part of this unprecedented assault on healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I heard earlier today some of my colleagues on the Republican side say that the healthcare issue was not germane and that we are raising issues around Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act or increasing premiums, copays, and deductibles. The fact is that Republicans are dramatically ending medical research in the United States of America including as it relates to research for children with cancer. Who does that?

The fact is that all across this country, as a result of actions Republicans have taken and are continuing to take

in targeting the healthcare of the American people, hospitals, nursing homes, and community-based health clinics are closing including in all of my colleagues' districts and throughout rural America.

Mr. Speaker, don't come and argue to us that these issues are not germane. I will tell my colleagues what is germane. Protecting the healthcare of the American people is germane. That is what Democrats are doing in fighting back against this partisan Republican spending bill.

There is an alternative. It has been introduced by Senator PATTY MURRAY and Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO. It is supported by Democrats in the House and the Senate. It keeps the government open. It allows for bipartisan negotiations as it relates to a spending bill that would actually meet the needs of the American people in terms of their health, their public safety, and their economic well-being. It will actually try to make progress on lowering costs in America, which my Republican colleagues promised to do, Mr. Speaker, and failed to do. That is the legislation that we should be taking up.

Republicans know that this partisan, reckless, dirty spending bill is dead on arrival in the United States Senate. Yet Republicans continue to refuse to even discuss protecting the healthcare of the American people in the face of a relentless Republican assault that will actually harm people and cause Americans, children, families, seniors, and veterans to lose their lives.

We have a choice to make here in the House of Representatives. It appears that Republicans believe that healthcare should simply be a privilege available only to the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. We strongly disagree.

Access to high-quality and affordable healthcare is a right; and Democrats are on the floor of the House of Representatives vindicating that right at all times. That is why we are voting "no."

Some have suggested that our principled opposition to the partisan Republican spending bill may result in a government funding lapse. We have heard all year how Republicans have a mandate, how Republicans have the Presidency, how Republicans control the House, and how Republicans control the Senate. If that, in fact, is the case, as is the moment, temporarily, Republicans will own a government shutdown. Period. Full stop. It is the Republicans' shutdown.

We are fighting for the healthcare of the American people. We will do that today. We will do that tomorrow. We will do that next week. We will do that next month. We will do that this year. We will do that next year. We will do that at all times. We are standing up for the healthcare of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, cancel the cuts. Lower the costs. Save our healthcare.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, that was quite an unconventional closing. Normally when someone closes, they are the last speaker. I regret that, but I am happy to always hear from my good friend and distinguished minority leader. That is an unusual move.

The gentleman has the right to speak. The 1 minute is 1 minute. I respect that. I would just ask my friend in the future to just please be here in time to do it before we close.

Mr. Speaker, I won't take the 18 minutes that I have. I don't think I need it. The facts here are pretty clear. At the beginning of this process, I was asked to produce a clean bill for a limited period of time by my colleagues on the other side. They asked for that so that we could continue negotiations on a package of three bills. Those are going quite well now and are happening.

All of a sudden, we have extraneous demands for things unrelated to the day-to-day operation of the government. With all due respect, I think additional negotiations on those topics could happen. I think the majority leader in the United States Senate actually signaled they could happen but not attached to this particular bill.

This is what my friends on the other side asked for. They asked for a clean bill with no partisan riders and no tricks. Give it to us for a short period.

I was told by my distinguished friend in the United States Senate, Senator MURRAY: Oh no, we don't want to go all the way to January like the Trump administration does. We want to go into November.

I said: Great. I actually agree with you. I think we should keep this thing moving.

The thing to keep moving is the appropriations bills that fund the government. If my friends want to shut the government down, they have every right to do so. They might do it today. They certainly have the power of the United States Senate to do that.

Rest assured, my Democratic colleagues are doing exactly what Republicans did in 2013. It did not work for them. Republicans tied something unrelated to spending, ObamaCare, and shut down the government. That was the wrong thing to do then. I said it was the wrong thing to do. It was. My Democratic colleagues are doing the same thing now. There is nothing else.

If they want to have important negotiations on these other topics, they are important topics, and they ought to be negotiated. What is happening is not some cut that is in this bill. We are not cutting anything. A measure that was passed on a bipartisan basis, as I recall, ran out. It is running out. We should probably talk about that. We don't do it on a CR.

This is a manufactured crisis. My Democratic friends got exactly what they asked for. They asked for a clean CR. They got a clean CR. They asked for a limited amount of time. They got

a limited amount of time. They asked for negotiations on the remaining three bills. Those negotiations are underway. That is what this committee should be focused on.

That is all we are doing today, Mr. Speaker. We are buying the time that we all need to finish a process that we are all trying to restore and we think is broken. We now have people dropping things out of the blue that were never intended to be in the CR. They are trying to create a sense of crisis and drama. If they think that moves us in the right direction, I disagree.

□ 1010

I think that moves us in the wrong direction. I think keeping the government open for the American people and negotiating in good faith on bills that we are close to getting done and moving it through regular order is the right thing to do. I think provoking a government shutdown is the wrong thing to do. If you disagree, then vote “no.” Take your privilege and shut down the Government of the United States, something you have repeatedly condemned Republicans for when they did it, and rightly condemned, but you are doing the same thing, and you know it. You absolutely know it.

If you want to shut down the government today, fine.

We will give the United States Senate the same opportunity if we vote to keep it open, and if they want to shut it down, that is up to them.

However, we are at the table ready to negotiate. We are negotiating on the three bills we agreed to negotiate on right now.

That is the work of the Appropriations Committee, not this, and that is what the CR would deal with.

My friends, when I give you what you asked for, and you decide that is not acceptable, you change it afterwards, and you drop unrelated items in, that is up to you. But let's not have any pretense about what is going on here. It is political theater. That is all it is. But you are doing it at the risk of shutting the Government of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to vote for this CR. I am proud to work with my friends on the bills we were supposed to work with. I hope we can reach agreement and bring those bills to the floor in short order.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” on the bill in front of us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate is expired. Pursuant to House Resolution 722, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro of Connecticut moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5371 to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

Ms. DeLauro moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5371 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the provisions of H.R. 5450, as introduced in the House of Representatives on September 18, 2025.

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

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Passage of the bill, if ordered; and

Adoption of H. Res. 719.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 218, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 280]

YEAS—210

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buddzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro

DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Españat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Harden (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating

Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landman
Larsen (WA)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nocross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olzewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta

Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider

Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—218

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

Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (VA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—3

Carson Johnson (GA) Larson (CT)

□ 1036

Messrs. LUTTRELL, SCALISE, and NUNN of Iowa changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. FROST, Ms. SHERRILL, OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 212, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 281]

YEAS—217

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

Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne

NAYS—212

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

NOT VOTING—3

Gray Perez Shreve

□ 1044

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on ROLL CALL No. 281.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed a vote today. I intended to vote YEA on Roll Call 281.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 310, nays 58, answered “present” 38, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 282]

YEAS—310

Aderholt	Davids (KS)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Aguilar	Davidson	Harder (CA)
Alford	Davis (NC)	Haridopolos
Allen	De La Cruz	Harrigan
Amodei (NV)	Dean (PA)	Harris (MD)
Ansari	DeLauro	Harris (NC)
Arrington	DelBene	Harshbarger
Auchincloss	Deluzio	Hern (OK)
Babin	DesJarlais	Higgins (LA)
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Hill (AR)
Baird	Dingell	Himes
Balderson	Donalds	Hinson
Balint	Downing	Houchin
Barr	Dunn (FL)	Houlahan
Barrett	Edwards	Hoyer
Baumgartner	Elfreth	Hudson
Bean (FL)	Ellzey	Huffman
Begich	Emmer	Huizenga
Bentz	Estes	Hunt
Bera	Evans (CO)	Hurd (CO)
Bergman	Ezell	Issa
Bice	Fallon	Jack
Biggs (AZ)	Fedorchak	Jackson (TX)
Biggs (SC)	Feenstra	James
Bilirakis	Fine	Jeffries
Boebert	Finstad	Johnson (LA)
Bost	Fischbach	Johnson (SD)
Boyle (PA)	Fitzgerald	Jordan
Brecheen	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (OH)
Bresnahan	Fleischmann	Joyce (PA)
Buchanan	Fletcher	Kaptur
Budzinski	Flood	Kean
Burchett	Fong	Keating
Burlison	Foster	Kelly (MS)
Calvert	Fox	Kelly (PA)
Cammack	Franklin, Scott	Kennedy (UT)
Carey	Fry	Kiggans (VA)
Carter (GA)	Fulcher	Kiley (CA)
Carter (TX)	Garbarino	Kim
Case	Gill (TX)	Knott
Chu	Gillen	Kustoff
Ciscomani	Gimenez	LaHood
Cisneros	Golden (ME)	LaLota
Clark (MA)	Goldman (TX)	LaMalfa
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	Landsman
Cloud	Gonzalez, V.	Langworthy
Clyde	Gooden	Larsen (WA)
Cole	Gosar	Larson (CT)
Comer	Gottheimer	Latta
Correa	Graves	Lawler
Costa	Gray	Lee (FL)
Courtney	Greene (GA)	Lee (NV)
Craig	Griffith	Letlow
Crank	Grothman	Levin
Crenshaw	Guest	Liccardo
Crow	Guthrie	Lieu
Cuellar	Hageman	Lofgren

Loudermilk	Neal	Smith (NE)
Lucas	Nehls	Smith (NJ)
Luna	Newhouse	Smith (WA)
Luttrell	Norman	Smucker
Lynch	Nunn (IA)	Sorensen
Mace	Obornolte	Soto
Mackenzie	Ogles	Spartz
Magaziner	Olszewski	Stanton
Mailiotakis	Onder	Stauber
Maloy	Owens	Stefanik
Mann	Pallone	Steil
Mannion	Palmer	Steube
Massie	Panetta	Stevens
Mast	Pappas	Strong
McBride	Patronis	Stutzman
McCaul	Perez	Suozi
McClain	Perry	Takano
McClain Delaney	Peters	Taylor
McClintock	Pfuger	Tenney
McCollum	Pou	Thompson (PA)
McCormick	Raskin	Tiffany
McDonald Rivet	Reschenthaler	Timmons
McDowell	Riley (NY)	Titus
McGarvey	Rivas	Trahan
McGovern	Rogers (AL)	Tran
McGuire	Rogers (KY)	Turner (OH)
Meeks	Rose	Valadao
Messmer	Ross	Van Drew
Meuser	Rouzer	Van Dwyne
Miller (IL)	Roy	Van Orden
Miller (OH)	Rulli	Vargas
Miller (WV)	Rutherford	Wagner
Miller-Meeks	Ryan	Walberg
Mills	Salazar	Wasserman
Min	Scalise	Schultz
Moolenaar	Schneider	Weber (TX)
Moore (AL)	Scholten	Webster (FL)
Moore (NC)	Schrier	Westerman
Moore (UT)	Schweikert	Whitesides
Moore (WV)	Scott, Austin	Wied
Moran	Scott, David	Williams (TX)
Morelle	Self	Wilson (SC)
Morrison	Sessions	Wittman
Moskowitz	Sherrill	Womack
Mrvan	Shreve	Yakym
Murphy	Simpson	Zinke
Nadler	Smith (MO)	

NAYS—58

Amo	Garcia (TX)	Omar
Beatty	Gomez	Pressley
Bell	Green, Al (TX)	Quigley
Bishop	Hayes	Ramirez
Brown	Horsford	Randall
Carson	Ivey	Scott (VA)
Carter (LA)	Jackson (IL)	Sewell
Cherfilus-	Jayapal	Simon
McCormick	Johnson (GA)	Strickland
Clarke (NY)	Kamlager-Dove	Sykes
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Thandear
Clyburn	Krishnamoorthi	Thompson (MS)
Crockett	Lee (PA)	Tlaib
Davis (IL)	McBath	Underwood
Escobar	McIver	Velázquez
Espallat	Menendez	Waters
Fields	Mfume	Watson Coleman
Figures	Moore (WI)	Williams (GA)
Foushee	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Frost	Ocasio-Cortez	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—38

Adams	Friedman	Pingree
Beyer	Garamendi	Pocan
Bonamici	Goldman (NY)	Salinas
Brownley	Goodlander	Sánchez
Bynum	Hoyle (OR)	Scanlon
Carbajal	Jacobs	Sherman
Casas	Johnson (TX)	Subramanyam
DeGette	Kennedy (NY)	Thompson (CA)
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Tokuda
Dexter	Matsui	Tonko
Doggett	McClellan	Vasquez
Evans (PA)	Meng	Walkinshaw
Frankel, Lois	Petersen	

NOT VOTING—26

Barragán	Garcia (CA)	Schakowsky
Casten	Garcia (IL)	Schmidt
Castor (FL)	Latimer	Stansbury
Castro (TX)	Leger Fernandez	Swalwell
Cohen	Mullin	Torres (CA)
Collins	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Conaway	Norcross	Veasey
Crane	Pelosi	Vindman
Crawford	Ruiz	

□ 1053

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained in a meeting with constituents and missed the vote on H. Res. 719, of which I was a cosponsor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 282.

REQUESTING THE SENATE TO RETURN TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES H.R. 3426

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 747

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) entitled "To amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution was agreed to. There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THREE FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 17, in York County, our community suffered an unimaginable tragedy. Members of the Northern York County Regional Police Department and the York County Sheriff's Office were fired upon as they entered a home while attempting to serve a warrant relative to a stalking incident in North Codorus Township.

Three officers—Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Mark Baker, and Detective Isaiah Emenheiser—were killed in the line of duty. Two other officers, one from the Northern York County Regional Police Department and one York County Deputy Sheriff were wounded and remain in the hospital. We pray for their swift and complete recovery.

Mr. Speaker, this horrific and senseless act of violence has devastated the York County community. Hearts are broken. Three brave public servants who answered the call to protect and defend did not return home to their loved ones at the end of their shift.

Mr. Speaker, to the families, loved ones, friends, and colleagues of these fallen heroes, we extend our deepest, deepest sympathy. We grieve with them, and the entire community shares in their grief.

May we all keep the families of the fallen officers, of the department, the

York County Sheriff's Office, and all law enforcement officers in our hearts and in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congressman PERRY.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Lancaster County for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the Psalms tell us that the Lord is closest to the brokenhearted, and we are brokenhearted on this day for the loss of these officers.

Mr. Speaker, every day across America, as we go about our lives, every day and every night, there are men and women who put on the uniform to keep our communities safe. They never know when they leave home, kiss their wife, their husband, their children good-bye, whether that is the last day or not. It is a burden that most of us will never recognize, can't understand, will never experience. We live in a wonderful country because of the people who are willing to risk their lives and run to the danger.

Mr. Speaker, these brave individuals, the finest in America, certainly the finest in York County, gave their last full measure in support of the safety of their community and our country. We are heartbroken, and we pray for them. We pray for the departments. We pray for their families. We pray for our community, and we hold them up. We acknowledge their sacrifice on our behalf.

I thank the gentleman from Lancaster and the whole Pennsylvania delegation, the whole House for your attention to this matter. We have to do better. We have to deal with these things successfully, and we have to continue to honor those who stand in the way of evil every day so that we can remain free.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone rise and that the House observe a moment of silence to honor the memory of Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Mark Baker, and Detective Isaiah Emenheiser.

HONORING MANUEL HEART ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the retirement of Manuel Heart, chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Chairman Heart has faithfully served his people for more than a decade, leading with vision, humility, and an unwavering commitment to protecting the Tribe's sovereignty and making life better for his community. Raised by his grandfather, he learned the Ute language and carried forward the traditions of his people with pride.

Throughout his tenure, he has championed the Tribe's water rights and worked to safeguard this critical resource for future generations. He has

promoted education and culture and has worked tirelessly to diversify the Ute Mountain Ute economy through agriculture and business development.

Chairman Heart has been a strong voice for Tribal sovereignty, reminding us that the rights of Tribal members as citizens of both their Tribe and the United States must always be respected.

On behalf of Colorado's Third District, I thank Chairman Manuel Heart for his decades of leadership and extend my best wishes to him in retirement. His service leaves a legacy that will endure for years to come.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that affects men of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds: prostate cancer.

Just last week, I introduced a resolution designating September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. As co-chair of the bipartisan Men's Health Caucus, this issue is close to my heart.

Every year, the Black community is disproportionately affected by prostate cancer. Specifically, Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer as their White counterparts. This alarming trend highlights an urgent need for action.

To address the disparities in prostate cancer outcomes, we must ensure at-risk populations have access to prevention, early detection, and treatment options.

This disease does not have to be a death sentence, and this disparity isn't written in stone. We have the tools to close that gap.

Together, we can increase awareness through campaigns like Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and beat prostate cancer once and for all. Together, let's end this scourge on our community.

REFLECTING ON TRIP TO ISRAEL

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my very recent visit to Israel. It was a humbling journey through the Holy Land, where the history and resilience of the Israeli people left a deep impression.

I stood inside Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a profound moment for me as a Christian.

I was grateful to have met Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israel's President Herzog, and our own Ambassador Mike Huckabee. Each visit afforded a deeper understanding of the enduring bond between our nations.

Our delegation visited the site of the Nova music festival, where Hamas terrorists carried out one of the most horrific attacks on October 7.

The trip was both sobering and inspiring. It reaffirmed my conviction to stand with the people of Israel, while working toward the goal of a more peaceful Middle East.

BRENDAN CARR'S WORDS

(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, I quote: "Political satire is one of the oldest and most important forms of free speech. It challenges those in power while using humor to draw more people into the discussion. That's why people in influential positions have always targeted it for censorship."

These are not my words. These are the words of Brendan Carr, the current FCC Chairman.

This week, Chairman Carr called for Jimmy Kimmel's show to be canceled for using that very same satire—Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, suppression of free speech.

I don't see this administration saying anything about limiting the free speech on FOX, OAN, or Newsmax. Free speech is okay if you agree with it, but if it disagrees with you, then out it goes.

That is the way it is in Putin's Russia and in Kim Jong-un's North Korea. That is the way it is in China, Hungary, and Iran. That is not America.

America believes in something good and greater: free speech, free thought, free practice of religion.

When we silence American voices, we slide every day toward the very regimes that we say we are fighting.

HURRICANE HELENE

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

Mr. EDWARDS. 1 year ago, western North Carolina was slammed by the worst storm to ever hit our region. To many across the country, we thought that this might have been just another segment on nightly news programs or an article in our local paper, but for those of us who call western North Carolina home, it meant so much more.

In our mountain communities, waters crested above 30 feet; winds peaked at over 100 miles an hour; and 1,500 landslides destroyed hundreds of homes and many communities. Over 1,300 roads were blocked by damage and debris. There were 1.2 million citizens left without power. Mr. Speaker, 108 North Carolinians lost their lives.

Over the last year, our mountain communities have overcome unimaginable obstacles with grit and determination. I couldn't be prouder that, as a community, we have come back to-

gether, not as individuals, but as neighbors, friends, and family.

Rebuilding hasn't been easy, but very few things that are worth doing are easy.

Come Helene or high water, western North Carolina will rebuild. I am so proud of the resiliency of the people of the mountains.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

H.R. 2483. An act to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:

Denise A. Hibay of New York.

RECOGNIZING TOM FETTER

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, we have giants in San Diego. I rise today to congratulate one of them, Mr. Tom Fetter, who is being honored as Mr. San Diego by the San Diego Rotary.

A lifelong San Diegan, Tom was born in 1934 and grew up in Point Loma. In 1957, he married his beautiful wife, Jane, a La Jollan.

Tom served in the Army before beginning a long and successful business career in San Diego.

Tom has always been involved in community service, and it has been at the center of his and Jane's lives. Tom has spent more than five decades building up the community and serving on the leading boards of San Diego institutions, which include the San Diego Yacht Club, The Bishop's School, the Fleet Science Center, the San Diego Zoo, the USD School of Law, and the San Diego History Center.

Notably, Tom was commodore of the San Diego Yacht Club during its defense of America's Cup in 1994.

Tom's service to the San Diego Zoo is especially meaningful as his father served as the zoo's board chairman in the 1960s.

Despite his many achievements, Tom considers his family to be his greatest success, and they are a great blessing to San Diego.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Tom for everything he has done for San Diego, and I congratulate him again on this prestigious honor. It is very well deserved.

□ 1110

RECOGNIZING SPOKANE IMPACT

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an inspiring moment in our community, the Spokane Impact's first home match this past Saturday at the HUB Sports Center in Liberty Lake.

The Spokane Impact is one of the founding teams of the Inspire Soccer League, the first-ever national soccer league created specifically for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Launched by Project Inspire, this league is about more than just soccer. It is about bringing people together from all walks of life and making sure that everyone has a chance to experience the joy and connection of sports.

Too often, athletes with special needs are left without access to the kinds of opportunities so many take for granted, which is real teams, real competition, and real crowds cheering them on.

This is an exciting new effort. There is so much going on with soccer in Spokane and across the country with the launch of our USL team and the coming World Cup. I am so proud that this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a special shout-out to the team's manager, Anna McCoy, who is doing a wonderful job in her new role.

BRINGING COMPASSION TO OUR NATION

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in crisis. We are in a very dark place. Americans are scared, and they want to see a way forward. We all need to start with ourselves.

This morning, I sat, and I lit a candle. I thought about the anguish and suffering of Representative Melissa Hortman's two children as they try to cope with the assassination of their mom and dad.

Then I sat, and I thought of the pain and the torment of Charlie Kirk's family as they try to cope with the killing of their dad.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am inviting Americans across the Nation to do the same. I invite them to sit for a few minutes in the pain of these two families. If they can feel compassion for one family and not the other, that should tell them about the work they need to do and the work that we all need to do.

2025 COLORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE D.C. FLY-IN

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce for hosting the chamber fly-in to Washington, D.C., this week.

Over 90 members of the Chamber, from the Aerospace and Defense, Energy, Housing, and Community Development sectors, among others, made the journey to our Nation's Capital.

I had the opportunity to meet with several of these business leaders individually. We discussed how we can work together to lower regulations, support businesses, and keep jobs in our community. Many of these business leaders are the reason why the Pikes Peak region is becoming one of the economic titans of the West.

Relationships are the most important part of the legislative process, and I look forward to continuing to work together with these and every business leader in the Fifth Congressional District to continue to grow our thriving community.

HONORING WOMEN OF TOLEDO

(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 to honor Women of Toledo. This remarkably dynamic organization is celebrating 10 productive years of advancing good works, opportunity, sorority, and leadership in northwestern Ohio.

What began as a simple focus group has grown into a vibrant hub, connecting thousands of women and girls to mentorship, education, and resources to build lives forward.

Through initiatives like HerHub, which champions women-owned businesses, and Girl's Hub, which inspires our next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, Women of Toledo is shaping the future of our community. Bravo.

Their story is a testament to the power of vision and persistence with good people and good women. From coffee shop conversations to packed ballrooms, they have built a movement rooted in "e pluribus unum"; "out of many, one." Women of various heritages are working together for community betterment.

Women of Toledo forges partnerships with business, not-for-profits, and neighborhoods who believe that when women rise, our entire community rises. Congratulations, Women of Toledo.

STALWART REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

(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, the last 2 days have actually been remarkable. Led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman BRIAN MAST, we actually met for nearly 36 hours straight on an amendment for inclusion in the State Department Authorization Act.

Indeed, I am very grateful that last night a very historic step was taken as

the people of the United States showed their love and affection for the people of the Republic of Georgia. An amendment was passed that provides for no recognition of the illegitimate Georgian Dream government that has seized power in a rigged election in Georgia on October 26, 2024.

We now have a resolution or amendment that calls for nonrecognition. I am so grateful to my colleagues who joined in supporting that resolution. Indeed, it is an indication that what has been done is positive.

The Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, has denounced this legislation. In an unintended consequence, he reveals that the people of Georgia want to live in fairness and freedom. Additionally, today the United Kingdom has passed legislation to block recognition.

With this, we conclude that Charlie and Erika Kirk are making a difference for God, family, and country.

REDISTRICTING MAPS FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES

(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, under the process in this country of drawing maps for representation, it is done every 10 years immediately following a census. This year, States are setting out to redraw maps mid-decade and mid-census without any census data. This is done for partisan purposes.

For example, my home state of California has a commission that is supposed to draw the maps and put them in the grubby hands of legislators with a pen or pencil and eraser. The voters of California affirmed three different occasions by their vote on the ballot that they don't want it to be done by legislators.

We see a scheme going on right now to take that away from the voters and put it back in the hands of the legislators. Here is one of the results rights here. Where the top of California meets Oregon and Nevada, that corner there is Modoc County. It sounds as rural as the name "Modoc" implies. It is now being linked all the way down here to the north half of the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin County.

This is the area where wolves have been introduced that are devouring the wildlife and the farmers' and ranchers' livestock up there by the people down here who think it is a really good idea. They are not going to have any voice to balance out and to talk about how they are being devastated by policies coming from the urban areas. That is what is known as Proposition 50.

Mr. Speaker, they should vote "no" on that in California and bring balance back. Leave the balance in place instead of partisan lines.

□ 1120

CENSURED BUT NOT SILENCED

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and I rise now to proudly yield to a person with great honor and integrity. She is a Member of this Congress who has been on the right side of righteousness. She is a Member of this Congress who stands for those who are among the least, the last, and the lost. She hails from the 14th Congressional District in the great State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

THE KIRK RESOLUTION AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for yielding to me.

Today the Republican House majority brought to the floor a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk.

Charlie Kirk's assassination was a horrific and vile attack. It was an incident of political violence, and condemning the depravity of Kirk's brutal murder is a straightforward matter. It is one that is especially important to help stabilize an increasingly unsafe and volatile political environment where everyday people feel more at risk.

We can deeply disagree and come together as a country to denounce the horror of this killing, and it is not a license for the abuse of power and whitewashing of American history.

Today's resolution only underscores the majority's recklessness by choosing to offer this condemnation and honoring on a purely partisan basis, instead of uniting Congress in this tragedy with one of the many bipartisan options to condemn political violence in Kirk's murder as we did with the late Melissa Hortman. Instead, the majority proceeded with a resolution that brings great pain to the millions of Americans who endured segregation, Jim Crow, and the legacy of bigotry today.

We should be clear about who Charlie Kirk was. He was a man who believed that the Civil Rights Act that granted Black Americans the right to vote was a mistake, who after the violent attack on Paul Pelosi claimed that "some amazing patriot" should bail out his brutal assailant, and accused Jews of controlling "not just the colleges, it is the nonprofits, it is the movies, it is Hollywood, it is all of it."

His rhetoric and beliefs were ignorant, uneducated, and sought to disenfranchise millions of Americans, far from the "working tirelessly to promote unity" asserted by the majority in this resolution.

It is equally important that Congress does unite to reject the government's attempt to weaponize this moment

into an all-out assault on free speech across the country all in the name of Charlie Kirk.

President Trump and the FCC are now cynically threatening to shut down ABC and any outlets that gives airtime to the administration's political critics.

This is a disgusting attack on the American people and the very First Amendment rights that define us as a country. It is also the ABC corporation's responsibility to refuse to embolden and participate in this corruption and escalation of censorship.

We continue to pray for Mr. Kirk's family and loved ones in the wake of this terrible act. I am thinking especially of his children and his wife whose grief cannot be measured.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. I bid the gentlewoman a good day, and we will proceed now, Mr. Speaker, again.

And still I rise.

And I rise today, Mr. Speaker, with the notion in mind that what I have stood for I still stand for. What I have stood for I still stand for. It wasn't that long ago, Mr. Speaker, that I stood right over to my right, the seat next to the aisle. Mr. Speaker, when the President of the United States of America was here for a joint session of Congress, the President of the United States of America indicated that he had a mandate.

I, with a degree of spontaneity, Mr. Speaker, from right over there, the second seat from the aisle, collected my portable items and was about to make my departure. I traversed up to the doors and made my exit as a means of protesting what the President was saying.

However, Mr. Speaker, as I did this, I became overwhelmed with just the notion that something was going to happen very ugly and it would be something that would hurt people who are on Medicaid and Medicare. I also brought up Social Security when I spoke, but these are the things that I was overwhelmed with. As a result of understanding what was about to happen and knowing that the committee with jurisdiction over Medicaid had a mandate to cut more than \$800 billion, I was overwhelmed, Mr. Speaker. I did rise to my feet, and I did say to the President: You have no mandate to cut Medicaid.

My colleagues across the aisle became very rambunctious and decided that what I was saying did not merit being heard, so they performed very loudly. I am not angry with them. They performed loudly. I wanted to make sure that the President heard my statement, and I repeated myself and added Medicare and Social Security.

My colleagues continued, and I continued.

I was evicted, and I was later on censured, censured but not silenced. Yes, I stand today where I stood then. Censured but not silent I stand today where I stood then. It is best captured in this photo that depicts what occurred: censured not silenced.

So I stand today where I stood then, and I stand today where I stood then because there is a CR that has been brought before this House, and if I had voted for that CR, then I would legitimize what I stood against.

I refuse to legitimize what I stood against when I said: You don't have a mandate to cut Medicaid, Medicare, and I introduced Social Security into the equation.

That is what this was about for me, today. The question was whether I would stand where I stood then or whether I would now agree that what was done then is something that I condone now. I condemned what happened then. My mind has not changed. The people who will suffer will still suffer.

Mr. Speaker, why would I now decide that I am going to bless, if you will, condone, a CR that continues what happened, when my Republican colleagues did what they thought was right, I assumed, and passed the legislation without the help of Democrats?

If you can pass the initial legislation without the help of Democrats, Mr. Speaker, then why do you want me to join in your CR?

Pass this without my help.

Censured but not silenced. I stand now where I stood then. I went out, and I addressed the press. I didn't go out to address the press, the press asked and appealed to me to come over. I was making my way to my home where I could watch the rest of the joint session of Congress, but I went over to the press, and I said to them what I said to the President. I am on record.

Why would I now decide that I somehow conclude that what was done to Medicaid and Medicare is somehow something that I would now condone?

I have said, and I continue to say that this piece of legislation that was passed—not the CR, but the original legislation, that one big, ugly steal of a bill—this piece of legislation as it continues to develop is going to hurt people on Medicaid. If you live long enough, Mr. Speaker, you are going to need Medicaid because if you live long enough, then you are going to need some sort of long-term healthcare if you are fortunate enough, and you are going to get that from Medicaid.

I refuse to change my position. I stand now where I stood then, and I believe that what we are doing is the greatest cut in healthcare history. It is the greatest cut in healthcare ever.

□ 1130

All we are trying to do as Democrats, or at least this one Democrat—I don't speak for the Democratic Party. I speak for myself and everybody who agrees with me.

What we are trying to do is to protect Medicare. That is all that CR is about for me. It is about a lot of other things as well, but I am trying to protect Medicare as I tried at the joint session of Congress. I am going to stand where I stood then.

I am proud to tell you that Democrats have produced some documents

that encapsulate—that are terse but very much substantive in terms of what this appeal is all about. The style of it is: What are the elements of the Republican healthcare crisis?

There is a healthcare crisis. The Democratic Party has passed this on to me. I want to give them full credit for it. I am going to adopt it as my own, but I did not produce it.

It says here—this is a part of the crisis—slashing Medicaid with the largest cut in history. I said that. I am repeating myself. Some things bear repeating. Slashing Medicaid with the largest cut in history. I can't condone that. If I had voted for this CR, that is what I would be doing. You passed it without my help before. Why would you expect me to support it now? I want to change that. I am not a status quo politician.

Next point: dramatically raises premiums, copays, and deductibles for tens of millions of Americans. There are people who are living on the margins, barely capable of affording healthcare, and this legislation is going to make it impossible for some of them to afford healthcare. These premiums and copays and deductibles are going to go up for a good many people who can't afford them. We are trying to change that, or I am. I support this.

It goes on to say: forcing hospitals and community health centers across the Nation to close. That is no joke. People are starting to see it. They are starting to express their consternation. They are starting to let the people know that somehow this must not happen. They want to change it. If they want to change it, why would I vote to continue it? I refuse to change my position. I stand now where I stood then.

It goes on to indicate: setting in motion \$536 billion in cuts to Medicaid. Mr. Speaker, that sums it up.

I stand now where I stood then. I am a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbosomed, unafraid, censured, not silenced. I stand for the people I have been faithful to in my congressional district. I am going to be faithful to them until the very end, wherever and whenever that occurs. I stand for what is best to help them through these turbulent times and the crisis that the GOP healthcare initiatives have introduced to people who are in need of healthcare.

I close with this, Mr. Speaker. This is the richest country in the world. We cannot allow healthcare to become wealth care. We also cannot allow healthcare to line the pockets of the wealthy. That is another form of wealth care, healthcare to become wealth care for the wealthy.

The cuts are going to line the pockets of the very wealthy in this country. That has been published. It has been accepted, it seems, by all or a good many except me. I don't accept that. I refuse to allow healthcare to become wealth care and do it in the sense that it becomes the wealthy who benefit the most from the cuts that are taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I stand now where I stood then, censured but not silenced.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 19, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Friday, September 19, 2025, through Sunday, September 28, 2025, as a "district work period" under clause 13 of Rule I.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION COMPROMISE

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the House has just voted to pass a continuing resolution that is now going over to the Senate with the Democratic leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, pledging that his caucus will be united against it, barrelling us toward a potential government shutdown that would very much not be in the interests of anyone and would be terrible for the country as a whole.

The minority leader in the Senate has not been abundantly clear as to what exactly he is looking for in order to avoid this outcome. After all, we are dealing with a so-called clean CR, which simply extends funding levels as they have been for quite some time now. This is really not the way things should be done, by the way, but that is where we are, and it is the only proposal on the table for avoiding such a shutdown.

I have a thought on how this whole terrible outcome can potentially be avoided in a way that would satisfy Members on both sides of the aisle and keep the government open, which is to include in the continuing resolution language that will preserve the congressional maps in every State in the country as they existed at the time of the 2024 election.

I have proposed legislation myself along those lines to stop this horrible redistricting war that we see playing out across the country that is bad for representative government and is widely opposed by Members of the Democratic Caucus and Republican Conference in the House.

That is my proposal to avoid a shutdown, to give the minority leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, in the Senate, something that he can claim he delivered that would help members of at least the Democratic Caucus here in the House. We simply reach a deal where we are going to say we are going to

stop this redistricting war; we are not going to be upending maps in the middle of a decade.

This could be done easily. It could be put into the continuing resolution that the House just sent over to the Senate. Here are the two main virtues of this proposal.

□ 1140

Number one, the proposal is widely supported by the American people, 66 percent to 23 percent. The American people say that we should not be engaging in redistricting mid-decade. That is according to a recent Noble Insights poll.

Mr. Speaker, by a 3-to-1 margin, Americans support the legislation that I have proposed and support the idea that we should not be throwing out congressional maps, upending districts, and dis severing the connection between voters and their Representatives in the middle of the decade.

Not only do the American people support this proposal, but Members of the House on both sides of the aisle do. How do we know that? On the Democratic side, you just had a number of Members of the House who announced their own bill to get rid of mid-decade redistricting.

On the Republican side, I have had Members come up to me every day saying that what I am proposing is the right thing for them, the right thing for their districts, the right thing for their States, and the right thing for the country.

The only thing that is stopping us from moving forward on this common-sense proposal is the refusal on the part of the Speaker of the House to put on the floor a piece of legislation that is widely supported by Members of the House and by the American people.

The ball is now in the Senate's court when it comes to government funding, and I am absolutely opposed to a government shutdown. That is why I supported the stopgap funding measure today, even though I don't think it should have come to this.

Now, the Senate has an opportunity to negotiate a compromise that will keep the House open. That has to, by its very nature, be bipartisan, given the rules of the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that a way to do that that would be in the interests of everyone here in this institution would be to reach an agreement that keeps the government open; that provides us some runway to actually pass a budget, which we should have done a long time ago; and that will stop this chaos of upending one district after another in State after State from cascading across the country.

UPDATE ON PROPOSITION 50

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update on Proposition 50 that is set for a vote in California, otherwise known as Gavin Newsom's redistricting sham.

This is a proposal by the Governor to tear up the map drawn by California's

independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, to abolish the redistricting commission that was put in place by the voters, and to impose a hyperpartisan map drawn by politicians without any input from the public in setting the new boundaries for congressional representation in California.

It is an attempt to override what the voters have said three separate times in California, that redistricting should be done by an independent commission and not to move us back to the era of partisan gerrymandering.

As bad as this proposal is on its face, what is even worse is the cost of simply administering this special election because we are not supposed to be having an election right now. This is 2025, a nonelection year.

In order to get this sham through and in order to reverse the will of the voters, the Governor needs to produce an artifact of voter approval. They have come up with this fraudulent ballot measure that is designed to mislead voters and to confuse them into overturning what they had done before.

What is more is that it is doing so in a way that relies upon not only voter fraud by confusing people but also voter suppression by limiting voter opportunities.

I have heard directly from the registrars of voters in my district, saying that because they have thrown out all the rules for elections in California and because they have condensed the timeline beyond anything we have ever seen, they are not able to have the polling places opened that they would like, and they are having fewer voting centers.

The typical places that they use for voting are not able to be used because those places have already been booked. They are not able to get out the sort of notifications to voters that they usually do. The voter guide is not being mailed to voters when it should, and it is going to be a digital-only voter guide.

Think about how perverse that is. They lie to voters on the description on the ballot as to what the initiative actually does, and then they withhold from them the voter guide that would actually give voters the actual text of the initiative and arguments from folks on both sides.

In order to conduct this impromptu, unscheduled, hyper-rushed special election, when we are not supposed to be having an election at all, in a way that suppresses the will of voters and suppresses voter participation, it is going to cost California voters nearly \$300 million. That is right, \$282 million, to be exact. That is the cost of administering this election, the only purpose of which is to return California to the era of political gerrymandering. That is the only thing on the ballot.

It is \$282 million in taxpayer funding at a time when California has a massive budget deficit and when the Governor has cut funding for foster kids in

our State while saying that we don't have enough money. Yet, he has \$282 million to return us to the era of political gerrymandering.

This comes at a time when the Governor is refusing to fund Proposition 36, the initiative to restore appropriate consequences for retail theft and to get drug offenders access to treatment. It was passed by California voters overwhelmingly last year, with nearly 70 percent of the vote, over Governor Newsom's opposition. Yet, he is not funding it. He is, again, trying to ignore and overturn the will of voters, so much so that the Democratic mayor of San Jose called what Newsom is doing "a joke."

Mr. Speaker, he doesn't have the funds to keep California safe. He doesn't have the funds for foster kids. He is running a massive budget deficit. He has defaulted on a \$20 billion loan that he took out from the Federal Government, forcing small businesses to pay it back themselves through a tax increase. Yet, he has somehow found \$282 million in taxpayer funds to conduct a snap special election to hypergerrymander our State.

It is one of the most disgraceful acts, if not the most disgraceful act, of any elected official in modern California history. You don't have to take my word for that. This scheme has provoked widespread bipartisan opposition.

Just today, the first chair of the California independent redistricting commission, who is a registered Democrat, has an op-ed in CalMatters, saying that this is exactly the wrong thing to do.

Former Governor Schwarzenegger came out a few days ago in strong opposition to Prop 50, calling it insane. Former Governor Schwarzenegger called Governor Newsom's scheme insane. Former Governor Schwarzenegger said that this is "getting rid of the democratic principles of California."

Mr. Schwarzenegger derided the fact that this was a map drawn by the politicians without any input from the people.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Newsom is in the process of trying to mislead voters not only through his ballot description but also through all kinds of campaign ads, using \$10 million of funding that just came in from George Soros, with all of his favorite special interests in Sacramento getting behind it, with commercials saying that this is actually preserving independent redistricting when, literally, the entire point of the initiative is to throw out the map created by our independent redistricting and return power to the hands of partisan politicians.

Mr. Speaker, it has also come out that this map has been drawn in such a way as to provide new districts for the very politicians who drew the map to run in. The speaker of the California State Assembly and the president of the California Senate have been given

their own special districts to run in for Congress if this map gets adopted, which is all the more reason why California voters have said on multiple occasions that they don't want politicians drawing maps.

Indeed, the California Constitution, in addition to saying that an independent commission draws the lines, specifically says that these sorts of considerations favoring a powerful politician, favoring an incumbent, drawing them in such a way as to give one person an edge or to have someone's home be in this district versus that one, that none of that is allowed under the current California Constitution. The way that this Governor's redistricting sham has been drawn, it says that, literally, everything else in the constitution is to be ignored.

□ 1150

Every provision that provides for the protection for voters, that provides for fair districts, that keeps communities together in the process of drawing district lines that says you cannot favor politicians or candidates in any way, that says you cannot consider partisan outcomes, all of that is completely blown up by this initiative.

It says partisan gerrymandering is the new law of the land in California, the highest law of the land, notwithstanding it says anything else that exists in our State's constitution.

Mr. Speaker, the Governor is trying to stack the deck in every way he can against the people of California, to try to overturn their will, to try to confuse them, to fool them, to mislead them, to suppress their opportunity to participate so that he gets more power and they lose power.

The task for those who care about good government, for those who care about our democracy in California, for people of decency on all sides of the aisle, is simply to make sure that folks understand the truth over these next few weeks as this election is conducted.

CALIFORNIA HAS THE HIGHEST POVERTY RATE IN THE NATION

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, we have just got some alarming news, which, unfortunately, is unsurprising, and that is that California, once again, has the highest poverty rate of any State in the country.

Despite the fact that we have some of the world's leading companies and all of the inherited advantages that we have as a State, we continue to lead the Nation in poverty with 7 million people, 17.7 percent of our residents, not able to cover their basic needs.

What is perhaps even more alarming is that just since 2021, child poverty in California has doubled. Child poverty in California, the number of kids living below the poverty line, has doubled in California just in the last 4 years.

That, sadly, is the price of failed leadership as our State's supermajority and Governor continue to impose policies that raise the cost of living while lowering economic opportunity.

Those two factors combine to produce poverty in California unlike exists anywhere else in the United States. In addition to ranking number one in poverty, California also ranks number one in homelessness, number one in unemployment, and number one in wage stagnation.

It is no secret why. The State continues to impose regulations that raise the cost of doing business in the State, that raise the cost of housing, that raise the cost of water, that raise the cost of electricity, that raise the cost of just about every other good that a person needs.

The State continues to impose the highest taxes in the country, including the highest taxes on gas with new regulations now coming into place that one study estimated is going to raise the price of gasoline in California to \$8 a gallon by the end of next year.

Mr. Speaker, I am doing everything that I can here to counteract the failed corrupt policies that we see coming out of Sacramento. We have had some successes.

For example, I recently introduced, and we passed, a resolution to overturn California's ban on gas-powered cars, which means that Californians will continue to be able to drive the car of their choice, not one chosen for them by the government. It will save Californians significant amounts when it comes to the cost of their vehicle.

We are also working on legislation, and have, indeed, secured funding to increase our State's water supply and to expand our domestic energy production in order to lower the price of gas and electricity in our State.

There is only so much we can do at the Federal level when our State's politicians continue to fail the people of California. I am continuing to urge leaders in Sacramento to work on commonsense legislation, to lower the cost of living in our State, and to end the attacks on workers that have given us the Nation's highest unemployment.

We have so much potential in California. We are the greatest State in the country in so many ways, and if we simply had halfway decent policies in Sacramento, we would not have these outrageously tragic outcomes of having the highest poverty of any State in the country.

CUTTING OFF FUNDING FOR THE CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL DISASTER

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, we have recently succeeded here in cutting off funding for the California High-Speed Rail disaster, which is, in my view, the worst public infrastructure failure in U.S. history.

I introduced a bill at the beginning of this Congress saying that we should cut off all funding for the high-speed rail and following an investigation with Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, we have succeeded in doing just that.

Yet, the Governor of California has, rather than seeing the writing on the wall and winding this failed project

down, has now said he is going to spend \$20 billion more to keep it on life support and has even accused me of lying, saying: "Representative KILEY continues to lie about California High-Speed Rail."

Mr. Speaker, I am more than willing to be proven wrong. I am happy to be proven wrong. If the Governor and his team would like to take me for a trip on the high-speed train from San Francisco to Los Angeles that was supposed to be built 5 years ago, I will happily retract my criticism. I am ready to hop onboard when I fly home to California today.

If the train is there, I will acknowledge my mistake and admit the accusation that has been leveled against me, but I don't think that is going to happen because no such train exists.

In fact, not only do we not have a train from San Francisco to L.A. that was supposed to be finished 5 years ago, we don't have any stations. We do not have any track at all that has been laid, not a single passenger has ridden anything, and now the latest word is that even the initial segment from Bakersfield to Merced—that is not L.A. to San Francisco for those who are less familiar with California geography. It is not a particularly populated area—that is even going to miss its 2033 deadline.

The latest ambitious plan that is put forward is that maybe by 2045, we will have a line from Palmdale to Gilroy, which would require taking three separate transit lines, a total of 6 hours, to get from L.A. to San Francisco, which you could do today on any airline in about an hour.

Mr. Speaker, if I am lying, apparently a lot of other people are lying, too. The New York Times, I suppose, is lying when it reported in an exposé that this project is not on track to be completed even this century.

Where do we go from here? In my view, in cutting off Federal funding, we have limited what opportunities the Governor has to cause further damage to our State. He has come out and said that we are going to spend another \$20 billion, but that is over the next 20 years.

This is nothing more than an attempt to save face because the Governor knows that I am not lying. The Governor knows this project is an embarrassing disaster, and he also knows that he is out of office in about a year.

Once we have a new Governor and we have, in statute, the commitment to not provide any more Federal funding, which has kept the project on life support, it is my prediction that this disaster will be wound down and that our transportation dollars can go where they are actually needed to fixing our failing roads and providing for California's real transportation needs.

□ 1200

SUCCESS ACADEMY'S TOP SCORES

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, we have just received the latest re-

port on the performance of students across this country when it comes to math and reading and civics, and the results are absolutely alarming.

We have seen now 12th grade math scores reach the lowest score ever reported, with 45 percent of students not even showing basic skills, the highest portion of students ever to fall below basic proficiency. Nearly half of the Nation's students can't even apply single-step percentages to solve real-world problems. Less than a quarter, only 22 percent, of 12th graders scored at or above proficient in math, down 2 points from 2019.

The low scores are seen in these core subjects, and they are even below scores almost two decades earlier. The data shows that this trend has continued and was started even before COVID-19.

In 2024, only a third of 12th graders were considered academically ready for entry-level college math work, down 4 percent since 2019. We see similar results in reading. Over 32 percent, the largest percentage ever, scored below proficient in reading. When we look at both math and reading, we are seeing the worst performance ever for students across this country.

I have been raising alarms about this trend for some time now. As the chair of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, we have been looking at how we can reverse this trajectory, which has been continuing for far too long in this country. The truth is, we don't have to look far because there are some places in America that are defying this alarming trend, that are applying basic principles of propelling student achievement in order to perform in a diametrically different way than schools elsewhere in the country.

To take one example, which we highlighted in a hearing earlier this year, you can look at Success Academy, which is a network of nearly 60 charter schools in New York. I have here just one measure of their extraordinary success.

As background, it should be understood that the demographics of Success Academy are largely students from underserved communities with, in fact, 76 percent coming from economically disadvantaged homes.

When you look at this chart, you can see the number of students who passed one or more AP exam of the roughly 1,500 high school students that Success Academy has. This is their network of schools, nearly 60 charter schools, but 1,500 high school students. Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of their students passed at least one AP exam.

These other bars are different States. You see 24 percent for Rhode Island, 24 percent for Vermont, 27 percent for Virginia, and 26 percent in Colorado. Even of the States that do pretty well, in the high 20s, California, which does not do so well, scored 28 percent, and Massachusetts, the State with the highest score, scored 33 percent. Success Academy had 100 percent.

In fact, every Success Academy high school graduate has been accepted to a 4-year college, with many admitted to highly selective institutions. Overall, we have seen students at Success Academy last year led the entire State in math scores, with 49 percent of Black and 55 percent of Hispanic students earning 4s, which is the highest level on the State exam.

By contrast, New York City's district schools, compared to that, 8 percent of Black and Hispanic students earned 4s. Mr. Speaker, 49 percent and 55 percent versus 8 percent is an astounding difference at a network of schools where the vast majority of students are below the poverty line. As a matter of fact, if Success Academy were its own district, it would be the single highest ranking school district in the State of New York.

I had the opportunity to visit one of their schools just last week, and I was truly inspired by what I saw. The students were engaged in every classroom I visited. They were enthusiastic about learning, eager to participate, and attentive. I didn't see one student's eyes wander or one disruption. The teachers were, likewise, truly passionate about the work that they were doing.

The students are held to very high expectations and taught math and reading in a rigorous way, in an evidence-based way. They are taught things like focus, by learning chess starting in kindergarten, and they have created a culture within each of their schools of high expectations that is felt in every classroom and by every student.

It is no wonder that parents in New York are clamoring to get their kids into these schools. I had the chance to meet a number of these parents as well while I was there. The last time, for the last year, for the 3,200 spots that were available, there were 16,000 families that applied. The law for charter schools is that you do a lottery, so 16,000 families applied for 3,200 lottery spots.

If you won the lottery, then your child gets the chance to go to the highest performing network of schools in the State of New York, a network where 100 percent of students are accepted to 4-year universities, where 100 percent of high school students pass at least one AP exam, and where over six times more students achieve the highest level of proficiency as similarly situated students in district schools in New York City.

You would think that politicians in Albany or, for that matter, in Sacramento—because our State has similar success stories when it comes to high-performing charter school networks—would be doing everything possible to expand these opportunities, but it is just the contrary. In New York, they have actually capped the number of charter schools that can be started, and in California, Governor Newsom and the supermajority have conducted a years-long war against charter

schools, making it harder for them to start up and easier for them to be shut down.

I think it is important for us to reflect on these two sets of data. On the one hand, the Nation's report card shows that our Nation is in big trouble because of the continuing decline and failure of our public education system, but on the other hand we have inspiring stories like that of Success Academy where you have nearly 60 schools that are achieving extraordinary things for kids coming largely from underprivileged backgrounds.

The urgent question that we need to ask is how do we make every school in America look more like Success Academy or more like the KIPP network of schools or more like any number of successful charter networks, and, for that matter, those traditional public schools that are doing a good job, as well.

We have been highlighting in our subcommittee why it is that we have this vast divergence in outcomes. While education is largely the domain of State and local jurisdictions, we will continue to use whatever tools we have to encourage the adoption of best practices and to work toward accountability for those who are failing our students year after year.

DOG SUCCESSFULLY VOTES IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight some curious news out of my State in California. It has just been revealed that a dog successfully voted in a recent election in California.

The dog received a ballot in the mail and successfully cast that ballot and, indeed, even after the dog died, continued to receive a ballot in the mail.

The owner has now been charged by the Orange County District Attorney's Office for illegally registering her dog to vote, but she probably would have gotten away with it if she hadn't posted a photo of her dog on social media wearing an "I voted" sticker.

The individual here has been charged with a number of felonies: for perjury, for procuring or offering a false or forged document, two felony counts of casting a ballot while not entitled to vote, one felony count of registering a nonexistent person to vote.

Just to be clear, dogs are not actually allowed to vote in California, and yet in this case, the animal did. The question we have to ask, Mr. Speaker, is how in the world do we have so few safeguards on our electoral process in California that such a thing could ever happen.

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I have proposed commonsense solutions to this problem, requiring voter ID and passing the SAVE Act here in Congress to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

While this is, obviously, a crazy example, a lot of people in our State lack trust in the integrity of our electoral process, especially when laws are

passed year after year in the legislature, where now ballots are automatically sent to every registered voter. Those ballots continue to go out, often when the voter has left the State or when the voter is no longer with us; where there is no proof of ID in order to register to vote, or actually to vote; when registration is done automatically when one gets their driver's license; and where, in recent years, ballot harvesting laws have been passed where you don't even have to submit your ballot yourself, but someone can come to your door and grab it for you.

I think it is past time that we have reforms to our electoral process in California and, frankly, nationwide, as well.

I have discussed my opposition to partisan gerrymandering. In addition to stopping this redistricting war going on right now, I believe that by the time we have the next round of scheduled redistricting, we need to end gerrymandering once and for all in this country. I think perhaps there is a bargain that can be struck to have legislation that will protect the fairness of elections across America by instituting universal voter ID while ending gerrymandering once and for all. I believe that will restore fairness in American elections, and our democracy will be much better off for it.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER GABRIEL STAINBACK

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Gabriel Stainback, a young man taken far too soon in a senseless tragedy.

Officer Stainback had just begun his career in law enforcement, sworn in last December to the Cornelius Police Department in North Carolina. He had a bright future ahead of him. He was recently married. He and his wife, Teonna, were out on a bike ride together when he was struck and killed by a vehicle.

No family should ever have to endure that kind of loss. This was a young man who put his heart into his community. He was a State champion athlete, a college graduate, a pilot, and, above all, someone who loved his faith and his family, as well as his community.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, his parents, and fellow officers. Officer Stainback represented the very best of us, and we will not forget him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" BROADWAY

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer William "Bill" Broadway, of the Huntersville Police Department, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

In 2016, he joined the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and later returned to serve closer to his home in Huntersville. His colleagues remember him for his professionalism,

but more so for the compassion and the courage that he brought to the job every single day.

Bill faced his cancer diagnosis with the same strength that he showed throughout his life. Even in his final days, his faith remained strong and his love for his family was unwavering.

Officer Broadway leaves behind a legacy of service and sacrifice that will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Sarah; his son, Declan; and the entire Broadway family.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 452. An act 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1979. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-24-0046] received August 28, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-1980. A letter from the Deputy Office Director, Office of Regulatory Policy and Management, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Trichloroethylene; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Compliance Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0642; FRL-8317.2-01-OCSPP] (RIN: 2070-AL32) received September 15, 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-1981. A letter from the Program Analyst, Federal Register Certifying Officer, Policy Office, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Trade Regulations

(FTR): Clarification of Filing Requirements Regarding In-transit Shipments and other FTR Provisions [Docket No.: 250808-0135] (RIN: 0607-AA62) received September 10, 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-1982. A letter from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Validated End-User Authorizations in the People's Republic of China [Docket No.: 250825-0144] (RIN: 0694-AK32) received September 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1983. A letter from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Relaxing Export Controls for Syria [Docket No.: 250827-0147] (RIN: 0694-AK28) received September 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1984. A letter from the Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Principal Deputy Performing the Duties of the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's fiscal year 2027 budget request for the Office of Inspector General, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 98-76, Sec. 416); (97 Stat. 436); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1985. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q-64, T-414, and T-705, and Establishment of United States RNAV Routes T-461 and T-463; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0295; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AEA-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1986. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Jet Route J-534 and Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal Airway V-349, Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-23 and V-165, and Establishment of Canadian Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-645 in Northwestern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0371; Airspace Docket No.: 25-ANM-128] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1987. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Department Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31623; Amdt. No.: 4182] received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1988. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Department Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31622; Amdt. No.: 4181] received Sep-

tember 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1989. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2423; Project Identifier AD-2024-00320-E; Amendment 39-23126; AD 2025-17-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1990. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-55, V-100, and V-277 in the Vicinity of Keeler, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0141; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AGL-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1991. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Jet Routes and Domestic Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal Airways and Revocation of VOR Federal Airway; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2269; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1992. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Jet Route J-96 in the Vicinity of Cimarron, NM [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0174; Airspace Docket No.: 25-ASW-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1993. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2025-2268; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-01296-T; Amendment 39-23127; AD 2025-17-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1994. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0752; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00340-R; Amendment 39-23124; AD 2025-17-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1995. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E4 Airspace Over Elmira, NY [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1671; Airspace Docket No.: 25-ANE-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1996. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: FAA-2025-1763; Amendment No.: 71-57] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1997. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1377] (RIN: 2120-AL50) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1998. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, AGC-010, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Falsification, Reproduction, Alteration, Omission, or Incorrect Statements [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0021; Amendment Nos.: 3-4, 21-110, 43-64, 60-9, 61-160, 63-48, 65-67, 67-23, 89-2, 107-14, 111-3, 120-4, 121-394, 139-29, 142-12, 145-33, 402-1, and 413-14] (RIN: 2120-AL84) received September 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3638. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to prepare periodic assessments and submit reports on the supply chain for the generation and transmission of electricity, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-304). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2954. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to approve multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 119-305). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3628. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to add a standard related to State consideration of reliable generation, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-306). 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. MORAN:

H.R. 5507. A bill to require States to measure and publicly report on the separation of children from parents by hidden foster care arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 5508. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to restrict the collection of an-

nual mortgage insurance premiums when a 78 percent loan-to-value ratio is reached, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. ONDER):

H.R. 5509. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 5510. A bill to co-designate the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the "United States-Mexican War Memorial", to authorize limited interpretive enhancements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BELL, Ms. BROWN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAI, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5511. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require impact assessments of certain algorithms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINE (for himself and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 5512. A bill to prohibit the application of Shari'a in the United States where such application would violate constitutional rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FONG (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 5513. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain technology investments eligible for additional subsidization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TLAI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, and Mrs. MCBATH):

H.R. 5514. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to prohibit employers from limiting, segregating, or classifying applicants for employment; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HURD of Colorado (for himself and Ms. RANDALL):

H.R. 5515. A bill to amend the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.R. 5516. A bill to prohibit the imposition of additional tariffs on coffee imported from countries to which the United States has extended normal trade relations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. BEGICH):

H.R. 5517. A bill to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 5518. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Canada for integrated cross-border aerial, land, and maritime law enforcement operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 5519. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Welles Remy Crowther, in recognition of his bravery, heroism, and sacrifice in the face of one of the gravest tragedies in American history; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 5520. A bill to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to establish a Portal for Appraiser Credentialing and AMC Registration Information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 5521. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Peace Corps volunteers, in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, continuous dedication to world peace and friendship, and their honorable service to the Nation for 65 years; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCGUIRE:

H.R. 5522. A bill to change the name of the Department of Defense to the "Department of War", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 5523. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to raise the retirement age for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5524. A bill to establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter schools; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 5525. A bill to repeal the authority of the District of Columbia to use automated traffic enforcement systems and to erect signage prohibiting right turns at a red traffic signal; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 5526. A bill to improve the requirements for making a determination of interchangeability of a biological product and its reference product; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 5527. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to restore access to curricula, books, and other learning materials at schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BERA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BACON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. MIN):

H.R. 5528. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 5529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disregard veteran disability compensation or pension payments in determining income for purposes of the low income housing tax credit and qualified residential rental project bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5530. A bill to amend section 404 of title 39, United States Code, to permit contractors to independently continue operating contract postal units that would otherwise be closed by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 5531. A bill to establish a grant program to fund career and technical education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 5532. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program to facilitate the transition to tuition-free community college in certain States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. STEUBE:

H.R. 5533. A bill to direct the President to ensure that local governments may use Construction Manager at Risk procurement methods in carrying out certain activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5534. A bill to add the Republic of Korea to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 5535. A bill to provide benefits for noncitizen members of the Armed Forces,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 5536. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a National Headache Disorders Initiative, to establish an Advisory Council on Headache Disorders Research, Care, and Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 5537. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the establishment of an Office of Public Engagement in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5538. A bill to direct the Attorney General to convene a national working group to study proactive strategies and needed resources for the identification and rescue of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 5539. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to assign the highest priority status for hospital care and medical services provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who are former prisoners of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5540. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to adjust the penalty for unjust conviction and imprisonment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROW:

H.J. Res. 126. A joint resolution a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.J. Res. 127. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. WALKINSHAW):

H. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that all trade agreements the United States enters into, should provide reasonable access and collaboration of each nation involved in such an agreement, for the purpose of search and recovery activities relating to members of the United States Armed Forces still missing and unaccounted for from prior wars or military conflicts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TRAN (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. MIN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SIMON, Mr.

JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. KIM, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. MENG):

H. Con. Res. 50. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the Vietnamese Heritage Flag; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COLE:

H. Res. 747. A resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) entitled "To amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes."; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Ms.

ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BELL, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HERNANDEZ, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGERDOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. SYKES, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H. Res. 748. A resolution condemning attempts to use Federal regulatory power or litigation to suppress lawful speech, particularly speech critical of a political party or the President of the United States, and warning against the rise of authoritarianism; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MENG, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BERA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr.

EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCLAINE DELANEY, Mr. MIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H. Res. 749. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 22, 2025, to September 28, 2025, as “Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week”; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H. Res. 750. A resolution recognizing Lloyd Ashburn Williams’ unparalleled dedication to fostering economic empowerment, cultural pride, and social equity in Harlem; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H. Res. 751. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 7, 2025, as “Liturgical Dance Day” and the International Dance Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H. Res. 752. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 19, 2025, as “Black Autism Acceptance and Awareness Day”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 753. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as “Peace Month” and calling on Congress to take action to promote peace; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 754. A resolution recognizing the psychological impact of immigration enforcement overreach on individuals, their families, and their community; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. DOGGETT):

H. Res. 755. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideas of “National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month” and “World Hydrocephalus Day”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. DELUZZO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. ANSARI, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H. Res. 756. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2025 as “National Voting Rights Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Science,

Space, and Technology, Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. MORAN:

H.R. 5507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 5508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 5509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 5510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title 1, Section 8

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 5512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 as well as Article IV, Section 1, the Full Faith and Credit Clause.

By Mr. FONG:

H.R. 5513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 5514.

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.

By Mr. HURD of Colorado:

H.R. 5515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 5517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LANGWORTHY

H.R. 5518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 5519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 5520.

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. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 5521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCGUIRE:

H.R. 5522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 5523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 5525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 5526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 5527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Clause 18 of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 5528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a “uniform rule of Naturalization.”

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 5529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to “provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To establish Post Offices and post Roads; . . .

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 5531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 5532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3; Article I, Section 8, clauses 11–16

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 5536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a National Headache Disorders Initiative, to establish an Advisory Council on Headache Disorders Research, Care, and Services, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 5537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 5538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 14, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States: the authority to raise and support an army, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. CROW:

H.J. Res. 126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 336: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 637: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 685: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 722: Mr. HARRIGAN and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 879: Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 880: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 979: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1004: Ms. PELOSI and Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 1028: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1046: Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 1078: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 1109: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1177: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 1202: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1266: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 1285: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 1394: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1404: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 1502: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 1509: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 1583: Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 1685: Ms. ROSS and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1695: Mr. MANNION.

H.R. 1787: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1965: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 1993: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2013: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2111: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 2264: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 2343: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. LATIMER, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2398: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 2467: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 2540: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 2598: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2736: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2814: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 2853: Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 2913: Ms. MENG and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2934: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 3128: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3132: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3139: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3151: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 3164: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 3235: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 3501: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3508: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3526: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 3548: Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 3753: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 3808: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3876: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3885: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3930: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 4145: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 4318: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4466: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 4475: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 4482: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4516: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 4582: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 4583: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 4606: Ms. NORTON and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 4669: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 4687: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4706: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 4760: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 4768: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 4788: Mr. BABIN and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 4798: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 4821: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 4827: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 4864: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4915: Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 4993: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5031: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5089: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 5123: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5145: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 5151: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 5195: Ms. RANDALL.

H.R. 5206: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5228: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 5249: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 5275: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5277: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 5282: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 5312: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 5330: Mr. BRECHEEN and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 5343: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 5361: Mr. BISHOP.

H.R. 5387: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5401: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5448: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5453: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 5454: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 5455: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 5458: Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 5459: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 5469: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 5474: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 5476: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5483: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.J. Res. 92: Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Res. 61: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 500: Mr. STEUBE and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 702: Ms. VAN DUYN.

H. Res. 714: Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 737: Mr. LALOTA.

H. Res. 742: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mrs. BICE.

H. Res. 744: Mr. STAUBER.

H. Res. 746: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CHU, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FROST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. McGARVEY, and Mr. BISHOP.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—

ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Member added her name to the following discharge petition:

Petition 8 by Mr. MEEKS on House Resolution 518: Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

No. 154

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 16, 2025)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES C. JUSTICE, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for Your sanctifying truth. Use our lawmakers to live Your truth for the glory of Your Name. May Your truth enable us to strive to have a strong faith, a pure love, and a focused obedience. Lord, empower us to submit to You with our bodies, minds, and spirits. Make us all vessels of honor; prepare for every good work. And, Lord, as the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, approaches, may all people of faith chase the fruit of Your mercy and grace. Lead us to reflection, repentance, and renewal.

We pray in Your strong 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES C. JUSTICE, a

Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. JUSTICE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, what I am going to say is, remember the history of Putin saying 20 years ago that the breakup of the Soviet Union was a geopolitical disaster of the 20th century and that Putin's goal was to reestablish the Soviet Empire; and we see that going on every day with how he is destroying Ukraine.

So everyone interested in religious freedom in Russia and Ukraine should read the recent report by the Free Russia Foundation. The Free Russia Foundation is an organization of Russians who wants a "free, democratic, peaceful and prosperous Russia reintegrated into the international community as a constructive and positive actor."

This organization's recent report, entitled "The Russian Orthodox Church and the War," demonstrates how this church body supports the ongoing invasion of Ukraine through propaganda, rituals for the invaders, diplomatic manipulation, and espionage. Now, doesn't that seem very odd for a church—any church—to have that as goals?

The Russian Orthodox Church is also actively engaged in suppressing and persecuting other Christian denominations, including Orthodox believers who do not answer to Russia.

It seems shocking to me to see Russians talk about the main Christian denomination in Russia in this way, but remember this: After initially persecuting Orthodox believers, dictator Joseph Stalin co-opted the Russian Orthodox Church to support the Soviet state. At that time, the Russian Ortho-

dox faithful outside of Russia broke all ties with the Soviet-installed patriarch. Today's Russian Orthodox Church is dominated by leaders who came of age under the KGB-controlled church structure. Now understand this: The current patriarch of Moscow was a KGB agent, so it is no wonder that he is close to Putin.

The Free Russia report documents the Moscow patriarch's blessing of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine. It quotes the patriarch's September 2022 sermon:

Anyone who dies in the performance of military duty sacrifices himself for the sake of others. Therefore, we believe that such a sacrifice washes away all sins previously committed.

Now, as a Christian—and, I hope, for any Christian—I find that shocking. So does the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople, the first among equals in the Orthodox tradition.

He said of the Moscow patriarch's support for Putin and his war:

It is damaging to the prestige of the whole of Orthodoxy because Orthodoxy doesn't support war, violence [or] terrorism.

There has been a lot of propaganda claiming that the Russian Orthodox Church is somehow a victim of religious persecution in this war. In fact, it is a leading perpetrator of the persecution of fellow Orthodox believers, evangelicals, and other churches. I had a chance to meet a year ago with 30 church leaders from Ukraine who told how this persecution was going on.

Don't take my word for it, though. Read this report that I have quoted from by these pro-democracy Russians.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S6779

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the House has just passed a short-term, clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution to fund the government for a few additional weeks while we continue bipartisan work on appropriations bills, and, today, we will be voting on that clean, nonpartisan CR as well as on the CR the Democrats introduced Wednesday night.

On the floor yesterday, the Democrat leader said: The contrast between the Republican bill and the Democrat bill is glaring.

Well, he has got that right. The contrast between the Republican bill and the Democrat bill is glaring. The Republican bill is a clean, nonpartisan, short-term continuing resolution to fund the government to give us time to do the full appropriations process, and the Democrat bill is the exact opposite. It is what you might call not a clean CR—a dirty CR—laden down with partisan policies and appeals to the Democrats' leftist base.

When I became majority leader, I made it very clear that I wanted the Senate to return to the regular order consideration of appropriations bills. I was not and am not interested in funding the government through last-minute, backroom deals. The right way to fund the government, whenever humanly possible, is through regular order here in the Senate. That means taking appropriations bills through committee, where Republicans and Democrats alike have a chance to make their voices heard, and then bringing those bills to the Senate floor for more debate and amendment. That process is good for Senators of both parties, to say nothing of being best for the American people.

But Democrats can't take "yes" for an answer, so instead of working with Republicans to fund the government through a clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution so that we can get back to bipartisan negotiations on appropriations, Democrats are yielding to the desires of their rabidly leftist base and are attempting to hold government funding hostage to a long list of partisan demands.

The kind of clean CR Republicans have put forward used to be something Democrats embraced. In fact, Democrats voted in favor of clean CRs no fewer than 13 times during the Biden administration. Yet, now that Republicans are offering a clean CR, it is somehow a no-go. It is funny how that happens.

The Democrat leader has tried to defend his party's double standards by suggesting that this is a special case. Really? Really? Why is it always a special case with Democrats?

The truth is, the only thing special about this case is that Democrats can't stand the fact that the American people elected Donald Trump. So we all have to live with their endless temper tantrum, which apparently may now include shutting down the government.

I could spend some time talking about the measure Democrats put forward yesterday. I could talk about how it would allow noncitizens and able-bodied adults who won't work to stay on the Medicaid rolls, while at the same time ripping away the historic investment in home- and community-based services for Americans with disabilities. I could talk about how it would eliminate a transformational investment in rural healthcare, dilute Medicaid resources for those most in need, and a whole lot more. But suffice it to say that it is a fundamentally unserious proposal designed to appease Democrats' liberal base, and it has zero chance of making it through Congress. And they know that.

I can't stop Democrats from opposing our nonpartisan continuing resolution. If they want to shut down the government, they have the power to do so. But if they think they are going to gain political points from shutting down the government over a clean, nonpartisan CR—something they voted for 13 times under the Biden administration—I would strongly urge them to think again.

The ball is in the Democrats' court. They can vote with the Republicans on a clean, nonpartisan CR to fund the government and allow the Senate to complete additional appropriations work or they can vote for their own partisan CR and move the country one step closer to a shutdown. For the sake of the American people, I hope they will choose to vote with us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, all of America can see the glaring contrast between Republican and Democratic priorities, as shown by the bills each party introduced late yesterday.

Senators will have to choose to stand with Donald Trump and keep the same lousy status quo and cause the Trump healthcare shutdown or stand with the American people, protect their healthcare, and keep the government functioning.

Today, we have a rare moment in the Senate where two bills come to the floor that truly crystallize the contrast between the two parties.

On the Republican side, Americans will see more of the same high costs, especially on healthcare, more of the same failures of the last 9 months or, instead, Republicans can vote to undo the destruction Donald Trump has inflicted on American healthcare and instead work on a bipartisan bill—the only bipartisan bill that can win—to keep the government open. That is what Democrats offer the American people. The choice is clear.

Our Republican colleagues seem to think Americans are happy with the direction of this country. They are voting like they think the status quo is good enough even though they have heard from so many of their constituents about the fear of hospitals closing, of healthcare being diminished, of premiums going way up, hundreds of dollars each month. They have heard that from their constituents, but they stick with Donald Trump, who doesn't give a hoot about them.

Republicans are voting like the status quo is good enough. They are wrong. Americans are tired of the status quo. They are tired of Donald Trump's chaos and inflationary policies.

By not even negotiating, by trying to make this partisan, Donald Trump and Republicans are shutting the government down.

People are paying more for groceries, more for their electric bills, more for rent. Even a cup of coffee every morning has gotten more expensive under Donald Trump.

Healthcare in America has been plunged into crisis. Fifteen million Americans will lose their healthcare. Premiums are set to go through the roof—hundreds of dollars each month, thousands of dollars each year. The American family—average family—can't afford that.

Republicans—what do they say? Well, let's kick the can down the road. Republicans say: Let's put it off. Let's do it later. But for Republicans, "later" means "never."

We should solve this healthcare crisis now. People are already getting letters in the mail saying their premiums are about to go up next year by \$300, \$400, \$500—God forbid, even more.

A new report today showed that if we extend these tax credits, the vast majority of the benefits will go to the working- and middle-class families—the families who need help. That is what Democrats want to do here today.

Also, hospitals from Virginia to Nebraska, from Maine to California, are shutting down right now—not next

year; now. You know what that means. If you live in rural America, the closest hospital to you might be hundreds of miles away. You might not be able to see a doctor. Even if you can, you are going to pay more to see the doctor.

If you are an adult with parents who live in a nursing home, what is going to happen if that nursing home closes due to budget cuts? Hundreds—hundreds—of nursing homes will close because they depend on Medicaid, which has been slashed. Most people, most average families, can't afford to take their parents in, and there is no way they could provide the same care and expertise that a nursing home could.

I have talked to long-term care centers—in Republican districts no less—where doctors and nurses and healthcare workers and parents are frustrated or worried—worried their jobs are imperiled and worried even more that their patients are imperiled. They cannot understand how Donald Trump and Republicans are so OK with cutting their funding. In short, it is a betrayal. That is what the status quo looks like under Donald Trump.

Also, let me speak to my own colleagues here in the Senate who care about this institution and who, in normal times, would love to work together with the other side to make good things happen for the country. Donald Trump and his little minion Russell Vought have made a total mockery of the congressional appropriations process. He has trampled over Congress's power of the purse. He has illegally frozen, canceled, and redirected—unilaterally misappropriated—hundreds of billions in funding.

Why the heck should the Senate vote on a budget if Russell Vought single-handedly, with Donald Trump's support, can undo it all? And that includes NIH research. It includes public broadcasting and so much else. It is all illegal. It cannot be tolerated. Why pass a budget if Russell Vought can unilaterally rescind it? Every Senator should not stand for it, including our Republican colleagues. Democrats will certainly not stand for it. Will Republicans?

Republicans cannot expect that another take-it-or-leave-it extension of government funding that fails to address healthcare costs is going to cut it for the American people. What we should do instead is move forward with our Democratic proposal to work to keep the government open, to lower people's premiums, to protect people's healthcare.

Finally, both sides should at least talk. Donald Trump does not want to talk. He has said to Republicans: "Don't even bother" to deal with Democrats. That is Donald Trump saying he—he—wants a shutdown.

You have to have two parties to pass a bill. If you say "Don't deal with Democrats," you are saying you want a shutdown. That is what Trump has said. He either doesn't know the Senate procedure, where you need 60

votes—that is obvious—or he doesn't know math, because he only has 53.

Donald Trump is saying he wants a shutdown, and Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON should resist Trump's bullying. They know the only way to pass a budget is with bipartisan negotiation. In the 4 years when we Democrats had a majority, there was never a shutdown. Why? We talked to our Republican colleagues and created bipartisan proposals. We sat down and talked, which was normally what happened, except our Republican colleagues—Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON—are too afraid to buck Donald Trump.

Well, the American people won't stand for Donald Trump's status quo. They don't like the Republican partisanship. They expect both sides to come together and address the real needs they face, from healthcare to the cost of living. This is what Democrats offer the American people with our bill today if Senate Republicans heed their call.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I must speak for another moment about the FCC.

We are in a moment of peril—dire peril—in America because yesterday Donald Trump said he intends to put a dagger through the heart of what America is about when he said that he doesn't believe in free speech, that maybe the licenses and ability to speak of people and broadcast companies that disagree with him should be taken away.

When Donald Trump says the FCC should consider revoking licenses of networks with shows and hosts who are "against me" and who "give me only bad publicity," he is talking about a dictatorship. That is what dictatorships do—they shut down anyone who has any disagreement with them. But that is what he is threatening to do today through Brendan Carr. He said:

I would think maybe their licenses should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr.

That is censorship. It is disgusting. It is a violation of the First Amendment. What Trump is doing comes right out of Xi and Putin's playbook. He is launching in broad daylight a naked attack on perhaps the most basic freedom in America: free speech. For hundreds of years, America has been proud to be a land of free speech, and Donald Trump is the first President who really attempts to put a dagger through its heart.

Where are our Republican colleagues? They know this is wrong. Silence; obedience to Donald Trump's destruction of free speech and democracy. He is launching in broad daylight an attack on one of the most basic freedoms in America, which is free speech, and it is being challenged through his flack at the FCC, Brendan Carr, who coerced ABC to suspend Jimmy Kimmel for his

comments that he or Trump didn't like.

Donald Trump's attack on free speech is despicable. It is anti-American. It is the road to dictatorship. And it is not the first time Donald Trump has done this. He is launching investigations into companies to bully them into submission. And it is not just late-night talk show hosts; Donald Trump and MAGA have said they will try to silence others.

When Carr goes on a podcast and says the FCC "can do this the easy way or the hard way" to make sure Kimmel is silenced, that is an attack on every single media outlet, whether it is traditional or digital. That is an attack on every single American.

So today I am, with Senators MARKEY and LUJÁN, calling on Chairman Carr to demand to know how the FCC defines "public interest" under Carr, which networks must adhere to; to ask Carr did his staff communicate—he or his staff—with Disney, ABC, or their affiliates.

We all know the murder of Charlie Kirk was abhorrent and evil, plain and simple, but it is repulsive that the Trump administration is exploiting this tragic death as an excuse to go after anyone they don't like politically, including by silencing free speech.

While Donald Trump tries to take away people's freedoms, Republicans in Congress are bowing in obeisance to his throne because they are too scared to stand up to him. They know he will cast retribution on them, as he has on networks and people in the press.

In conclusion, freedom is as fundamental as it gets in America. Everyone knows that. Republicans know that. Conservatives know that. For the longest time, everyone—Ronald Reagan on down—has defended free speech. But if you lose freedom of speech, it is the road to autocracy.

Mr. Carr is one of the greatest threats to free speech in American history. He must resign immediately, and if not, Trump should fire him.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Pending:

Wicker-Reed amendment modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune amendment No. 3863 (to amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3865 (to amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3868 (to amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

S. 2296

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 2 years ago, when the government was on the brink of a shutdown, the then-majority leader, now-minority leader, Senator SCHUMER of New York, wrote a letter to his colleagues—I have it here—dated September 2023. It says:

Dear Colleague.

In his letter, Senator SCHUMER wrote:

We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

He went on to say:

The only way to avoid a shutdown is through bipartisanship.

Well, I am happy to announce that just in the last hour, the House of Representatives passed, in a bipartisan vote, a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

That is not what we are seeing today, though, from the minority leader. Senator SCHUMER has written this time not a "Dear Colleague" letter but the biggest ransom note in American history.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. BARRASSO. Regular order? No.

One trillion dollars in ransom for 4 weeks of keeping the government open. It is filled with partisan, political poison pills that will never become law.

What we are seeing today from the minority leader is exactly what he once condemned. He is holding the American people hostage. What he is promoting today is not a spending bill; it is a shakedown—the Schumer shakedown, the Schumer strategy to lead to a Schumer shutdown.

Let me break down this ransom note line by line because the American people deserve to know what the Democrats are demanding. Their \$1 trillion demand includes \$500 billion to continue the COVID-era spending spree. We were originally told that the COVID bonus subsidies would be temporary. Democrats now want to turn them into a permanent government giveaway. This is in spite of the fact that the COVID crisis ended years ago.

The Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman was right. He said:

Nothing is more permanent than a temporary government program.

Additionally, Democrats want to weaken Medicaid for those who need it the most. Republicans' comprehensive economic plan strengthens Medicaid. We reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. Democrats want to kill those reforms. They want to repeal the entire healthcare section of the law.

Democrats would rather shut down the government than stop States from paying for free healthcare for illegal immigrants. Democrats want to continue to give Medicaid to able-bodied, working-age adults who refuse to work. Democrats are holding America hostage for people who broke our laws and for people who refuse to get jobs.

Now let's talk about money that the Democrats want to send overseas. This bill spends billions of dollars on radical climate projects: Zimbabwe, \$13 million for "civic engagement"; Honduras, \$25 million for "climate resilience"; West Africa, \$40 million for "low-emissions development." Let that sink in. Republicans want to keep the government open, pay our troops here at home. Democrats would rather fund climate projects overseas and are willing to shut down the government if we are not willing to do that.

Democrats are willfully wasting billions of hard-working Americans' tax dollars on their liberal fantasies. Republicans are proposing 7 weeks of clean funding. It is what passed the House in a bipartisan way just an hour ago, and Democrats instead are demanding seven figures for foreign slush funds.

Mr. President, let me point out that Democrats do make some spending cuts. Regrettably, those cuts target our Nation's most vulnerable hospitals in rural communities. Democrats want to eliminate the \$50 billion Rural Hospital Stabilization Fund. It is something we just passed earlier this year—passed it this summer. It is something that I hear about from our hospitals at home and how grateful they are. And I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in my home State of Wyoming for more than 20 years. I was president of the Wyoming Medical Society. I know the stresses and strains on rural hospitals, and that is why this was passed.

Mr. President, your home State of West Virginia experiences exactly the same thing. We both know how many small community hospitals need the kind of help that we were able to pass that the Democrats now want to strip away. With rural hospitals under significant stress, the last thing Congress should do is remove the funds designated to help keep them open, and they want to instead spend this money in foreign countries. That is what the Democrats want to do.

Let me return to Senator SCHUMER's own words:

We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

Yet hostage-taking is exactly what he is doing today.

Senator SCHUMER is demanding a trillion dollars in new spending for keeping the government open 4 weeks. He is sending billions of dollars to foreign countries but slashing billions of dollars for rural hospitals in our own country; subsidizing free healthcare for people who refuse to get jobs but threatening the paychecks of the people whose job it is to keep our Nation safe.

He is demanding a far-left wish list or else he wants to shut down the government. That is the Democrat strategy today; make no mistake. Republicans will hold Democrats accountable for supporting this dangerous political theater.

The good news is Congress can keep the government open and functioning without hostage-taking and without shakedowns. Republicans' clean continuing bipartisan resolution that just passed the House with a bipartisan vote is ready to go; 7 weeks long, it gives Republicans and Democrats on the Appropriations Committee the time they need to finish their work.

I see the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and ranking member on the floor right now.

The House passed it today, bipartisan; President says he will sign it. Senate Democrats voted for similar bills not once, not twice, but 13 times when Joe Biden was President. There is only one person standing in the way of keeping the government open. That is the Minority Leader.

He has said it himself: We cannot afford hostage-taking. I would say to the Minority Leader: Stop holding the government hostage; stop holding the American people hostage; get rid of the ransom note; keep the government open. The American people deserve better than a trillion-dollar shakedown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would just make one point to my good friend from Wyoming. When we were in the majority for 4 years, there was not a shutdown—not one. Why? Because we did what you are supposed to do: talk in a bipartisan negotiation and each side has input.

The reason we are having a shutdown now is you and your leadership refuse to talk to Democrats and have input and want only your imprimatur on the bill, which we believe hurts Americans badly with healthcare.

Never a shutdown when we were in leadership. You can quote all the things you want. We did it the right way. You are not.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in just a short bit, we are going to vote on a bill that Democrats introduced earlier this week that does a couple of critical things. First of all, it prevents a needless shutdown at the end of this month,

and it gives us more time to hammer out the funding bills that help get families by and ensure Congress—not Donald Trump or Russ Vought—decides how our taxpayer dollars are spent.

Secondly, this bill takes critical steps to prevent Russ Vought from stealing money from cancer research or Trump deciding unilaterally he is going to cut off funding he doesn't like.

Third, it provides critical new security resources to keep Federal officials safe and help ensure political violence does not tear further at the fabric of our democracy.

And, fourth, this bill addresses the looming Republican healthcare crisis to stop healthcare costs from rocketing up and our rural hospitals from shutting down. These are four priorities that I think every single Member of Congress should be able to agree with.

I am afraid that while some of my Republican colleagues say they want to address the healthcare tax credits, they are quick to caveat that now is not the right time. Republican leaders said as much.

So I have to ask: When is the time? It seems to me the time is now. When Republicans say they don't want to talk about healthcare yet, what they are saying is, they don't want to talk about it until a lot of the damage has been done because premium hikes are already being announced and people will receive letters in the mail with their new rates next month.

So the time to act, really, is now. The clock is ticking, but Republicans don't want to even have a conversation about that yet. Well, Democrats are forcing a conversation. Our bill will not only avoid a government shutdown and give us time to continue working on our funding bills, it would address the imminent healthcare crisis, preventing premiums from skyrocketing by extending healthcare tax credits before those higher premiums kick in and are locked in and reversing Republicans' massive Medicaid cuts that will kick millions off of their insurance and shutter hospitals.

This vote will show America who seriously wants to help our families afford healthcare and keep those hospitals open and who is content to let those costs skyrocket and hospitals to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting yes on our bill that we would introduce this week on the Democrat side so we can act with the urgency this moment requires.

Let me be clear: Do I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to join me in voting for this funding bill that we introduced? Absolutely. But if they choose not to, the Senate will move to consideration of the partisan House-passed CR.

I want to be crystal clear here. There was and still is, in fact, a path to preventing a shutdown, and it starts with the Republican leadership finally sitting down with our Democratic leadership, something they have refused, for literally weeks, to do.

You want Democratic votes on a funding bill? A good place to start is by actually trying to win those votes. But instead of so much as talking to Democrats about how to stop millions of Americans from losing their healthcare or seeing their premiums double or worse, the Republican leadership has decided to follow Trump's orders, blow off Democrats, and risk a Republican shutdown.

I have had productive conversations with my fellow appropriators, but those conversations only mean so much when Republican leadership chooses to pull the rug out from under us. Four-corner negotiations were positive, but leadership has to be involved to wrap those negotiations and at least discuss healthcare.

If Republican leadership refuses to even speak with our Democratic leadership, where does that leave us? Instead of meeting us at the table to hammer out a bipartisan short-term CR, advance the critical work on those bills, and kick off serious talks on healthcare, House Republicans went off alone. They released a bill that utterly fails to address priorities that are top of mind for so many families.

That is a choice Republicans have made, and it is downright callous. After all, if Republicans insist on inaction, higher premiums are going to be locked in for people across our country. That is the cost of delay.

But Republicans are, essentially, saying the American people should just accept massive price increases for healthcare. And they expect Democrats to just simply go along. And even if Republicans decide to wait until the last minute for an extension, 1.5 million Americans will still lose their healthcare.

Republicans are trying to act like just cutting one party out of those talks and then trying to demand their votes is somehow business as usual—no way; no thanks.

I will be voting no on the Republican funding bill because there is a better way here. Why not sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about how we pass the short-term CR, how we make progress, critical progress on our full-year funding bills, and how we handle this healthcare crisis?

After all, Republicans are willing to say to the press, they want all of these things, they say it in front of the cameras. Why aren't they willing to say it in a room with Leader SCHUMER and Leader JEFFRIES? Why aren't they willing to just meet and actually start charting a course on how we move forward on that?

I think the main reason is Donald Trump. Again, he told Republicans don't even bother dealing with Democrats. Seems like Republican leaders are just afraid to cross the aisle and have a simple meeting, a mere conversation, if it risks losing Donald Trump.

That is wrong, and it is dangerous because with rare exception, just about

every bill we pass here in the Senate takes 60 votes. So to get things done for our families back home, Republicans need to work with Democrats. And if Republican leadership cannot find the courage to do that on what should be low-hanging fruit here, if they can't sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about a short-term CR, what does that mean for the work we have been doing on our full-year spending bills? What does it mean for extending those healthcare tax credits? And what does it mean for any of the other challenging issues we would all like to work together on to address?

It is deeply disappointing to me that the Republican leaders have chosen to go down the partisan route we are here on today. But there is still time to do the right thing. They should come to the table.

I am a "no" on the Republican CR, but my colleagues should know I am committed to this process. After all, there is so much at stake in all of our annual funding bills. It matters tremendously that we fully fund WIC to make sure moms and babies don't go hungry; it is hugely important that we fund the VA to make sure our veterans are getting the quality of care we promised them when they come home.

Families in my State and across the country are counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for childcare and Head Start so our kids can learn and grow. There are students and parents at school districts across America counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for kids with disabilities; for schools in some of our poorest communities.

There are patients everywhere in the country who are desperately counting on us to do our job to federally fund cancer research in hopes of a cure or for a clinical trial that might give them some more time with their loved ones.

I could go on—funding to replace lead pipes or to treat opioid addiction. The work we do in our Appropriations Committee matters. The outcomes that this Congress dictates over how we spend taxpayer dollars matter. It is hugely consequential for millions of Americans, and I am so glad that there is strong bipartisan support for so many of those programs because when we can all agree on something good, that is a win for all of our constituents.

So, yes, I want us to find a way forward so we can keep working on our full-year spending bills that will actually help people. We have already passed eight of those spending bills out of our committee; three on the floor that we are working right now really hard to conference so they can be signed into law.

These are all bills that help people and solve problems. None of us should want to hand the pen over to Russ Vought and give him or Trump or anyone else at the White House more power of our Federal spending. That is

what another year-long continuing resolution would do.

There is a better path forward. I would ask Republican leadership: Simply come to the table. Compromise is a very basic principle. Every American understands it. And if Republicans don't bother working with the Democrats just because Donald Trump told them to, this would be a Republican shutdown.

The Republicans control all of government: the House, the Senate, the White House. The American people know who will be to blame. I ask that we work to move forward to choose a different path, work together and avert this shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to urge passage of the funding bill that was approved by the House of Representatives earlier today. Now, let's be clear on what this bill is and what it is not.

It is a stopgap measure, which is known as a continuing resolution or often called a CR. It is straightforward. It continues current funding levels for government until November 21. That gives Congress the time that we need to continue our work on the annual appropriations bills.

It is not a yearlong CR. Republicans do not want a yearlong CR. The reason we are operating under a yearlong CR for the first time in history for the Department of Defense, which is causing tremendous difficulties, is because the then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single appropriations bill to the Senate floor in the last Congress despite the hard and bipartisan work of the Senate Appropriations Committee. So let's be clear on that.

Once again, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have worked hard over the last several months to advance annual appropriations bills and carry out our constitutional responsibility of the power of the purse.

Last month, the full Senate passed with overwhelming bipartisan support our first package of fiscal year 2026 annual appropriations bills. They included the bills funding agriculture and the FDA; military construction and veterans affairs; and the legislative branch.

This marked the first time since 2018—7 years ago—that the Senate approved annual appropriations bills before the August home State work period.

In the intervening weeks, the leaders of the relevant Senate subcommittees have been working very hard with their House counterparts on both sides of the aisle to reconcile the differences between the House and the Senate bills.

We hope to have final versions of these three bills soon that can be considered in both Chambers, enacted, and sent to the President for his signature.

In addition, Majority Leader Thune has already expressed a willingness, in-

deed a commitment, to bring another package of fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills to the Senate floor next month.

This is a welcome change from the last year when then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single one of the 12 annual appropriations bills to the Senate floor for consideration. Those are the facts.

The result of that obstruction was a full-year continuing resolution for fiscal year 2025 and a delayed start to our current appropriations process.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who want to avoid a similar fate for fiscal year 2026, I say, work with us to complete the annual funding bills, just as we are doing in committee. Pass this clean CR, which has no poison pills, so that we can prevent disruptions to vital programs on which the American people rely while Congress completes its work on the annual funding bills. It should be that simple.

Government shutdowns have negative consequences across government and across the Nation. They require certain government employees such as Border Patrol agents, members of our military and Coast Guard, TSA screeners, and air traffic controllers, among others, to report to work with no certainty on when they will next receive their paycheck.

Shutdowns put critical investments in our national defense on hold, training exercises could be limited, which could hurt our Nation's readiness. New programs would be paused, delaying new capabilities from getting to our warfighters.

Under a shutdown, Federal funding for important national priorities would be halted, including grants to State and local law enforcement and other first responders, new funding and support for the Head Start Program and child welfare services, as well as formula grants to States that support older Americans and individuals with disabilities.

Most day-to-day operations at our national parks would cease. The first week of October is usually peak foliage in Downeast Maine. It is a time when visitors flock to Acadia National Park in Maine—the crown jewel of Maine. In previous shutdowns, park personnel were kept to a minimum. Visitor service centers were closed. Restrooms were not maintained. Trails were not cleared. All of this affects the visitor experience and has a ripple effect, harming our local small businesses when tourists decide to cancel their reservations.

Instead of supporting a clean CR to prevent a government shutdown, congressional Democrats, sadly, have put forth a partisan alternative that is full of poison pill riders and significant policy changes.

This is not a clean CR just extending existing funding levels until, well, in their case, until the end of October, in the case of what I thought was an agreed-upon bipartisan date, November 21, as the House bill would do.

Most appalling—and I want to make sure that all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle realize this—the Democratic version of the continuing resolution would repeal the \$50 billion fund that I authored to help our rural hospitals that are on the brink of closure. I am sure that is a problem in the Presiding Officer's State as well.

In Maine, we have already seen one hospital closure this year, and this fund is vital to other rural hospitals across the State and across the Nation that are struggling to stay afloat and provide essential healthcare to their communities.

Now, I support extending the enhanced premium tax credit for health insurance, but unlike appropriations, that issue does not have a September 30 deadline. It should be a priority for us to take up before the end of the year because, as has been mentioned by the vice chair, insurance bureaus across this country have approved substantial rate increases—24 percent in the State of Maine—so we do need to act. But that is a significant policy change, and the deadline is not September 30.

I urge my colleagues to abandon this brinksmanship that does not serve the American people well, that is unworthy of this Senate, and adopt this straightforward bill sent to us by the House, which the President is willing to sign into law without any further delay and which will avoid a completely unnecessary and harmful shutdown of government.

This would allow us the time to complete the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process and continue our work to find a path forward on the enhanced premium tax credit.

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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be suspended.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2882 AND H.R. 5371

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that if either of the votes on S. 2882 and H.R. 5371 fail of passage, it be in order for the two leaders to enter motions to reconsider without being on the prevailing side; further, that third readings with respect to the previous order be vitiated and that both bills be considered read a second time and immediately placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate execute the order from September 18, with respect to S. 2882 and H.R. 5371.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill, S. 2882, is considered read a second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2882) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S. 2882

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 527 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Paul
Capito	Hoeben	Ricketts
Collins	Husted	Risch
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 47, and the nays are 45.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (S. 2882) was rejected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on passage of H.R. 5371, the cloture motion filed during yesterday's session of the Senate on Executive Calendar No. 410 ripen immediately; further, I ask that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Waltz nomination be waived; and that if cloture is invoked, all debate time be expired and the Senate vote immediately on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I ask unanimous consent that these votes be 10-minute votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, H.R. 5371 is considered read the first and second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 5371

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 528 Leg.]

YEAS—44

Barrasso	Britt	Capito
Boozman	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Hawley	Moreno
Cotton	Hoeben	Ricketts
Cramer	Husted	Risch
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cruz	Justice	Schmitt
Curtis	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lankford	Sheehy
Ernst	Lummis	Thune
Fetterman	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Graham	McCormick	Wicker
Grassley	Moody	Young
Hagerty	Moran	

NAYS—48

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Reed
Baldwin	Kaine	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Gallago	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Paul	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 48. The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (H.R. 5371) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider passage of H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Democratic leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider with respect to the failed vote on S. 2882.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 410, Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

John Thune, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call with respect to rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 529 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hoeben	Risch
Collins	Husted	Rounds
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kelly	Shaheen
Crapo	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays 45.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to

the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

VOTE ON WALTZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Waltz nomination?

Mr. COTTON. 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 Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 530 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hoeben	Risch
Collins	Husted	Rounds
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kelly	Shaheen
Crapo	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Booker	Lujan	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—10

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	
Durbin	Sanders	

The nomination confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1337

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I am going to be very clear. The clock is

ticking. On October 1, if Congress fails to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, we are set to lose an absolutely invaluable cornerstone of our national cyber security defense.

For the past 10 years, this law has enabled private companies and Federal Agencies to share cyber threat information both quickly and securely before attacks spread. The protections in this law enable us to mitigate threats before cyber security systems become compromised and irreversible damage is inflicted across our country. If those protections are allowed to lapse, our Nation's information networks will be exposed, vulnerable, and defenseless more so than ever before.

We face unrelenting cyber security threats from criminal hackers and foreign adversaries each and every day. Just this year, hackers backed by the Chinese Government exploited a vulnerability with Microsoft's SharePoint—a platform that runs on many of our computers right here in the Senate—allowing them to access critical infrastructure and compromise sensitive government systems. The Colonial Pipeline ransomware incident, which was linked to a ransomware group based in Russia, brought down a critical gas pipeline, disrupting the daily lives of millions of people on the east coast. The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act ensures that the government can quickly work with companies experiencing these attacks to stop them from becoming even more widespread.

Adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran are actively working to develop better tools and utilize artificial intelligence to supercharge their cyber attack capabilities. If we don't take immediate action to prevent these cyber security protections from expiring, we will lose one of our Nation's best defenses and empower our adversaries to launch attacks. A lapse in these protections will also embolden cyber criminals to use the same malicious tools to wreak havoc on our economy, exploit America's personal information, disrupt critical services, leaving our government unable to stop them.

The bottom line is, if we don't extend these protections today, our Nation will be significantly less safe from cyber security attacks on October 1.

This should be straightforward. Ten years ago, CISA 2015 was voted out of the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. Most recently, our colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee just moved an extension of these authorities for 10 years out of that committee by a vote of 26 to 0—unanimous. It has a proven track record, and that is why. Over the past 10 years, it has established a trusted public-private partnership that safeguards our Nation against ever-evolving cyber security threats.

This is a voluntary program that industry stakeholders and the Trump administration are asking us to renew. Organizations, including the Business

Roundtable, the Business Software Alliance, the Bank Policy Institute, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Information Technology Industry Council—and I can go on and on—all support extending these critical protections to ensure that businesses can effectively share information with the Federal Government and work collaboratively when a breach occurs. There is no question that, as cyber attackers get more sophisticated, we will need to do even more to shore up our defenses, but we absolutely—absolutely—must prevent any further harm that would result from a lapse of this proven law.

That is why it was disappointing to see that, after making a public commitment to working on renewing this legislation earlier this year, the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee abruptly canceled a committee business meeting this week where we were expected to debate and vote on this very important bill and extension. Committee members on both sides of the aisle want to see action to prevent this law from expiring in the next few days, but we were blocked from even having a discussion about the policy or draft legislation.

The chairman's actions are not only at odds with our committee and my colleagues who sit on the Homeland Security Committee but with our colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee and Trump administration officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross—all who want to see this extension for 10 years.

In April of this year, Senator ROUNDS and I introduced a bipartisan bill that would provide a clean extension for the law for 10 years, ensuring that the private sector can continue to rely on these protections for years to come.

With just days before this law will expire and without action from the chairman of the committee, I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this bill. Keep one of our strongest cyber security defenses in place. If we don't move now, we will essentially open the door for cyber criminals and foreign adversaries to do irrevocable damage to our information networks, our major industries, and our economy as a whole.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1337 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS
AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I rise to discuss the Democratic continuing resolution proposal that was on the floor earlier.

Neither proposal gained sufficient votes, and that means we have work to do to find a compromise that will enable the government to stay open, and I want to make clear why I believe the Democratic proposal has some real strong merit for Virginians and for Members of this body, both Democratic and Republican, and why I think this is such a strong proposal.

My advocacy for the Democratic position is basically focused on two issues: healthcare and the underlying basic notion that we all get—that a deal should be a deal.

During August, I think, as most of us did, I traveled around my home State of Virginia a lot and talked to many people. The Senate had passed the reconciliation bill—that partisan bill—in July, and during the August recess, I heard a boatload from Virginians about their concerns.

Because of that reconciliation bill, six hospitals in Virginia are at risk of closure. These hospitals are all in the rural parts of the Commonwealth.

There are 302,000-plus Virginians who will likely completely lose their health insurance, 136,000 will lose the health insurance that they are currently able to access through the Affordable Care Act, and another 166,000 will likely lose health insurance because of cuts to the Medicaid Program. Virginia has a population of about 8½ million; 302,000 people losing their health insurance is pretty significant.

Those who continue to have health insurance will see significant premium increases. According to the State Corporation Commission, which is the body in Virginia that regulates industries like insurance companies, the 10 insurers that participate in the Virginia individual market in 2026 have requested rate increases from their 2025 rates, with most insurers proposing average increases of 20 percent or higher.

What would that mean? The Kaiser Family Foundation says a family of four, with two adults aged 50 and two kids under 21, are likely to pay an additional \$311 per month, or \$3,729 per year, because of the reconciliation reduction of ACA tax credits.

Virginia hospitals stand to lose up to \$26 billion in Medicaid cuts over the course of the next 14 years because of the reconciliation bill. That is the reason why a number of rural hospitals that are sort of on the edge in terms of their financial situation are on the list of concerns about closure.

Just within the last 2 weeks, we actually had the first closures in Virginia. A well-respected healthcare network in the Shenandoah Valley that has a hospital in Augusta County but then has primary care clinics sort of throughout the region that serves patients who can

be served there instead of a hospital announced that three of the primary care clinics are closing, and the CEO of the Healthcare Network said they are closing because of the Medicaid cuts made in the reconciliation bill that this body passed in July.

I also heard a lot of stories just from individuals. These are the statistics about what is going to happen in Virginia because of the reconciliation bill, but we talk to constituents all the time.

Mary from Springfield, VA—Northern Virginia—and Kim from Mecklenburg County on the North Carolina border both have children with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for access to care to allow their children to remain in their homes instead of in institutional settings. These moms are very worried that Medicaid cuts won't be available for their children's long-term care.

Brenda is a mother in Salem, VA, near Roanoke. She relies on Medicaid to help her remain in her home and not have to be institutionalized, and she worries that the Medicaid cuts will cost her access to the supports that she needs.

William in Virginia Beach, VA, on our eastern coast, says that his son has Marketplace coverage but is worried that the cuts to the ACA premiums mean that the son will no longer have access to that insurance now that the reconciliation bill has put those premium subsidies on a path to expiration.

Maria works as an employee of an affordable housing community for seniors in Fairfax, right here in the DC area. She said that since the passage of the reconciliation bill, she has seen a growing number of low-income seniors come into her office frightened that their Medicaid coverage will be reduced or terminated.

Sharon lives in Lancaster County, which is in a part of Virginia called the Northern Neck, near the Chesapeake Bay. She has called to ask my office if Rappahannock General Hospital was in jeopardy of closing due to the reconciliation bill. Rappahannock hospital is a facility I know well because my in-laws lived right there in Lancaster before they passed away in the last couple of years. It is one of the six hospitals that is listed on the national list as a hospital in jeopardy as Medicaid cuts phase in.

Then, finally, Caroline from Lynchburg, VA, in Central Virginia, has had coverage through the Virginia Marketplace and is concerned that she will no longer have access to the tax credits and subsidies that have helped her afford health insurance.

These are just seven examples of citizens from all over the Commonwealth whom the reconciliation bill—I read the big statistics about it, but these are individual families who have significant challenges.

What the Democratic CR proposal does is something that many Republicans in this body have said needs to

be done. In the aftermath of the reconciliation bill, we are hearing similar stories from our constituents and that we need to fix especially the ACA premium support so that people do not lose health insurance, and we also need to fix some of the Medicaid cuts that caused the concerns that I expressed from these seven individuals.

My visit around Virginia in August sort of made me see this healthcare concern as sort of a spectrum. When you make cuts to Medicaid or to these premiums, five different things happen:

People lose health insurance.

Those who retain health insurance see their premiums go up often because the folks without insurance go to the emergency rooms. That is more expensive care. It has to be paid for, and that tends to assist in driving up the premium cost of those who retain insurance.

Third, as I have indicated has already happened in Virginia, providers close. And when providers close, there is a fourth effect, which is people lose their jobs.

Then the fifth effect is one that I think we should talk about as well. It is not just people losing health insurance and having their premiums go up and seeing their providers close and seeing healthcare professionals lose their jobs; there is a fifth effect.

I was a mayor, and I was a Governor. I did a lot of economic development work in Virginia. I know that one of the things that businesses really care about, if they are looking for places to locate or expand, is what is the local availability of healthcare? It is really difficult to be in a community and try to pitch an economic development project but have the question asked: "Tell us about your hospital. Tell us about your healthcare network" and to explain that "we had a hospital, but it closed. We have had healthcare clinics that closed." That makes it very, very difficult.

This fifth effect is an economic effect. The decline in healthcare clinics and hospitals, actually, is sort of like a theft of a community's future because it makes it very difficult to get people to come.

That is why I think the Democratic proposal is a solid one. And I do recognize that in the aftermath of the passage of the reconciliation bill, many Republican colleagues—both in this Chamber and the House—have said that it is important to come back and fix particularly the expiration of the ACA premium tax subsidies. I think that would be a very smart thing for us all to do.

Finally, there is a second reason I really like the Democratic proposal, and it is this: A deal should be a deal. The Democratic proposal has some components in it that would ensure that when Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate reach a deal that goes to the President's desk and he signs it, that the President then can't immediately take the money away unilaterally.

I think everybody around my Commonwealth—Democrat, Republican, Independent, or the vast majority who don't really care that much about politics—they get that a deal should be a deal. When you negotiate and you shake hands, a deal should be a deal.

This actually is related to healthcare as well. In last year's budget, we had a deal about spending on healthcare priorities. Early in this administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., announced that he was clawing back billions of dollars of healthcare funding. To Virginia, it was \$400 million—\$400 million of healthcare funding that we had planned on using during the worst increase in measles, for example, in recent years. It got clawed back from Virginia, and 500 workers and contractors lost their jobs as we were trying to deal with measles and other health epidemics.

I have communities in Virginia that had had economic development projects announced, and they were counting on them for their future. Often, the announcements were attended with great fanfare by our Governor—Governor Youngkin, who is a Republican, who believed these economic deals were a good thing. They were reliant on funding from the Inflation Reduction Act or from the CHIPS manufacturing bill, but those funds, in many instances, have been clawed back.

A deal should be a deal. When we reach a deal, it should be honored so that communities do not plan for healthcare workers, do not plan for economic development projects and feel the rug pulled out from under them.

So those two features of the Democratic proposal: fixing some of the healthcare cuts in the reconciliation bill that, even by many Republicans' accounts, have gone too far; that have already led to closures of clinics in Virginia and great anxiety among individuals.

We can fix those, and we can establish a principle that should be one that we would all agree on that a deal should be a deal.

I hope as we grapple with the two proposals on the table, neither of which we were able to get 60 votes and be passed, we can take some of the wisdom in these Democratic proposals that would serve Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all over this country and make sure that we include them going forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 433 through Calendar No. 437, Calendar No. 438, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Gary R. Charlton, II, Calendar Nos. 439 through 447, and Calendar No. 449 and Calendar No. 450, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 154:

To be general

Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Sara A. Stigler

Col. Robert B. Taylor

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joshua D. Armstrong

Col. Ryan D. Ayers

Col. Gavin M. Batchelder

Col. Jesse R. Carlson

Col. Travis J. Crawford

Col. Ryan F. Dannemann

Col. Joseph P. Geaney

Col. David L. Halasi-Kun

Col. Chad E. Holesko

Col. Ameer C. Howard

Col. Jared P. Kennish, Jr.

Col. Carol J. Kohtz

Col. Matthew S. Komatsu

Col. Brock E. Lange

Col. Jeremy C. Phillips

Col. Derek B. Routt

Col. Denise K. Sweeney

Col. Natasha S. Taylor

Col. Eric A. Underhill

Col. Bart T. Van Roo

Col. Leah V. Voelker

Col. Sheldon B. Wilson

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Lynn M. Lee

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Fesler

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Hargens
 Brig. Gen. Troy D. Havener
 Brig. Gen. Patrick L. Lanaghan
 Brig. Gen. William M. Leahy
 Brig. Gen. Allison C. Miller
 Brig. Gen. Mark R. Morrell
 Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Morrissey, Jr.
 Brig. Gen. James R. Parry
 Brig. Gen. Carla R. Riner
 Brig. Gen. Stephanie S. Samenus

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. James D. Cleet
 Brig. Gen. Jason W. Knight
 Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Krane

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Blomquist

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Monie R. Ulis

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Humberto Pabon, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Roderick T. Grunwald

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga
 Lt. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp
 Maj. Gen. Winston P. Brooks
 Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Hilbert
 Maj. Gen. James M. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell
 Maj. Gen. Robert D. Davis
 Maj. Gen. Brandon D. Parker

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield
 Maj. Gen. William H. Swan

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the

grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general;

Brig. Gen. John M. Dreska

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Gering

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. George M. Wikoff

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Heidi K. Berg

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN120 AIR FORCE nominations (59) beginning IAN S. ANDERSON, and ending SOMVANG XAYARATH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN382 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning JARED L. BISHOP, and ending ANTHONY V. SANTINO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN449 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning AMY C. BROWN, and ending SARAH M. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN450 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning MARC G. CARNS, and ending DAVID L. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN452 AIR FORCE nominations (18) DONELLA D. BEAULIEU, and ending SARAH M. WHITSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN454 AIR FORCE nominations (317) beginning ALEXANDRA E. ABLES, and ending ALEC J. ZIEMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN455 AIR FORCE nominations (54) beginning SEAN T. ADAMS, and ending CARLOS X. ZAMBRANO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN456 AIR FORCE nominations (147) beginning ANSEL V. AIKEN, and ending TAYLOR E. ZURLINDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN477 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning CHRISTOPHER S. MORGAN, and ending DAYLE P. PERCLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN500 AIR FORCE nomination of Harrison E. Payne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN392 ARMY nomination of Benjamin A. Bonner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN435 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL R. BARTON, and ending KIRK V. THORSTEINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN457 ARMY nominations (198) beginning STEVEN J. ACKERSON, and ending 0003789078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN458 ARMY nominations (152) beginning CHARLES M. ABEYAWARDENA, and ending 0003951181, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN459 ARMY nominations (114) beginning JAMES ACEVEDO, and ending SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN460 ARMY nominations (14) beginning JAMES D. BROWNE, JR., and ending JOHN C. TOLIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN478 ARMY nominations (2) beginning PETER G. JUETTEN, and ending ROBERT E. MURDOUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN480 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Benson, which nominations was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN481 ARMY nominations (2) beginning WILLIAM R. CARY, and ending KYLE S. JASCHEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN482 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN, and ending JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN483 ARMY nominations (40) beginning JONATHAN W. ANDERSON, and ending 0002254443, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN501 ARMY nominations (98) beginning NATASCHA R. ANDERSON, and ending NATHAN P. ZWINTSCHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN502 ARMY nomination of Adam C. Eccleston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN503 ARMY nomination of Carsell Walker, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN504 ARMY nomination of Stephen A. Noorlag, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN505 ARMY nomination of Brian M. Gallavan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN506 ARMY nomination of Sharif I. Faruque, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN479-2 MARINE CORPS nomination of Keaton H. Harrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN484 MARINE CORPS nominations (155) beginning MATTHEW S. ALLEN, and ending ADAM YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN436 NAVY nomination of Bryan J. Laroche, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN437 NAVY nomination of Phuong T. Pham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN479-1 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SARA R. DE GROOT, and ending BRIAN KORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN485 NAVY nominations (45) beginning JOEL ALMANZANUNEZ, and ending DAVID A. WAKEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN486 NAVY nominations (10) beginning BRANDON L. BARKER, and ending GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN487 NAVY nominations (26) beginning ERIC J. BLOMBERG, and ending THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN488 NAVY nominations (203) beginning VIVEK M. ABRAHAM, and ending ARTEMISA A. ZUAZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN489 NAVY nominations (63) beginning RIAZ M. ALI, and ending WON H. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN490 NAVY nominations (159) beginning LEONARD E. ABADAM, and ending KELLYLYNN ZUNI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN491 NAVY nominations (7) beginning HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH, and ending WILLIAM E. OMALLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN492 NAVY nominations (48) beginning BRANDY D. BENNETT, and ending CHEOL YI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN493 NAVY nominations (54) beginning CALEB D. AABERG, and ending DMITRIY YAKUBOV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN494 NAVY nominations (3) beginning WILLIAM J. DEAN, and ending BRENTON W. HEISSERER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN495 NAVY nominations (57) beginning JESSICA L. ABBEY, and ending WILLIAM Z. XU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN496 NAVY nominations (134) beginning CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA, and ending ANYA L. ZAPF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN497 NAVY nominations (67) beginning ABRAHAM D. AGUS, and ending DAVID ZHU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN507 NAVY nominations (28) beginning ADAM E. BAYER, and ending ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN508 NAVY nominations (33) beginning DAMIAN R. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL S. YEARY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN509 NAVY nominations (121) beginning TEDDY G. AJERO, JR., and ending KENNETH E. ZITNIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN510 NAVY nominations (35) beginning AMY T. ALFARO, and ending JEREMY P. WADE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN511 NAVY nominations (53) beginning ALEXANDER ALBA, and ending SOBONDO J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN512 NAVY nominations (23) beginning ZACHARY P. BRANCH, and ending SHARLENA Y. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN513 NAVY nominations (65) beginning KARA L. BALLAS, and ending JUSTIN K. WOOLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN514 NAVY nominations (45) beginning ADAM M. ALLEMAN, and ending ROSANNE M. WITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN515 NAVY nomination of Scott A. Metcalf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN516 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JOHAN BAIK, and ending BRETT K. CARTWRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN426 SPACE FORCE nominations (98) beginning MICHAEL D. ALBERT, and ending RICK H. YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN427 SPACE FORCE nominations (115) beginning ROSALINDA M. ALFARO, and ending WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN428 SPACE FORCE nominations (59) beginning BRIAN G. ALLEN, and ending DAVID C. ZESINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN429 SPACE FORCE nominations (60) beginning DANIEL N. BANAKOS, and ending JULIUS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN430 SPACE FORCE nominations (53) beginning JOHN M. AGUIRRE, and ending DEREK B. WORTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I support Senator MERKLEY's resolution

calling on the President of the United States to recognize an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, alongside a secure State of Israel. This is a long-held position of the United States, of both Republican and Democratic administrations, which must not be abandoned.

The choice before us is clear: either we embrace the two-state solution or continue to support today's relentless military occupation. This horrible death and destruction in Gaza must stop. That is why the time for two states can be delayed no longer.

Calling for this does not create a state, but rather reinforces the commitment of the two-state solution.

I am deeply committed to a safe, secure, democratic Israel. But this outcome is only possible if there is also an independent, demilitarized, and sovereign Palestinian state.

While the Senate cannot diplomatically recognize an independent Palestine, my colleagues make a reasoned plea in this resolution for President Trump to listen to the American people, to listen to our allies, and to listen to our partners around the world. This step is critical for the peace and security of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

This resolution reinforces the fact that Israel's neighbors want peace. Saudi Arabia has led the entirety of the Arab League in reaffirming that it seeks full normalization and peace with Israel—if and when Israel is willing to recognize that Palestinians deserve what all people deserve: the right to self-determination, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity.

Saudi Arabia and France have also led a multinational initiative this year underlining that the entire Middle East is willing to build a regional security framework that assures the safety of the people of Israel, but Israel must take unequivocal steps toward a Palestinian state.

I urge my colleagues to join us on this timely resolution, which aligns with the objective of nearly 80 years of U.S. policy: two independent states and lasting peace in the Middle East.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5371. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 452. An act 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.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 2:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new court-houses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1047. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3015. An act to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3062. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1047. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3015. An act to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3062. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1092. A bill to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-63).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2914. A bill to strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2915. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2916. A bill to remove the requirement that the Secretary of Transportation consider the committed or anticipated non-Federal funding for long distance intercity passenger rail routes under the Corridor Identification and Development Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2917. A bill to prescribe a process to allow the Secretary of Transportation to make funding adjustments with respect to highway safety funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2918. A bill to amend the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act to improve the implementation of the seizure of Russian sovereign assets for the benefit of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2920. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2921. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2922. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the authorization for certain alternative fuel and clean vehicles to use HOV facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2923. A bill to provide for the automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 414. A resolution designating September 2025 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children as well as youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 415. A resolution designating the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNOCK)):

S. Res. 416. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BARASSO):

S. Res. 417. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Telehealth Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 418. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, as "National Estuaries Week"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 702

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify provisions relating to kidnapping, sexual abuse, and illicit sexual conduct with respect to minors.

S. 1472

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of New England.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

S. 2859

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2859, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2904, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 81, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Brazil.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution calling on the President to recognize a demilitarized State of Palestine, as consistent with international law and the principles of a two-state solution, alongside a secure State of Israel.

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3288 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. 3759

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3759 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. DURBIN:

S. 2915. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2915

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 “Sparking Production of Urban and Rural Housing Act” or the “SPUR Housing Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “community development financial institution” means an institution that has been certified as a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)) by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) **DISTRESSED COMMUNITY.**—The term “distressed community” has the meaning given the term “qualified census tract” in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) **HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREA.**—The term “high opportunity area” has the meaning given the term in section 1282.1 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(4) **EMERGING DEVELOPER.**—The term “emerging developer” means a developer that has—

(A) limited real estate development experience and limited liquidity or net worth;

(B) any other qualifications as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(5) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; PART B INSTITUTION.**—The terms “institution of higher education” and “part B institution” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 and 322, respectively, of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1061).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 3. EMERGING DEVELOPER FUND PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions.

(b) **USE OF AMOUNTS.**—Nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions that receive amounts under this section shall use such amounts—

(1) to offer financing to emerging developers undertaking affordable housing and community development projects, including—

(A) predevelopment loans;

(B) loan loss reserves;

(C) grants;

(D) risk sharing; and

(E) credit enhancements, including interest rate buy downs;

(2) to capitalize a fund to support affordable housing and community development projects of emerging developers;

(3) to offer capacity-building training, and technical assistance programs to emerging developers; and

(4) for other uses approved by the Secretary.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—Each nonprofit housing organization and community development financial institution that applies for a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require and shall—

(1) demonstrate plans for providing comprehensive training, technical assistance, and financing to emerging developers; and

(2) include information about past work completed by the organization or institution.

(d) **AWARDING OF GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall award grants under this section based on the ability of an applicant to—

(1) identify and quantify the need for development capacity building in the community of focus, including emerging developers with an intent to pursue affordable housing and community development projects, including in distressed communities;

(2) provide comprehensive real estate development capacity building and ongoing technical assistance, including by helping emerging developers to—

(A) develop and manage a construction budget;

(B) determine financing needs;

(C) identify and secure sources of private and public capital, including preparing applications for tax credits under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(D) structure capital stacks;

(E) understand loan terms;

(F) conduct business planning;

- (G) conduct strategic planning;
- (H) prepare bids;
- (I) structure financial statements; and
- (J) implement bonding strategies;
- (3) provide affordable lending products for affordable housing and community development projects, such as predevelopment loans and other relevant products;
- (4) offer mentoring and networking opportunities for emerging developers;
- (5) build partnerships with institutions of higher education, including community colleges and part B institutions, to provide real estate development course work and other resources to current and aspiring real estate developers;
- (6) provide ongoing technical assistance after completion of any curriculum offered at the institutions described in paragraph (5); and
- (7) track program outcomes, including the total number and volume of loans originated, total development costs, geographic areas served, and income streams created for the borrower.
- (e) **PRIORITY.**—When awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize organizations that—
 - (1) are providing lending or technical assistance to emerging developers—
 - (A) with limited experience;
 - (B) who are undercapitalized; or
 - (C) who intend to focus on the development of affordable housing and community development projects in distressed communities and high opportunity areas; and
 - (2) have a history of providing support to emerging developers.
- (f) **LIMITATION.**—No organization or institution may receive an award amount under this section that is greater than 15 percent of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (h).
- (g) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the alignment of program under this section and reporting requirements under this section with similar requirements of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).
- (h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act, which I am reintroducing today with Senator GRASSLEY, will bring needed transparency to the disciplinary proceedings the PCAOB has brought against auditors and audit firms.

Over two decades ago, in response to a series of massive financial reporting frauds particularly the Enron and WorldCom scandals, the Senate Banking Committee held multiple hearings, which found various underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inad-

equated oversight of accountants charged with auditing public companies' financial statements. Later, in a 99-to-0 vote, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to address the structural weaknesses revealed by the hearings. Among its many provisions, this law called for the creation of an independent Board, the PCAOB, to oversee auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies.

Under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, the PCAOB oversees nearly 1,500 registered accounting firms, as well as the audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm's work on each audit. The Board's ability to begin proceedings that can determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is a crucial component of its oversight. However, unlike other oversight bodies, the Board's disciplinary proceedings cannot be made public without consent from the parties involved. Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing, and these proceedings are typically kept hidden from the public. Furthermore, the Board cannot publicize the results of its disciplinary proceedings until after the appeals process has been completely exhausted, which can often take several years.

This lack of transparency invites abuse and undermines the congressional intent behind the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, deter misconduct, and bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Our bill will restore transparency and reaffirm Congress's intent, by making hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Board. This would more closely align the PCAOB's procedures with those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to PCAOB disciplinary proceedings strengthens investor confidence in our financial markets and better protects companies from problematic auditors. I urge our colleagues to join Senator GRASSLEY and me in supporting this legislation to enhance transparency in the PCAOB's enforcement process.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2920. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act along with Senator GRASSLEY. Our bipartisan bill will help securities regulators better

protect investors and demand greater accountability from market players. Despite the regulatory reforms made after the financial crisis, we continue to see calculated wrongdoing by some on Wall Street, and without the consequence of meaningful penalties to serve as an effective deterrent, I worry this disturbing culture of misconduct will persist.

The amount of penalties the Securities and Exchange Commission SEC can fine an institution or individual is restricted by statute. I learned how this limitation significantly interferes with the SEC's ability to execute its enforcement duties during my time as the chairman of the Banking Committee's Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee in 2011. Around then, a Federal judge criticized the SEC for not pursuing a larger settlement against Citigroup, a major actor in the financial crisis. The judge rightly noted that Citigroup had settled with the Agency for an amount that was far below the cost the bank had inflicted on investors. The SEC, however, indicated that a statutory prohibition against levying a larger penalty led to the low settlement amount. Indeed, in the immediate aftermath of the financial crisis, then-SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro explained that "the Commission's statutory authority to obtain civil monetary penalties with appropriate deterrent effect is limited in many circumstances." Unfortunately, a decade later, the SEC's statutory authority remains unchanged, and the Agency's deterrent effect remains limited even though securities fraud is still as prevalent as ever.

The bipartisan bill we are introducing will discourage misconduct by raising the maximum statutory civil monetary penalties, directly linking the size of the penalties to the amount of losses suffered by victims of a violation, and substantially increasing the financial stakes for serial offenders of our Nation's securities laws.

Specifically, our bill would broaden the SEC's options to tailor penalties to the circumstances of a given violation. In addition to raising the per violation caps for severe, or "thirds tier," violations to \$1 million per offense for individuals and \$10 million per offense for entities, the legislation would also give the SEC more options to collect greater penalties based on the ill-gotten gains of the violator or on the financial harm to investors.

Our bill also has two provisions to deter repeat offenders on Wall Street. The first would authorize the SEC to triple the penalty cap applicable to recidivists who have been held either criminally or civilly liable for securities fraud within the previous 5 years. The second would allow the SEC to seek a civil penalty against those who violate existing Federal court or SEC orders—an approach that would be more efficient, effective, and flexible than the current civil contempt remedy. These updates would reinforce the

SEC's ability to levy tough penalties against repeat offenders.

Our constituents deserve a strong regulator that has the necessary tools to go after fraudsters and pursue the difficult cases arising from our increasingly complex financial markets. The Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act will enhance the SEC's ability to demand meaningful accountability from Wall Street, which in turn will increase transparency, deter bad actor, and maintain confidence in our financial system. I urge our colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2922. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the authorization for certain alternative fuel and clean vehicles to use HOV facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the HOV Lane Exemption Reauthorization Act, which I introduced today.

The HOV toll lane authority for alternative fuel vehicles, in place since 1998, gives States the ability to allow alternative fuel and low-emission vehicles to use high-occupancy vehicle lanes. This authority provides flexibility for State departments of transportation to manage congestion, encourage cleaner cars on the road, and give drivers more options. It is now in use in more than 10 states, including California, Utah, and New York, and has been renewed on a bipartisan basis in each subsequent surface transportation reauthorization bill.

However, due to a drafting error in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the extension expires in September 2025 rather than September 2026 as originally intended. Without congressional action, these programs lapse at the end of this month, creating uncertainty for motorists, consumers, and State transportation officials. It also deprives States of the ability to make their own choices about how best to manage HOV lane access in ways that fit their unique transportation needs.

Our bipartisan bill corrects this oversight and extends the authority through the next fiscal year. This is not a sweeping change or a new mandate; it is a straightforward, common-sense fix that ensures States can continue a longstanding program that encourages the adoption of low-emission and alternative fuel vehicles and helps ease congestion on our busiest roads. By extending the program, we provide clarity for drivers, predictability for States, and continuity for a policy with bipartisan support.

I want to thank Senator CURTIS and Senator GILLIBRAND for co-leading this bill with me, and I urge our colleagues to join us in ensuring that States like ours are not unfairly penalized for a simple Federal oversight.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AS WELL AS YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 414

Whereas the millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2025 as “National Child Awareness Month”—

(1) to promote awareness of—
(A) charities that benefit children; and
(B) youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by the charities and organizations described in paragraph (1) on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of children and youth, including children and youth who—

(A) have experienced homelessness;
(B) are in the foster care system;
(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;
(D) have been impacted by violence;
(E) have experienced trauma; and
(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 415

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother's Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother's Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother's Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 416—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNOCK)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 416

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 2,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited, with some estimates showing a shortened life expectancy by 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies and promoting widespread patient access to approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2023, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) was the only cure for SCD, and the Food and Drug Administration has since approved 2 gene therapies that have been demonstrated to cure SCD;

Whereas more research is needed to find more treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD;

Whereas the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has introduced an innovative cell and gene therapy access model for interested States and United States territories, where it will support administration and outcomes-based contracts with drug manufacturers for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive these life-saving breakthroughs; and

Whereas September 2025 has been designated as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 417—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 417

Whereas telehealth allows a health care practitioner to furnish health care services to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the health care practitioner;

Whereas telehealth plays a significant role in supporting access to quality health care services for millions of patients;

Whereas health care workforce shortages are a significant problem in many areas and for many types of health care clinicians;

Whereas telehealth increases access to health care in areas with workforce shortages and for individuals who live far away from health care facilities, have limited mobility or access to transportation, or have other barriers to accessing care;

Whereas, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the utilization of telehealth services in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) was low, accounting for approximately 0.1 percent of visits of patients receiving health care services under Medicare part B in 2019;

Whereas 25 percent of Medicare beneficiaries received at least 1 telehealth service in 2024;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who received a telehealth service were satisfied with their experience;

Whereas, in 2024, telehealth was a routine health care modality with 13 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries and 23 percent of dually eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries using telehealth in the last quarter of the calendar year;

Whereas telehealth is a common care modality for Medicare beneficiaries to receive behavioral health services, with half of common psychotherapy services furnished under the original Medicare fee-for-service program delivered by telehealth in 2022;

Whereas federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics use telehealth to deliver services to rural and underserved populations;

Whereas telehealth now represents a critical component of health care delivery;

Whereas any lapse in Medicare coverage for telehealth services could adversely impact patient access to care;

Whereas legislative efforts to increase telehealth access have received bipartisan support in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to help improve access to health services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

Whereas “Telehealth Awareness Week” unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, health care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes the impact of telehealth in delivering health care services for patients across the United States; and

(3) urges that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness about the benefits of telehealth;

(B) highlight resources for health care providers and patients regarding telehealth;

(C) collect and analyze data on the impacts of telehealth; and

(D) promote continuous access to telehealth for all communities and across settings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 418—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 418

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 4.5 percent in 2023, compared to the national average employment growth of 2 percent;

Whereas the estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 111,000 new jobs between 2022 and 2023, employed 2,600,000 people, and contributed \$511,000,000,000 to the 2023 gross domestic product;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 2,300,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated \$321,000,000,000 in sales;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$13,412,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported at least 691,693 jobs, generated \$138,000,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy of the United States, and contributed \$45,100,000,000 in income impacts and \$74,900,000,000 in value-added impacts to the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats, nurseries, and migration stopovers for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered, including birds integral to the health of estuaries, such as the Snowy Plover and Saltmarsh Sparrow;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, restored wetlands in the United States have been shown to remove up to 80 percent of nitrogen and 70 percent of phosphorus from runoff water;

Whereas, in 2017, mangrove ecosystems in Florida prevented \$1,500,000,000 in direct flood damage during Hurricane Maria;

Whereas, coastal wetlands from Maine to North Carolina prevented \$625,000,000 in property damage during Hurricane Sandy;

Whereas, in New Jersey, areas with salt marshes experience 16 percent lower annual flood losses than areas without salt marshes;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the Thirteen Original Colonies;

Whereas the degradation and loss of estuaries has led to the collapse of some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters and have now become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to many estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) chemical, physical, and biological integrity;

(2) water quality;

(3) the balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activity;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zones of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 34 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas coastal and marine habitat restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, generating an average of 17 jobs for every \$1,000,000 invested and helping to reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, of the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and to the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3909. Mr. BOOKER 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 3910. Mr. BOOKER 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 3911. Mr. BOOKER 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 3912. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3909. Mr. BOOKER 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 appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO REQUIRE EXTRA TIME TO COMPLETE REMEDIAL COURSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3320A. Additional assistance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The number of months of educational assistance under section 3313 of this title an eligible individual is entitled to under section 3312 of this title is hereby increased by the lesser of—

“(1) 15 months; or

“(2) in the case of an eligible individual who attempted or completed remedial and deficiency courses as described in subsection (b)(4), the full-time equivalent number of months of educational assistance used under this chapter to complete such remedial and deficiency courses.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an eligible individual is an individual—

“(1) who is or was entitled to educational assistance under section 3311 of this title;

“(2) has received educational assistance under this chapter at any time during the most recent six month period;

“(3) who has used all of the educational assistance to which the individual is entitled under this chapter; and

“(4) who has attempted or completed remedial and deficiency courses in pursuit of completing a program of education at an institution of higher learning and in doing so requires more than the standard 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours for completion of a program of education at an institution of higher learning.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘institution of higher learning’ has the meaning given such term in section 3452 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘remedial and deficiency course’ means a course offered by an institution of higher learning that is designed to overcome a deficiency.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3320 the following new item:

“3320A. Additional assistance.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3695 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) In the case of an individual who receives additional educational assistance under section 3320A of this title, the number of months specified in subsection (a) shall instead be construed to specify the number of months that is equal to the sum of—

“(1) such number of months; and

“(2) the amount of the increase in number of months of educational assistance to which the individual is entitled pursuant to section 3320A(a) of such title.”.

SEC. 10. INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN TRANSFERRING ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting such subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking “An” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) TIMING OF DESIGNATION.—In the case of an individual who elects to transfer entitlement under subsection (a) but who at the time of the election does not have any eligible dependents, the individual may carry out the designations required by paragraph (1) when the individual comes to have an eligible dependent to whom the individual would like to transfer entitlement under this section.”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (1)(A), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by inserting “, including by designating a new dependent or dependents to receive the unused entitlement” before the period.

SA 3910. Mr. BOOKER 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. STUDY ON HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS OF VIETNAM-ERA HERBICIDE-EXPOSED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Toxic Exposure Research Working Group established under section 501 of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168; 136 Stat. 1785) (in this section referred to as the “Working Group”) shall conduct a study on the diagnoses of health conditions among spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment and comprehensive review of diagnoses of health conditions among spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans, including—

(1) cancers;

(2) gynecological conditions, including infertility;

(3) birth defects; and

(4) birth and pregnancy-related complications, including miscarriages.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Following the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Working Group shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report on the results of the study.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a summary of the research and other activities carried out as part of the study; and

(ii) recommendations to improve early screening, detection, prevention, and treat-

ment of health conditions of spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives—

(A) an unaltered version of the report required under paragraph (1); and

(B) an assessment by the Secretary of the findings and recommendations of the study required under subsection (a), including a plan for implementing the recommendations.

(d) VIETNAM-ERA HERBICIDE-EXPOSED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 1710(e)(4)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3911. Mr. BOOKER 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. EXPANSION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES TO INCLUDE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 2044 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “veteran” and inserting “eligible”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “veteran family” and inserting “eligible family”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D)(vii), by striking “veteran family” and inserting “eligible family”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(4) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “veteran families” each place it appears and inserting “eligible families”;

(5) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(i) by striking “very low-income veteran family” and inserting “very low-income eligible family”;

(ii) by striking “a veteran family” and inserting “an eligible family”;

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) The term ‘eligible family’ includes—

“(A) a veteran who is a single person;

“(B) a family in which the head of household or the spouse of the head of household is a veteran;

“(C) a former member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who has retired or separated from service after having served a term of enlistment and is a single person; and

“(D) a family in which the head of household or spouse of the head of household is a former member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who has retired or separated from service after having served a term of enlistment.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “through 2025” and inserting “through 2026”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively;

(3) by inserting “(1)” before “From amounts”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) Of amounts available under paragraph (1)(H) for fiscal year 2026, \$50,000,000 shall be available to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (f)(7).

“(B) Any amounts made available under subparagraph (A) to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (f)(7) that remain available after supportive services have been provided to such families under this section shall be available during fiscal year 2026 to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such subsection.”.

SEC. 1068. STUDY ON FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY EXPERIENCED BY MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report detailing plans to establish a study to analyze food and housing insecurity experienced by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the report required by subsection (a) is submitted, the Secretary of Defense shall begin conducting the study described in such subsection.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report required by subsection (a) is submitted, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report including the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) RESERVE COMPONENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “reserve component” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3912. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,

2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Anel Galvez, Radhika Prabhu, and Jacob Baldus for the duration of their legislative fellowships.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED PEOPLE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 269 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 (S. 269) to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Kennedy-Peters-Wyden 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. 3912), 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 “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

The bill (S. 269), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third read-

ing, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 414, S. Res. 415, and S. Res. 416.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD (Legislative Day of September 16, 2025) under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 417, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 417) supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 417) was agreed to.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (Legislative Day of September 16, 2025) under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged

from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 225.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 225) designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “National Truck Driver Appreciation Week”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 225) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 14, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

ELIMINATE SHUTDOWNS ACT— Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 161, S. 2806.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2806) to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 161, S. 2806, a bill to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Ashley B. Moody, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, John R. Curtis, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Cornyn, Cynthia M. Lummis, Steve Daines.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following days and times: Monday, September 22, at 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, September 25, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, September 25, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 425 ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, AT 8:30 A.M.

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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 2:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 19, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL G. WALTZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 154:

To be general

GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. SARA A. STIGLER
COL. ROBERT B. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSHUA D. ARMSTRONG
COL. RYAN D. AYERS
COL. GAVIN M. BATCHELDER
COL. JESSE R. CARLSON
COL. TRAVIS J. CARLWYMER
COL. RYAN F. DANNEMANN
COL. JOSEPH P. GEANEY
COL. DAVID L. HALASI-KUN
COL. CHAD E. HOLESKO
COL. AMEE C. HOWARD
COL. JARED P. KENNISH, JR.
COL. CAROL J. KOHTZ
COL. MATTHEW S. KOMATSU
COL. BROCK E. LANGE
COL. JEREMY C. PHILLIPS
COL. DEREK B. ROUTT
COL. DENISE K. SWEENEY
COL. NATASHA S. TAYLOR
COL. ERIC A. UNDERHILL
COL. BART T. VAN ROO
COL. LEAH V. VOELKER
COL. SHELTON B. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. LYNN M. LEE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DANIEL M. FESLER
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT E. HARGENS
BRIG. GEN. TROY D. HAVENER
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK L. LANAGHAN
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM M. LEAHY
BRIG. GEN. ALLISON C. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. MARK R. MORRELL
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH F. MORRISSEY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. PARRY
BRIG. GEN. CARLA R. RINER
BRIG. GEN. STEPHANIE S. SAMENUS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES D. CLEET
BRIG. GEN. JASON W. KNIGHT
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY A. KRANE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER M. BLOMQUIST
IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MONIE R. ULIS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. HUMBERTO PABON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. RODERICK T. GRUNWALD

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA
LT. GEN. MICHELE H. BREDEKAMP
MAJ. GEN. WINSTON P. BROOKS
MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH E. HILBERT
MAJ. GEN. JAMES M. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KENYON K. BELL
MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. DAVIS
MAJ. GEN. BRANDON D. PARKER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH R. CLEARFIELD
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM H. SWAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. DRESKA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 804:

To be general

LT. GEN. BRADFORD J. GERING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. GEORGE M. WIKOFF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. HEIDI K. BERG

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH IAN S. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH SOMVANG XAYARATH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JARED L. BISHOP AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY V. SANTINO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMY C. BROWN AND ENDING WITH SARAH M. WHEELER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARC G. CARNS AND ENDING WITH DAVID L. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONELLA D. BEAULIEU AND ENDING WITH SARAH M. WHITSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDRA E. ABLES AND ENDING WITH ALEC J. ZIEMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN T. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CARLOS X. ZAMBRANO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANSEL V. AIKEN AND ENDING WITH TAYLOR E. ZURLINDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER S. MORGAN AND ENDING WITH DAYLE P. PERCLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF HARRISON E. PAYNE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN A. BONNER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL R. BARTON AND ENDING WITH KIRK V. THORSTEINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN J. ACKERSON AND ENDING WITH 0003789078, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES M. ABEYAWARDENA AND ENDING WITH 0003951181, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES D. BROWNE, JR. AND ENDING WITH JOHN C. TOLIN, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER G. JUETTEN AND ENDING WITH ROBERT E. MURDOUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. BENSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM R. CARY AND ENDING WITH KYLE S. JASCHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN W. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH 0002254443, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATASCHA R. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH NATHAN P. ZWINTSCHER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM C. ECCLESTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARSELL WALKER, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN A. NOORLAG, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN M. GALLAVAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHARIF I. FARUQUE, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KEATON H. HARRELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW S. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH ADAM YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRYAN J. LAROCHE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PHUONG T. PHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARA R. DE GROOT AND ENDING WITH BRIAN KORN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOEL ALMANZANUNEZ AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. WAKEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON L. BARKER AND ENDING WITH GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC J. BLOMBERG AND ENDING WITH THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VIVEK M. ABRAHAM AND ENDING WITH ARTEMISA A. ZUAZO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RIAZ M. ALI AND ENDING WITH WON H. YU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LEONARD E. ABADAM AND ENDING WITH KELLYLYNN ZUNI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM E. OMALLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDY D. BENNETT AND ENDING WITH CHEOL YI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CALEB D. AABERG AND ENDING WITH DMITRIY YAKUBOV, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM J. DEAN AND ENDING WITH BRENTON W. HEISSERER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSICA L. ABBEY AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM Z. XU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH ANYA L. ZAPP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ABRAHAM D. AGUS AND ENDING WITH DAVID ZHU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM E. BAYER AND ENDING WITH ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAMIAN R. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL S. YEARY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TEDDY G. AJERO, JR. AND ENDING WITH KENNETH E. ZITNIK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMY T. ALFARO AND ENDING WITH JEREMY P. WADE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ALBA AND ENDING WITH SOBONDO J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZACHARY P. BRANCH AND ENDING WITH SHARLENA Y. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KARA L. BALLAS AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN K. WOOLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM M. ALLEMAN AND ENDING WITH ROSANNE M. WITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT A. METCALF, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHAN BAIK AND ENDING WITH BRETT K. CARTWRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL D. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH RICK H. YUAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROSALINDA M. ALFARO AND ENDING WITH WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN G. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH DAVID C. ZESINGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL N. BANAKOS AND ENDING WITH JULIUS A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN M. AGUIRRE AND ENDING WITH DEREK B. WORTH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD'S STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Hawaii National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines.

The SPP pairs state and territorial National Guard units with partner nations worldwide. It helps build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships to enhance security cooperation, advance U.S. interests and improve partner nations' military readiness.

The SPP partnership between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippines, initiated in 2000, was one of the earliest in the Indo-Pacific under this program, and it remains the longest-standing such partnership in the region. Over the past quarter century, the partnership between Hawaii's citizen soldiers and airmen and their Philippine counterparts has steadily progressed, encompassing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, joint training exercises, strategic planning and multilateral regional engagement.

The 25th anniversary of this agreement showcases an important and long-lasting commitment to mutual security, shared values and an enduring friendship between our two democratic nations.

This great SPP's success lies in its foundation of trust, mutual respect and cultural understanding. Hawaii's geographic location and strong cultural and historical ties to the Philippines have made our state an ideal bridge between our two militaries. This special relationship has not only strengthened defense readiness but also developed personal connections that enrich both our communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of our partners in Guam, who have joined this trilateral cooperation in recent years. Their collaboration strengthens the regional fabric of security and partnership.

On this 25th anniversary, I wish to recognize all those who have contributed to this partnership's success. The enduring engagement between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippine armed forces has advanced the strategic goals of a free and open Indo-Pacific and strengthened the bonds between our two great nations.

Let us honor this important milestone not just as a celebration of the past but also as a reaffirmation of our shared future. I look forward to many more years of partnership and shared commitment to peace and prosperity between America and the Philippines under our SPP.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Roosevelt Elementary School, celebrating its 100th year of educating the children of the Tampa Bay region. Roosevelt Elementary has not only been a champion for education but a fixture of the Tampa community, supporting academic excellence, character building, and community engagement. The Tampa Bay Community is forever grateful to have caring educators and a school like Roosevelt Elementary to teach the next generation of Floridians and bring together my neighbors across Tampa Bay.

The history of Roosevelt Elementary is the history of the City of Tampa. Theodore Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy when the U.S.S. Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor. When the Spanish-American War began, Roosevelt resigned his position and joined the military. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt recruited volunteers to serve in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, which soon became known as the Rough Riders. In June of 1898, Roosevelt and the Rough Riders camped in Tampa for two weeks before they headed south to Cuba and became famous for their charge up Cuba's San Juan Hill. The Rough Riders were brave men fighting to achieve an independent Cuba, something Tampa's large Cuban immigrant population had sought for so long.

Roosevelt Elementary was constructed in 1925 and carries with it the ambitious spirit of the Rough Riders. It promotes academic excellence and works closely with the Tampa Bay Rough Riders, a nonprofit organization that celebrates the regiment and Tampa's contribution to the Spanish-American War through patriotic and civic activities throughout the Tampa Bay Region. Roosevelt Elementary partners regularly with the Rough Riders to foster a love and understanding of community service in students.

Roosevelt Elementary is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, honoring the cornerstone Roosevelt has become to our community and its place in the history of Tampa. Roosevelt Elementary is a Grade A school, a success that is a collective achievement, says Principal Denise Wheatley. It is the dedication by both students and teachers, and the investment by families and community partners, that make Roosevelt the thriving educational institution it is to this day. Principal Wheatley calls on all to "continue to embody the spirit of the Rough Riders." Through this collaboration of partners inside and outside of the classroom, Roosevelt will continue to thrive as a place where every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly proud to support the high-quality public schools and tal-

ented teachers found in Hillsborough County. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, I am proud to congratulate Roosevelt Elementary on 100 years of educating Florida's youngest generation. It is dedicated educators like those at Roosevelt, and the committed community that foster the Rough Rider spirit, that make our Tampa Bay community the welcoming place it is today. Our community is so proud of institutions like Roosevelt, and I applaud them on this tremendous milestone of a century of learning, service, and school spirit.

HONORING DR. CURTIS MARION GARNER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a proud East Texan, beloved doctor, and my friend, Dr. Curtis Marion Garner.

Curtis was reunited with his wife, Anne, after sixty-two years when he joined her in heaven on September 15, 2025. He was born to Curtis Mahan Garner and Verna Burkes Garner on December 30, 1934, in Livingston, Texas. His Garner ancestors were Republic of Texas settlers in 1835, in Polk County. Mr. Garner considered himself an East Texan through and through, believed he lived in the best place on earth, and was not wrong.

Curtis graduated from Livingston High School as co-valetorian with Anne Mahan, who later became his wife. He attended Baylor University and later graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he received several honors for medical school graduates. Following his internship, he and Anne settled in Woodville, Texas.

Curtis served as a physician in Woodville, for over sixty years, from 1960 until his retirement in 2021. He also worked as a family physician for over thirty years in the Swearingen-Garner Medical Clinic and as an emergency room physician at Tyler County Hospital, where he was beloved by the many nurses, doctors, and other staff he served with throughout the years.

Curtis and Anne were members of First Baptist Church of Woodville, where he served as a Sunday school teacher for almost sixty years. He was a man of faith and steadfastness who loved his family. Curtis and Ann had three children: their daughters Melissa Garner and Marian Ballard, and their son Curtis Mahan Garner. Their greatest joy was their grandchildren Evan, Barrett, Will, Elizabeth, Alison, Emily, Curtis, Madison, Zachary, and Mallory, as well as seventeen great-grandchildren.

Curtis led a life distinguished by faith, compassion, and devotion as a Christian, father, and grandfather. His legacy of service and love remains an enduring inspiration to his family, community, and all who knew him.

• 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.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL FRANK

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Frank, an influential Professor and community leader in Anderson, Indiana. Since 2001, Dr. Frank has served the students at Anderson University in the Political Science department as Department Chair. Dr. Frank earned his B.A. in International Relations from Northern Illinois University, as well as his Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. His studies greatly contributed to his expertise in Political Science education and lends to his research in political realignment, party history, and political inequality. Dr. Frank served as Chair of the Madison County Public Defender Board since 2009, where he ensures compliance with state guidelines for the county's public defenders and the Judicial System.

At Anderson University he teaches a variety of subjects like American Government, Research Methods, Political Parties and Behavior, and Constitutional Law. He also is the Pre-Law Advisor, preparing students for the law school admissions process, the LSAT, and the difficulty of law school. His students have gone on to work in government offices and on political campaigns in Washington D.C., for the Indiana Governor, and with Members of Congress. Dr. Frank serves as the Director of Anderson University's Center for Public Service. He helps prepare students for a life in public service careers to meet critical societal needs, and his leadership connects students to industry professionals, internships, and service opportunities.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Dr. Michael Frank for his incredible efforts as an educator to lead students on to success, as well as his contributions to Madison County through his work with public defenders. His passion has touched upon the lives of so many and will continue to do so in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2025, which would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds.

This bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like the kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

This bill would provide federal funds to states to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds,

regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, would be taught by teachers who have equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education.

The success of Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs, combined with the scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by this bill. This bill is a practical way to create universal, public pre-kindergarten. The goal of this bill is to provide the benefits of early childhood education to those who have been left out of this essential education.

We cannot afford to allow the most critical years of child development to pass unenriched. This bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education and neuroscience, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C. this week, and to congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

His All-Holiness has been a steadfast leader for the Orthodox Church, and especially for my constituents in New Jersey. He continues to encourage us all to reach toward peace, to love and respect our neighbors, and to uphold our values as a Nation.

At a time when hate and intolerance are surging across the country, His All-Holiness's focus on religious freedom is a powerful reminder that we must work together and respect one another. In the greatest country in the world, there should be no room for intolerance or hate of any kind.

As His All-Holiness Bartholomew has said, "We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours." Together, we must work toward a world filled with healing and hope.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk was reprehensible. Members of Congress pray for Charlie's wife, Erika, their two young children, and all who loved him during their time of mourning and grief. We also extend our prayers to all who were present on the Utah Valley University campus at the time of this tragedy, who will carry the trauma of that day with them forever.

In recent years, a disturbing and unacceptable pattern has emerged: individuals being targeted for their role in public life or for their association with political discourse. Violence of this nature is not an attack on one person alone—it is an assault on democracy itself, meant to silence debate, sow fear, and tear at the fabric of our civil society.

We remember the assassination attempt on Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, which left her critically injured and six innocent lives lost. We remember the shooting at a Congressional baseball game practice, which seriously wounded Congressman STEVE SCALISE and injured five others. We recall the chilling plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. We will not forget the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6th, which resulted in the deaths of five law enforcement officers and shook the very foundations of our democracy.

My own family still lives with the trauma of a near-deadly attack on my husband, Paul, in our home by an individual seeking to kidnap me—an act of violence that underscored in the most personal way the escalating threats that public officials and their loved ones endure.

We have also seen assassination attempts on the life of President Donald Trump; the arson targeting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence and family; the heart-breaking assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, and the attempted assassination of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife. And now, we are horrified by the murder of Charlie Kirk, targeted while exercising his right to speak freely on a college campus.

All of these incidents must be denounced unequivocally and without qualification. Violence has no place in our political process, in our communities, or in our country. At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to act. Congress must work with state and local leaders, law enforcement, and communities to ensure the security of Members, staff, and constituents alike—so that all Americans may fully participate in civic life without fear. That also means we must address the epidemic of gun violence in our country to keep our children and their families safe.

Let us be clear: political differences must be resolved at the ballot box and through dialogue, never through the barrel of a gun or the threat of violence. The strength of our democracy lies not in unanimity, but in the peaceful contest of ideas. Together, we must recommit to protecting that principle and the American

people, to lowering the temperature of political rhetoric, and to honoring the dignity and humanity of every person engaged in public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on September 18, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 277; YEA on Roll Call No. 278; and YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I expressed last week following Charlie Kirk's horrifying assassination, my heart goes out to Mr. Kirk's family and loved ones. The loss of anyone in such a violent manner is tragic and sadly all too common. It has raised important issues including the need to address gun violence, political violence, and the way all Americans relate to one another. Increasingly violent rhetoric in our politics and culture is manifesting itself in increasing political violence.

I'm grateful that this resolution addresses some of these issues.

I remember the series of assassinations and attempted assassinations that rocked the country in the 1960's and 1970's: Medgar Evers, John and Robert Kennedy, George Lincoln Rockwell, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, Richard Nixon, and George Wallace. Hate, discrimination, and distrust led to political violence that tore the country apart. We need a national conversation about how we learn the lessons of our past and build a better future for everyone.

I encourage us all to reflect on the country we want to live in. And to ensure our words and actions point us in that direction. If we are to have a thriving democracy, we must be able to disagree and fight for what we believe in without denying each other's humanity. Much of the political rhetoric in recent years has failed this test. I pray we return to a place where, despite our differences, we can recognize the humanity in every one of us.

Tackling these issues will require a thoughtful and honest national conversation. The resolution that we will vote on today called on Members to honor the legacy of Charlie Kirk. I could not honestly lend my name to his legacy. Charlie Kirk had a conviction and passion for expressing his opinions and for moving them forward in the national conversation. Unfortunately, much of that legacy involved hateful rhetoric about many fellow Americans, specifically the LGBTQ community, Muslims, and other minorities, particularly Black women. For that reason, I will not vote for this resolution.

Mr. Kirk's assassination was a horrible crime against him, his family, and our Nation. I pray for all three.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the direction our national discourse has taken following the death of Charlie Kirk and to share my reservations about the resolution before us today.

I condemn—unequivocally and in the strongest terms—the violent murder of Charlie Kirk.

I am praying for his family and our Nation as we navigate the aftermath of last week's horrific shooting.

No one should be killed for what they say or what they believe, and any claim to the contrary betrays the values upon which this Nation was founded.

But my deep regret that Mr. Kirk was killed and my respect for his First Amendment right to express himself freely does not make him someone that should be elevated as a role model for the American public. The resolution before us today would do just that.

The fact is Charlie Kirk's rhetoric was divisive, disparaging, and too often rooted in grievance.

The beliefs he evangelized normalized fringe views on race, sex, and immigration.

I've spent my entire career—from the peak of the civil rights movement until today—advocating for equal rights for everyone, regardless of race, sex, or religion.

I've sought to carry on the important work of civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have worked to eradicate prejudices and stereotypes that suggest that the color of someone's skin, or their gender, or their religious beliefs could somehow limit their potential.

I believe strongly that America is stronger, safer, and more secure when everyone who lives here has the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

When I was growing up, I never had a new textbook because people in power didn't think people that shared my skin color deserved them.

My right to vote was hardly guaranteed.

The first time I ran for mayor of my small town in Mississippi, the Ku Klux Klan showed up to intimidate me.

A lot has changed since then.

And we owe the progress this country has made toward equality to those who were brave enough to stand up to the people in power who perpetuated and institutionalized the prejudices that made groups of Americans second-class citizens.

Unfortunately, Charlie Kirk's statements resurrected the dangerous rhetoric of a dark past.

I cannot hold up as a role model someone who said:

"If I see a Black pilot, I'm going to be like, boy, I hope he's qualified." The Charlie Kirk Show, January 23, 2024.

"If you're a WNBA, pot-smoking, Black lesbian, do you get treated better than a United States marine?" The Charlie Kirk Show, December 8, 2022.

"Happening all the time in urban America, prowling Blacks go around for fun to go target white people, that's a fact. It's happening more and more." The Charlie Kirk Show, May 19, 2023.

"If I'm dealing with somebody in customer service who's a moronic Black woman, I wonder is she there because of her excellence, or is she there because of affirmative action?" The Charlie Kirk Show, January 3, 2024.

"If we would have said that Joy Reid and Michelle Obama and Sheila Jackson Lee and Ketanji Brown Jackson were affirmative action picks, we would have been called racists. Now they're coming out and they're saying it for us . . . You do not have the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously. You had to go steal a white person's slot to go be taken somewhat seriously." The Charlie Kirk Show, July 13, 2023.

"MLK was awful. He's not a good person." America Fest, December 2023.

"I have a very, very radical view on this, but I can defend it, and I've thought about it. We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s." America Fest, December 2023.

"The American Democrat party hates this country. They wanna see it collapse. They love it when America becomes less white." The Charlie Kirk Show, March 20, 2024.

And all of that is to say nothing of what he said about religion, immigrants, and women, among other things.

I am more concerned than ever that the country is headed in the wrong direction. And I am concerned that those on the right are trying to use Charlie Kirk's tragic death to shame those who disagree with them into espousing their misguided views about what America is and what it should be.

This resolution does just that, so I must oppose it.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States this week. My colleagues and I are honored to host him here in the House of Representatives and I know my Greek-Orthodox constituents are excited to have him visit our Nation's Capital. His All-Holiness is a champion of religious liberty, engaging in dialogues with leaders of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Moreover, he leads a congregation of 300 million church members worldwide and is the longest-serving Patriarch in the two-millennia history of the Church. We are blessed to have him here in Washington, D.C. this week.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my horror at the September 10, 2025

assassination of Charlie Kirk and to express my sincerest condolences to the Kirk family.

I attempted to add my name as a cosponsor to H. Res. 719, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Kirk. However, due to a processing error beyond my control, I was not added as a cosponsor before the House adopted this resolution.

Political violence has no place in our society. I strongly believe it should be condemned in the strongest way possible and at every opportunity.

I was, and still remain, a strong supporter of this resolution and the sentiments contained therein.

I call upon civic leaders at all levels of American society to commit to constructive civic discourse and firmly reject violence against their political opponents.

HONORING MR. SYD LOOMIS

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career and retirement of Mr. Syd Loomis, a lifelong Hoosier, dedicated professional, and beloved member of the Noblesville community.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, to Joseph “Jay” and Marlene “Mitzi” Loomis, Syd grew up with strong family values that would guide him throughout his life. A 1978 graduate of Noblesville High School, he married his wife Jeanine in 1982, and together they raised three wonderful children—Caryn, Amy, and Spencer. Today, Syd is the proud grandfather of four granddaughters, who bring him great joy and who affectionately know him as a devoted supporter of their softball games, dance recitals, and family traditions.

Syd's career in banking has spanned over 45 years. Beginning in 1980 as a teller at American National Bank, he went on to serve with AmeriTrust, Society, Key Bank, Metro, First Indiana, First National, BMO Harris, and, for the past 15 years to the day, The Farmers Bank, where he served as Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager. Syd was not just a banker, he was a mentor to young professionals, a trusted advisor to countless customers, and a friendly face who treated everyone like family. His service was recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the Indiana Bankers Association's 40-Year Banker Club, the Community Pride Award in 2011, and the Keep Noblesville Beautiful Award in 2013.

Beyond his professional career, Syd has always given generously of his time and talents to his community. He has served on the boards of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, the Shepherd Center of Hamilton County, and the Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program. He is also well known for his love of the arts, beginning community theatre in 1998 and performing in beloved roles such as George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. His performances earned several Encore Awards and brought joy to audiences across Hamilton County. Syd also shared his love of music in the choir of First Presbyterian Church, where his faith and voice have lifted others for decades.

Syd is affectionately known by many as the “unofficial mayor of Noblesville,” a fitting title for a man who never met a stranger and always left a lasting impression. I am personally grateful to have worked alongside Syd, who was my boss when I was a bank teller. His kindness, humility, and encouragement left a deep impression on me, as I know they have on so many others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 5th Congressional District, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Loomis for his many years of dedicated service as a community leader and as a true community banker, the kind of which we need more.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H. Res. 719.

I will not vote for this resolution. While I stand firmly and without hesitation against all forms of violence, I cannot support language that requires us to praise a man who so often showed disdain and disrespect for others. This resolution is misleading. It attempts to make us forget the harm of his words and the pain caused by his ideology.

No one should ever be attacked or killed because of their political beliefs. Violence is wrong. Period. As Americans, we resolve our differences through debate, through dialogue, and through the ballot box—not through bloodshed. I believe deeply in the Constitution, and that includes the right to free speech, even when we strongly disagree with it. But free speech does not erase the responsibility to tell the truth about its consequences.

Charlie Kirk did not deserve to be murdered for his views. His life was taken unjustly, and that violence must be condemned in the strongest terms. My most sincere prayers go out to his wife, children, and his extended family during this time of great personal loss.

At the same time, we cannot ignore that he used his platform to demean Black women like Michelle Obama and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, to dismiss diversity and fairness as “anti-White,” to question the qualifications of Black professionals, to mock LGBTQ Americans, to oppose health care for transgender people, and to promote the so-called “great replacement” theory. He even went so far as to say, “I have a very, very radical view on this, but I can defend it, and I've thought about it. We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960's.” These are not harmless words. They carry the same spirit of division that once fueled Jim Crow—when racism and bigotry were written into law to deny people their rights and dignity.

As a son of the South, I know how deeply such words can wound. They open old scars, justify injustice, and threaten the unity of our future. That is why I reject both violence and hate speech. Violence because no life should be taken for an opinion. Hate speech because no life should be diminished by the false claim that some people are less American, less worthy, or less human.

I proudly represent a district that reflects the very fabric of this nation. Black, White, Latino, Asian, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, people of every faith and people of no faith. Men and women, gay and straight, transgender and nonbinary. Every person deserves dignity, safety, and equal protection under the law.

This is what it means to be American. We do not honor our democracy by praising division or by rewriting the truth. We honor it by recommitting ourselves to peace, to justice, and to equality. That is how we heal, and that is how we ensure that the failures of Jim Crow, the poison of racism, and the sting of bigotry never again define our Nation.

I close with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who reminded us: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Let us be the light, let us reject hate, and let us stand together as one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFGHAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Afghan American Community Organization on the celebration of their tenth anniversary on September 20, 2025.

For a decade, the Afghan American Community Organization has served as a trusted, compassionate partner to Afghan and Afghan American families—strengthening civic participation, expanding opportunity, and celebrating a rich cultural heritage that is now a vibrant part of my district and the American story.

Whether it has been English language and citizenship classes, youth mentorship and college readiness, small business advising, or workforce development, the Afghan American Community Organization has opened doors for thousands in the Afghan American community. Its legal and resettlement clinics have helped newcomers navigate complex systems with dignity. The mental-health and women's empowerment initiatives have provided care and community, and its cultural events have fostered understanding between neighbors.

When Afghans arrived in large numbers following the fall of Kabul, Afghan American Community Organization mobilized volunteers, partnered with faith and civic groups, and worked together with local, state, and federal agencies to secure housing, enroll children in school, connect families with health care, and ensure that no one was left behind.

On this milestone anniversary, I congratulate the Afghan American Community Organization Board, dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners whose steadfast efforts made this achievement possible. Their work reminds us that welcoming the newcomer and lifting our neighbors are enduring American values.

I congratulate them on ten years of service, and wish the Afghan American Community Organization continued success in the decades ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 279, on H.R. 1047, I inserted my vote card and due to a technical error, it appears that my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES
KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I join all my colleagues in this body, my constituents, and the American people at large in denouncing all forms of political and ideological violence.

Democracy relies on the core principle of nonviolence.

We settle our disputes with ballots, not with bullets.

But as a social studies teacher, I can also recount a dark history of times when we lost our way as a Nation, and violence was used to silence the voices of debate and sow division.

The political violence that led up to and followed in the wake of the Civil War included a violent assault between Members of Congress and the assassination of President Lincoln.

The assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy—and the shooting of George Wallace—took place during a brutal response throughout the Nation to the organized, nonviolent Civil Rights Movement.

This year we have seen a resurgence of horrifically violent attacks that have targeted politicians and community leaders on all sides of the ideological spectrum.

My vote for the resolution before us today is a vote to roundly condemn these attacks.

I condemn the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I condemn the assassination of Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, and the shooting of Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette.

I condemn the attack on Governor Josh Shapiro and his family whose home was lit on fire while they slept inside.

I condemn the assassination attempts on President Trump during last summer's campaign.

All of this has happened within little more than a year.

But since I was elected to office in 2000, I have witnessed a building wave of political violence.

In 2011, my friend and former Representative Gabby Giffords was shot at a community event, and one of her staff members and five other bystanders were killed.

In 2017, a shooting at the Republican Congressional baseball team practice severely wounded Leader STEVE SCALISE.

In 2020, extremist militia members attempted to kidnap Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

And on January 6, 2021, this institution and its Members—on both sides of the aisle—were targeted by violent and antidemocratic insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol.

These attacks against our leaders and institutions do not exist in a vacuum.

America's crisis of political violence comes in the context of a rise in hateful rhetoric used against our neighbors and the normalization of gun violence in our communities.

This Congress has failed to act on common sense gun control measures that could make us all safer and decrease the likelihood of political assassinations, school shootings, and the tragedy of everyday gun violence in this Nation.

I know that we are divided on this issue, as we are on many others. But we cannot continue to ignore the danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of war in our society. We must come together on solutions to protect our communities and de-escalate the violence in our society.

Today as I vote for this resolution to condemn the assassination of Mr. Kirk, I must express how disappointed I am that we still have not brought to the House Floor, the resolution that honors the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School that took place three weeks ago.

I equally condemn that violence, which took the lives of two children as they sat in church pews that day celebrating the start of a new school year.

If there is a Biblical truth that we seek to be inspired by today, let it be the principle of non-violence espoused by Christ and embodied in Saint Paul's letter to the Romans: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21) Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another. (Romans 14:19)

RECOGNIZING MS. CAMILLA "CAM"
WILLIAMS FOR HER DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Camilla "Cam" Williams for her extraordinary dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to the Republican Party and to our shared conservative values.

For well over a decade, Cam has been a faithful Republican precinct delegate and a

constant presence in efforts to support Republican candidates at the local, state, and national level. She has given countless hours of her time to ensure that our Party's message is heard and that our candidates have the support they need to succeed.

Cam has set records in the State of Michigan for the most phone calls made in support of Republican candidates, an achievement that demonstrates not only her dedication, but also her determination to connect with voters and strengthen our Nation through grassroots engagement. She has given thousands of hours of volunteer service, never asking for recognition or reward. Her work has been marked by passion, humility, and humor. Through her vigor and tireless spirit, she has shown us all what it means to serve faithfully.

Cam embodies the very best of what it means to be a Patriot, someone who works not for personal gain, but out of love for her community, her country, and the values that have guided generations of Americans. The positive impact of her service is felt across Michigan and beyond and will continue to inspire future leaders in our movement.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I thank Camilla Williams for her service, her leadership, and her enduring commitment to the conservative cause.

RECOGNIZING NORFOLK'S JERRY
LANDKAMER ON HIS ELECTION
AS NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a true pillar of the Norfolk community, Jerry Landkamer, on his recent election as one of five National Vice Commanders of the American Legion.

A proud Legionnaire since 1975, Landkamer has been a cornerstone of Post 16 in Norfolk. He has served at every level—post, county, district, and area—with unmatched dedication to representing our veteran community.

From legislative advocacy in Washington to youth programs like Cornhusker Boys State, Landkamer's commitment to service has never wavered.

His work on national committees including—Americanism, Homeland Security, and Veterans Preference—demonstrates his steadfast commitment to our veterans and Nation.

Jerry Landkamer embodies the very spirit and service of the American Legion. I'm honored to recognize his election to National Vice Commander and know his family and community share in the same pride of this well-earned achievement.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Tuesday, September 16, 2025)

Routine Proceedings, pages S6779–S6800

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2914–2923, and S. Res. 414–418. **Page S6971**

Measures Reported:

S. 1092, to require certain products to be labeled with ‘Do Not Flush’ labeling, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 119–63) **Page S6791**

Measures Passed:

Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6798**

Thune (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 3912, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6798**

National Child Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, designating September 2025 as “National Child Awareness Month” to promote awareness of charities that benefit children as well as youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States. **Page S6798**

Gold Star Families Remembrance Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 415, designating the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”. **Page S6798**

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 416, expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care pro-

grams with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease. **Page S6798**

Telehealth Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 417, supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”. **Page S6798**

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 225, designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “National Truck Driver Appreciation Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S6798–99**

Measures Failed:

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters Act: By 47 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 527), Senate failed to pass S. 2882, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. Pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 18, 2025, the bill having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not passed. **Page S6785**

Subsequently, Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which Senate failed to pass the bill. **Page S6785**

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act: By 44 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 528), Senate failed to pass H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026. Pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 18, 2025, the bill having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not passed. **Page S6785**

Subsequently, Senator Thune entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which Senate failed to pass the bill. **Page S6785**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of 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, taking action on

the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6781–84**

Pending:

Wicker/Reed Amendment Modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6782**

Wicker (for Ernst) Amendment No. 3427 (to Amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs. **Page S6782**

Thune Amendment No. 3863 (to Amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

Thune Amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

Thune Amendment No. 3865 (to Amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

Thune Amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

Thune Amendment No. 3868 (to Amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6782**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, September 29, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the bill. **Page S6799**

Eliminate Shutdowns Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2806, to provide for automatic continuing appropriations. **Page S6799**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, September 29, 2025. **Page S6799**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Monday, September 22, 2025 at 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 12 noon; and when the Senate adjourns, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, September 29, 2025. **Page S6799**

Waltz Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Monday, September 29, 2025, notwithstanding Rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the nomination of Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S6799**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 47 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 530), Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations. **Pages S6786, S6799**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 529), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6785–86**

45 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

7 Army nominations in the rank of general.

4 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S6799–S6800**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6790–91**

Measures Referred: **Page S6791**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6791–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6792–96**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6796–98**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6798**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—530) **Pages S6785, S6786**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 2:34 p.m., until 8:30 a.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6799.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 5507–5540; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 126–127; H. Con. Res. 49–50; and H. Res. 747–756, were introduced. **Pages H4487–89**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H4490**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3638, to direct the Secretary of Energy to prepare periodic assessments and submit reports on the supply chain for the generation and transmission of electricity, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–304);

H.R. 2954, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to approve multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 119–305); and

H.R. 3628, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to add a standard related to State consideration of reliable generation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–306). **Page H4487**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Elliott J. Powell, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas. **Page H4459**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Frost wherein he resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. **Page H4461**

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026: The House passed H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 281. **Pages H4461–77**

Rejected the DeLauro motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 280. **Pages H4476–77**

H. Res. 722, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5371) and the resolution (H. Res. 719) was agreed to Wednesday, September 17th.

Honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk: The House agreed to H. Res. 719, honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk, by a yea-and-nay vote of 310 yeas to 58 nays with 38 answering “present”, Roll No. 282. Consideration began yesterday, September 18th. **Pages H4477–78**

Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House H.R. 3426: The House agreed to H. Res. 747, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances. **Page H4478**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Friday, September 19, 2025, through Sunday, September 28, 2025, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1. **Page H4482**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H4479.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4476–77, H4477, and H4477–78.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: On September 18, 2025, Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 5244, to provide for the authorities of the Secretary of State; H.R. 5245, to provide for the management authorities of the Department of State; H.R. 5246, to provide for the political affairs authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5247, to provide for the International Security Affairs authorities of the Department of State; H.R. 5248, to ensure the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security, and for other purposes; H.R. 5250, to provide for the foreign assistance authority of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5251, to provide for the public diplomacy authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5300, to guide the foreign policy of the United States, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5299, to modify and reauthorize the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018, and for other purposes. H.R. 5244, H.R. 5245, H.R. 5246, H.R. 5247, H.R. 5248, H.R. 5250, H.R. 5251, H.R. 5300, and H.R. 5299 were ordered reported, as amended.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

8:30 a.m., Monday, September 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, September 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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