IAA MARKUP

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

U.S. House of Representatives,

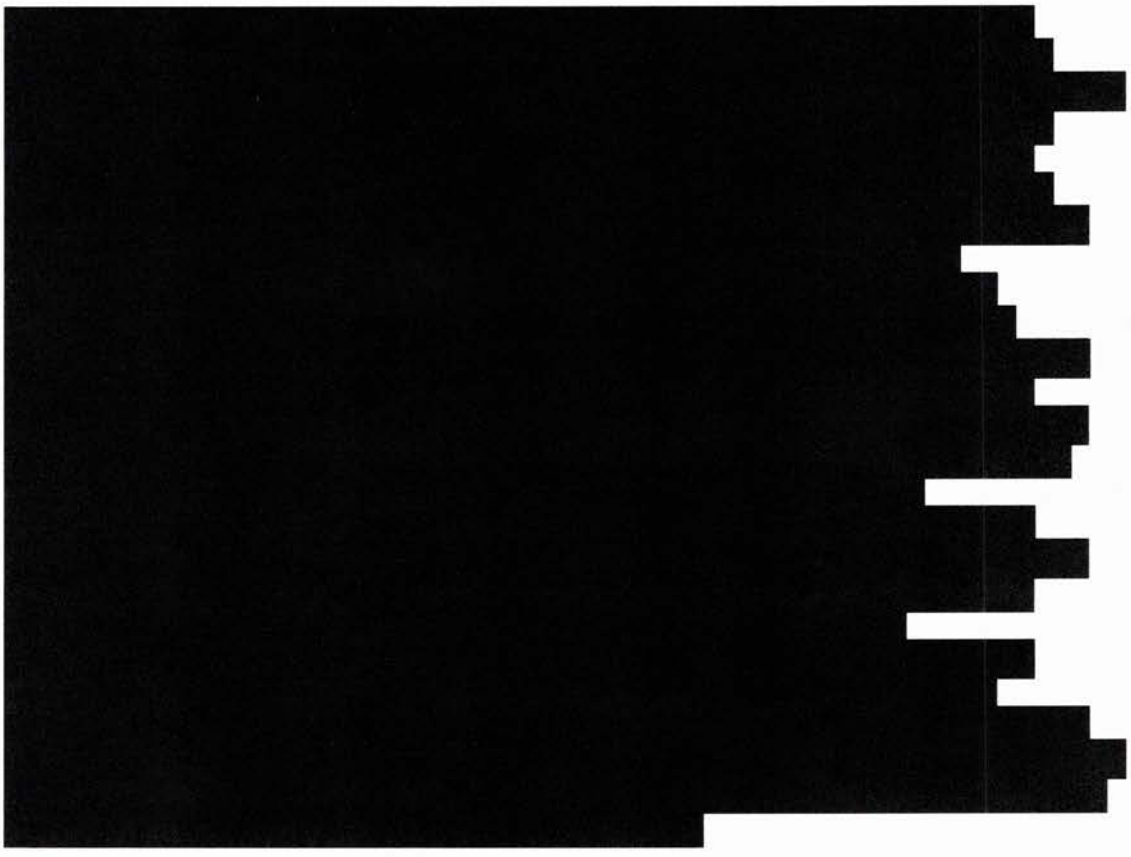
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:03 a.m., in Room HVC-304, Capitol Visitor Center, the Honorable Eric A. "Rick" Crawford (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Crawford, Stefanik, Kelly, Fitzpatrick, Scott, Hill, Crenshaw, Perry, Jackson, Wagner, Cline, Steube, Tenney, Fallon, Himes, Carson, Castro, Krishnamoorthi, Crow, Bera, Plaskett, Gottheimer, Gomez, Houlahan, Quigley, and Cohen.

Staff Present: [redacted]



THE CHAIRMAN: The committee with come to order.

Without objection, the chair may declare a recess at any time.

Before we proceed with the business at hand, I recognize the security director for an announcement.

[redacted]: I just want to remind everyone, if you haven't checked your electronics out front to please do so at this time. That includes cell phones, wearable technology to include fitness trackers, smartwatches, smartrings, wireless headphones, to include Airpods, earbuds, Tile, Airtag and similar tracking devices, key fobs with Bluetooth, laptop and tablets, any device with a camera, Bluetooth, WiFi or a microphone.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, [redacted].

First, I would like to welcome everyone to today's markup and thank all the members, and particularly the staff, who worked incredibly hard and for long hours to reach the point we are at today.

The committee will now turn to the legislative business at hand, the markup of H.R. 5167, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. As a reminder, this markup is currently proceeding in an open session. If any member has a classified narrative that requires the committee to enter closed session, we need to vote in order to do so.

I ask that members bring to the chair's intention their intention to seek recognition for classified matters. And we will postpone such discussion until the committee has concluded unclassified business so that all classified matters can be discussed together if we proceed to closed session.

Pursuant to committee rule 7(h), any recorded votes will be postponed until the completion of consideration of the legislative text in any amendments.

Objection, so ordered.

The Intelligence Authorization Act provides the legal authorities and funding authorizations for the work of America's intelligence agencies. The bill before us, along with the classified schedules of authorizations and classified annex, describe in detail actions with respect to the President's fiscal year 2026 budget request for the National Intelligence Program, Military Intelligence Program and Information Systems Security Program.

This annual legislation is the mechanism by which Congress, the representatives of the American people exercise our constitutional prerogatives related to the Intelligence Community.

While much of the work rightly remains behind the scenes to protect the sources and methods, it is vital oversight for the American people.

Today's bill includes a myriad of provisions representing key priorities of both the majority and minority, as well as fully bipartisan actions. Of utmost importance, though, is the first major reform Congress has pursued of our Nation's counterintelligence posture in over two decades. This is far too long as foreign intelligence threat to the United States, particularly in the homeland, has evolved and expanded in ways that we never could have anticipated even a few years ago, let alone two decades.

While our adversaries in the Chinese Communist Party, Russia, Iran and terrorist groups operate on a war footing against the United States, too often we have remained reactive, complacent and risk-averse. This is the opinion many of the amazing patriots in the FBI, military, defense CI organizations, CIA, NSA and others in the CI trenches. I thank those brave Americans for their service and hope today's bill will further integrate their efforts to ensure we are bringing all our capabilities to the table.

Additionally, today's bill is the first set of actions taken by the committee since the establishment of our new subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Open Source Intelligence. This is provisions will set a strong framework for the Intelligence Community to begin ensuring the United States leverages this incredible tool while also setting necessary and appropriate guardrails.

Finally, our bill deals with many issues the Intelligence Community, our Nation and the free world must engage with, from biosecurity challenges to artificial intelligence. We must ensure our Nation's Intelligence Community is prepared to enable the elected leaders of the United States in dangerous times.

I thank Ranking Member Himes for his partnership as we work through complex issues to better protect our country.

And I will now yield to the ranking member for any comments he would like to make.

MR. HIMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The IAA is the single most critical tool in our oversight toolkit. It includes hundreds of provisions between the bill text classified annex and committee report that inform our oversight of the IC and give our oversight teeth. That is why it is so critical that we work in a bipartisan fashion not only to craft the IAA, but to achieve its enactment into law each year.

The 2026 IAA reflects the bipartisan efforts of members and staff to fashion a bill that deserves support from all HPSCI members today, not because it is a perfect product or exactly what I would have written if we held the majority, but because it is a serious effort to improve our oversight of the IC and improve how the IC does its job is in a variety of areas. In our highly politicized environment, this is no

easy task, and I truly appreciate the efforts of chairman, all members and the staff have undertaken to work constructive manner.

We are taking up this legislation at a moment when at least on my side of the aisle we have very significant concerns with some actions that have been taken by the administration and by the leadership of the IC, particularly Director Gabbard. During open session I would point to actions like the revocation of security clearance of public servants, the firing of IC leaders without explanation, and the politicization of intelligence analysis in the guise of depoliticizing intelligence analysis of areas of broad concern to the minority members of this committee, and I am naive enough to believe, of concern to all Members of Congress, regardless of party.

The IC is a national treasure that transcends Presidential administrations. Preserving and protecting its ability to collect and analyze intelligence in a way that no other country in the world can match is critical to our national security.

So for that reason, minority members will be offering amendments to both the bill text and the annex during this markup. We have drafted those amendments not to score political points, but to close real gaps we see in this committee's oversight. And I hope the majority will receive

them in that spirit.

With that said, I plan to support the bill, both because I believe it is critical to keep this process moving forward, and because the bill and annex contain meaningful and important proposals to strengthen our oversight and our security.

To briefly touch on a few portions of the bill, the chairman's mark concludes significant bipartisan reforms to accelerate the IC's adoption of AI. The technology is already transforming the practice of intelligence collection and analysis. It includes bipartisan reforms around open source intelligence -- a big thank you to the subcommittee which is doing such good work in that area. Building on the oversight conducted by that committee to protect resources for OSINT and make the most effective possible use of open source data.

The bill also continues the committee's focus on technology adoption, an area of real concern for me. Among other provisions, it enhances acquisition authorities to cut red tape, it designates a lead official at agencies to focus on biotechnology and it supports the IC innovation unit as a vehicle for rapid adoption of leading technology.

Finally, I would just briefly mention that the significant counterintelligence reforms authored by the chairman and contained in Title 3 of this bill. I have had

this discussion with the chairman and I think he's absolutely right that we have shortcomings in the CI mission space and there are good reasons to wonder if the current structure around CI is the optimal one for protecting Americans encountering threats. I know this will not be the last word on the matter. I know we are still trying get our heads around it. But as we head to conference, I am committed to working with the chairman, all members, as well as stakeholders across the executive branch to understand the impact of these changes and to make sure we get it right.

Once again, I want to extend my appreciation to all members and staff who have contributed to this bill, which I plan to support today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: I thank the gentleman.

And pursuant to notice, I now call up H.R. 5167, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. The clerk shall report the title of the bill.

THE CLERK: H.R. 5167, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

THE CHAIRMAN: Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with and the bill is open to amendment at any point.

I will now offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute clerk which members have before them.

The clerk will designate the amendment.

THE CLERK: An amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Chairman Rick Crawford of Arkansas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Without objection, the reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

This amendment reflects bipartisan provisions consisting of unclassified legislative text and a classified schedule of authorizations for fiscal year 2026, which the legislative text incorporates by reference.

This amendment incorporates the priorities of the committee leadership, as well as the substantive bipartisan work of six subcommittees. I ask for unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as base text for the H.R. 5167, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

Without objection, so ordered.

At this time, does any member wish to be recognized on the legislative text either for discussion or amendment in this unclassified setting?

If there is no further discussion or amendment on the unclassified legislative text, this portion of the meeting --

I now recognize Mr. Fitzpatrick for an amendment.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will report the amendment.

Amendment number 1, Mr. Fitzpatrick.

And we will now distribute the amendment.

THE CLERK: Amendment number 1, intelligence support for Ukraine.

[The amendment of Mr. Fitzpatrick can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The amendment is now being distributed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick you are recognized for 5 minutes.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very, very brief and straightforward. This amendment requires the Director of National Intelligence ensure that each agency head of the relevant element of the Intelligence Community provide the government of Ukraine intelligence support, including information intelligence and imagery collection, which would be sufficient to support and enable robust operations of the government of Ukraine that are specifically intended or reasonably expected to defend and/or retake territory of Ukraine from the Russian Federation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any debate on the amendment?

MR. STEUBE: Can we ask questions of the sponsor?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Steube.

MR. STEUBE: Just a friendly inquiry so what, other than Five Eyes countries, what other countries would we have in law that we are going to share intelligence with and not give that authority to the President and DNI?

MR. FITZPATRICK: Well, this is specifically the discretion of DNI to share intelligence with Ukraine in order to support their operations. If this amendment was adopted it doesn't give them discretion, it tells them we are going to share.

MR. FITZPATRICK: It does give discretion. It is as determined by the Director of DNI.

MR. STEUBE: Okay. But is there other countries that we have this in law arrangement with?

MR. FITZPATRICK: I am only offering it for this. I am not aware of that arrangement for others.

MR. STEUBE: Okay, I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Do any other members wish to be recognized on this amendment?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment.

All those in favor say aye.

Those opposed, no.

In the opinion, of the chair the ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

I now recognize Ms. Houlahan for an agreement.

MR. PERRY: Mr. Chair, are you going to call a recorded vote?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry.

MR. PERRY: I request a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry has requested a recorded vote. A recorded vote has been requested. All votes will be rolled to the end of the proceeding.

MR. PERRY: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my request.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry withdraws the request for a

recorded vote.

The amendment is agreed to.

Ms. Houlahan.

MS. HOULAHAN: Do I begin before it is passed out or do I go ahead and start?

THE CHAIRMAN: You have an amendment?

MS. HOULAHAN: Mr. Chair, I have an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. The clerk will report the amendment.

THE CLERK: Amendment number 1 offered by Ms. Houlahan.

[The amendment of Ms. Houlahan can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CHAIRMAN: Amendment number 2 by Ms. Houlahan is being offered and distributed.

Ms. Houlahan, you are recognized for 5 minutes to explain your amendment.

MS. HOULAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment, my amendment would require the inspector general of the Intelligence Community to conduct an inquiry into the facts and into the circumstances surrounding DNI Gabbard's recent decision to revoke the security clearances of 37 current and former U.S. government officials.

Director Gabbard made blanket accusations of wrongdoing against these officials who, according to public reporting, included key current officials at CIA, NSA and NGA, as well as at least two congressional staffers. But the Director provided no individualized evidence to support any allegation that was made against these public servants.

Earlier this week, HPSCI Democrats sent Director Gabbard a letter that seeks precisely this information. If passed this prologue we will likely receive no meaningful response to our legitimate oversight inquiry. And this leaves us no choice of even to offer this amendment.

We cannot lose our capacity for alarm or outrage just because we have been numbed by so much curious and questionable behavior on the part of the DNI. It is for that reason that I submit this amendment and would ask that my

colleagues consider it favorably.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentlewoman yields. Does anyone seek time and opposition? Mr. Jackson is recognized.

DR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The DNI has explained this. And just to start with, what I would like to do is I would like just to read from the memo here from the Director of National Intelligence. This is from the Director of National Intelligence, it references the executive order 13526, classified national security information dated 29 December 2009, signed by President Barack Obama. The memo says, The U.S. Government security clearance system exists to protect classified national security information and to ensure that those entrusted with access to our Nation's most sensitive information uphold the highest standards of integrity, objectivity, and stewardship.

It is the determination of this office that certain individuals, these 37 individuals, have engaged in some or all of the following conduct undermining those standards to include politicization and weaponization of intelligence to advance personal partisan or non objective agendas inconsistent with the national security priorities.

Failure to safeguard classified information in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations and agency policies, failure to adhere to professional analytic

tradecraft standards and other conduct detrimental to the trust and confidence required for our continued access to national security information.

The President has directed effective and immediately -- as directed that effective immediately, the security clearances of the following 37 individuals are revoked. It goes on to list them and after it says Intelligence Community professionals must remain nonpartisan fact driven and committed to the truth above all else. All personnel are reminded that holding a clearance is a privilege, not a right and this privilege is contingent upon the continued adherence to the principles and responsibilities of our profession. Any betrayal of these standards compromises not only our mission, but also the safety and security of the American people.

The DNI spokesperson has confirmed that the relevant agencies were also notified of these revocations and no covert officers were exposed. The media referred to the individuals who lost their security clearance one of them as undercover. The reality is that this individual is widely known as a public figure who for years has utilized their IC credentials to garner speaking engagements, publication of articles, positions with organizations such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It is not clear what the proposed IG report would accomplish. I don't find any

requirement anywhere for the President of the United States to be restricted in his ability to make these decisions. Is the inspector general supposed to review all of the officer's files to see if he would have balanced concerns about national security differently? I do not think that that is his job.

What standards would the IG use? How much time would be diverted from critical oversight functions? I wish to point out that when a Democrat President was in power, some of my Democrat colleagues were not supportive of whistleblowers who reported that their security clearances were revoked in retaliation for exposing wrongdoing. I think we need one standard for oversight regardless of the political party that is in charge. I understand the chairman is planning a markup on a bill to enhance oversight of the Intelligence Community. I look forward to that separate markup and a chance to further discuss this issue at any further date. I plan to vote no on this amendment and I urge all of my colleagues do the same.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields. Does anybody else seek recognition?

MS. HOULAHAN: I would love to talk a little bit more.

THE CHAIRMAN: Someone is going to have to seek rec -- okay, Mr. Himes.

MR. HIMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would just point out everything Mr. Jackson said is true, but the definition of oversight is that we trust but verify. We have been told, and Mr. Jackson read the memo, that there was politicization, that there was cause. Oversight means we confirmed that. And Ms. Houlahan's amendment is without prejudice -- by the way, my letter to the DNI was without prejudice. It just said, you took a pretty significant action here, show us the backing.

By the way, if the backing shows that what the memo that Mr. Jackson read is true, I will be the first to go in front of the cameras to say that that, this is neutral oversight. I would suggest to my friends in the majority that if the circumstances were reversed and a democratic President had done this you would have offered precisely this amendment.

And I yield my time to Ms. Houlahan.

MS. HOULAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Himes.

I want to reiterate exactly what he said, the inspector general's job it is not a waste of time for him to actually do an investigation that is asked for by the Congress. This is indeed exactly what the job of inspector general is, oversight is also exactly our job. This is not meant to be a partisan conversation. If there are things to understand about these 37 individuals within the purview of this organization, of this committee, then that should happen. I

am not looking for this to be a public conversation. I am looking to understand policy and procedure and make sure that it is being implemented correctly.

With that, I yield and thank you for the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other members wish to seek recognition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment.

The chairman tends to vote no.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

MS. HOULAHAN: Mr. Chairman, I ask for a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote is requested. That will be rolled to the end of the proceeding.

Mr. Perry.

MR. PERRY: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will report the amendment.

[The amendment of Scott Perry can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CLERK: Amendment number 3, requirement to purge incidentally collected publicly available information or commercially available information relating to United States persons.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is being distributed. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes to explain his amendment.

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Constitutional protections for privacy and publicly or commercially available information are extremely limited, largely because there is no reasonable expectation of privacy for information voluntarily shared with third parties, such as digital services. Now data brokers collect and aggregate vast amounts of personal information from countless digital sources, which are then sold or shared with both private companies and government agencies.

The committee has shown foresight in establishing an OSINT subcommittee to elevate open source as a primary discipline. However, as we address duplicative purchases, we must also confront the fact that intelligence agencies lacking clear CAI policies often fail to track their usage, cannot accurately determine how much information they purchase and may incidentally retain U.S. person data.

In the absence of a comprehensive Federal privacy law, it is our duty as members of the Intelligence Committee, and

as lawmakers, to uphold the principle that our intelligence agencies must not spy on Americans. Supporting the effective and efficient use of OSINT from publicly and commercially available sources must go hand in hand with strong safeguards to protect U.S. persons' data and privacy. This amendment requires all elements of the Intelligence Community to purge any U.S. person data that it incidentally collected from publicly or commercially available information. And with that I urge adoption.

I yield the balance, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Does any member seek recognition on this amendment? Mr. Himes.

MR. HIMES: I move to strike the last word.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Himes.

MR. HIMES: I agree that we need the IC to be laser-focused on how it handles U.S. person information so I support the amendment's intent. It is true that publicly and commercially available information are special categories that by their nature present more complications with respect to U.S. person data than the clandestinely acquired types of intelligence.

We should also recognize that the IC already understands that this type of open-source information requires additional consideration as evidenced by the quote commercially

available information framework that ODNI issued last year and explicitly calls for additional protections and safeguards for sensitive CAI derived from commercial data sets likely to contain substantial volumes of U.S. person PII. So we have a lot of work to do here and I appreciate Mr. Perry's efforts to get that started.

If this amendment is adopted, I will advocate that we seek views from the IC and other stakeholders during conference about how this provision interplays with existing IC regulations and policies for U.S. person information and open source to ensure that we strike the right balance. I do not oppose the amendment.

And I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields. Are there any other members that seek recognition?

MR. CROW: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: Yeah, I just have a question for Mr. Perry. I am curious, I truly don't know this the answer to this, I am curious whether this could have any impact on FISA 702 authorities. Like, would the definition of incidental collection impact the database that we use for collections and searches under that authority?

MR. PERRY: It doesn't prescribe -- the amendment doesn't prescribe a manner or a time, so I see no impact to

702. At this point, it leaves it up to the agency to handle the administrative function. It just makes sure that they know that they have a responsibility and a requirement to purge any incidental collection of American citizens' data.

MR. CROW: Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Do any other members wish to be recognized?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment, the chairman supports.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

Mr. Krishnamoorthi.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman I have an amendment at the desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will report the amendment.

[The amendment of Mr. Krishnamoorthi can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CLERK: Amendment number 4, notice of the removal of the head of an element of the Intelligence Community.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is being distributed.

Mr. Krishnamoorthi, you are recognized for 5 minutes to explain your amendment.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

This amendment speaks directly to core oversight, and would ensure that our committee receives immediate substantive notification from the President when he terminates the head of an Intelligence Community element.

In early April, President Trump fired the director of NSA and several weeks ago did the same to the DIA director. And to this day, as far as I am aware, the committee had has received no meaningful explanation from the executive branch about why these career, Senate-confirmed officials were suddenly terminated.

To address this apparent disregard for keeping the committee fully and currently informed about such personnel moves in future, this straightforward amendment requires the President to furnish the substantive rationale, including case-specific reasons to the committee no later than 24 hours after firing the head of an IC element. Without sufficiently understanding of the President's justification for taking such actions, our committee is left in the dark about decisions affecting some of the most important national

security leadership roles in our government. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment.

And I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Does any member seek recognition? Mr. Kelly.

MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek -- I rise in opposition to this amendment. This amendment would require the President provide written notices within 24 hours of the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons for the removal of the head of an IC element.

As our minority colleagues well know, the President is in charge of the executive branch. And any head of an IC elements serves at the discretion of the President. It is micromanagement to an unreasonable degree to require written notice detailing the President's rationale and case specific reasons for the removal of any official. We already receive notice when these actions occur. The minority may not like when officials are removed from duty, but that doesn't change the fact that it is the President's prerogative to decide who will lead any element of the IC agency. Therefore, I will vote no on this amendment and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Does any other member seek recognition?

Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: Yeah, I would support this amendment as very reasonable, appropriate oversight within the jurisdiction of this committee.

And you know, to the gentleman from Mississippi's point, we are not saying that the President doesn't have the prerogative, this amendment, as I understand it, doesn't say this that the President doesn't have the authority to remove. It simply says, we want to know about it, right? And there are numerable examples of this committee asking about personnel issues, weighing in on personnel issues, questioning under the last administration personnel issues. I fact, remember a lot of debate about General Nakasone, and whether or not he was competent enough to lead the agency in question. And we had lot of discussion about that as a committee under the last administration. I just think it this is very reasonable and falls directly within the wheelhouse of what we should be doing, again not restricting the administration, but giving us the information to actually have the debate and weigh in on important decisions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other members seek recognition? Get somebody to yield to you, Raja.

MR. CROW: I will give my remaining time to Mr. Krishnamoorthi.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: How much time do I have?

THE CHAIRMAN: 3 minutes.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Okay, that is probably enough.

MR. CROW: I give only a minute to Mr. Krishnamoorthi.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Hold on a second. Same team, man. What is going on?

MR. CROW: I am kidding. He can have my remaining time.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Hey, Mr. Kelly, I respect your comments, but let's just take the example of Lieutenant General Kruse, who I believe was the head of DIA, we all know him. He has been before our committee numerous times -- one of the most kind of able people that I have encountered in this committee, leading any Intelligence Committee element -- and he was dismissed without any explanation, certainly not any notice to us beforehand. And all we are asking here is not even notice beforehand, but notice after the fact. Like, an explanation of why after the fact, because these people are incredibly talented, some of the best and the brightest that we have. And so, I am just concerned when they are dismissed for no reason or for reasons having nothing to do with merit and we need to understand that. And I don't care which President it is, I don't care which party, we should have that ability to understand so we can perform our oversight. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Do any other members seek recognition?

I will recognize myself for a quick minute before we vote on this. I can tell you that I probably had occasion to interact with General Kruse more than anybody on this committee in the course of the investigation that I was conducting in the last Congress. And I can tell you that I recommended then and I recommended to this President that he be removed for cause. Cause I am happy to discuss with any of you maybe under other circumstances, but his treatment of AHI victims to me was sufficient cause to have him removed from that position. And so after the fact I get the concerns, I understand that, but in the end the President, his prerogative to exercise that decision and his judgment. So for that reason I oppose this amendment.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Mr. Crawford, could I get 2 seconds, 2 seconds?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Even if you or they had explained that to us after the fact, that would be something and that would have been a good exp -- that would have been an explanation, but without any we are just left to speculate.

THE CHAIRMAN: I gotcha, I understand that.

Does anybody else seek recognition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. The chairman intends to vote no.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: I want a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: And a recorded vote is requested. That will be postponed until the end of the proceeding.

Ms. Houlahan.

MS. HOULAHAN: Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will report the amendment.

THE CLERK: Amendment number 5, uniformed minimum requirements for access to classified information offered by Ms. Houlahan.

[The amendment of Ms. Houlahan can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will distribute the amendment. Ms. Houlahan, you are recognized for 5 minutes to explain your amendment.

MS. HOULAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This amendment will establish that the DNI as the President's designated overseer for security clearance matters has a statutory obligation to ensure that security clearances are only issued to individuals who have met the uniform minimum requirements, as promulgated by the President to receive access to classified information. This would also require that the DNI be made aware when a Federal agency had issues a waiver to those uniformed minimum requirements, and to cite the national security imperative that is there for doing so. Simply put, this amendment builds on existing laws requiring that the President establish procedures surrounding when individuals are given temporary access to classified information, and for the DNI to oversee agencies compliance with those procedures.

It, therefore, addresses a matter that I feel is among the committee's most important responsibilities, oversight of who in our government obtains access to classified national security information and how that access is granted.

In the early days of this administration, reports about Elon Musk and his DOGE associates gaining access to government facilities and sensitive data fueled very serious

concerns about the standards and transparency around which individuals were receiving temporary security clearances, or were being granted access to classified information without having gone through the longstanding clearance process.

When I was a young lieutenant, it took me over a year to get the grants and clearances that apparently Elon Musk and his associates got with just a temporary waiver.

If nothing else, this committee needs transparency. When individuals are granted clearances without undergoing full investigation, or accessing classified information pursuant a waiver granted by any agency head. It should stand to reason that the circumstances necessitating a temporary clearance should be very rare and have demonstrable national security basis.

Finally and critically, this amendment ensures that the committee remains informed, every step of the way, and in a timely fashion so that we know who is gaining access to classified information outside of the established processes and channels and why.

So to reiterate, under this amendment the President and DNI define what the minimum standards are for a clearance. My proposal simply ensures that those obtaining access to our Nation's secrets actually meet those standards. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this very straightforward and commonsense amendment which is just simply our job.

And with that, I yield back. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentlewoman yields.

Does any member seek recognition? Ms. Tenney is recognized.

MS. TENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I obviously want to speak in opposition to this amendment, and I thank you.

This proposed amendment covers security clearances for current and former executive employees, Article II employees, not Congress Members and staff, Article I or Federal judges under Article III. The amendment purports to tell the President what factors he and his designee may consider when granting security clearances, one. And also tells the President what process he or his designee must use to grant a security clearance.

The Supreme Court has indicated this rule -- this rule is unconstitutional. I would cite and I have the entire abstract of this, the Department of Navy v. Egan decision in 1988 by Justice Blackmun. The Supreme Court held that the Constitution vests the President with, and I quote from the case directly, authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security and to determine whether with an individual is sufficiently trustworthy to occupy a position in the executive branch that will give that person access to such information.

The Supreme Court further explained that the President's

power to grant or revoke security clearances for individuals outside of Congress or the judiciary derives from the Constitution, and such a decision is committed by law to the executive branch.

Additionally, I wanted to say it is not clear that the proposed reporting requirement would accomplish. Do we, as members of the Intelligence Committee, have to get engaged with us and provide the information and review it? Is the committee supposed to know what national security issues the President is considering? Again, we are moving into the territory, much like Mr. Krishnamoorthi, the last amendment moving into the territory of invading the Article II powers of the executive. And I agree that the congressional intelligence committees and inspector generals do have a role in providing oversight of the security clearance process in certain circumstances, of course. But I don't believe that this role is to micromanage the process. The Constitution leads to the President.

And this is expressed and there are a lot of famous cases cited in this case. And I will just throw it out some names, Haig, Nixon, Schlesinger, this has been reviewed multiple times by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Article II powers of the President to do that. So I believe the appropriate role of Congress is to ensure that whistleblowers -- and that is something we are going to be talking about --

are comfortable coming forward to the congressional oversight committees and the inspector general.

I understand Chairman Crawford is going to be planning a markup for the legislation to protect whistleblowers and create an independent general -- inspector general of the Intelligence Community to ensure that these types of claims are reviewed without bias and delay. And I think that would be a very productive move. So, I look forward to that markup. I think it is important, but again, we are going into Article II territory where the President has under well-established law and constitutional statutory law and through the U.S. Supreme Court over the years. So I will vote no on this amendment. And I encourage my colleagues to do that for the sake of balance of powers here.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentlewoman yields.

Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes we are Federalists, sometimes we are not. Sometimes we are for State's rights, sometimes we are not. As this President does an unprecedented attack on our Article I powers, not the least of which are appropriations, tariffs, the list goes on and on. All of a sudden, we are the policemen protecting those specific silos, Article I, Article II.

With all due respect, you seem a lot more concerned

about protecting Article II for the President than Article I for us first in the Constitution, with the realization that the Founding Fathers recognize there was a need for the legislative body coming from the people at the time directly in a larger number, having more supreme powers. But I get it, it is a matter of convenience here. There is a separation of powers, but those are a separation of shared powers and I think we know what we are talking about here. That is why we have oversight over the executive branch, because they don't have unlimited power, neither do we. So I think what this amendment is getting to is recognizing that just because have you authorization and that you have oversight over some of these powers it doesn't mean that the President's giving them up.

MS. TENNEY: Will the gentleman yield?

MR. QUIGLEY: So let's at least try to be -- no. Let's at least try to be consistent.

MS. TENNEY: Would the gentleman yield?

MR. QUIGLEY: I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields his time.

Mr. Steube.

MR. STEUBE: I yield to Mrs. Tenney.

MS. TENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Steube.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Tenney is recognized.

MS. TENNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to point out that we are Federalists, we believe in the separation of powers. But our mission here and our limit is to look at the law as it relates to oversight and our laws it relates to interpreting the Constitution and the Supreme Court decisions based on Article II powers.

When we had a Democrat President in power, there was no interest in protecting whistleblowers, for example. Whistleblowers who claimed their executive branch privileges were revoked. And there was no attempt to try to help them out. We had whistleblowers that came into the Ways and Means Committee, a different committee than the Oversight -- the intelligence committee. And those whistleblowers were also condemned by Democrats and this administration -- the former administration.

So I think what we are trying to do to protect whistleblowers is a different space than we are talking about the President and whether you disagree with the President and what he is doing on tariffs or whatever else, that is the province of another committee, not the intelligence committee where his Article II powers are clear when it comes to his ability to assign or take away security clearances for different people in those branches.

I yield.

MR. STEUBE: I yield back to the chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Any further request for recognition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. The chairman tends to vote no.

All those in favor say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair the noes have it.

MS. HOULAHAN: Mr. Chair, I request a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been requested. That will be rolled to the end of the proceeding.

Mr. Gomez.

MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will designate the amendment.

THE CLERK: Amendment number 6, clarification and notifications of certain terminations of employment by director of the Central Intelligence Agency offered by Mr. Gomez.

[The amendment of Mr. Gomez can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will distribute the amendment.

Mr. Gomez, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment would require the director of the CIA to notify this committee whenever the director invokes unilateral statutory authority to determine a CIA officer's employment outside the normal personnel process. Federal law grants the CIA director a unique extraordinary authority. Unlike other agency heads, the director may dismiss an employee at will for any reason if the director determines that it is in the, quote, "interest of the United States."

Congress created this authority for a narrow purpose to allow CIA to act swiftly if an officer poses a security risk, without having to wait for administrative procedures to be completed. Unfortunately, this power can be misused. Earlier this year, the current director exercised this authority not to address genuine national security threats, but to remove talented career officers, without even an allegation of wrongdoing, simply because their prior work included work on DEIA programs, explicitly directed and funded by this committee. These officers were given these assignments and they did their duty. These employees should not be pushed out simply because their previous work no longer aligns with the administration's policy or political preferences.

My amendment is modest, it does not limit or second-guess the director's termination or authority. It merely ensures that when this extraordinary power to terminate an employee is used outside CIA's standard personnel process, this committee receives a detail notification.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE CHAIRMAN: I thank the gentleman.

I claim time in opposition. The gentleman's amendment would affect the employment termination policy at the CIA, which has benefited multiple administrations over the past 78 years.

The gentleman's amendment seems to be a direct response to the administration's personnel decisions earlier this year. These decisions have been challenged through the judicial system and the CIA has provided multiple updates to this committee on those challenges.

The CIA through ODNI said it succinctly in their official rebuttal, this amendment. "This termination authority has been unchanged since 1947 when it was universally recognized as an important foundational CIA authority. In fact, the need for which was so self-evident that this authority was provided to the CIA at its stand-up, well in advance of the enactment of the CIA ACT of 1949 which

contained CIA's other administrative authorities. Since then, this authority has withstood legal challenges with the breadth of its language upheld twice by the Supreme Court.

In addition, this attempt to impose limitations on executive branch action may raise constitutional concerns. This amendment is an attempt to fix a problem that does not exist by restricting an authority not questioned by either party until now. I will vote no on this amendment and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do any other members seek recognition?

Ms. Plaskett.

MS. PLASKETT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I do not see how this creates any additional processes for the CIA or for any other agency, particularly at the CIA. We are talking about what happened. Let's not be shy about what occurred. We had very senior officers who volunteered to take on a task that we the Congress gave them to do. And when an administration changed and the administration determined that that task was no longer within the interest of its policy, they didn't reassign them, they terminated them. Officers who had been there for decades, who have experiences and support in defending our country, because policy changed, then the administration's allowed to remove them?

That can happen in the next administration, should it be

a Democratic administration. Where is a determination made that policies that we exacted on the CIA and told them to execute on that we determined that it is not in our interest anymore, it doesn't meet our political purposes and we terminate these employees? All this amendment is asking is that there must be notification of the congressional intelligence committee of those actions that are being taken. We have not said that we revoke it or we can change it, but there has to be notification. Because as you remember, Mr. Chair and my colleagues, they did not tell us immediately about this, it was only after us inquiring about these firings that they, in fact, gave us a briefing on it. If we had not asked, would they have not said anything?

I think we need to put notification in there and make it so that they have to notify us. They are required to notify us about many of the actions that they take. I don't see how this creates an undue burden for an agency to inform us of these actions, particularly when the rationale for doing it is because it is no longer a policy of the incoming administration when the Congress itself had set that policy previously.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentlewoman yields.

Are there any other members seeking recognition?

Mr. Perry.

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't know how many thousands of employees are at the CIA. I guess we should probably all know that. But, you know, making it somehow an act of Congress to manage the place every time someone is terminated just seems to be grinding the gears down in America, nothing gets -- it just reminds you it took, like, 180 days to build the Empire State Building. I have a bridge in my district that is probably 100 feet long, it has taken 180 days to build. This is government.

I just remind everybody, CIA employees can sue on the grounds that the termination, if so, was unconstitutional versus in the case Webster v. Doe. So the protection already exists. I am sure no matter what the administration is there, people are going to be let go that some of us here are going to be unhappy about and I am sure we are going to hear about it. You are going to be informed, I guarantee you. So I don't think we need to tell the CIA director that he has got to stop what he is doing and send a memo to us every day about how many employees he hired and how many he fired.

With that, I yield the balance.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Is there anybody -- Ms. Houlahan.

MS. HOULAHAN: Mr. Chair, I would like to yield my time to Mr. Gomez.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman is recognized.

MR. GOMEZ: Thank you so much.

First, I just want to be clear, it says outside the CIA standard personnel process. So it's not -- we are not going to get involved in every termination, every firing. It's the ones that are outside CIA's standard personnel process. That is where it is limited to.

Additionally, let's kind of -- let's not think about these individuals, because it is about these individuals, let's think about something that we support it now. Individuals that are working on Ukraine, maybe that falls out of political fashion a few years from now because the cost of the conflict gets so bad that, you know, the public turns. Well, what are we going to have the CIA director say, you know what, the President is no longer in favor, the public is no longer in favor of this process, so we are going terminate those individuals because they worked on it? Because they were given that assignment, right? It is not like these folks were -- this is what they specialized in. I have no idea if they went to college for DEI or not. SO that is the point is that these individuals did their duty when it came to these programs. And we shouldn't be firing people because they did a duty that was given to them. And then, it is out of fashion, but when it comes to this administration, because that starts having a chilling effect on the entire agency,

all the personnel.

Then they will start thinking, you know what, is this a program I really want to work on or am I going out of favor with the public or Democrats or Republicans. We don't want that. We want them to do their jobs. And if the policy changes, then they get reassigned and they implement that whatever policies given before them. So that is what this amendment is about. It is modest, it is not questioning that authority. It is just saying out of the outside CIA standard personnel process, this committee should receive detailed notification.

With that, I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Does any other member seek recognition? Mr. Cohen.

MR. COHEN: Mr. Chair, I am new this to committee. Let me ask you a question, do the votes in this committee, are they public?

THE CHAIRMAN: They are public. This is an open proceeding. We will go to a closed proceeding. But the end of the proceeding we will do votes on everything that we considered.

MR. COHEN: And that is public.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. COHEN: And the President would know if people were not supportive of it. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do any other members seek recognition? Mr. Crenshaw.

MR. CRENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, strike the last word. Just one point to make, and we have gone through years with Director Burns in charge. The majority -- the minority -- I'm sorry, the majority does not offer these kind of amendments or proposals because we trusted that they were able to fire and hire at will. And I think we are being consistent in our beliefs, whether it is a Democrat or Republican administration on these particular issues. So I definitely have a lot of sympathy for the idea that we should be conducting pretty detailed oversight about personnel issues. In the end, it is an article to power, and I think Ms. Tenney did pretty good arguments on the case law that precedes this, so I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The chairman yields.

Mr. Castro.

MR. CASTRO: I move to strike the last word.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman is recognized.

MR. CASTRO: Thank you. We need a policy so that people in these agencies, specifically here in the CIA are not fired, because they took on an assignment over which they had some of them at least no choice and now they are being fired because the director's responding to what the President wants. Some of those folks, putting aside -- if this was not

about DEI, if it was about some other assignment, some of these people had no choice over that and then they just get fired so that is incredibly irresponsible. And just for the record, yeah, I think that this attack on DEI is borne of racial animus, it is born of racial animus. And so these people are paying the price because of that agenda.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is gentleman yields.

Any other members seek recognition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. The chairman intends to vote no.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chairman, I ask for a recorded vote

THE CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been requested.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will be postponed to the end of the proceeding.

Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this amendment is what I believe to be a pretty classic oversight amendment. It zooms out a bit. This is not related to our debate and discussion around whistleblowers or individual leadership or the firing or revocation of security clearances. This is about large muscle movements within the IC. So what this

amendment does is it is post action notification, 7 days after the fact. It would inform this committee of large muscle movements within the IC. So any division or element that reduces its force by 50 or more employees or 5 percent of that element's workforce. We, through our budgeting process, regularly look at large muscle movements and changes in the structure and the force of the IC and that is what the spirit of this amendment does.

And to be clear, I am not opposed to reform. I believe in government reform. I believe in streamlining. And there are certainly areas in which we can do that. But we need to know about it when we are creating budgets if there are big movements we need to know the impact, we need to know the CI impact, which is one of the things that is called out. Because if there are large reductions in a force of an IC element, that always comes with counterintelligence impacts. We need to know about the cost-benefit analysis and would ask for that as well.

And I will point out importantly this actually has nothing to do with who is in the administration. And I know that because this is actually modeled under a similar requirement that we helped pass in the Armed Services Committee in the prior administration, right? So we actually already have this in law, and the Secretary of Defense has to comply with a similar requirement. Again, in the last

administration, it has been in law for a while to do that, so that the Armed Services Committee has that information. So I would like our committee to be on par with the Armed Services Committee to have the information to make good legislation, to make good policy, and in our budgeting process, to have the information necessary to do so. And I would ask everyone's support in, again, bringing us up to par on similar requirements that are already in law in other departments.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Mr. Steube.

MR. STEUBE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek time in opposition to this amendment.

This amendment levees a cumbersome and extraordinary micromanaging requirement on the executive branch. We should be encouraging efficiency and streamlining of the workforce, not discouraging or penalizing it with burdensome requirements.

This amendment diverts valuable resources from protecting our homeland to answering unnecessary reporting requirements. Therefore, I will vote no on this amendment and urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Ms. Plaskett.

MS. PLASKETT: First, Mr. Crow, I think by you identifying that Armed Services has it, you may be finding an amendment from our colleagues to try and remove that requirement from them.

But I wanted to ask a question as to, I know that this is strictly related to if there is a movement or separation of 50 more employees or 5 percent of employees. In Armed Services or others, I notice that you did not talk about a change in funding. Is that because you believe that funding cannot be moved, or say they were to remove or take away percentage of revenue or budgeted money in a particular program. You didn't address that, was there a reason why you did not?

MR. CROW: Yeah, this is not about a funding stream, it is about personnel. That is the focus. We tried to narrowly tailor it, because we don't want this to be cumbersome. We obviously wanted this to be as narrowly tailored as possible but also give this committee information that it needs to conduct policy on again large muscle movements within the IC.

MS. PLASKETT: Thank you. And I see I have spent quite a number of years now focused on a particular area and that being in Africa. And I have seen changes in personnel or movements of personnel that have not been recorded to this committee [redacted]

[redacted] And there had been a removal of personnel when I looked later on in that area as well.

So, I think that this is informative for us in determining the actions, or inactions, of activity in specific areas for which we are tasked with oversight and with making decisions about budgets and where our national security interests are best served. And I think that in the regular reporting structure of the head of these agencies that this makes sense. And I will be supporting it.

I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentlewoman yields.

Do any other members seek recognition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. The chairman intends to vote no.

All those in favor say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

MR. CROW: Ask for a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: And a recorded voted is requested, and will be postponed until the end of the proceeding.

Mr. Himes.

[11:03 a.m.]

MR. HIMES: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will report the amendment.

THE CLERK: Amendment No. 8, strike paragraph (1) of Section 905(a), offered by Mr. Himes.

[The amendment of Mr. Himes can be found in the Appendix on page ?.]

******** COMMITTEE INSERT ********

THE CHAIRMAN: The clerk will distribute the amendment.

Mr. Himes is recognized for 5 minutes to explain his amendment.

MR. HIMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Colleagues, this amendment would restore the requirement which is stricken in this draft IAA that the DNI submit to the congressional Intelligence Committees the annual report on IC workforce demographics.

The IC has been producing this report since 2015, including throughout the entirety of the first Trump administration, without issue or objection.

And I want to say, a report on the demographics is not some Trojan horse for wokeness but, rather, simply provides this committee with valuable insight into the composition of the IC workforce.

Let me depart from the bullet points here, because I don't want to get back into the conversation of DEI. I promised the chairman, addressing some of his anxieties, that that would not be a major feature of this markup.

It is not a mystery to anybody where the administration and where the majority party has gone on DEI. It saddens me, because I know the effect that that has on minority populations in the IC. But I want to make the point that I think, at its best, the majority makes an argument against DEI. Maybe some of it is racial animus. The majority's

strongest argument against DEI is in favor of meritocracy, and I have heard this over and over and over again. And I can tell you absolutely that nobody, I think in this room, believes that our CIA, for example, is at its best when it is what it was for two generations, pale, male, Yale, as they used to say.

A real meritocracy involves making sure we are reaching out to populations who may never have heard of the CIA. Why? Because the people who are skulking around in alleys in Lusaka probably shouldn't look like me.

So I don't want to open the DEI box again, but I do want to say that this elimination of the demographic report -- we are eliminating a report here. And what the minority is proposing is not that we want to mandate racial quotas. We are just saying a meritocracy involves reaching out to underrepresented communities to produce the very best IC. And every Republican in this room knows that you cannot manage what you do not measure.

So all I am asking in this amendment is let's do what we did through the first 4 years of the Trump administration and measure something that I think we want to manage.

I will yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Any members seek time in opposition?

Mr. Kelly.

MR. KELLY: Seeking time in opposition, Mr. Chairman.

The report that the minority wants to preserve requires the DNI on an annual basis to submit a report on the employment of racial and ethnic minorities, women and individuals with disabilities in the IC.

As this committee well knows, President Trump signed an executive order to terminate all DEI programs, mandates, policies, preferences and activities in the Federal Government. Therefore, this committee is taking action where it can codify this EO in statute, and that includes repealing reports like this. An executive order can easily be rescinded in the future. By repealing DEI activities and reports in law, we are proofing for the future administra- -- for future administrations being able to easily stand these functions back up.

It is also worth noting that the ODNI component tasked with compiling this report, the IC Human Capital Office, no longer exists. Furthermore, I don't believe taxpayer dollars should be spent on annual DEI reports. The American people spoke clearly in the last election that they want to move forward from the destructive hyperfocus on identity politics. The right people with the right skill should be hired regardless of their race, color, gender or any other class of identity.

I will vote no on this amendment, and I urge all my

colleagues to do the same.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: Look, I have said this before. [redacted]

THE CHAIRMAN: [redacted]

MR. QUIGLEY: [redacted]

THE CHAIRMAN: [redacted].

MR. QUIGLEY: [redacted]?

[redacted]: [redacted].

MR. QUIGLEY: [redacted]

Because as the ranking member said, if you look like us, you are not going to do really well in most countries of the world. You have to reflect what the world looks like, and it is not just language skills, as I have heard before.

So if we could please assess this as a moment of meritocracy as well, but abilities, the ability to talk about these things, because it makes us more effective. So for that reason alone, you should support this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Any other members seek recognition?

Mr. Perry.

MR. PERRY: I just remind everybody in the room that the DNI -- the current serving DNI served in this body as a Democrat.

That having been said, I just got to say this. I think as American citizens, as Democrats, as Republicans, we all have entrusted that the people in charge of the intelligence agencies and operations of this country, we grant them the benefit of the doubt that they are working on the best interests of the United States regardless of their party.

And, unfortunately, at least from my perspective, that deference has been abused over the course of time with these DEI policies, because we shouldn't be choosing people based only and solely on their immutable characteristics. As a matter of fact, we started a country so that we wouldn't do that. And the people, at least that I want to associate myself with, find it immoral, unethical and, indeed, unlawful to do such things. But that is exactly what has happened.

And so we are saying, you know, let's get back to what

this country was founded on and let's get people that want to do the job, that can do the job, based on what they can offer, what they can provide, what their success rate is, as opposed to this quota system that has been put in place to the peril -- look, the mission of these organizations is to keep America safe and keep our enemies at bay in the clandestine services, not to have drag queen parties, you know, in the hallways of the intelligence agencies. That doesn't support the mission. I don't care who you are. And we all know it. Like, we all know it.

That all having been said, I don't know why anybody needs this data if it is not for unconstitutional discrimination, which is -- let's face it, that is what has occurred. And all of the antidiscrimination laws have an exception for bona fide job requirements.

Look, I agree with the ranking member that you can't have certain people that look like me in certain places of the world operating in a clandestine fashion because you are going to be obvious and you are not going to do a good job.

I, as a matter of fact, when I was a young man, I thought I might join the clandestine service. But when I was a young man, we had a thing called the phone book. And you know what wasn't in the phone book? The Central Intelligence Agency. There was no internet. You couldn't, like -- you know, unless you were going to drive to Langley, I guess --

to this day I don't even know how I would have tried to join. I guess I could have contacted my Member of Congress, but that is not something everyday people did. I mean, we had party lines when I was growing up. You picked up the phone and somebody else, your neighbor was on it.

You know, so, look, I know that a lot of people want to serve, and we want everybody to be able to serve that is going to best serve this Nation based on their capabilities and the needs -- let's remember this -- and the needs of the service, the needs of the service.

It is not necessarily about, you know, what -- people say, well, I want to be tested, I want to serve, I want to do whatever I want to do. It isn't about you. It is about the needs of this country and the requirements that come with that.

And when that lines up with what you want, that is great; but when it doesn't, like, I am sorry, your services aren't needed. That is just how -- not all of us are capable of all things. We are all a little different. We all bring different assets and properties to the equation. And sometimes what you bring just isn't what we need right now, and we shouldn't be forced to hire you just because you want to be hired.

And that is what -- you have abused -- your party has abused the good graces and the deference that this party has

given you over time, knowing and thinking and believing and wanting to trust that you had the best interests of preserving the security of this Nation in mind, and when in many cases, unfortunately, something else was a priority for you instead of that. And that cannot be. That cannot be.

I urge a no vote on this amendment, and I yield the balance.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Mr. Gomez.

MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chairman, I just want to kind of point out some of the contradictions that the majority is making over there. On this amendment, you are opposed because, you know what, we are trying to determine what kind of individuals are selected, that we should do it based on skills and talents and abilities and what they bring to the table. I agree with you.

But then you are opposed to my amendment because we are questioning -- we want a report on the individuals that are fired for doing their duty because they worked on something they didn't want to. You don't care about do they have the skills.

What skills did they have in these positions from prior assignments? You know, did they have certain language skills? Did they have certain technical skills? Did they have certain expertise?

So that is why I find it kind of interesting that, you know what, we care about the merits. Do they have the skills or not? But then at the same time, you know what, they were working on a DEI assignment and it became out of fashion so we fired them, and we don't care if they had other skills that we needed.

Like, that is where I see as contradictory. That is where, like, you care about merit and skill set, but it is -- but unless, exactly. So that is what I kind of find, I don't know, ironic. I don't know what I would say.

But here is the thing. We all want the whole -- we want the best and most talented individuals, period. That is a given. And maybe if the last gentleman who spoke, you know, you couldn't find the agency, that is the job of the agency is to go out there in the public to figure out what -- first, what do we need and then go and find those skill sets and those individuals that are best suited for those assignments.

So, with that, I am supporting this amendment, but I guess the contradictions and the mental gymnastics that the majority has to make in order to justify no votes on both amendments is I think striking.

With that, I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Mr. Crenshaw.

MR. CRENSHAW: I move to strike the last word.

I want to take down the temperature a bit. I want to address some of the operational concerns about diversity and some of the things said and also justify our opposition to this.

Of course, it seems like a harmless report that has been going on for a long time, but I think there is a valid feeling that that report is then used to encourage some kind of quota system that does have some kind of relationship with what we view as DEI. I don't think that is out of the realm of crazy.

As far as diversity goes within the IC, I fully agree that there is -- inherently because of the job there has to be an element of diversity. I also think that our leaders in the IC absolutely understand that.

I have been to a lot of stations, a lot, and a couple observations: One, they are extremely diverse every single time. The second -- yes, they are. I think I -- I have been to a lot. I have been to a lot in my prior life and in this job, okay?

And here's the other thing. You know, if you go to a place like, let's say, India, you are not going to find all Indian Americans working there, nor should you. And if you actually look at the tactical reasoning behind that, it is not obvious that a White guy like me should not be running around in a country where no one looks like me. That is

actually not obviously true.

[redacted]

If you go down to Mexico, you are in more danger if you look like people from Mexico. You are in less danger if you are a White guy, because you are less likely to be mistaken by the cartels, for instance, for somebody who might be their enemy.

[redacted]

So I actually disagree with the premise even that this is a requirement, and I also disagree with the idea that they are not already doing it. This is a very, very diverse community. I have seen it over and over again.

And so I do feel like, you know, again, given our concerns about the potential for using this data as a quota system, and the fact that I think we are getting the operational necessities just slightly off and that there is a

lot more nuance there that people understand, I think we have good reason to oppose this amendment.

And I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman yields.

Do any other members seek time?

The question then is on the amendment. The chairman does not support, intend to vote no.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the noes have it.

MR. HIMES: Mr. Chairman, I request a recorded vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: And a requested -- a vote is recorded, and that will be postponed to the end of the proceeding.

All right. Recorded votes have been postponed until the completion of consideration of all amendments.

Are there any additional amendments to the bill?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: I have an amendment, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hang on. Hang on a sec. Yeah.

Okay. If there is no further discussion on the amendment of the unclassified legislative text, this portion of the meeting shall conclude. And now I move to a classified session, and I need a motion from the ranking member.

MR. HIMES: Mr. Chairman, I move that pursuant to House Rule X, clause 11(d)(2), the hearing be closed because

disclosure of the testimony or evidence to be received would endanger national security.

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Intelligence Authorization Markup

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

CLOSED SESSION

Pages 67 – 106

NOT RELEASABLE
DUE TO
CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTIONS

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THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no further classified discussion, without objection we will return to open session. And we will now take the postponed roll call votes.

Roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 2, offered by Representative Houlahan.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?

MR. CRENSHAW: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: No.

THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?

DR. JACKSON: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?
MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?
MR. CROW: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?
DR. BERA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?
MS. PLASKETT: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez? Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not adopted.

Are there any members who have not voted? Any member wish to change their vote?

On this recorded vote the ayes 14, the nays are 12. The amendment is not agreed to.

Roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 4, offered by Representative Krishnamoorthi.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?
MS. STEFANIK: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?
[No response.]
THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?
MR. FITZPATRICK: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?
MR. SCOTT: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?
MR. HILL: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?
MR. CRENSHAW: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?
MR. PERRY: No.
THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?
DR. JACKSON: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?
MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?

MR. FALLON: No.

THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?

MR. HIMES: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?

MR. CARSON: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?

MR. CASTRO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi? Mr. Krishnamoorthi?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?

MR. CROW: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?

DR. BERA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?

MS. PLASKETT: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Yes.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Does any member wish to change their vote?

The clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

Roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 5, offered by Representative Houlahan.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?
MR. CRENSHAW: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?
MR. PERRY: No.
THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?
DR. JACKSON: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?
MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?

MR. CROW: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?

DR. BERA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?

MS. PLASKETT: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Does any member wish to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

Roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 6, offered by Representative Gomez.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?

MR. CRENSHAW: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: No.

THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?

DR. JACKSON: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?

MRS. WAGNER: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?

MR. CLINE: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?
MR. CROW: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?
DR. BERA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?
MS. PLASKETT: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?
MR. GOTTHEIMER: Aye.
THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?
MR. GOMEZ: Aye.
THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Does any member wish to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

A roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 7, offered by Representative Crow.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?
MR. SCOTT: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?
MR. HILL: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?
MR. CRENSHAW: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?
MR. PERRY: No.
THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?
DR. JACKSON: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?
MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?

MR. CASTRO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?

MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?

MR. CROW: Yes.

THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?

DR. BERA: Yes.

THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?

MS. PLASKETT: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Any member wish to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

A roll call vote is ordered on the adoption of amendment No. 8, offered by Representative Himes.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?

MR. CRENSHAW: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: No.

THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?

DR. JACKSON: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?

MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?
MR. CROW: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?
DR. BERA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?
MS. PLASKETT: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?
MR. GOTTHEIMER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Any member wish to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

Roll call vote is ordered on adoption of amendment No. 10, offered by Representative Quigley.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?

MR. CRENSHAW: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: No.

THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?

DR. JACKSON: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?

MRS. WAGNER: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?

MR. CLINE: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?

MR. STEUBE: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?

MS. TENNEY: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?

MR. FALLON: No.

THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?

MR. HIMES: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?
MR. CROW: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?
DR. BERA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?
MS. PLASKETT: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?
MR. GOTTHEIMER: Aye.
THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?
MR. GOMEZ: Aye.
THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?
MS. HOULAHAN: Aye.
THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley?
MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?
MR. COHEN: Aye.
THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?
[No response.]
THE CHAIRMAN: Have all members voted? Any member wish

to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 12 ayes and 14 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

A roll call vote is ordered on adoption amendment No. 13, offered by Representative Castro.

The clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Crawford?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

THE CLERK: Vice Chairman Kelly?

MR. KELLY: No.

THE CLERK: Ms. Stefanik?

MS. STEFANIK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CLERK: Mr. Fitzpatrick?

MR. FITZPATRICK: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Scott?

MR. SCOTT: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crenshaw?

MR. CRENSHAW: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: No.

THE CLERK: Dr. Jackson?
DR. JACKSON: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Wagner?
MRS. WAGNER: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Cline?
MR. CLINE: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Steube?
MR. STEUBE: No.
THE CLERK: Ms. Tenney?
MS. TENNEY: No.
THE CLERK: Mr. Fallon?
MR. FALLON: No.
THE CLERK: Ranking Member Himes?
MR. HIMES: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Carson?
MR. CARSON: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Castro?
MR. CASTRO: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI: Yes.
THE CLERK: Mr. Crow?
MR. CROW: Yes.
THE CLERK: Dr. Bera?
DR. BERA: Yes.
THE CLERK: Ms. Plaskett?

MS. PLASKETT: Despite Mr. Perry's [inaudible] I remain at this time a no.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gottheimer?

MR. GOTTHEIMER: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Gomez?

MR. GOMEZ: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ms. Houlahan?

MS. HOULAHAN: No.

THE CLERK: Mr. Quigley? Mr. Quigley?

MR. QUIGLEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Mr. LaHood? Mr. LaHood?

[No response.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Has every member voted? Does any member wish to change their vote?

Hearing none, the clerk will report the total.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 9 ayes and 17 noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is not agreed to.

All right. Before we go to vote, I am going to recognize Mr. Castro real quick for 30 seconds out of order.

MR. CASTRO: Thank you guys. I want to voice vote this. For the record I want to say I am against it. I think it takes our agencies back to a time when there was more recklessness, more carelessness. I think that there are

things in here that ultimately will prove dangerous.

You know, usually we would say thank you to the committee for all their hard work, thank you to the staff on both sides for all their hard work. If every year we were just voting on people's hard work, it would be excellent every year. But substantively there are things that give me grave concern and I wanted to voice that. So I would be against it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I thank the gentlemen.

There being no further discussion, I move for adoption of H.R. 5167, as amended, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

Question is on the adoption of H.R. 5167, as amended, which includes the unclassified legislative text as well as the Classified Annex and schedule of authorizations.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Okay. The chair now recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Himes, for the purpose of a motion.

MR. HIMES: Mr. Chairman, I move the committee report favorably to the House the bill H.R. 5167, as amended, including by reference the classified schedule of authorizations.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is on the motion of the gentlemen from Connecticut, Mr. Himes.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, with a quorum being present, the ayes have it. The motion is agreed to.

Without objection, the motion is to be reconsider is laid on the table.

We must authorize Members of the House of Representatives an opportunity to review the classified schedule of the authorizations, as well as the Classified Annex with any and all necessary measures to protect our most sensitive sources and methods. Therefore, the chair moves that the committee authorize Members to review the classified schedule authorizations and annex for a period of up to 3 days in advance of floor consideration in the House of H.R. 5167, as amended, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

The chair further moves that should the chair determine the floor consideration in the House of H.R. 5167 is unlikely, the committee authorizes Members to reclassify the scheduled authorizations in annex for a period of up to 3 days jointly determine by the chair and ranking member.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

We don't need to call the roll on that. We don't need to call the roll on that.

I would ask unanimous consent the committee staff be authorized to make necessary conforming, technical, clerical changes to the annex as well the bill adopted by the committee to include the classified schedule of authorizations which the bill incorporates by reference and to remove from the bill, as amended, provisions that would cause the bill to refer to the other committees and result in additional direct spending.

Without objection, so ordered.

I ask unanimous consent that the committee's security director be authorized to review the transcript of today's open business meeting to make any redactions necessary to protect classified or other protected information.

Without objection, so ordered.

I ask unanimous consent that, consistent with House rules, Members be given 2 additional calendar days to file supplemental minority reviews to committee report House on H.R. 5167 pursuant to clause 2(l) of House rule XI.

Without objection, so ordered.

There being no further legislative business before the committee, this meeting is adjourned.

By the way, for the record, let me add this. This staff on both sides did fantastic work, so a big round of applause

for them. I think all of you all did so much.

I also want to welcome a new staffer, Nico. And he, unlike most of our members, he managed to stay awake through this entire proceed.

[Whereupon, at 12:23 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]