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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDREW R. GARBARINO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

U.S. POLICY STRANGLING CUBAN ENTREPRENEURS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the privilege of meeting with a delegation of young Cuban entrepreneurs. I was impressed by their vision, dedication, and private-sector experience.

One had founded her business, Beyond Roots, in 2016. It promotes Afro-Cuban culture through education, prod-

uct marketing, and artistic and other collaborations. Her company has been recognized as a project with significant social impact, and she hopes to generate positive change in people's lives by promoting a closer connection with their roots.

Another founded Wajiros Films in 2017. It is an audiovisual creative group composed of young Cuban artists who want to generate audiovisual projects based on the stories, characters, and visual content that reside outside of Cuba's major cities and prominent cultural industries. They want to create visual arts that show the diversity of Cuba. They believe in the right to dream and the right to fight for your dreams.

I talked with the cofounder and creative director of DADOR, a female-founded fashion brand committed to using the entrepreneurial spirit to make a mark on Cuba's emerging private sector.

I also met with the cofounder and CEO of TostoneT, an information technology infrastructure company. He created his first enterprise in 2012 and, in 2018, expanded his interests to support academic and business groups traveling to Cuba from the U.K. and other European countries.

Mr. Speaker, I could not have asked to meet with a more exciting, innovative, and visionary group of Cuban entrepreneurs. They reinforced what I had learned during my last trip to Cuba in December when I met with several other Cuban entrepreneurs. I came away from my December trip and my conversations with last week's delegation with three main conclusions.

First, it can be time-consuming, even difficult at times, to navigate the Cuban Government's rules and regulations on the private sector. Overall, Cuba is opening more and more space for private-sector development, especially for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Cubans, especially young

people, are taking advantage of these opportunities to expand existing businesses and create new companies. Innovation and collaboration are happening in every sector.

Second, each of the entrepreneurs who I met appreciates the support and encouragement they have received from the U.S. Embassy. They noted, however, that they no longer need workshops on how to establish a budget, handle payroll, or devise a marketing plan.

Third, the greatest difficulty facing small and medium-sized Cuban entrepreneurs is in the financial sector. They all emphasized how U.S. policies are strangling their ability to get financing, set up bank accounts, and market their products outside of Cuba.

They pleaded for Cuba to be removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list so they can open up bank accounts in the U.K. and Europe, where they have clients eager to purchase, market, and use their goods and services.

They talked about how difficult it is to travel to the United States, how difficult it is to go back and forth in order to establish partnerships and other business relations, and how impossible it is to set up bank accounts to sell and market their goods.

Financial barriers that stifle the development and expansion of Cuban entrepreneurs can all be traced, unfortunately, to the United States. It is our policies and our financial restrictions that are hurting the very sector that the U.S. proclaims it most wants to help.

If we really want to support them, we should remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. There is absolutely no justification at all for them to be on that list. They were put on the list by the Trump administration for purely political purposes. We should also get rid of the financial restrictions imposed by the Trump administration and now maintained by the Biden administration.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, it has been over 2 years since President Biden took office. The Cuban people and entrepreneurs should not have to wait any longer for change to happen.

The Biden administration must take a long, hard look in the mirror and recognize that its own policies are causing hardship and suffering in Cuba, including in the private sector.

Cuban entrepreneurs don't need us to lead them by the hand. They are more than capable of setting up companies and following their own dreams. We need to get out of their way.

Mr. Speaker, I once again call on the Biden administration to tear down the financial barriers and restrictions that are strangling Cuban entrepreneurs and stifling their success.

Let us stop being part of the problem and start being part of the solution.

CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO ADDRESS SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the failed policies that President Biden chose to enact have created a national security, public health, and humanitarian crisis on our southern border.

In the 1 month since title 42 has expired, we have seen the impacts of President Biden's reckless policy decisions in action.

In April of this year, more than 70,000 illegal immigrants were turned away under title 42.

Now, without the protections of title 42 in place, the influx of illegal immigrants and the drugs smuggled by the cartels have overwhelmed resources at Federal, State, and local levels.

Under President Biden's watch in the past 2 years, we have seen the number of attempted entries by those on the terrorist watch list skyrocket to over 100 a year. With 1.5 million known got-aways reported by the Border Patrol, that number might even be higher.

We have seen an increase in overdose deaths from the deadly fentanyl analogues smuggled across our borders.

We have seen reports of public schools being used as holding facilities for migrants instead of being used for American students already suffering from historic learning loss. This follows President Biden's prolonged school shutdowns.

All of this amounts to a pattern of failure brought on by the Biden administration's refusal to confront the crisis at our border head-on.

It is time to finish the construction of the border wall.

It is time to reinstate the remain in Mexico policies that protect American citizens.

It is time for President Biden to finally address the crisis that his administration has created with its open border policies.

That time is today.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 4 months ago, the news came from Plains, Georgia, that former President Jimmy Carter, along with his family, had made the decision to enter hospice care as he approaches the end of his amazing 90-year-old life.

Interestingly, in the wake of that announcement, accolades came from all over the world, again reminding us all of the work that President Carter did during his time in the White House.

He led the way to the Camp David peace accords, which demilitarized the Sinai Peninsula.

He was a prophet and leader, a visionary in terms of renewable energy. Under President Carter's leadership, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory was founded, which to this day still operates in Colorado, utilizing cutting-edge technology and innovation in terms of development of renewable energy.

After President Carter left the White House, he founded The Carter Center in Georgia, which has done amazing work in terms of eradicating disease in different parts of the world, such as river blindness, amongst many others.

Mr. Speaker, I represent eastern Connecticut, which, again, has a special and unique appreciation for former President Jimmy Carter. After he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1946 and following two tours as an ensign on surface ships, President Carter volunteered for the submarine force and was stationed at Naval Submarine Base New London located in Groton, Connecticut. There, President Carter received officer training from Groton's Submarine School and was promoted to lieutenant. This picture shows President Carter onboard one of those submarines.

In 1952, Carter became part of the legendary Hyman Rickover's new Office of Naval Reactors, an elite unit which introduced nuclear propulsion to America's submarine force and revolutionized the reach and stealth of our fleet.

At that point of his career, Carter was assured a virtually guaranteed path of promotion and success. However, in October 1953, Carter's 58-year-old father succumbed to pancreatic cancer. Jimmy Carter left Active Duty with an honorable discharge after 7 years and 4 months of service, returning to his childhood home in Plains, Georgia, to run the family farm.

Mr. Speaker, President Carter left Connecticut in 1953, but he never forgot our State. He proved that in 2005, when the Navy, as part of the BRAC process, sought to close the Groton Naval Sub-

marine Base and transfer its fleet of submarines to Kings Bay, Georgia. Despite the fact that this would help his native State of Georgia, he shocked his home State and the Navy by publicly opposing this plan. As Anthony Principi, the Chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, stated at the time: Carter's letter citing the value of SUBASE New London's "proud submarine heritage" was a "key factor" when he and the Commission voted 7-1 to reject the Navy's plan.

Eighteen years later, with 16 attack submarines in Groton that are in active heel-to-toe deployments, the wisdom of that position that he took certainly has paid off in terms of blindingly obvious facts.

Also, eastern Connecticut is the place where the USS *Jimmy Carter*, which was one of the *Seawolf*-class submarines, was built. Today, it still operates, doing amazing work as part of that unique three-submarine class that has farther stealth, is able to operate at deeper depths, travels at higher speeds, and does great work.

Recently, the executive officer of the USS *Jimmy Carter*, Lieutenant Commander Jacob Cates, stated: "As our sailors walk through the ship, they are met by images representing the Carters' service to our submarine force, our Navy, and to our country. President Carter has always been an advocate for those in need. By helping to eliminate disease, feed the hungry, teach Sunday school, and prevent war, President Carter has positively impacted countless lives. . . . We are honored by the fact that we are on the USS *Jimmy Carter*, and we strive to prepare for and execute our mission in a manner worthy of President Carter's legacy."

□ 1215

Well said, Lieutenant Commander Cates.

Again, as we pass the 4-month mark of President Carter's hospice, I want him and his family to know that certainly, in eastern Connecticut, our prayers are with him, as well as our deepest admiration and feelings, just like Lieutenant Cates whose words were reported just a few days ago.

Again, we honor his record of service in terms of our Navy, our country, and his service after the time he spent in the White House where he did not monetize his service but, again, continued to do great things to help people in need around the world.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Biden's student loan bailout. As Iowans know, a loan taken out is a loan that must be repaid. Democrats and the

Biden administration are continuing to push to forgive student loans, which results in those costs being transferred to other hardworking taxpayers.

This decision is irresponsible, it is unfair, and it undercuts students who work to afford tuition and parents who, for years, sacrificed and saved for the opportunity of a college education. Student loans shouldn't be viewed any differently than a mortgage or a car loan. Money taken out must be paid back by those who benefit.

Moving forward, it is crucial that we ensure our students are equipped with the guidance needed to make an informed decision, and that they understand the process to pay these loans back.

If we can help our students understand the process and the ultimate cost of Federal student loans, they will use this information in making wiser decisions.

PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

PTSD affects tens of thousands of Americans who are diagnosed every year. Sadly, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, PTSD is more common among female veterans.

As a veteran, physician, and a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the realities of the battlefield and the importance of having adequate access and tools to mental health services that address the experiences our veterans face.

I was proud to work across the aisle with my colleagues to introduce the Veteran Care Improvement Act of 2023 that provides our veterans with increased treatment and rehabilitative services.

As Members of Congress, we have the ability to take action, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the mental health of our veterans and servicemembers through passing the Brandon Act.

RECOGNIZING KEATON WINN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keaton Winn of Ollie, Iowa, for being promoted to the San Francisco Giants' major league roster. Keaton attended Pekin High School in my district where he was a standout baseball, basketball, and football player. He then took his talents to Iowa Western Community College where he earned first team all-conference honors as a freshman pitcher.

Keaton was drafted by the Giants in 2018 and spent his next years working through their minor league system. He had a breakout season in 2022 before finally getting the call to the major leagues on June 12 of this year. He made his first appearance 1 day later, throwing four innings and becoming the first Giants pitcher to earn a save in his major league debut.

Keaton's accomplishments are a testament to his unwavering dedication, perseverance, and exceptional skills on the baseball diamond. He serves as a shining example for young athletes

across Iowa who aspire to play their sport at the highest level.

EVERY STATE IS A BORDER STATE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's and the extreme House Democrats' open border policies have incentivized a historic surge in illegal immigration at our southern and northern borders. Every State is now a border state.

Blue sanctuary cities and States are now using elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for these illegal immigrants. This deprives students of opportunities to learn, both physically and intellectually, as well as puts them physically at risk when background checks are not conducted.

This week, we will be voting on my resolution, H. Res. 461, which condemns the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for illegal aliens who are not admitted to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to wish my brother Richard a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Rick.

REAL SOLUTIONS ARE BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, in such a closely divided Congress, the only real solutions are bipartisan solutions that can pass the House and get 60 votes in the Senate.

For me, bipartisanship is more than just a buzzword. That is why as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I am working on advancing commonsense, bipartisan legislation. Since January, I am proud to have advanced three bipartisan bills through committee and one through the floor of the House.

The Equal Opportunity for All Investors Act, which I co-led with Congressman MIKE FLOOD, recently passed on the House floor with 383 votes and would help cut through government red tape and ensure well-qualified and more diverse individuals are able to invest in our private markets.

The second bill, Improving Disclosures for Investors Act, which I co-led with Congressman HUIZENGA, is the next step in the decades-long process of modernizing the SEC's electronic delivery rules, while providing strong investor protections.

The China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, which I co-led with Congressman MEUSER, would enable us to learn more about China's exchange rate policies to level the playing field for American businesses and promote domestic manufacturing.

As we look ahead, I know that we can reach consensus and find common ground on the issues facing the American people. One of those areas is stablecoin legislation. I am proud of the work we have done this Congress on bipartisan stablecoin legislation.

The most recent draft includes many of my suggestions, like protecting State regulators in North Carolina, adding consumer protections, and ensuring banks can safely hold digital assets in their custody.

I hope that we can continue to come together, put politics aside, and reach a bipartisan agreement that can pass through committee with support from Democrats and Republicans. I stand ready to work with Members on both sides of the aisle to find solutions and get things done for the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

CELEBRATING DISTINGUISHED NORTH CAROLINIANS

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and congratulate a distinguished North Carolinian, Dr. Mandy Cohen, on her recent appointment as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Dr. Cohen's commitment to public health and her exceptional leadership skills.

North Carolina has a rich history of contributing remarkable individuals to our great Nation. Our State has always nurtured talent and fostered innovation. Dr. Cohen's appointment as the head of the CDC exemplifies North Carolina's continued influence on the national stage.

Throughout her tenure as the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services—where I served in the State senate during her tenure, as well—Dr. Cohen has demonstrated unparalleled dedication to improving the health and well-being of our citizens. In the face of the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she led North Carolina's robust response efforts with compassion and expertise.

Today, as we honor Dr. Cohen, we also take pride in recognizing two other North Carolinians appointed to critical national positions.

Michael Regan, a native of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, serves as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA. Mr. Regan's passion and expertise have propelled us toward a greener, more sustainable future.

Erik Hooks, the deputy administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, also hails from North Carolina. In his role, Mr. Hooks has played a pivotal role in disaster response and recovery efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities across our Nation.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Mandy Cohen, Michael Regan, and Erik Hooks, we also recognize the collective achievements of North Carolina. I was with our Governor, Roy Cooper, just last week and he made note of these important contributions from these three North Carolinians in this administration.

Our State has consistently produced exceptional leaders who have made significant contributions to our Nation.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mandy Cohen on her appointment as the Director of the CDC. I am confident she will bring the same passion and expertise to this new position that she demonstrated throughout her career in North Carolina.

To Michael Regan and Erik Hooks, I express my deepest appreciation for their invaluable contributions to our Nation. North Carolina is proud to call these exceptional individuals our own, and we look forward to the positive impact they will play and continue to have on our country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SUE HART

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a former teacher on her retirement. Sue Hart was one of the best teachers I ever had. As you can imagine, I probably wasn't the best student she ever had, but I hope I made the top 100.

It wasn't just history that she taught me. It was a lot about life and being a good person. I can honestly say I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for the impact that Mrs. Hart had on me when I was growing up.

I wish her the best in retirement. I am happy that I can still call her a friend, but I think the biggest shame about her retirement is that future Sayville students won't be able to have her as a teacher, including my children.

That being said, I do want to congratulate her and wish her the best. So congratulations, Mrs. Hart. You deserve it.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the sea, on the very day we celebrated the freedoms You have intended for each person, a day when, by the pen stroke of one person in Texas, Juneteenth became the symbol of the last vestiges of

slavery in the United States, on that same day, by the stroke of violence inflicted on the community of Willowbrook, Illinois, and other areas of this land we love, we realize we are all still slaves to sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for the countless times we commit ourselves to bringing good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed that, despite our best intentions, we, all too often, succumb to the yoke of hatred and prejudice.

As we remember Juneteenth, remind us again that You have freed us from the bondage of our sinful nature. May we offer our whole selves to You, that we would allow ourselves to become slaves to righteousness.

We pray in Your merciful name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

RECENT FUNDING FOR TRAIN BLOCKAGES IN HOUSTON AREA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Federal Railroad Administration's recent funding to reduce train blockages in the Houston area.

Madam Speaker, \$36 million will go to overpasses where trains block roads, intersections, and crossings in the Houston area. Schoolchildren have been crawling under train cars just to get to school. Ambulances and fire trucks are losing precious minutes to detour around trains that are blocking high-traffic areas.

Houston residents have filed more complaints of train obstructions than any other city in the United States.

Our fire chief tells us that, on average, there are 90 instances a month

where emergency responders are delayed by trains, losing time, when lives are at stake.

Enough is enough. We must put people over politics. We must put people over trains.

The funding that we just received, Madam Speaker, is but the first step. There is still a lot more to go to ensure that our roads are safe, our children are safe, and our community is safer.

GENDER BILLS

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

Mr. OGLES. Madam Speaker, the hypersexualized left is not satisfied with its month of sexual pride. Instead, they are going after our children, and it is coming to a neighborhood near you.

From drag shows in schools, to gender-affirming care, to hiding sexual orientation and gender identity from parents, the sex-obsessed left knows no bounds; which is why I am introducing two bills to protect children and to affirm God's creation.

First, I am introducing the Keep Our Kids Safe Act of 2023, which will prohibit use of Federal education funding for drag performances or instruction by drag queens in elementary or secondary schools.

Can you believe that in this time that I am having to introduce legislation to protect children from men in dresses?

The second bill I am introducing is the There Are Two Sexes Act of 2023, which prohibits Federal funds from being used to create any Federal form that has anything other than male or female. America should not be funding the radical left's agenda to sexualize children in schools.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
TRAINING ACT OF 2023

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1606) to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1606

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 “Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(A) a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves;

“(B) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program established under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

“(C) an individual who—

“(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

“(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable; and

“(D) a spouse or dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

“(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2028, the Administrator shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

“(3) **GOALS.**—The goals of the Boots to Business Program are to—

“(A) provide assistance and in-depth training to covered individuals interested in business ownership; and

“(B) provide covered individuals with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small business concerns, and start up a small business concern.

“(4) **PROGRAM COMPONENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Boots to Business Program may include—

“(i) a presentation providing exposure to the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

“(ii) an online, self-study course focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, the language of business, and the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

“(iii) an in-person classroom instruction component providing an introduction to the foundations of self employment and ownership of a small business concern; and

“(iv) in-depth training delivered through online instruction, including an online course that leads to the creation of a business plan.

“(B) **COLLABORATION.**—The Administrator may—

“(i) collaborate with public and private entities to develop course curricula for the Boots to Business Program; and

“(ii) modify program components in coordination with entities participating in a

Warriors in Transition program, as defined in section 738(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

“(C) **USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall—

“(I) ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to Business Program; and

“(II) to the maximum extent practicable, use district offices of the Administration and a variety of other resource partners and entities in administering the Boots to Business Program.

“(ii) **GRANT AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out clause (i), the Administrator may make grants, subject to the availability of appropriations in advance, to Veteran Business Outreach Centers, other resource partners, or other entities to carry out components of the Boots to Business Program.

“(D) **AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.**—The Administrator shall make available to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor information regarding the Boots to Business Program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on the websites of the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor relating to the Transition Assistance Program, in the Transition Assistance Program manual, and in other relevant materials available for distribution from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor.

“(E) **AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—In consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make available for distribution and display on the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs outreach materials regarding the Boots to Business Program, which shall, at a minimum—

“(i) describe the Boots to Business Program and the services provided; and

“(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

“(F) **AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.**—The Administrator shall ensure information regarding the Boots to Business program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, is made available to other participating agencies in the Transition Assistance Program and upon request of other agencies.

“(5) **COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES.**—The Administration shall use relevant competitive bidding procedures with respect to any contract or cooperative agreement executed by the Administration under the Boots to Business Program.

“(6) **PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**—Not later than 30 days before the deadline for submitting applications for any funding opportunity under the Boots to Business Program, the Administration shall publish a notice of the funding opportunity.

“(7) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program, which—

“(A) may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the

Administrator related to the Office of Veterans Business Development; and

“(B) shall summarize available information relating to—

“(i) grants awarded under paragraph (4)(C);

“(ii) the total cost of the Boots to Business Program;

“(iii) the number of program participants using each component of the Boots to Business Program;

“(iv) the completion rates for each component of the Boots to Business Program;

“(v) to the extent possible—

“(I) the demographics of program participants, to include gender, age, race, ethnicity, and relationship to military;

“(II) the number of program participants that connect with a district office of the Administration, a Veteran Business Outreach Center, or another resource partner of the Administration;

“(III) the number of program participants that start a small business concern;

“(IV) the results of the Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot course quality surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development before and after attending each of those courses, including a summary of any comments received from program participants;

“(V) the results of the Boots to Business Program outcome surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development, including a summary of any comments received from program participants; and

“(VI) the results of other germane participant satisfaction surveys;

“(C) an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program based on each geographic region covered by the Administration during the most recent fiscal year;

“(D) an assessment of additional performance outcome measures for the Boots to Business Program, as identified by the Administrator;

“(E) any recommendations of the Administrator for improvement of the Boots to Business Program, which may include expansion of the types of individuals who are covered individuals;

“(F) an explanation of how the Boots to Business Program has been integrated with other transition programs and related resources of the Administration and other Federal agencies; and

“(G) any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to address the American people. I rise in support of H.R. 1606, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023.

As a veteran, I know that going from military life to civilian life can be

complicated. The military is great at training our servicemembers to do their jobs, Mr. Speaker. You and I both know that.

They train them to be the most lethal force on the planet—of which you were one—to defend and protect the people of the United States. What they do not do is effectively help servicemembers or train them to become civilians.

The Boots to Business Program will help fill that gap. This program will help our veterans translate the skills that they acquired during their years of military service to the tools that would be needed to be successful in civilian life. Administered through the Office of Veterans Business Development in the Small Business Administration, the Boots to Business Program offers servicemembers and military spouses moving from military to civilian life a foundational two-day, in-person course for an introduction to business ownership.

The foundational course can be followed by optional online courses on topics including market research, business fundamentals, and revenue readiness. The Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023 authorizes this program for 5 years. We must help the men and women who so bravely served our country. Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023 is one way to help.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative SCHNEIDER, Chairman WILLIAMS, Representative MCGARVEY, and Representative ELLZEY for their dedication and commitment to our Nation's veterans.

Mr. SCHNEIDER has been a long-time champion of this legislation to codify the Boots to Business Program. Over the years, the committee has held a number of hearings examining SBA's programs that benefit veteran entrepreneurship, and we have heard from scores of veterans that the program has been a resounding success.

In fiscal year 2022, nearly 24,000 veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and military spouses received Boots to Business entrepreneurship training. Starting a business is not for the faint of heart. It takes courage, perseverance, resourcefulness, and leadership to launch a successful enterprise. Many of these qualities are inherent in those that serve our country.

Despite the skills and expertise, many servicemembers have difficulty transitioning to civilian life. A recent survey conducted by the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families found 44 percent expressed difficulty with transitioning from military life, and 53 percent say they did not know what they wanted to do as civilians.

It is imperative that we enact this legislation and provide the certainty to

veterans that this training will continue to be available to them as they leave the service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1606, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023, legislation I was proud to introduce with my colleagues, Chair ROGER WILLIAMS of Texas; MORGAN MCGARVEY of Kentucky; and JAKE ELLZEY, also from Texas.

This bipartisan bill codifies the existing Boots to Business Program at the Small Business Administration, which provides business training programs for veterans and their families. Innovation and entrepreneurship are critical to a healthy, growing economy.

Today, the United States is enjoying a renaissance in entrepreneurial activity. Entrepreneurs not only start new businesses, they bring new ideas and new inventions to life. They create new industries and disrupt existing ones. The companies they build not only create new jobs, but are pillars in our local communities.

A recent Forbes article noted that 16 percent of the U.S. workforce are engaged in entrepreneurial pursuits, up almost 30 percent since the start of the pandemic, and 40 percent of those are women.

Furthermore, our Nation's economy relies on small business and entrepreneurship. U.S. small businesses generate approximately 44 percent of our total economic activity each year; they employ almost half of all working Americans and produce almost two-thirds of new jobs.

So who are these people fueling our economic vitality? A broad review of the business literature describing the traits of successful entrepreneurs show some common themes. These include: creativity and desire to innovate; the ability to collaborate and build strong teams; a willingness to take measured risks; decisiveness; versatility; adaptability; persistence; resilience; and grit.

This list also fairly describes the men and women who serve our Nation in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Space Force. Success in our military requires the very same traits that are considered key success factors in business.

Our military is made up of the best and the brightest our country has to offer. They reflect who we are as a Nation and encompass the full diversity of our people. Their success in their service depends on the same types of leadership talent that will make them capable business leaders in the future.

They quickly solve problems, they innovate, and they take uncertain situations and find ways to get things done.

What the Boots to Business Program does so well is help translate the lessons and skills cultivated during military service into the skills necessary for success in civilian life.

Since 2013, the Boots to Business Program has elevated the potential of our Nation's veterans by offering free, multiweek, in-depth courses to over 150,000 existing servicemembers and their spouses. The Boots to Business curriculum covers the fundamentals of starting a business, teaching participants such important skills as market research, organizational design, and financial management.

Our bill, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023, will formally codify the Boots to Business Program into law, ensuring existing and future servicemembers can reliably take advantage of this valuable opportunity for years to come.

This bill will fuel small-business-driven growth well into the future by creating a pipeline of skilled and hard-working entrepreneurs. It means we can continue to give back to the men and women who selflessly risked their lives in our service while also investing in our economic future by building a driven and skilled entrepreneur force from our Nation's most ambitious and achieving leaders.

I am pleased and grateful for the strong bipartisan support this bill has received in committee. I once again thank Chair WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for helping to bring this bill forward, and I thank the Speaker for bringing this important legislation to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Chair WILLIAMS, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. SCHNEIDER for this very important bill that starts us down the right path, but it is only a beginning.

After our Nation's veterans have given so much for their country, we have an obligation to give them the tools and resources to help them transition back to civilian life. The Boots to Business Program, incorporated in this bill, is an example of a program offered by the Federal Government that actually accomplishes a mission. It helps veterans transfer the skills they already have gained from their military service to the private sector with the goal of starting their own small business.

Oftentimes, some of the biggest obstacles facing veteran entrepreneurship is not knowing where to obtain a loan. Through H.R. 1606 and the Boots to Business Program, our veterans can be taught how to navigate that difficult process.

Veterans already have the intangible leadership skills to succeed in any arena; and, above all else, this program

teaches them how to best transfer these skills into the private sector.

I again urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which provides counseling and resources our veterans need to begin their journey in starting their own small business.

Mr. Speaker, you and I both know that we have lost friends in combat. We lost them 16, 20 years ago. We are losing them today, too. We are losing them at a rate that is unsustainable, 22 a day.

Until the DOD and the VA transition to where they hand off one well-trained soldier, sailor, airman, or marine into a well-trained civilian, we must always do more. This is a good start.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank all of our veterans who have dedicated their lives to service. Their dedication to our country and commitment to preserving our freedoms is greatly appreciated.

As our Nation's servicemembers complete their final tour and begin their transition back to civilian life, it is important that we provide opportunities for them to pursue the American Dream. Owning and running a successful small business is the epitome of that dream.

Codifying the Boots to Business Program would allow thousands of servicemembers, their spouses, and veterans to receive vital training on how to build a successful small business.

I thank Mr. SCHNEIDER, Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. ELLZEY for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1606, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act.

This bipartisan legislation provides statutory authority for the Boots to Business Program, which provides entrepreneurship training to individuals including veterans and active members of the Armed Forces, to be administered by the Small Business Administration.

The Boots to Business program provides entrepreneurship education and training, offering a general understanding of entrepreneurship and relevant business ownership principles.

Through this program, veterans learn about the abilities, information, and tools required to start a business, such as how to create a business plan and the resources offered by the Small Business Administration.

Active-Duty Service members, including National Guard and Reserves, Veterans, and their spouses are eligible to participate in the program.

Our veterans dedicated their lives to protecting the freedom of all Americans and it is critical that they are armed with the tools, resources, and training to be successful as they return to civilian life.

This bill plays an important role in smoothing that transition and constitutes an important

step in preparing veterans to thrive in the private sector.

Notably, many of the same skills that are fundamental in entrepreneurship and business ownership have already been developed in veterans through their time in the military, including leadership, problem solving, and discipline.

This program will help veterans leverage those skill sets towards career success in civilian life.

I am proud to say that Houston is home to over 280,000 veterans and is ranked 10th nationally for the newest businesses per capita.

This bill will help connect Houston's veterans with the wealth of opportunities for small business entrepreneurship across the city.

Further, this bill will help address the ongoing crisis of homelessness among America's veterans on a national scale.

Today, more than 1 in 10 people experiencing homelessness are veterans who fearlessly and selflessly served our Nation.

They have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans and provide them with the support they deserve as they pursue success in civilian life.

This bill is an important part of that effort.

By providing entrepreneurship training and support, we can help give veterans the tools they need to get back on their feet and achieve greater financial security.

Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country.

We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful Nation can bestow.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1606 and in equipping our veterans with the tools, resources, and training for their long-term success.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1606, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FISCAL YEAR 2023 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 30) to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 30

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 "Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2023 at the locations specified and in an amount for each project not to exceed the amount specified for such location:

(1) Construction of a community-based outpatient clinic and national cemetery in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$395,000,000.

(2) Construction of a community living center and renovation of domiciliary and outpatient facilities in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$506,400,000.

(3) Construction of a new health care center in El Paso, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000,000.

(4) Seismic upgrade and specialty care improvements in Fort Harrison, Montana, in an amount not to exceed \$88,600,000.

(5) Realignment and closure of the Livermore campus in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$490,000,000.

(6) Construction of a new medical facility in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed \$1,013,000,000.

(7) Seismic retrofit and renovation, roadway and site improvements, construction of a new specialty care facility, demolition, and expansion of parking facilities in Portland, Oregon, in an amount not to exceed \$523,000,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$3,716,000,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 30.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 30. This bill would authorize VA major medical facility construction projects in California, New York, Texas, Montana, Kentucky, and Oregon.

As chairman, I have committed time and time again to provide the necessary funding that ensures our Nation's veterans receive the quality care they deserve.

□ 1615

It is well known that the VA healthcare system has serious infrastructure issues and needs critical renovations. Authorizing these projects will help the thousands of veterans who live in these six States have better access to care in modern settings.

I appreciate Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN for their work introducing this important bill. I also thank Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER for introducing a similar bill in the House. It has my full support today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 30, the Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act.

I thank the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator TESTER, and Ranking Member MORAN for introducing this important legislation.

Every year, the Department of Veterans Affairs submits an annual budget request to Congress. Our job is to authorize and appropriate the funding VA needs to care for America's veterans and their families.

More than 9 million veterans are enrolled in VA's healthcare system, utilizing roughly 1,300 healthcare facilities across the system. Within VA's budget request are funds to replace and modernize these medical facilities.

This year's major construction request totals just over \$3.7 billion and will build a new healthcare center in El Paso, Texas; construct an outpatient clinic and a national cemetery in Alameda, California; erect a new medical facility in Louisville, Kentucky; and allow for seismic upgrades and specialty care improvements in Fort Harrison, Montana, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, funding VA infrastructure remains an important and critical issue. In recent years, the committee has highlighted VA's aging infrastructure and the critical need to address that issue. Delivering 21st century healthcare using outdated facilities is far from ideal and certainly not what our veterans deserve. If the VA is to be inclusive and treat all veterans who have served, we should not delay retrofitting facilities as we strive to meet the growing and ever-changing needs of our diverse veteran community.

Last year, we passed my Honoring our PACT Act, which will significantly expand eligibility and, consequently, utilization of VA healthcare in the coming years.

Just last week, NPR published a story highlighting, once again, a Medicare survey showing VA hospitals are outperforming private hospitals in all categories of patient satisfaction. Despite outdated, antiquated facilities, VA still provides exceptional care. Imagine the levels of care VA could achieve if it had all the needed resources.

In order to serve our veterans and provide them with the care they deserve and need, we must start making serious investments in our outdated infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 30, the Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 30, Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act.

It is always my honor to address issues related to the wellbeing of the women and men who served and continue to serve our country.

As noted by the Congressional Budget Office, this bill authorizes the appropriation of \$3.7 billion for fiscal year 2023 for the construction and renovation of seven major VA medical facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

With approximately 360,000 employees, roughly 1,600 health care facilities, 144 medical centers, and 1,232 outpatient sites, the Department of Veterans Affairs remains one of the largest and most complex agencies in the U.S. Government.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides health care to approximately 9 million veterans annually.

Over the past ten years, more than 60,000 veterans have died by suicide, and 20 veterans die by suicide each day.

Between 2005 and 2017, nearly 79,000 veterans killed themselves, more than the total number of troops who have died in the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined (roughly 65,000).

There has never been a more urgent time than this that requires the urgent need for rebuilding the department's flailing infrastructure and resolving staffing shortage in VA medical facilities.

It is equally important to keep the focus on efforts to reduce wait times and availability by specialty, adequately address the veteran suicide rate, and find lasting solutions to the overall healthcare needs of our veterans.

It is therefore appropriate for this House to vote for this bill to ensure that the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) major medical facilities receive the needed attention that they deserve to meet the health needs of our veterans.

This bill does not only help with furnishing inpatient and outpatient care and treatment of veterans and their dependents, but also supports the care and treatment in non-VA facilities; community-based outpatient clinics, medical supplies, and equipment.

This bill will benefit the operations of VA medical centers (VAMCs) and other medical facilities, such as community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), Vet Centers, and other veteran-related community care programs.

It will also benefit many VA medical facility services like the Community Care Program (VCCP), the Camp Lejeune Family Member Program (CLFMP), CHAMPVA, the Foreign Medical Program (FMP), the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Benefits Program (CWWV), and the Indian Health

Service (IHS)/Tribal Health Programs (THP) Reimbursement Agreements Program.

I applaud President Biden's administration for keeping its promise to adopt a comprehensive public health and crisis sector approach to address suicide among veterans, service members, and their families within his first 200 days in office.

Since taking office, the Biden administration has made commendable progress in filling the department's 50,000 empty positions especially in ways that reflect the diversity that exists within the active-duty and veteran community.

This bill helps to build on that progress by addressing the department's aging infrastructure, which has been in place for roughly 58 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 30.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PFC. JUSTIN T. PATON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3672) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3672

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PFC. JUSTIN T. PATON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 5739 Hwy M-68, Indian River, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3672.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3672, a bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

Justin Paton was born on July Fourth, 1982, in Emmet County, Michigan. He joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and deployed to Iraq in October 2006, assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

While deployed to Iraq in 2007, his unit came in contact with the enemy just north of Baghdad, with small arms fire being exchanged. While in this firefight, Private First Class Paton was hit by an Iraqi sniper and did not survive his wounds. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He bravely answered the Nation's call when it came, like many others before him and so many after.

Naming the VA clinic in his hometown, which he so loved, is an honor that would be a fitting remembrance of Private First Class Paton's life and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3672, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3672, a bill that would honor the service and sacrifice of Private First Class Justin T. Paton, who was killed by enemy fire during combat operations 40 miles north of Baghdad in February 2007. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his contributions to our country while deployed.

Despite being only 24 years old when he died, Private First Class Paton nonetheless left his mark on the world. A native of the Indian River area, many in his community were struck by his character and leadership potential.

Shortly after word of his death spread throughout the Indian River community, Private First Class Paton's high school football coach noted that he was "the kind of kid you hope your own son grows up to be."

It seems fitting that a clinic where veterans receive the care they earned would be named after Private First Class Paton.

Before enlisting in the Army in 2005, he worked as a rehabilitation technician at Northern Michigan Hospital. The VA providers at the clinic that will bear his name will carry on Private First Class Paton's legacy of serving members of his community.

I thank my colleague, Representative BERGMAN, for introducing this legislation to recognize Private First Class Paton's heroic service to our Nation by designating the Indian River, Michigan, VA clinic as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

We shall never forget the sacrifices of young men and women like Private

First Class Paton, who bravely raised their right hand and swore an oath to protect and defend our Nation.

This bill has letters of support from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the members of the Michigan delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3672 and urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN), the sponsor of this legislation and also a very good friend.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for getting involved in this relevant and timely bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3672 to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

It is an honor for me to lead this legislation to rename the VA care facility in the hometown and the final resting place of a young man who embodied the ethic of service above self as he gave his last full measure of devotion for our Nation.

Justin Paton was born and raised in northern Michigan and graduated from Inland Lakes High School in the year 2000. Feeling called to serve, he enlisted in the Army in 2005 and was deployed to Iraq on October 31, 2006. There, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, Delta Company and was named one of the unit leaders.

In February 2007, at the age of 24, he was killed in action in Iraq when his patrol came under intense sniper fire north of Baghdad.

Private First Class Paton was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his sacrifice and heroism.

He is interred in the Ohioville Cemetery, just down the road from the Indian River VA clinic opening later this year that I am confident will bear his name.

Naming the Indian River CBOC is one small way to honor Justin and his family's sacrifice. His legacy is beyond deserving of the designation that we are seeking today.

I sincerely thank Pfc. Paton's family for all of their support. I thank the local leaders in Indian River and Tuscarora Township, who have been key in our efforts; the Michigan veterans service organizations for backing this bill; and the entirety of my Michigan delegation colleagues, who have come together in a bipartisan manner to co-sponsor this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3672.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3672 to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

I thank my colleague, General BERGMAN, for bringing this legislation to the floor. It is always a poignant matter to consider the sacrifice of such a young American.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3672, which designates the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

This bill honors Private First Class Justin T. Paton and his courageous service to our Nation.

Today and every day, I stand with our Nation's veterans and their brave and selfless service in support of our freedoms.

Over 280,000 of our Nation's veterans reside in the city of Houston and I am proud to fight every day for the honor, recognition, and appreciation they, and all of our Nation's veterans, deserve.

Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans by recognizing, remembering, and honoring their service.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and honoring the service and sacrifice of Private First Class Justin Paton.

This bill honors the Indian River native who valiantly served in the United States Army with the 1st Cavalry Division, Delta Company until he was killed in action by enemy fire.

Private First Class Justin Paton gave his last full measure of devotion to the United States as he was killed by hostile sniper fire in Iraq in February 2007 at the age of 24.

Paton served as unit leader of his Company and was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star for his selfless actions in service to a grateful Nation.

As such, I rise in support of this bill, which honors his memory by designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in his hometown as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3672.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-48)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, and which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, and the situation in the Western Balkans, which stymies progress toward effective and democratic governance and full integration into transatlantic institutions, outlined in these Executive Orders, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2023.

□ 1630

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-49)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive

Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2023.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1606) to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

YEAS—407

Adams	DeGette	Johnson (OH)
Aderholt	DeLauro	Johnson (SD)
Aguilar	DelBene	Jordan
Alford	Deluzio	Joyce (OH)
Allen	DeSaulnier	Joyce (PA)
Allred	DesJarlais	Kamlager-Dove
Amodei	Diaz-Balart	Kaptur
Armstrong	Doggett	Kean (NJ)
Arrington	Donalds	Keating
Auchincloss	Duarte	Kelly (IL)
Babin	Duncan	Kelly (MS)
Bacon	Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)
Baird	Edwards	Khanna
Balderson	Ellzey	Kildee
Balint	Emmer	Kiley
Banks	Escobar	Kim (CA)
Barr	Eshoo	Kim (NJ)
Barragán	Españillat	Kuster
Bean (FL)	Estes	Kustoff
Beatty	Evans	LaHood
Bentz	Ezell	LaLota
Bera	Fallon	LaMalfa
Bergman	Feenstra	Lamborn
Beyer	Ferguson	Landsman
Bice	Finstad	Langworthy
Biggs	Fischbach	Larsen (WA)
Bilirakis	Fitzgerald	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Bishop (NC)	Fleischmann	LaTurner
Blumenauer	Fletcher	Lawler
Blunt Rochester	Foster	Lee (CA)
Boebert	Foushee	Lee (FL)
Bonamici	Fox	Lee (NV)
Bost	Frankel, Lois	Lee (PA)
Bowman	Franklin, C.	Leger Fernandez
Boyle (PA)	Scott	Lesko
Brecheen	Frost	Letlow
Brown	Fry	Levin
Brownley	Fulcher	Lieu
Buck	Gaetz	Lofgren
Bucshon	Garamendi	Loudermilk
Budzinski	Garbarino	Lucas
Burchett	Garcia (IL)	Luetkemeyer
Burgess	Garcia (TX)	Luna
Burlison	Garcia, Mike	Luttrell
Bush	Garcia, Robert	Lynch
Calvert	Golden (ME)	Mace
Caraveo	Goldman (NY)	Magaziner
Carbajal	Gomez	Malliotakis
Cárdenas	Gonzales, Tony	Mann
Carey	Gonzalez,	Manning
Carl	Vicente	Massie
Carson	Good (VA)	Mast
Carter (GA)	Gooden (TX)	Matsui
Carter (LA)	Gosar	McBath
Carter (TX)	Gottheimer	McCaul
Cartwright	Granger	McClain
Casar	Graves (LA)	McClellan
Case	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Casten	Green (TN)	McCollum
Castor (FL)	Green, Al (TX)	McCormick
Chavez-DeRemer	Greene (GA)	McGarvey
Cherfilus-	Griffith	McGovern
McCormick	Grothman	McHenry
Chu	Guest	Meeks
Ciscomani	Guthrie	Menendez
Clark (MA)	Hageman	Meuser
Clarke (NY)	Harder (CA)	Mfume
Cleaver	Harris	Miller (IL)
Cline	Harshbarger	Miller (OH)
Cloud	Hayes	Miller (WV)
Clyburn	Hern	Miller-Meeks
Clyde	Higgins (LA)	Mills
Cohen	Higgins (NY)	Molinaro
Cole	Hill	Moore (AL)
Collins	Himes	Moore (UT)
Comer	Hinson	Moore (WI)
Connolly	Horsford	Moran
Correa	Houchin	Morelle
Costa	Houlihan	Moskowitz
Courtney	Hoyle (OR)	Moulton
Craig	Hudson	Mrvan
Crane	Huffman	Mullin
Crawford	Huizenga	Murphy
Crenshaw	Hunt	Nadler
Crockett	Issa	Napolitano
Crow	Ivey	Neal
Cuellar	Jackson (IL)	Neguse
Curtis	Jackson (NC)	Nehls
D'Esposito	Jackson (TX)	Newhouse
Davids (KS)	Jacobs	Nickel
Davidson	James	Norcross
Davis (IL)	Jayapal	Norman
Davis (NC)	Jeffries	Nunn (IA)
De La Cruz	Johnson (GA)	Oberholte
Dean (PA)	Johnson (LA)	Ocasio-Cortez

Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Petersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rodgers (AL)
Rodgers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos

Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar

Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

This is a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 273]
YEAS—409

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D’Esposito

Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
James
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C.
Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)

Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaull
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCormack
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moore (AL)

Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Petersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rodgers (AL)
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Schrier
Schweikert
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland

Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—26

Buchanan
Cammack
Castro (TX)
Dingell
Flood
Gallagher
Gallego
Gimenez
Grijalva

Hoyer
Jackson Lee
Kiggans (VA)
Kilmer
Krishnamoorthi
Meng
Moolenaar
Mooney
Posey

Pressley
Sarbanes
Soto
Stevens
Torres (NY)
Trone
Webster (FL)
Williams (TX)

□ 1855

Messrs. ARRINGTON and HUFFMAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 272.

PFC. JUSTIN T. PATON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3672) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the “Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—23

Blumenauer
Buchanan
Castro (TX)
Dingell
Gallego
Gimenez
Grijalva
Jackson Lee

Kiggans (VA)
Kilmer
Luettkemeyer
Meng
Moolenaar
Mooney
Posey
Pressley

Sarbanes
Sessions
Soto
Torres (NY)
Trone
Webster (FL)
Williams (TX)

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, my flight arriving in D.C. was delayed so I was unable to participate in roll call number 273. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 273.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 272, H.R. 1606; and “yea” on rollcall No. 273, H.R. 3672.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today due to unforeseen personal circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 272 and “yea” on rollcall No. 273.

AUTHORIZING VIDEO RECORDING IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER DURING A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS FOR CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 523, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 523

Resolved, That the Speaker, in concurrence with the Minority Leader, is authorized to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to record proceedings during a joint meeting of Congress on June 22, 2023, to provide a virtual reality experience for educational use by the public.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCY NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, June 22, 2023, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

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

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I seek recognition to give notice of my intent to raise a question of privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 521, censuring Adam Schiff, Representative of the 30th Congressional District of California.

Whereas, the allegation that President Donald Trump colluded with Russia to interfere in the 2016 Presidential election has been revealed as false by numerous in-depth investigations, including the recent report by Special Counsel John Durham, which documents how the conspiracy theory was

invented, funded, and spread by President Trump's political rivals;

Whereas, Representative Adam Schiff, who served as ranking minority member and then Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives (the "Intelligence Committee"), occupied positions of extreme trust, affording him access to sensitive intelligence unavailable to most Members of Congress;

Whereas, for years, Representative Schiff abused this trust by alleging that he had evidence of collusion that, as is clear from reports by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, and Special Counsel Durham, never existed;

Whereas, for years, Representative Schiff has spread false accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia;

Whereas, on March 20, 2017, Representative Schiff perpetuated false allegations from the Steele Dossier accusing numerous Trump associates of colluding with Russia into the Congressional Record;

Whereas, once again abusing his privileged access to classified information, Representative Schiff released a memo justifying the accuracy of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant application on Trump associate Carter Page, of which was later found by Inspector General Horowitz to have 17 major mistakes and omissions, providing FISA Court Presiding Judge Rosemary Collyer to state unequivocally that the Federal Bureau of Investigation "misled the FISC";

Whereas, as ranking minority member and Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Representative Schiff behaved dishonestly and dishonorably on many other occasions, including by publicly, falsely denying that his staff communicated with a whistleblower to launch the first impeachment of President Trump;

Whereas, as part of his impeachment efforts, during a hearing on September 26, 2019, Representative Schiff misled the public by reading a false retelling of a phone call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky;

Whereas, on March 28, 2019, every Republican member of the Intelligence Committee signed a letter calling for Representative Schiff's immediate resignation as Chairman;

Whereas, Representative Schiff hindered the ability of the Intelligence Committee to fulfill its oversight responsibilities over the Intelligence Community, an indispensable pillar of our national security; and

Whereas, these actions of Representative Schiff misled the American people and brought disrepute upon the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives censures Adam Schiff, Representative of

the 30th Congressional District of California, for misleading the American people and for conduct unbecoming of an elected Member of the House of Representatives;

(2) Representative Schiff shall forthwith present himself to the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure;

(3) Representative Adam Schiff will be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker; and

(4) the Committee on Ethics shall conduct an investigation into Representative Adam Schiff's falsehoods, misrepresentations, and abuse of sensitive information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Florida will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1915

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 503, impeaching Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, That Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Article I: Abuse of Power

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole power of impeachment" and that the President of the United States "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors". In his conduct as President of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of the

President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has abused the powers of the office of the President of the United States, in that:

Using the powers of his office, President Biden has knowingly presided over an executive branch that has continuously, overtly, and consistently violated Federal immigration law by pursuing an aggressive, open-borders agenda by purposefully and knowingly releasing more than 2 million illegal aliens into the interior of the United States without the intention or ability to ensure that they appear in immigration court to face asylum or deportation proceedings.

President Biden has intentionally facilitated a complete and total invasion at the southern border. President Biden ended the Migrant Protection Protocols to require aliens seeking asylum to remain in Mexico while being processed by the Department of Homeland Security. President Biden has closed Department of Homeland Security detention facilities and refused to cooperate with State and local law enforcement officials in securing the border. He has allowed illegal aliens to enter the United States as asylum seekers despite knowing they did not qualify for asylum. President Biden has pursued this open-border agenda purposefully and willfully, circumventing every safeguard, check, and balance required by law, resulting in mass illegal immigration into the United States, to the detriment of the American people.

President Biden, with such conduct, has demonstrated a failure to uphold Federal immigration law, violating his oath to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with the rule of law and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, President Biden, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

Article II: Dereliction of duty

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole power of impeachment" and that the President of the United States "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors". In his conduct as President of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of the President of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has neglected the constitutional duty of the office of the President of the United States, in that:

Neglecting the powers of his office, President Biden has abandoned his du-

ties to ensure that the laws are faithfully executed and upheld, by presiding over an executive branch that has continually, overtly, and consistently refused to enforce the Nation's immigration laws and secure the southern border. President Biden has endangered the security of the United States and the health and safety of the American people. President Biden has caused a national security crisis and is endangering the lives of the American people.

President Biden has presided over the largest influx of illegal immigrants in American history, and as evidence of his dereliction, the deportation cases pursued by his administration are at historic lows. President Biden's negligence of duty has resulted in the surrender of operational control of the border to the complete and total control of foreign, criminal cartels, putting the lives of American citizens in jeopardy. On President Biden's watch, illegal aliens have been processed and released into the interior of the country under a mass system of parole, contrary to the clear terms of Federal immigration law. Utilizing the "CBP ONE" program, the executive branch will release nearly 40,000 illegal aliens per month into the United States. He has failed to uphold the mandatory detention and deportation provisions of immigration laws, resulting in the mass entry of inadmissible aliens and the continued presence of deportable aliens. Through this complete and total dereliction of duty and extreme absence in oversight of his own administration's policies, President Biden has allowed more than 1.5 million illegal immigrants to invade the southern border. On Joe Biden's watch, illicit fentanyl has killed more than 100,000 American citizens. In fiscal year 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol seized more than 9,000 pounds of fentanyl at the southern border.

In his failure to uphold the rule of law, President Biden has demonstrated that he will neglect his duty to execute the office to which he has been entrusted, violating his oath to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with his constitutional duty to take care that the laws of the United States be faithfully executed.

Wherefore, President Biden, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Colorado will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD at the appropriate time that I was unavoidably detained with an event with my local police officers and was not able to vote on the floor for H.R. 1606, Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023, roll call vote Number 272. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for roll call vote 273, again, with an event with my local law enforcement. It is H.R. 3672, to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the Private First Class Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to place my "aye" vote for roll call 273 in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

NATIONAL BALD EAGLE 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, I rise today, June 20 of 2023, to recognize National Bald Eagle Day.

Each year, this day honors the iconic national symbol of freedom and American spirit. Chosen by our forefathers to represent the enduring strength and pride of the American people, the bald eagle is both our national animal and a symbol of free spirit.

In recognizing the symbolism of the eagle, we must also address the history of its near extinction and booming recovery.

In the 1970s, America's bald eagles were nearly extinct due to the destruction of habitats, harmful pesticides, and illegal hunting practices. After the implementation of congressional action that protected eagles, the population soared to the numbers that we see today.

Representing the endurance, adaptability, and tenacity of the American people, the bald eagle stands for the morals that guide this great country. If you are lucky enough to see a bald eagle in flight, think of its history, think of its success, and think of American pride.

GOP IS FOCUSED ON THE RICH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the Republicans are helping the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans and how they are not helping the rest of America.

They continue to focus on tax cuts for the richest Americans. They continue to push for tax breaks for multi-billion dollar corporations, and they want the rest of us to pay for them.

They want to slash investments in childcare, education, healthcare, and public safety; and now, they want to attack Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Democrats are putting people over politics. We are strengthening the middle class and we are working for American families.

With President Biden's leadership, we are creating millions of jobs and lowering the price of common consumer goods. Americans are driving on new roads and bridges thanks to our work.

These successes are examples of why I am proud to be a Democrat.

CHOICE ARRANGEMENT ACT

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, according to the National Federation of Independent Business, small businesses have ranked the cost of healthcare as their number one problem for 32 straight years.

That is just one of the many reasons why House Republicans will be working to pass the CHOICE Arrangement Act this week, which was introduced by my good friend and chairman of the Republican Study Committee, Mr. KEVIN HERN.

The CHOICE Arrangement Act will enhance the flexibility and affordability of healthcare options for small businesses by aiming to reduce administrative burdens and by empowering small employers to provide the type of healthcare coverage that works best for their employees.

As a small business owner, I know that when Washington gets involved in our ability to make the best decisions for our employees, things go awry. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the CHOICE Arrangement Act by voting "yes" on its passage.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT SAM JONES

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary man, Mr. Sam Jones, and to right a historic wrong.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on June 19, the second celebration of the national holiday for Juneteenth, Mr. Jones was finally recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, Pacific Harbor Council, as an Eagle Scout, the highest honor you can earn as a Boy Scout.

This recognition is long overdue. Mr. Jones should have received this honor in 1962 when he was 15 years old. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize his accomplishments today, 61 years later.

Mr. Jones was raised in Rochester, New York, by a single mother and joined the Boy Scouts shortly after he turned 11 years old. He earned 25 merit badges and was the first person in his troop to qualify for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Sadly, when this young man asked the nonprofit that sponsored the troop why he was not going to receive a ceremony for this prestigious honor, he was told, a Scout raised by a single mother didn't match the model Black youth the nonprofit wanted to promote.

While Mr. Jones could have allowed this setback to affect his future, he continued to serve his country and his community.

He graduated from the University of Michigan, joined the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, served the Navy for his entire career, and retired in 1991 with the rank of commander.

He moved to Puyallup, Washington, in 2015 to be closer to his family, and is now a mentor at Mountain View Lutheran Church in Edgewood, Washington.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Sam Jones on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today as he celebrates the long-overdue recognition of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

□ 1930

OPEN BORDERS MAKE A MOCKERY OF OUR NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY

(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, open borders make a mockery of our Nation's sovereignty. Democrats have decided to incentivize a flood of illegal immigrants over the southern and northern borders with their open border policies.

Every State and every town has effectively been turned into a border State or border town with all the problems and crime that come with this problem. Because Democrats seem to care more about the promoting of illegal immigration than the needs of American citizens, they prioritize the well-being of the former over the latter.

Illegal immigrants in Democrat States and cities are provided with everything from free iPhones to healthcare. A contentious point in the last Democrat Presidential primary was who could provide more free healthcare to the most illegal immigrants. They are now going so far as to use our kids' elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for illegal immigrants.

This is madness. American schools should be used for educating kids, not

for a made-up crisis that has been created by this lack of leadership.

House Republicans wholeheartedly oppose the hijacking of our American resources for the benefit of the people who have broken our laws and violated our Nation's sovereignty. We must pass H. Res. 461, which condemns the use of elementary and secondary schools to provide shelter for those who are here illegally, and who are not here playing by the rules.

Our borders must be protected. We cannot discard this just for some short-term political gain.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND DR. RANDOLPH BRACY, JR.

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and advocacy of Reverend Dr. Randolph Bracy, Jr., a true giant and selfless servant in our central Florida community who transitioned this past weekend.

Reverend Dr. Bracy was an educator, a pastor, a husband, father, organizer, and true community leader. The former president of the Orange County NAACP, Reverend Dr. Bracy was on the front lines and in the fight for justice and equity for all Floridians.

Through his faith and love of God, Reverend Dr. Bracy devoted his life to serving and seeing the world through the eyes of the most vulnerable. He truly woke up every day with the commitment of loving our neighbors and leaving our State a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deep condolences to the entire Bracy family as his passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and in the central Florida community. In his memory, we continue to fight for the better world that we all deserve. May he rest in power.

SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS SHELTERS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(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, I urge this body to take up H. Res. 461 and pass it as quickly as possible.

Every year in this country the Federal Government, perhaps inappropriately, spends billions of dollars on elementary and secondary education. These buildings are designed and intended to be funded to teach the young children of this country, and not-so-young people, to read, to do math, to prepare themselves for a job.

It has been brought to our attention that local officials all around the country, in an effort to ease the mass invasion of illegal immigrants across our southern border, are now using these schools as a shelter for people, who in

many cases—in almost all cases—should not have come to the United States in the first place.

I think it is very important that Congress weigh in immediately, since we are providing billions of dollars to these educational institutions, and say no. These educational institutions are to be used for education only, and we are not going to spend any more of that money to support people who shouldn't be here in the first place.

CUTTING INSULIN COSTS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to the CHOICE Arrangement Act because we have to do way more to cut healthcare costs for our families.

I have offered an amendment to cap the cost of insulin for all children and young people at \$35 a month. Last Congress capped insulin for seniors, and I believe that this Congress should do it for our children.

We can make life just a little bit easier for hundreds of thousands of our families dealing with diabetes. If we want to actually cut healthcare costs, this is the way we do it. This will save everyone money, including taxpayers.

This is a bipartisan issue, and so I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and cut costs for children and families. This Congress needs this bipartisan win and hundreds of thousands of families need the relief.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSIONAL ART WINNER BRAEWYN HAMMONTREE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winner of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition for Ohio's 13th Congressional District, Braewyn Hammontree, an 11th grader from Woodridge High School.

Art is a powerful medium that transcends boundaries, ignites emotions, and connects us all. Braewyn's piece brilliantly showcases the artistic talent of our community. Her work focuses on urban features and architecture through structure and lighting, and she was inspired to create her congressional art competition piece after traveling to Switzerland and Germany last year.

This piece of Ohio 13 is now proudly displayed on the walls of the Capitol where visitors from across the United States and the world can see the artistic and creative talent that our community has to offer.

Braewyn's talents extend beyond just the creative arts. She is also a gifted student-athlete, playing volleyball for

her high school. Her many talents are a testament to her unwavering dedication, tireless commitment, and incredible passion.

I also recognize Braewyn's parents, Christa and Michael, as well as her art teacher, Chelby Shay. This achievement would not have been possible without their unwavering support.

Mr. Speaker, once again, congratulations to Ohio 13's 2023 congressional art competition winner, Braewyn Hammontree. She has certainly made our community proud, and I look forward to seeing what she creates next.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SCHEKETA HART-BURNS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Alderwoman Scheketa Hart-Burns, and to recognize her important contributions to the city of Aurora, Illinois.

Ms. Scheketa Hart-Burns moved to Aurora in 1978 where she became the first African American elected to the Aurora City Council in 1991 and the first African American Mayor Pro Tem from 2016 to 2017.

Throughout her career, Alderwoman Hart-Burns spearheaded dozens of initiatives to benefit the people she represented and everyone who calls Aurora home.

Alderwoman Hart-Burns was an active member of her church, the Greater Mount Olive Church of God and Christ, and brought an inspirational spirit to everything that she did. She was my ambassador to the African-American churches of Aurora.

Although she had children of her own, she was known as mother to all for her nourishing spirit and her kind heart. Scheketa Hart-Burns passed away yesterday on June 19, 2023. She will be greatly missed and always remembered by those of us, like me, who are lucky enough to have known her and to have called her a friend.

LEAVING NO FAMILY BEHIND

(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, promoting economic growth and creating good-paying jobs for America's workers is at the forefront of my work every day here in Congress. Let me highlight the impressive continued record job growth under the Biden administration through legislation passed mainly by Democrats here in the House and the other body.

In the most recent May jobs report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 339,000 new jobs were added nationally. The U.S. economy has gained more than 13 million jobs under Presi-

dent Biden, the fastest job growth in American history.

Let me repeat that: The fastest job growth in American history.

As you can see on this chart, President Biden's economic growth plan has added an average of 470,000 jobs to the economy every month since he took office. What a stark contrast with the job losses under the previous administration. These Biden job increases are historic and unprecedented. Unemployment remains near historic lows at just 3.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, let this record speak for itself. House Democrats and President Biden leave no family behind.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSIONAL ART WINNER MATTHEW PACIULLO

(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 today to congratulate Matthew Paciullo, a student at South Central High School in Pitt County, and the winner of North Carolina First Congressional District Artistic Discovery Contest.

Matthew, who won first place, took inspiration from his father, Zachary, whose love of rock music led to the creation of this remarkable masterpiece titled, "Liberty."

Through his artistic work, Matthew transformed recycled Styrofoam into a creative piece that captures the spirit of liberty.

I commend all the participants for their outstanding work and contribution to the artistic landscape of our community because it fosters creativity and self-expression.

Together, let us continue to support and nurture the next generation of artists who inspire creativity and enrich our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Matthew and all competition winners. They rock.

APPRECIATION FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE OFFICERS LEAGUE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, a Member stood on this floor to charge the President of the United States with high crimes and misdemeanors and that he failed to faithfully execute his duties.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee having participated in several impeachments, differences in policies, differences in parties does not reflect, at any time, a cause for impeachment.

Mr. Speaker, let me express my appreciation on a different topic to the African American Police Officers League that had an outstanding program today of giving to young people

scholarships and interacting with those young people. That kind of interaction fosters good police-community relationships.

Since this is gun antiviolenace month, it was good for these young people to be around police officers who live in their neighborhood, went to their high schools, and care about them and their families. This interaction makes a difference. This is the new policing, and I thank the African American Police Officers League and members of the Houston Police Department for recognizing how we work with our children and how we inspire them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank AAPOL for their service.

DRAFT GOLDWATER RALLY SUCCESS

(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, this summer marks the 60th anniversary of the historic National Draft Goldwater for President Rally in Washington.

According to The New York Times, supporters of U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona assembled on July 4, 1963, with "more than 6,000 Goldwater backers from across the country filled the National Guard Armory here for a rally of the National Draft Goldwater Committee. They were predominantly a young crowd."

As a Teen Age Republican at the High School of Charleston, I was grateful to participate with 30 activists by bus from Columbia, South Carolina, led by Republican State Chairman Drake Edens, with former Democrat State Representative Floyd Spence.

Senator Goldwater's visionary call for "Why Not Victory" to promote democracy to defeat communism has been achieved with the liberation of dozens of countries across the world. Actor Ronald Reagan delivered the Goldwater campaign challenge of "A Time for Choosing," ultimately leading to his Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, this summer marks the 60th anniversary of the historic 'National Draft of Goldwater for President Rally' in Washington.

According to The New York Times, supporters of U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona assembled on July 4, 1963, with "more than 6,000 Goldwater backers from across the country filled the National Guard Armory here for a rally of the National Draft Goldwater Committee. They were predominantly a young crowd." "The principal addresses were given by Republican Senators John G. Tower of Texas and Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska."

As a Teen Age Republican at the High School of Charleston, I was grateful to participate with 30 activists by bus from Columbia, South Carolina led by Republican State Chairman Drake Edens with former Democrat State Representative Floyd Spence, who was the first Democrat to switch parties and ultimately elected Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Another Teen Age Republican was Rusty DePass of Rock Hill who helped an all-Democrat York County become virtually all Republican today.

On that day there were no Republican elected officials in South Carolina, but the Goldwater victory in South Carolina in 1964 began a political revolution. Now, Republicans have a super majority in the legislature, including all statewide officials such as Governor Henry McMaster, Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, Attorney General Alan Wilson, State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver, State Treasurer Curtis Loftis, and Secretary of State Mark Hammond, and six of seven members of Congress, along with very credible candidates for President, Ambassador Nikki Haley and Senator TIM SCOTT. His philosophy of limited government, expanded freedom, individual responsibility, and Peace Through Strength, has triumphed.

Senator Goldwater's visionary call for "Why Not Victory" to promote democracy to defeat communism has been achieved with the liberation of dozens of countries across the world. Actor Ronald Reagan delivered the Goldwater campaign challenge of a "Time for Choosing" ultimately leading to his presidency.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with open Biden borders.

□ 1945

FOCUSING ON NATIONAL REUNIFICATION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleague, Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

As we commence this CBC Special Order hour, we will dedicate the next 60 minutes to National Reunification Month, focusing on a deeply concerning issue, the disproportionate separation of Black families by foster care and welfare services. This critical issue is not just of concern to the Congressional Black Caucus or Congress but a matter of significance for all Americans. Let us shed light on these unsettling realities and provide solutions and champion the reunification of families across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK).

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JONATHAN JACKSON for yielding.

June marks National Reunification Month, allowing us to recognize the importance of keeping families together and the long-term benefits that come with stable family structures.

As we observe this month, we must find ways to support the growing number of Black children who have been unnecessarily placed in foster care systems. As elected leaders, we must ensure that this trend does not continue in earnest.

Although the share of Black children in foster care is lower than ever before, Black children are still drastically overrepresented in the child welfare system. Across the country, 20 percent of children entering foster care in fiscal year 2021 were Black, yet Black children represent just 14 percent of the general population.

In my home State of Florida, it takes an extra 5 days, on average, for Black children to exit out-of-home care when compared to their White counterparts. This has been the status quo for far too long. From 2005 to 2021, 1 out of 125 children who identify as Black have been in foster care at any given point in time. That pains me not only as a Black American but as a parent.

There are several factors behind these glaring statistics, but they stem in large part from a combination of historical trauma and structural and systemic racism. Families of color are more likely to live in communities marked by historic disinvestment. High poverty rates have been exacerbated by poor housing conditions, limited access to employment opportunities and healthy food, as well as other components that are critical to raising children.

Through no fault of their own, many Black families have found it difficult to meet basic family needs and raise their children in safe, stable homes.

Our Nation needs to course correct. Research shows that children have better outcomes in life when their own families safely nurture and care for them. When a child must be removed from their parents, it is profoundly distressing for the entire family.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act. This law changed how we look at child welfare, focusing on families as a whole. I also helped fund evidence-based, prevention-focused activities, like those that address mental health needs and in-home parent skill-based programs. As we celebrate its anniversary, we must continue to fund programs that keep our children out of foster care and provide parents with the support they need.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for her great words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JACKSON for yielding. I am so happy to be joining him and Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. Indeed, it is a special honor to talk about our children and what they need.

I am so proud to be a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Not only am I a member of this esteemed body that is concerned about foster youth, but I am also a member of the Bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, and I serve in that caucus as one of the six bipartisan chairs.

I thank the CBC and its members who supported the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth's Shadow Day this past June 14, last week. I thank all the Members of the House who took time to allow a former foster youth to join them in their day's activities as well as to hear from and learn from their shadows.

If you didn't have a foster youth this year, be sure that GWEN MOORE will be calling upon you next year to enjoy this important experience and feedback between the delegates and Members.

My fellow CBC members, in particular, demonstrated their commitment to this special community through graciously hosting a former foster youth in their office for 1 day and addressing the whole delegation and cohort of 30 former foster youth from across the country, representing 20 States, directly during the youth's townhall meeting.

I thank those CBC members who stepped up last week to host a shadow, including my Congressional Foster Youth Caucus co-chair, Representative SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE; my Ways and Means Committee work fam subcommittee ranking member and long-time foster youth advocate, Representative DANNY DAVIS of Illinois; and others, including Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, Representative TERRI SEWELL, Representative BOBBY SCOTT, Representative BARBARA LEE, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Representative SUMMER LEE, Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Representative SHONTEL BROWN.

Mr. Speaker, I will give a special shout-out to Representative MAXINE WATERS, who was busy with her committee and didn't actually take a shadow, but she met and spoke with one of the students that I shadowed and made his day. He was someone who was born in Los Angeles, and it made his day to meet the Honorable MAXINE WATERS.

We also went over to the Senate side and met with Senator BOOKER. My particular shadow, Theron, is someone who is a licensed therapist, and his experience in foster care is that it is easier to get in trouble and to come in contact with the juvenile justice system for doing nothing but being a foster youth. He wants to make sure that we put a focus on the juvenile justice sys-

tem with regard to its nexus with foster care.

We have to stop the foster care-to-prison pipeline, Mr. Speaker. These are things that our foster youth are telling us.

I represented two outstanding foster youth, Shay Grey Woods and Theron Ogedengbe. Just like all the foster youth that I have gotten to know and had the privilege to participate with during Shadow Day, including the late Doshia "DJay" Joi, I have been the student. I have learned from them. They have informed me about the kinds of legislative initiatives that need to occur and what we need to do.

Mr. Speaker, just let me say, these foster youth who come here every year are leaders. These are people who have somehow overcome the many barriers that foster youth experience, and they are able to be a voice to speak for them. We should not think that because we meet these brilliant, young, educated foster youth that there aren't thousands more of them who are falling through the cracks for want of our guidance and care.

It is a reminder. I remind you that behind all these statistics, there are real people and real stories that demonstrate their incredible resilience and hope that they have.

The reason that I am really proud of Shadow Day is because it elevates the voices of the over 377,000 children in out-of-home care as of the end of 2021.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, disproportionately, Black children are overrepresented in the child welfare system. In my own home State of Wisconsin, 28 percent of the youth in out-of-home placements were Black or African American, whereas African-American youth in Wisconsin only constitute 9 percent of the population. They are overrepresented by three times.

The data from the United States as a whole is similarly disproportionate, with 22 percent of children in the United States in out-of-home care being Black and only 14 percent of youth in the general population being African American.

When you say that you want to lift up National Reunification Month, it is something we need to lift up because we have all heard the old adage that you divide and conquer. This is our future workforce. These are our future builders, doctors, teachers, people who repair our roofs, and it is just about impossible to do that when they start out with so many adverse childhood experiences, like being separated from their birth parents, sometimes unnecessarily.

In a perfect world, no children would ever be separated. Of course, we understand that sometimes that is in the best interests of the children. Far too often, it is our policies under our child welfare system and our welfare system and our unwillingness to support parents where they are that are creating these out-of-home placements.

I want to talk about some very specific reasons that children are taken out of these homes, if you will bear with me.

Child neglect is the number one reason that children are taken out of these homes. No one wants children to be neglected. Not a single person in the United States Congress would want a child to be stuck in a home where they were being abused and neglected.

That is really an overstatement of what actually happens. What actually happens is there are a lot of people who have more money than money. If you come to June 26 and the resources for that household have dried up, with some of the most onerous policies that we have around who can get SNAP, also called food stamps, and when you think about parents living in situations where 48 percent of their income has to go for housing, and not necessarily good housing—houses with lead paint in them and lead pipes and vermin, and they are still paying almost half their income for housing, we see a situation where children can easily be loved yet neglected.

One of the things that I am going to do is reintroduce, as I have done for several cycles, the Family Poverty is Not Child Neglect Act. I want to reinforce the notion that these agencies should not be snatching kids out of their homes when providing maybe some SNAP or other resources to the family could preserve that family.

□ 2000

It is in the best interest of children to be at home if they can be. My bill would make it so much harder for these agencies to use poverty as a rationale to pulling families apart.

I am looking for other ways to do it. I don't want to take up all the time, but I just want to mention a second reason that children are placed out of home, it is because of parental substance abuse.

Mr. JACKSON, I have known you and your family for a long time, so I know that you recall how substance abuse has become a real curse in this country. Drug affliction and addiction happens in every corner of the United States. How is it treated?

In some communities where there are fentanyl addictions, which are tragic; meth addictions, which are tragic; opioid addictions, which are tragic, we are proposing government interventions to help people. But when children of foster families become addicted, they are treated often like criminals and have their children taken from them instead of them being offered treatment.

So this year's theme for National Reunification Month is "We believe in the resiliency and strength of our families." If that is going to be our motto, Mr. JACKSON, we ought to do something to reinforce this strength and resilience and not just talk about it.

We need policies that match this audacious goal. Policies like the new exemption from SNAP time arbitrary and

harmful time limits in the Fiscal Responsibility Act for former foster youth up to age 24.

The White House has done a marvelous job, they estimated that as many as 50,000 youth who have aged out of foster care will now be exempt from onerous timelines which say that in the 3-year period you could only be eligible for SNAP for 3 months. In 3 years you can only get SNAP if you are an adult, but we have exempted foster youth from that provision because who do we know, Representative JACKSON, who is 18 or 19 on their own and can figure it out? I know I was still eating at home when I was 19.

I am so proud, again, of you and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for spending this time to lift this up to our community and our constituents. I am inspired by your dedication and recommitted to working with you as we move forward.

I thank you for yielding to me, Mr. JACKSON.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable GWEN MOORE from Wisconsin, who so eloquently and passionately articulated the plight of reunification and the challenges that lie before us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois and the gentlewoman from Florida, for their leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour this First Session of the 118th Congress.

They have demonstrated, even as freshmen, their leadership and breadth of knowledge of the issues that are important to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank both of them for their outstanding leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss June as National Reunification Month. It is a time to recognize the people who work daily to help families stay together. I know this issue personally.

Last Wednesday, I had the honor of hosting a young constituent from my district during Foster Youth Shadow Day. We spent the day discussing legislative process and I showed her around Congress. I was impressed with her questions and intelligence. She deserves to grow up in a loving and supportive household. She is one reason we must do more to help families stay together in healthy environments.

There are anywhere from 300,000 to 400,000 children in foster care nationwide. Yet too many children are removed from households before parents receive the services necessary to avoid such an action. This situation is worse in Black communities.

Black families are more likely to be investigated by child protective services and lose children than White families. Black children spend more time in foster care, and they are less likely to be reunified with their families.

Family reunification is better for these children overall. The youth that

shadowed me the other day talked about where her siblings were and that they weren't together. Even though she is not with them, she tries to keep track of them, being the eldest, and has worked to make sure that she stays in their lives.

Research shows that children have better outcomes in life when they grow up in families that nurture and care for them. There is hope for children in traumatic households before they even enter foster care. This year marks the 5th anniversary of the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

This law made funding available for resources and activities to make families healthier and safer for children. These resources include programs to address mental health and substance abuse issues in the home. Also, these programs help fathers and mothers become better parents.

We need to identify families at risk sooner so we can implement these programs before child removal becomes necessary. We need to increase funding for more preventative services, such as home visits. Studies show that home visits lower the rate of child maltreatment, the leading cause of child removal. In addition, there are kin placements.

Right now there are 2.5 million children who are being raised by relatives or close family friends. Research has found that children staying with a relative or a friend have better behavior, mental health, and physical health than children in foster care. They are allowed to grow up in their culture and stay connected to their families. Children do best with their own families.

That is why we must provide more resources to families to prevent children from being removed at all. Healthy families are better for children, and they are better for America.

As I stated, my colleague prior to me, the Honorable GWEN MOORE, has picked up the mantle from one of our great colleagues that has moved on to lead the metropolis of Los Angeles, KAREN BASS, who did an outstanding job with this program, the Foster Youth Shadow Day on Capitol Hill. She was an outstanding leader in that, and Ms. MOORE has picked it up and not lost a beat.

Mr. Speaker, it is an opportunity for us to do the best that we can to make sure that families stay unified and have a healthy outlook on life.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr., from the State of New Jersey for those eloquent words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month, I rise today to recognize Dr. Judith Joseph, who has helped shine a light on mental health issues and inspired countless others to seek support.

Dr. Joseph immigrated to the U.S. from Trinidad at the age of 4. After

growing up in a religious community, with a father as a pastor, Judith became interested in exploring the intersection of spirituality and science.

Today, she leads a team of 10 talented women at the Manhattan Behavioral Medicine, who are dedicated to developing and exploring novel treatments for mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and ADHD.

Dr. Joseph has shared her expertise with a wide audience, using social media as a positive vehicle for change in a digestible and accessible manner. I thank Dr. Joseph for her invaluable contribution to mental health research and education.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, June is National Reunification Month, an important designation that remains unknown to many, but one that warrants wider understanding and greater attention. In the grand tapestry of life, one universal truth weaves its thread throughout—that none of us can journey far or aim high without some form of familial structure to ground us. Family, in its various forms and definitions, provides the anchors we all need.

As we turn our attention to the realities underscored by the data from fiscal year 2021, a stark and uncomfortable picture emerges that further emphasizes the urgency of the matter at hand.

□ 2015

Over the year, investigations of maltreatment involved a staggering 587,330 children in the United States.

Each of these represents a unique story, a child who has faced abuse or neglect severe enough that allegations of maltreatment were substantiated, and a life irrevocably scarred by these experiences.

Moreover, this vast number doesn't tell the complete story. Over 200,000 children were placed into the foster care system in that same year, a heart-rending reflection of the urgency and complexity of the issues that we confront. While these numbers are staggering on their own, the statistics take on an even darker shade when viewed through the lens of racial disparities.

The overrepresentation of African-American children in the foster care system is a disturbing trend that we can no longer ignore.

Despite representing only 14 percent of the general population, African-American children accounted for 20 percent of the children entering the foster care system in fiscal year 2021. This disproportionate representation extends to multiracial children as well, revealing a systemic bias that must be addressed.

In certain States, this disproportionality is even more pronounced, spotlighting a deeply rooted racial bias that is pervasive and detrimental. The repercussions of these disparities stretch far beyond the immediate impact, creating a ripple effect that touches every aspect of these children's lives, from their education and

mental health to their future economic opportunities.

Taking a broader perspective, if we look back over the span from 2005 to 2021, the data paints an even more troubling picture. During this period, an alarming one out of every 125 children identifying as Black or African American found themselves in foster care at any given point in time. This points to a deep-seated systemic issue that transcends temporal and geographical boundaries, further underscoring the urgent need for reform.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today not just as an elected Representative, but as a living testament to this profound truth. I am an embodiment of the power of familial support and a witness to the transformative impact it can have on a child's life. It is within the secure confines of a loving family that a child can break free from the constraints of financial, existential, and emotional insecurity, daring to dream bigger, reach higher, and grow more fully.

A grim reality, however, casts a long shadow over our Nation—the practice of unnecessary family separations. This is not a side issue or a minor concern, but a grave matter that demands serious attention and conscious action from each of us.

The current system as it stands is marred by prejudice and arbitrariness, permitting the removal of children from their families without the absolute justification of immediate harm. This is a practice that we must challenge, question, and ultimately transform.

The era must come to an end when social workers and others were permitted to pass judgment on a family's worthiness based on race, economic status, or cultural and religious beliefs. A family's integrity should not be a matter for prejudiced scrutiny but respected as the bedrock of our society.

It is crucial to emphatically state that Black children, like all children, need the nurturing care of their parents. They need to experience life's joys and challenges within the safety net of their own families, enriching their identity and strengthening their roots.

There exists a blatant contradiction when some claim to champion the cause of families while simultaneously supporting policies that splinter their very familial structures.

How can one profess commitment to family values while advocating for policies that fundamentally undermine the very foundation of families?

Every family, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or geographical origin, has an undeniable right to raise their children in an environment free from undue governmental interference and unwarranted judgment from uninvested bureaucrats. Be they Black, Hispanic, indigenous, Asian, from the Appalachia, or from the South Side of Chicago, every family deserves this opportunity.

Perhaps it is time to look inward and address the root issues that plague our society. If we ensured a living wage for our workers, would we not see a reduction in the number of children entering the foster care system?

If we treated the root causes of addiction, would we not see fewer children that would need to be separated from their families?

Moreover, if we could cease making assumptions based on racial stereotypes about families different from our very own view, we might prevent the stigmatization of countless children. We might stop reducing them to mere cogs in the machinery of systemic racism and bigotry and instead acknowledge their individuality, their potential, and their dreams.

Today, I implore each and every one of us and you to present this to the House and to lend your ears to the voices that often go unheard. Listen to the stories of children and young people in the foster care system, their struggles, their hopes, and their dreams. Remember the dedicated caretakers who selflessly serve these children. Children who have been placed in the foster care system, for reasons reckless or legitimate, must never be rendered invisible or forgotten.

We must always remember that their lives matter. Their dreams are of critical importance to the tapestry of our future. Their spiritual, psychological, and emotional well-being is an essential cornerstone of the America we aspire to become.

A child living with criticism—we have heard—learns to condemn. A child exposed to hostility learns to fight. A child steeped in shame learns guilt. However, if we raise a child in an environment filled with encouragement, fairness, and approval, then they learn to be confident, just, and to love themselves.

Our government's paramount responsibility is to the welfare of our children. This responsibility outweighs any issues of national security or economic superiority. It is the heart and soul of representative government. Our constituents did not elect us to represent their vested interests but to defend and advance policies that secure a brighter and better future for their children.

Nobody sent us here to indulge in meaningless squabbles. We were not elected to be rulers of insignificant territories. We were chosen to represent their hopes and dreams and to make the task of raising and keeping families together easier.

As we recently celebrated Juneteenth, we remember what formerly enslaved Africans did after their emancipation. History bears witness that they walked great distances in search of family members who had been sold away and taken from them. They traversed the length and breadth of the South, driven by an indomitable spirit and an unwavering resolve to reunite their families. This is the spirit we should embody as we observe National Reunification Month.

The Congressional Black Caucus members will not stand by and watch families be torn apart in America again. No child should be thrust into a system unless they are in immediate danger. This is our pledge, and this is our solemn promise.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the life of my grandmother, Gertrude Brown, who was a foster child who was orphaned at the age of 14. I represent her indomitable spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the honorable gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my co-chair, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month, I rise today to recognize Phyllisia Ross, whose prowess as a musician has allowed her to create unique music that reflects her Caribbean heritage. Since the age of 3, Ross has developed her craft of singing and playing the piano. In 2006, Ross graduated from the world-renowned A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Throughout her career, she has been able to incorporate several styles of genres in her music, ranging from classical to R&B, as well as world music in several languages. Her hit single "Konsa" is emblematic of her unique talents, paying homage to her Haitian roots in its kompa production style.

Ross has brought her music around the globe—everywhere from the Ivory Coast to Jamaica—touching audiences worldwide. In addition, Ross also runs and operates her own independent music production company and has helped mentor young artists.

I am proud to represent Ross and her extensive artistic contributions to the Caribbean community and to the United States.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about family reunification.

I thank the Congressional Black Caucus chairman, Mr. STEVE HORSFORD. I thank the Honorable GWEN MOORE. I thank the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr. I thank my honorable colleagues who joined us today on all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, June 2023 marks National Reunification Month, honoring those who work tirelessly to keep families together across the nation.

Here we are, recognizing the individuals and continuing initiatives that support keeping families together.

The topic for this year's reunification is "Shifting Power and Reconnecting Families All Year Long."

The three important themes during Reunification Month include:

1. The fact that we should celebrate parents and children who have successfully reunited and understand how challenging an accomplishment it may be.

2. Celebrate child welfare professionals, kin caregivers, and resource families who helped make reunification a reality for parents and children. And lastly . . .

3. Inspire parents and professionals who are currently involved in child welfare to see that Reunification Matters and Reunification Happens.

It is also a good time to commit once more to supporting, enhancing, and intensifying these initiatives all year long.

By definition, the child welfare system is a collection of programs and services aimed at optimizing children's well-being by ensuring their safety, establishing durability, and aiding their families.

The operation and provision of child welfare services may vary from state to state, but all states are accountable for adhering to federal and state laws.

And yet, the stress of involvement in the child welfare system and foster care placement instability can contribute to or exacerbate mental health problems, and a child's unmet physical and mental health requirements have been related to placement instability.

I want to acknowledge that there are too many, particularly Black and African American children, unnecessarily taken from their homes and placed in foster care.

Not only are child protective agencies more likely to investigate Black homes, remove their children, and place them in foster care, but Black children are prone to spend more time in foster care and are less likely to be reunified with their families.

Research tells us that Black children are less likely to be reunified than White and Hispanic children, older children are less likely to be reunified and children with health or mental health issues are less likely to be reunited.

In addition, more than 200,000 kids entered foster care, and 587,330 of those cases of maltreatment or neglect have been documented nationwide.

Every child deserves a village of support. In Houston, there are well over 2,000 children currently in the foster care system.

Texas alone response times the hotline to report child abuse, neglect, or exploitation, increased by half a minute, with callers waiting on hold an average of 5.2 minutes, since the January 2022 report.

Furthermore, research on kinship care has indicated that children placed with relatives have better behavior, mental health, and well-being than children placed in non-relative foster care, and that children placed with family have higher placement stability.

Older foster youth have the same needs as younger children for a safe and loving family that will support them into maturity.

It is extremely unfair that youth who age out of foster care are more likely to encounter homelessness, unemployment, early parenthood, and substance abuse. That is why I congratulate the Hay Center for using Federal Block grant funds to build housing for aged out youth with wraparound services in Houston.

The needs, experiences, and voices of children and youth in foster care as well as their families and caretakers need to be lifted.

Everyone has a part to play in making communities and families stronger and lowering the need for foster care in a secure manner.

This year commemorates the fifth anniversary of the Family First Prevention Services Act's passage.

I am astounded that the passage of this law, that emphasis on the child alone was replaced with one that included the family as well.

Family First made financing available for a variety of authorized evidence-based prevention-focused programs, such as those to address mental health issues, substance use disorders, and to offer parental skills-building.

Family First prevention plans have been filed by 45 states including Texas and 4 tribes to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and several have already started putting them into practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the need for more innovative ways, like telehealth, to provide mental health services to children, youth, and their caretakers.

Several state child welfare agencies are co-designing techniques to design with individuals and communities rather than for them. This method elevates the voices and experiences of adolescents, parents, relatives, and foster parents.

The Harris County Plan of Safe Care Steering Committee is a cross-sector group of organizations from academia, child welfare, healthcare, justice, public safety, and substance use disorder prevention treatment.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services operates a "Treatment Foster Family Care" program to stabilize children at risk of placement in a congregate care setting or psychiatric hospital who experience emotional, behavioral, or mental health difficulties.

Transforming the child welfare system will require the development of new policies, practices, and infrastructures that prioritize prevention and the well-being of children and families.

As well as meaningful participation of those with lived experience in all stages of reform planning, development, and implementation.

Many people find the process of receiving assistance to be unnecessarily difficult.

Not to mention the overwhelmingly horrifying number of children who are placed in unlicensed homes.

It is illegal to place children overnight in unlicensed facilities, but because of mounting demand, children are sleeping in such places anyway.

The harm to foster children goes beyond loneliness and missed meals.

It saddens me to know foster children have been subjected to physical and sexual abuse in these temporary placements.

Children have gone missing while in state care and some have been groomed for sexual trafficking.

CPS workers—trained for case management, not therapeutic care—have their hands tied in how to respond.

We are talking about traumatized children who have been subjected to abuse and neglect.

Children who are now being housed in temporary residential treatment centers or temporary group homes under the supervision of CPS staff.

Placement into foster care is a significant and traumatic experience in the life of a child, and for their family.

That is why we need to work to support and strengthen families and prevent unnecessary removals of children from their homes.

Too often, the perspectives of children, youth, and families, have been silenced in debates about how communities may improve their approach to child and family well-being.

We should all believe in hope.

Hope is the belief by a family that despite the challenges they face, the strength and support of neighbors and others in the community will help them to overcome and thrive.

Childhood should be some of the most beautiful moments of your life.

No one person young or old should endure what many of our nation's people are experiencing.

No child left behind means exactly that.

Our children are the future, the past and most importantly the present.

Do not take your focus off of the important and what some may deem "touchy" subjects, because they are the most pivotal in the end.

They are all of our children and every one of us is needed to safeguard and protect them.

As co-chair of the Children's Caucus, I encourage all of us to continue to dig deeper, love more and reach out to children in need.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to do even more to ensure all safeguards are in place and to uphold laws, and to create or amend laws where needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1269. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's fourteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking for 2022, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-25b(c)(1)(F); Public Law 109-422, Sec. 2; (120 Stat. 2892); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1270. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department

of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Computer Room Air Conditioners [EERE-2020-BT-STD-0008] (RIN: 1904-AF01) received June 15, 2023, 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-1271. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing; Extension of Compliance Date [EERE-2009-BT-BC-0021] (RIN: 1904-AF53) received June 15, 2023, 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-1272. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Air Cooled, Three-Phase, Small Commercial Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps With a Cooling Capacity of Less Than 65,000 Btu/h and Air-Cooled, Three-Phase, Variable Refrigerant Flow Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps With a Cooling Capacity of Less Than 65,000 Btu/h [EERE-2022-BT-STD-0008] (RIN: 1904-AF32) received June 15, 2023, 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-1273. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Commercial Warm Air Furnaces [EERE-2019-BT-TP-0041] (RIN: 1904-AE57) received June 15, 2023, 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-1274. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Portable Air Conditioners [EERE-2020-BT-TP-0029] (RIN: 1904-AF03) received June 15, 2023, 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-1275. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (123 Stat. 91); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1276. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1277. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the

sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1278. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1279. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, nomination, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1280. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adoption of Updated WIPO Standard ST.26; Revision to Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: PTO-P-2023-0013] (RIN: 0651-AD69) received June 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1281. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter from the Department; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1282. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2022 Report to Congress of the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1315b(e); Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2602(e); (124 Stat. 316); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-1283. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2023 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(D) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(2)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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:

Ms. FOX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 2813. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from the definition of health insurance coverage certain medical stop-loss insurance obtained by certain plan sponsors of group health plans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-114, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 524. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3564) to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-fam-

ily mortgages, and for other purposes; providing the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3799) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual health insurance coverage; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 461) condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States (Rept. 118-115). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2813 referred to the Committee on 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. GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4204. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to exempt community banks from any special assessment of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation caused by the use of the systemic risk authority under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 4205. A bill to revoke the security clearances of certain former members of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 4206. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require covered financial institutions to include elements of accumulated other comprehensive income when calculating capital for purposes of meeting capital requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 4207. A bill to prohibit a large banking institution from paying discretionary bonus payments when the institution is subject to a Matter Requiring Immediate Attention and does not provide the appropriate Federal banking agency with a remediation plan to correct the matter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TLAI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 4208. A bill to provide Federal financial regulators with clawback authority over executive compensation and additional industry prohibition and civil money penalty authority with respect to executives whose negligence caused financial loss to the applicable financial institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. TLAI):

H.R. 4209. A bill to prohibit stock sales by senior bank executives in certain circumstances; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. TLAIIB):

H.R. 4210. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to apply the enhanced supervision and prudential standards applicable under such Act with respect to bank holding companies to large banks that do not have a bank holding company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRUJALVA, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 4211. A bill to improve air quality management and the safety of communities using the best available monitoring technology and data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4212. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the income cap for and make permanent the mortgage insurance premium deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself and Ms. CARAVEO):

H.R. 4213. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the conservation reserve enhancement program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 4214. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and implement a comprehensive system for analyzing and addressing nonconformities in the aftermath of all Class A Mishaps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4215. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish reference prices for prescription drugs for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Accountability, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 4216. A bill to make available certain unobligated balances to carry out a timber block grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GRUJALVA, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 4217. A bill to control the export of electronic waste in order to ensure that such waste does not become the source of counterfeit goods that may reenter military and civilian electronics supply chains in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 4218. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the Puerto Rico National Scenic Trail; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4219. A bill to establish the Southwestern Power Administration Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subse-

quently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 4220. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate certain charges under the TRICARE dental program for members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 4221. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate certain health care charges for members of the Selected Reserve eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 4222. A bill to require executive branch agencies to prohibit conflicting financial interests through prohibited holdings regulations; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4223. A bill to establish an artificial intelligence commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 4224. A bill to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to enforce its own forfeiture penalties with respect to violations of restrictions on the use of telephone equipment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MRVAN (for himself and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK):

H.R. 4225. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Acquisition Review Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4226. A bill to provide for coverage of employees of the District of Columbia courts and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. BOST, Mr. MOLINARO, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. KILMER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4227. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish the ReConnect program under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 4228. A bill to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from timber sales conducted on National Forest System land, to reduce payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-

mination Act of 2000 to reflect such counties receipt of timber sale revenues, to strengthen stewardship end result contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 4229. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a study and submit a report on the effects of unmanned free balloons on aviation safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 523. A resolution authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, considered and agreed to.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 525. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the African Union should be a permanent member of the Group of 20; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TRONE, Ms. TLAIIB, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. CROCKETT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Ms. BALINT, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mrs. FOSHUEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRUJALVA, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H. Res. 526. A resolution reaffirming the importance of the United States promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons in the United States and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 527. A resolution condemning the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish Americans, standing in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition

to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. PETERSEN):

H. Res. 528. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June as "National Annuity Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to exempt community banks from any special assessment of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation caused by the use of the systemic risk authority under that Act, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 4205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution, Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To revoke the security clearances of certain former members of the intelligence community, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 4206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve Federal bank supervision and regulation

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 4207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Banking

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 4208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would expand bank regulatory authority with respect to clawing back compensation, imposing fines, and banning future work in the industry for bank executives that negligently contribute to their bank's failure.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 4209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would expand bank regulator authority to prohibit stock sales of bank executives, when appropriate, when issuing a cease-and-desist order to a bank for not complying with the law, and automatically restricting such stock sales by senior executives of large banks if it receives poor exam ratings or does not resolve supervisory citations.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 4210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Closes a loophole that allowed large banks like Signature Bank and First Republic Bank to escape Dodd-Frank's enhanced prudential standards simply because they did not have a bank holding company.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 4211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environment

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 4212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the income cap for and make permanent the mortgage insurance premium deduction

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 4213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the conservation reserve enhancement program

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 4214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and implement a comprehensive system for analyzing and addressing nonconformities in the aftermath of all Class A Mishaps, and for other purposes

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To end prescription drug price gouging.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 4216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make available certain unobligated balances to carry out a timber block grant program to pick up the downed trees.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution; and

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 4218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution:

Congress shall have the power. . . "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would amend the National Trails System Act to authorize a study on the feasibility of establishing the Puerto Rico National Scenic Trail.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Water Resources

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 4222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Executive Branch Financial Holdings

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 4223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I SECTION VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Artificial Intelligence

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 4224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Federal Communications Commission to enforce its own forfeiture penalties with respect to violations of restrictions on the use of telephone equipment.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 4225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any of Congress' enumerated powers

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Acquisition Review Board within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- H.R. 3970: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3985: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 4004: Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 4053: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4058: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 4062: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4079: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 4083: Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 4117: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4121: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4127: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 4167: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Mr. BIGGS.
H.J. Res. 8: Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.J. Res. 54: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Ms. PINGREE.
H. Con. Res. 33: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. VAN DREW.
H. Con. Res. 46: Ms. MANNING.
H. Res. 50: Mr. BIGGS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. ROY.
H. Res. 77: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 274: Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 348: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H. Res. 474: Mr. BIGGS.
H. Res. 483: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H. Res. 488: Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HILL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 492: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BERA, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H. Res. 493: Mr. BIGGS.
H. Res. 498: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H. Res. 499: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H. Res. 503: Mr. BIGGS.
H. Res. 505: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. BALINT.
H. Res. 509: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 517: Mr. TRONE.
H. Res. 518: Mr. ROY.
H. Res. 521: Mr. MOLINARO.



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Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, on housekeeping, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to treaty document No. 112-8 be at 5 p.m. today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a remarkable change is taking hold in our country and around the world due to artificial intelligence. The public is now more conscious of this technology than ever before. And thanks to recent advancements in machine learning and neural networks, AI's impact in the coming years will be world-altering.

Tomorrow morning, I will speak at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on how Congress can begin acting on AI in earnest. I will share my ideas about a comprehensive framework Congress can use to supercharge AI innovation in a safe and responsible way. Because AI is moving so fast, it is so complex, and so outside Congress's expertise, I will talk about some steps we must take to stay ahead of AI's rapid development.

Many of AI's impacts are truly exciting. It will reshape how we fight disease, tackle hunger, manage our lives, enrich our minds, and ensure peace. But we cannot ignore AI's many dan-

gers: AI will dramatically disrupt our workforce, could lead to massive and sophisticated misinformation and weapons, could jaundice our elections and democratic system, and there is the danger that we may prove incapable of managing this technology at all.

Congress cannot behave like ostriches in the sand when it comes to AI. Some might think it is better to ignore this issue or hope someone else figures it out because it is so complex, but ignoring AI is untenable for Congress.

In the 21st century, elected representatives must treat AI with the same level of seriousness as national security, job creation, and our civil liberties, because AI will touch on these issues and many, many more.

I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are already putting AI front and center, including our little team of Senators HEINRICH, YOUNG, and ROUNDS, as well as Chairman CANTWELL, PETERS, KLOBUCHAR, WARNER, and DURBIN, as well as their ranking Republican Members. I want to commend colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have spoken out on AI's challenges, including Senators BENNET, THUNE, BLUMENTHAL, and many others.

We must prepare for the age of AI together—both parties working with goodwill bipartisan cooperation. That is the only way our efforts will succeed in the ways it should.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on nominations, later today, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Julie Rikelman to serve as circuit court judge for the First Circuit.

For years, Ms. Rikelman has had a hand in some of the most important legal fights over women's rights and civil liberties. She was the attorney who defended the Mississippi clinic in the Dobbs case that ultimately overturned Roe.

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, on yesterday, we commemorated the end of American slavery. We were reminded by the violence in our land of the truth of John 8:34, which states:

[E]veryone who sins is a slave of sin.

Free us from fear, self, others, and sin. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and deliver us from the chains of hatred and prejudice. As we remember Juneteenth, may we offer ourselves to become slaves of righteousness.

Lord, help our lawmakers and everyone they serve to discover the holiness to which You call us, as we experience the eternal freedom to be found in living for Your glory.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Few lawyers have fought harder, smarter, and more effectively to protect women's rights in America than Ms. Rikelman. On the bench, I am confident she will serve with excellence to uphold the Constitution.

Appointments to the circuit court are essential. The lion's share of all Federal cases are decided at the circuit court level, so it is necessary these vacancies are swiftly filled with exceptional nominees like Ms. Rikelman.

This week, the Senate will also advance the nomination of Natasha Merle to be a district judge in the Eastern District of New York. With Ms. Merle's confirmation, the Senate will reach a major milestone: 100 district judges confirmed by Senate Democrats under President Biden.

Many of these 100 judges have knocked down longstanding barriers to the halls of justice: the first Muslim district judge, the first women of color to be district judges in Maryland and Oregon, the first openly LGBTQ judge in Puerto Rico. The list could go on and on.

District judges are an important reason why our Federal judiciary is far more balanced, far more diverse, and far more experienced than the one we just had a few years ago. So hitting this milestone of 100 district judges is very significant. Senate Democrats will continue moving forward on more judges in the weeks and months to come.

TAX CONVENTION WITH CHILE

Madam President, now on the Chile tax treaty, tomorrow, the Senate will vote to advance a crucial treaty impacting America's clean energy and business relationships between Chile and the United States.

A lot is at stake in our treaty with Chile, including America's global competitiveness and the future of our clean energy transition. This United States-Chile treaty is very similar to other treaties we have with more than 60 countries around the world, many of which support U.S. jobs and business growth. So I hope this treaty passes the Senate very quickly.

Chile is one corner of the so-called Lithium Triangle, home to the world's largest lithium reserves and currently the second largest lithium producer. Lithium is a key ingredient for so many important and emerging technologies, from iPhones to EV batteries to energy storage. Nations around the world, including the United States are racing to source these precious materials.

But right now, American companies are at a significant disadvantage. Because the United States doesn't have a tax treaty in place with Chile, they face double taxation and other barriers to investment and trade. Countries like China have an edge on us. It is an unnecessary roadblock to a fruitful and economically prosperous partnership between Chile and the United States.

Ratifying the Chile tax treaty would quickly remedy this issue. This treaty

has been in the works for over a decade. It now has strong bipartisan support, and now is the time to finally get it across the finish line.

I am pleased that we are finally moving the treaty forward on the floor this week. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—Senators MENENDEZ and RISCH and many others—for their work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Senate Democrats continue to dutifully advance the Biden administration's radical nominees.

This week, the Senate will decide whether to give yet another leftwing lawyer a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench: Natasha Merle, who is an activist lawyer with a penchant for staking out extreme and inflammatory positions that are thoroughly divorced from reality. For example, she attacked widely popular election integrity measures, claiming "it's inconsistent to denounce White supremacy but not repudiate voter ID laws."

Alongside the self-proclaimed "wild-eyed leftist" Democrats just confirmed to the bench last week, Ms. Merle went after the State of Alabama for daring to verify the identities of people who cast ballots in elections. Meanwhile, Ms. Merle has found time to attack what she calls "unfounded yet repeated public assertions that there is a widespread lack of respect for law enforcement" and criticize efforts to promote law and order as "an illegal attempt to advance a false narrative that law enforcement was being attacked."

Well, Madam President, President Biden's first year in office saw the largest number of law enforcement deaths in the line of duty in 20 years. But Ms. Merle doesn't appear to like grappling with facts that don't suit her narrative. Normally, a record like this would be shockingly disqualifying, but under the Biden administration, it is not an outlier. It is an essential qualification.

Unfortunately, the President's affinity for radical nominees applies to folks already on the job as well. Last week, Democrats on the EPW Committee rammed through the nomination of Jeffery Baran to another term as Commissioner at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Baran already has an extensive record as the NRC's resident liberal obstructionist. While his colleagues collaborate on regulatory frameworks that encourage safe and efficient energy production, this

nominee prides himself on being a stick in the mud.

Even leading climate activists understand that Mr. Baran's dedication to hindering nuclear development "harm[s] the environment in the process." They know that reducing carbon emissions means embracing safe nuclear energy. Mr. Baran, however, does not.

At every opportunity, this nominee has opposed commonsense efforts to revise regulations and keep pace with the smaller and more affordable nuclear technologies of the future. He has shown that his blanket antinuclear approach is both a tired relic and an active obstruction to American prosperity.

So no wonder even some Senate Democrats are thinking twice about rubberstamping Mr. Baran's nomination. I would urge each of our colleagues to oppose it.

CHINA

Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, over the weekend, the Secretary of State traveled to Beijing and engaged senior Chinese officials, including President Xi, in meetings intended to reduce our differences. Managing and reducing tensions with America's adversaries is a typical responsibility, of course, for the Secretary of State. But this isn't necessarily an end in itself. It is a means of advancing other key interests.

Reports of the Secretary's meetings suggest Beijing blamed America for increasing tensions. Well, I certainly hope Secretary Blinken responded by holding up a mirror to the PRC.

Madam President, it is China that has increasingly threatened the people of Taiwan with military force. It is China that continues to test the limits of cyber espionage around the world. It is China that has stepped up threatening and unsafe interactions with U.S. vessels and aircraft operating legally in international waters. It is China that continues to do business with Iran, enriching the world's top state sponsor of terror. It is China that continues to provide cover for Russian aggression in Ukraine.

It is China that continues to wrongfully detain innocent foreign citizens, including Americans, while repressing its own citizens. And as just reported today, it is China that wants to build a military training facility in Cuba, 100 miles from U.S. soil.

China's conduct threatens stability across the Indo-Pacific. And it calls into question Beijing's willingness to behave responsibly, especially as the PRC rejected U.S. efforts to reestablish military-to-military communications to deescalate and prevent incidents.

These are the plain facts. One side is ramping up its provocative behavior. And this week, the Senate Armed Services Committee should reflect on Beijing's behavior as it considers the National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA is our primary opportunity to set Congress's national security priorities. It is a critical chance to

determine how America should deter and defend against growing threats from the PRC.

And it is the Congress's basic responsibility to establish appropriate funding levels for our Armed Forces. So our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee will be called upon to carefully consider the requirements identified by our commanders that have gone unfunded in President Biden's budget.

They should think about the steps that could improve our ability to project power into the Asia-Pacific or the assistance that could support vulnerable partners in that region.

So remember, threats of sanctions and stern diplomatic warnings don't deter Vladimir Putin in Ukraine. Words alone will not deter Chinese aggression in Asia. The Biden administration can continue to speak softly, but Congress must ensure that America carries a big stick.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DAN SWANSON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, over the past 17 years, a lot has changed in the Senate. Back in 2006, we counted two future Presidents in our ranks: Barack Obama and Joe Biden. The chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate was the late Arlen Specter, back when he was a Republican, and I was the most junior member of that Judiciary Committee.

Well, today, I want to tell you about one thing that has not changed since those days, and that is the dedicated, diligent public service of a man who stood by my side every step of the way as I have gone from the Judiciary Committee's most junior member to serving as chair of the committee. That man's name is Dan Swanson.

Dan is the embodiment of wisdom, patience, kindness, dedication, and selfless public service. Sadly, this is his last week as general counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

While Dan would never say it himself—he is just too humble—the truth is, he has made an indelible mark on the history of this Nation.

For nearly two decades, Dan has been my go-to man in addressing our Nation's most complicated and urgent challenges. In every one of those challenges, he has been guided by a love for the law and a belief that our government can and should help people.

When you consider his background, you can understand. Dan is the son of two teachers, and you can see their influence in the way he engages with others. No matter the time of day, he always finds time to talk through the details of statutes and case precedent, often from memory, and never—never—loses his temper or patience.

And just about any other staffer on the Judiciary Committee will tell you: Dan is the best teacher and mentor you could ever hope for. Moreover, his integrity and intellect are respected by Senators and staffers of both parties.

He is remarkably consistent. Growing up, he was always calm and kind.

He always knew what he wanted to do. In fact, Dan's parents say he was just about 10 years old when he first told them he wanted to write laws when he grew up. While other kids were dreaming of being astronauts or athletes, Dan knew that his future was in the law.

Years later, he pursued that dream by going to Harvard Law School because he thought it would help him land a job in the Senate Judiciary Committee. He then had the courage and determination to leave a well-paying job at a prestigious law firm and accept a job as a legislative correspondent in my office. Within weeks of joining, we realized Dan Swanson was indispensable. And soon enough, we were directing the hardest assignments of all to his desk. No matter how complicated the topic, Dan always mastered it quickly. Frankly, Dan's legislative legacy is too long to list in a single speech, but let me tell you about a few notable accomplishments.

Dan is the mastermind behind what is known in banking circles as the dreaded "Durbin amendment," a financial reform that has saved consumers and retailers billions of dollars by setting limits on the so-called interchange fees which banks charge merchants every time you swipe a debit card.

I had never heard of a swipe fee or an interchange fee. And I stumbled into a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee presided over by then-Chairman Arlen Specter, where he described the process where retailers across America were forced into signing agreements with the major banks and credit card companies, Visa and Mastercard—agreements, which many times they never even had a chance to read. It was a take-it-or-leave-it proposition. And in many ways, it still is.

The notion is, if you are a restaurant or shop or a chain of stores and you want to use Visa and Mastercard for your customers, you have to pay what they demand, the so-called interchange or swipe fee.

It turns out, for most of these retailers, it is the third most expensive item of business. The labor costs, of course, and, of course, the basics of food in the restaurant or the supplies that are needed in stores, but the third most expensive thing, which retailers face day in and day out, are these interchange fees or swipe fees charged by the big banks and the big credit card companies.

Can you imagine taking on that industry, trying to force through reform? I couldn't do it. I couldn't do it without him. Dan Swanson understood. He reached the point where he mastered that particular area of the law to the point where we offered a change in the way we do business in America when it comes to debit cards.

It was a long process. We had to offer an amendment on the floor in the banking reform bill. And Dan, every step of the way, was my guide as to what we could achieve.

We changed the law, and we reduced the costs to the retailers and to merchants and restaurateurs of using those debit cards for that purpose. I don't have many friends in the big banking industry as a result of it, but I can tell you, we made the big banks pay \$8 billion a year that they otherwise would have collected in these swipe fees. And by not collecting them, consumers and retailers were the winners. My lead advocate in that area, my expert in that area, was Dan Swanson. He understood it, and he did it so well.

He also helped save countless lives from gun violence, a topic on which he has been my top adviser. Just last year, he joined the group that wrote the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most important gun safety reform to pass Congress in nearly 30 years.

And Dan Swanson has also been my point person on the Federal judicial nominees for my State of Illinois. He even helped create the bipartisan process we use in our State to select candidates to recommend for Presidential judicial nominations.

Dan has overseen the confirmation process for all but two of the Federal judges currently serving in the entire State of Illinois. And the judges he has helped reach the Federal bench bring not only strong credentials and experience, they have brought vital new perspectives.

With Dan's help, this Senate has confirmed the first women to serve as judges in the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois, the first Black and Asian American judges to serve in those districts as well as the Seventh Circuit. And he was instrumental in the confirmation of the first African-American woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Throughout his more than 17 years of service in my office, Dan has not only changed America for the better, he has also experienced some changes of his own.

Dan does not like to be in the spotlight. But 10 years ago—I love this story—he and his wife Priva made a splash in the Washington Post. They were on their way to the hospital for the birth of their second child, but they didn't make it in time. Little Arya was born in her parents' car. She arrived a few years after her big sister Maya, who was born in more traditional circumstances.

So while our team regrets losing Dan, I know there are two little girls, along with their mom, who are going to enjoy a summer of quality with dad, which is just up around the corner. I hope the four of them have a chance to head up to Vermont soon with Dan's parents Alan and Donna, as well as his brother Allie, to take long walks in nature, watch the Bronx Bombers play, and enjoy countless helpings of Dan's favorite: Jell-O and pie.

A writer I admire once observed:

With the lives that we live and the choices we make . . . let our goal be to give the world more than we take.

Dan, you have given everything you can possibly give to public service, and I have been a beneficiary. I am grateful. America is grateful. Thanks, Dan Swanson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Vermont.

UNIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, tomorrow morning, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will be marking up three landmark pieces of legislation which will make it easier for workers to form unions, it will guarantee up to 7 paid sick days for every worker in America, and it will make sure that women in our country finally receive equal pay for equal work.

If these bills are signed into law, they would represent the most significant set of labor reforms in the modern history of our country and significantly improve the lives of many millions of American workers.

We are living in a moment where corporate America and the 1 percent have more economic and political power than they have ever had in the history of our country. The time is long overdue for Congress to stand up for the working families of our Nation—60 percent of whom live paycheck to paycheck—and not just wealthy campaign contributors and lobbyists.

Let us be clear. The American people are sick and tired of the unprecedented level of corporate greed they see every single day, and they are tired of the outrageous and illegal union-busting that is taking place throughout this country. They are sick and tired of CEOs making nearly 400 times more than the average worker—unheard of in American history. CEOs of major corporations now make 400 times more than their average employee. The American people are sick and tired of billions in stock buybacks going to the people on top, while millions of Americans today are struggling hard to put food on the table and pay their rent.

The American people want justice, and that is what we are going to begin doing tomorrow in the HELP Committee.

The American people look around them, and they see more income and wealth inequality in America today than ever before. Three people on top have more wealth than the bottom half of American society—165 million Americans. Three people here, 165 million people, and that gap is growing wider.

While the people on top do phenomenally well, over 18 million families in our country are paying more than half of their limited incomes on housing, which is soaring in many parts of the country, and some 600,000 Americans are homeless.

American workers want to know why—why it is that despite huge advancements in technology and worker productivity, the average worker in America today makes about \$50 a week

less than he or she made some 50 years ago after adjusting for inflation. In other words, the very rich are getting richer, and the average worker is going nowhere in a hurry.

Now, there are a number of reasons—many, many reasons—why the gap between the very, very rich and everybody else is growing wider and many reasons why wages have remained stagnant. One of the reasons, of course, is that we have a Federal minimum wage today, a starvation wage, of \$7.25 an hour—a wage that has lost nearly 30 percent of its purchasing power over the last 14 years.

Raising the minimum wage is something the HELP Committee is going to address in the near future, but probably above and beyond the need to raise the minimum wage, the most important reason that real wages are lower today in America than they were 50 years ago is the fact that corporate America and the billionaire class have been waging a war against the right of working people to exercise their constitutional privilege to form unions, constitutional right to form a union, freedom of assembly. As a result of that aggressive war against union organizing, trade union membership today is at its lowest level in the modern history of America.

In our country today, 71 percent of the American people approve of labor unions. Labor unions today are more popular than they have been in a very long time. Yet, despite that, only 6 percent of private sector workers belong to a union.

Tomorrow, the HELP Committee will be asking why, at a time of record-breaking corporate profits, why are multibillionaires and CEOs of large corporations doing everything they possibly can to deny the working people of this country the right to join a union. Why? Why in their never-ending greed are they doing all kinds of illegal actions to prevent workers from forming unions and negotiating for decent wages and benefits?

The answer to that question really is not that complicated. Corporate America understands what most people in this country understand, which is that when workers join a union, they earn better wages, they receive better benefits, and they work with better working conditions. In fact, union workers today earn nearly 20 percent more on average than nonunion workers. Corporate America also understands that 64 percent of union workers have a defined benefit pension plan that guarantees an income in retirement, compared to just 11 percent of nonunion workers. Corporate America understands that union workers are half as likely to be victims of health and safety violations compared to nonunion workers.

For all of these reasons—the fact that union workers do better than nonunion workers, have better working conditions, better benefits—all of these reasons and more are why we are see-

ing a significant uptick in union organizing in America today. In fact, it is higher than we have seen in many decades. Workers understand that when they stand together in solidarity and can negotiate a decent contract, they are going to do a lot better than when they have to go begging to their employer.

So what we are seeing today is more and more union organizing at blue-collar jobs. A couple of months ago, a factory in rural Georgia organized a steelworkers local. We are seeing it at white-collar jobs all over this country. We are seeing it on college campuses.

Furthermore, very interestingly, as healthcare becomes more corporatized in America, we are seeing more and more nurses form unions. We are even seeing doctors form unions. At the University of Vermont Medical Center, among many others, resident doctors voted overwhelmingly to form a union.

With that growth in union organizing, what we are also seeing in this country is a vicious corporate response, and that is that major corporations all across this country are taking unprecedented and illegal actions against employees who are fighting for economic justice. That is why major corporations like Starbucks and Amazon and others have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on union-busting campaigns and anti-union law firms. They hire these fancy consultants at outrageous prices because at the end of the day, they would rather spend millions and millions of dollars trying to prevent workers from forming a union than pay those very same workers decent wages and decent benefits.

Part of the corporate strategy is the reality that over half of all employers in America threaten to close or relocate their businesses if workers vote to form a union. Imagine that. You work for a company for years. You want to form a union, and then your employer says: If you form that union, we are going to China; we are going to Mexico; we are going to leave this State.

That is why, when workers become interested in forming a union, they almost always will be forced to attend closed-door meetings to hear anti-union propaganda. What employers do is bring people into a room, they have all of their executives there, and they tell them how terrible a union would be and the consequences to them if they formed a union.

As Human Rights Watch has said, “Freedom of association is a right under severe, often buckling pressure when workers in the United States try to exercise it.” In other words, yes, in America, you have the constitutional right of freedom of assembly. You have the constitutional right to form a union. But if you exercise that right, all kinds of corporate power will be thrown at you to prevent you from succeeding.

Here is something that really is quite incredible: Even when workers overcome all of these incredible obstacles

and when they win their union elections, 63 percent of workers who vote to form a union do not get a union contract a year later. So what corporations do is they do everything they can to stop workers from forming a union. Then, if by some miracle workers vote to form a union, what corporations do is stall and stall and throw all kinds of legal minutia into the process to delay a first contract.

Incredibly, on average, because of corporate obstructionism, it takes 465 days on average to sign a first contract after a union wins an election. Imagine that—well over a year after you win the election can you actually get a contract. One-third of successful organizing campaigns cannot get a contract in the first 3 years after a union victory. That is what corporate obstructionism is about, and that is what corporate greed is about.

All of that is unacceptable. That should not be happening in the United States, and starting tomorrow, the HELP Committee will fight to change that reality by passing the Protecting Workers Right to Organize Act, otherwise known as the PRO Act.

The PRO Act will make it easier for workers to exercise their constitutional right to form a union free from fear, intimidation, or coercion by their corporate bosses.

Look, not every worker in America wants to form a union, and that is part of what freedom in America is about; but if you do want to form a union, you should not be hit with illegal activities to prevent you from doing so. This legislation will make it easier for workers to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. It will finally hold corporate CEOs accountable for the unprecedented level of illegal union busting that is taking place all over this country.

Under the PRO Act, corporations will finally be held accountable for violating Federal labor law.

Mr. President, incredibly, in America today, corporations are charged with breaking labor law in more than 40 percent of all union elections. And yet—and this is the important point—the penalties for this illegal behavior are virtually nonexistent. In other words, you can break the law with impunity. Pathetically—pathetically—far too many corporations have made the calculated decision that it is much more profitable and beneficial to their bottom line to break the law than to follow the law. Ordinary people follow the law. Average people follow the law—not large corporations. As they have figured out, you can break the law, you can stall this thing out forever, and nothing is going to happen to you.

In fact, the financial penalty for corporations retaliating against pro-union workers in America, today, under current law, is zero—no penalty at all. That will change under the PRO Act. Under this legislation, corporations will be fined up to \$50,000 for violations

of the National Labor Relations Act and up to \$100,000 for each repeated violation. In other words—shock of all shock—large, profitable corporations will have to obey the law. I know that is a very radical concept in America today, but that is what I think should be happening.

Under the PRO Act, we will ban captive audience meetings that are designed to intimidate, coerce, and threaten workers who support forming a union. Under the PRO Act, we will make sure that all workers have a first contract within 1 year after winning a union election to binding arbitration. In other words, it should not take years to work out a first contract. This is nothing more than a stalling tactic on the part of the corporate world.

Under this legislation, we will ban, once and for all, the permanent replacement of workers who go on strike. No longer will companies be able to hire replacement workers or withhold benefits from workers who go on strike to improve their wages and working conditions.

Mr. President, this legislation will override so-called “right to work” laws that have eliminated the ability of unions to collect dues from those who benefit from union contracts. This legislation will end the ability of corporations to misclassify workers as independent contractors or label ordinary workers as supervisors to prevent them from organizing.

And yet, Mr. President, that is not all that the HELP Committee will be doing tomorrow. The second bill that we will be marking up is the Healthy Families Act, which will end, once and for all, the international embarrassment of the United States of America being the only major country on Earth not to guarantee paid sick days to workers. This legislation would guarantee that every worker in America receives up to 7 paid sick days from their employers.

You know, we hear a lot of talk here in this town about family values. Everybody is deeply concerned, presumably, about family values. So let me be clear: When a wife is diagnosed with cancer and a husband cannot get time off of work in order to take care of her or spend time with her when she is struggling with cancer, that is not a family value. That is, in fact, an attack on everything that a family is supposed to stand for.

When a working mom is forced to send her sick child to school because she cannot afford to stay home with that child, that is not a family value. That is also an attack on everything that a family is supposed to stand for.

I don't think it is a terribly radical suggestion that in the wealthiest country in the history of the world, in 2023, people should not get fired because they stay home with sick children.

Let us be clear: The United States of America is the only major country on Earth that does not guarantee 1 single day of paid sick days—not one.

In Germany, workers are entitled to a total of 6 weeks of sick days at 100 percent of their salary. In France, workers are entitled to a total of 90 days of paid sick leave at 50 percent of their salary. In Denmark, workers are entitled to at least 30 days of paid sick leave capped at about \$638 per week. In Canada, workers are entitled to 10 paid sick days at 100 percent of their salary and are eligible to receive 26 weeks of paid sick benefits at up to 55 percent of their salary. That is what Germany does, France does, Canada does—countries all over the world do.

In the United States of America, the wealthiest country in the history of the world, workers are entitled—workers are guaranteed a total of zero paid sick days. That's the reality, and that, my friends, has got to change. Last place is no place for the United States of America. We can't go around telling people we are the greatest country on Earth and be the only major country that doesn't guarantee 1 day of paid sick leave.

It is time for the United States of America to join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee at least 7 paid sick days to every worker in America. And in doing that, we will still be way behind most of the industrialized countries.

Just a few months ago, the American people learned about what railworkers in this country were going through and the fact that they, as workers doing difficult, dangerous work, often in inclement weather, were not guaranteed one single day of paid sick leave—and we had a big discussion on that. I offered an amendment on that issue, which failed. But I am happy to tell you that as a result of a strong grassroots trade union movement and, I think, the railroad companies getting a sense of how the American people feel—that is beginning to change.

Today, unlike a few months ago, over 50,000 railworkers are now guaranteed up to 7 days of paid sick leave. And I have the feeling that in the weeks and months to come, more and more railroad workers will get that benefit. We need to build on that momentum by guaranteeing 7 paid sick days, not just to rail workers, but to every worker in America.

Last but not least, the third bill that the HELP Committee will be voting on tomorrow is the Paycheck Fairness Act introduced by Senator MURRAY. This legislation would end the absurdity—the unfairness—of women in America being paid just 84 cents on the dollar compared to men. As bad as that figure is, 16 percent less for women than for men, it is even worse—much worse—for women of color. In America today, Asian women make just 80 cents for every dollar a man earns; for black women, it is just 67 cents; and for Hispanic women and Native American women, it is just 57 cents.

So, I don't think it is too much to ask in this country that people be paid equal pay for equal work, no matter

who you are. And the truth is, of course, the current situation does not have to be that way.

In Belgium, another industrialized country, the gender wage gap is just 1.2 percent. Women make virtually the same amount as men do. In Spain, Norway, and Denmark, the gender wage gap is 5 percent or less—women make 95 percent of what men make. Across the European Union, the gap is just 10.6 percent, and in the United States, it is 16 percent.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would close this gap by guaranteeing equal pay for equal work and making it easier for women to come together to file and win lawsuits against unscrupulous employers who commit wage discrimination.

These bills are not only good policies, they are precisely what the American people want. According to the last polls I have seen, 87 percent of the American people support guaranteeing paid sick leave to every worker in our country; 84 percent of the American people support equal pay for equal work; and 59 percent of the American people support the PRO Act.

The bottom line is that most Americans understand we live in a rigged economy. People on top are doing phenomenally well—have never done better. Ordinary workers are struggling to put food on the table, to purchase the healthcare they need, to take care of their families, to send their kids to college, to take some time off for a vacation. That is not what America is supposed to be about.

Tomorrow, the HELP Committee begins the difficult and long journey of beginning to bring justice to the working class of this country and tell the CEOs and the corporate executives and the 1 percent that they cannot have it all, that this economy has got to work for working people and not just for the people on top.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF JULIE RIKELMAN

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Julie Rikelman to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Based on a recommendation of a bipartisan advisory committee on Massachusetts judicial nominations in Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY and I were pleased to recommend Julie Rikelman to the President for this important role on the Federal bench. She received bipartisan support from the Senate during her cloture vote last week, and I expect the same will be true shortly, when we vote on her confirmation to the First Circuit.

Julie Rikelman is an accomplished lawyer who has significant experience in both private practice and public interest and whose career demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Ms. Rikelman's commitment to the rule of law and the Constitution is in-

formed by her personal experience fleeing religious persecution. In the late 1970s, she and her family came to the United States from Ukraine as Jewish refugees seeking equal opportunity denied to them in the former Soviet Union.

Ms. Rikelman went on to graduate from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. After law school, she clerked for Justice Dana Fabe on the Alaska Supreme Court and then Judge Morton Ira Greenberg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Following a 2-year stint as a Blackmun fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights, Ms. Rikelman entered private practice—first, as an associate at Feldman & Orlansky and then as senior associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. In 2006, she joined NBC Universal as litigation counsel before being promoted to senior litigation counsel in 2008 and vice president of litigation in 2011. She has worked on issues related to securities, breach of contract, employment discrimination, intellectual property, and constitutional law matters.

In 2011, Ms. Rikelman returned to the Center for Reproductive Rights as a senior staff attorney. One year later, she was appointed U.S. litigation director, and, in that role, she argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Rikelman's exceptional qualifications are bolstered by the support she has received from lawyers in public and private practice, from prosecutors, from defenders, from academics, and from former judges representing a range of political perspectives.

Whether appointed by Republicans or Democrats, her supporters "share a strong belief that Ms. Rikelman is a lawyer of uncommon talent and ability, broad experience, sound and fair-minded judgment, and unquestioned integrity." Her former NBC Universal and Simpson Thacher Bartlett colleagues describe her as "thoughtful" and "open-minded" and observed that she "carefully considered every argument without prejudice and without regard to her personal views."

There it is—fairminded, experienced, thoughtful, and exceptionally talented. These are the qualities a Federal judge should possess, and these are the qualities that Julie Rikelman has exhibited throughout her career.

In addition, her personal and professional experiences will bring important diversity to our Federal bench and underlie her respect for the rule of law.

Finally, it is important to note, now more than ever, that we have judges on the Federal bench who deeply understand reproductive rights law, and Ms. Rikelman's experience in this area makes her an exceptionally qualified nominee.

I have every confidence that Julie Rikelman will continue to uphold the rule of law and our Constitution as a First Circuit judge.

I want to thank our bipartisan advisory committee in Massachusetts for

all of the work they did to identify and recommend candidates like Julie Rikelman, and I want to thank President Biden for nominating her to this position.

I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Julie Rikelman, a supremely qualified candidate who will bring her commitment to delivering equal justice under the law to the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, this week marks the 1-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade. This disastrous decision has sown chaos and confusion across the country and led to dozens of States restricting or banning abortion care.

Republicans are obsessed with banning abortion nationwide, and they are using every vehicle possible to advance their radical anti-abortion agenda.

Tomorrow, my colleagues and I on the Armed Services Committee will begin our markup of the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA is an annual bill that sets our Nation's defense policy. Despite our differences, Congress has come together to pass an NDAA on a bipartisan basis every year for the last 62 years.

While Republicans and Democrats may disagree about military policy, we have always kept the readiness of our forces above politics. From combating threats abroad to rebuilding DOD infrastructure at home, we have no shortage of important issues to work through in this year's bill, but right now my Republican colleagues are threatening to derail the bill by injecting anti-abortion provisions into a bill that has nothing to do with abortion.

After the Supreme Court's disastrous Dobbs decision, the Department of Defense clarified their travel policy to enable servicemembers stationed in States with abortion restrictions to travel in order to receive reproductive care. This updated travel policy in no way, shape, or form authorizes the DOD to pay for abortion care. There is no language in these provisions that pays for abortion. They simply allow servicemembers to access care they would otherwise be able to access but for being stationed in States that do not allow such care.

My Republican colleagues are hell-bent on outlawing abortion nationwide and exerting control over servicemembers' freedom by preventing their travel to receive healthcare. Amending the NDAA is just one way to impose their will on the Department of Defense.

In another example, one of my Republican colleagues on the committee currently has a hold on more than 250 general and flag officer promotions within the Department of Defense because he objects to the DOD's travel policy and wants to make a point

about his displeasure. The Secretary of Defense as well as Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force have all testified that these holds impact our national security.

Radical Republicans are pandering to their MAGA base, and the American people will pay the price. While the Republicans continue their anti-abortion crusade, we should be working to craft an NDAA that addresses the real challenges our servicemembers face and gives them the resources they need to continue protecting our Nation, including access to healthcare.

That is what I will be focused on when we begin our markup tomorrow, and I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in this important task in the NDAA markup that will begin tomorrow. Our servicemembers and the American people are counting on us to get this job done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Tennessee.

INFLATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for almost 3 years now, the American people have watched the Biden administration and their Democratic allies in Congress burn through trillions of dollars of their hard-earned money.

Early on in the administration, when one of their radical proposals made its way to the Senate floor, I would hear from Tennesseans wanting to know whom the Democrats expected to actually pay the bill for these programs. But as time has gone by, the Democrats confirmed, as they have every time they have been in power, that their plan was to keep squeezing taxpayers for as much money as possible, for as long as possible. Indeed, the Federal Government has a ceaseless, non-ending appetite for taxpayers' money.

I don't think I have to tell you how discouraging this is for Tennesseans. It is confirmation that their President knows what is happening to them but he just does not care. They are in pursuit of a goal. They see this as a means to an end.

Now, when I am at home in Tennessee, as I was this weekend, people don't ask me where all the money went because they know the Democrats have wasted it on handouts and Green New Deal schemes—trillions of dollars down the drain. All they want to know is when is this going to stop.

They can't plan ahead. They can't save for special occasions. Even something as simple as a holiday cookout has slipped out of reach for so many families. Independence Day is coming up, but what should be an exciting time for everyone has turned into a source of stress because, in 1 year—1 year—the price of a bag of chips, up 7.9 percent; ice cream and popsicles, 8 percent more; potato salad will cost 7.1 percent more this year, and that is only accounting for the cost of the potatoes. Hot dogs and hamburgers have gone up, but when you account for the almost 16-percent hike on ketchup and

mustard, a 9.4-percent hike on lettuce, the 13-percent hike on pickles, and a ridiculous 12.5-percent hike on the bun to put it all on, you can cross your main course off the menu also.

There is no reason why a meal like this should suddenly be out of reach of many families, but it is, and it is not just due to the price of the hamburger bun. That is just something that really is adding insult to injury.

Since Joe Biden became President, grocery prices have increased 20 percent, which is something every single person serving in Congress has seen in action. You cannot deny this. Any trip to the grocery store tells the story.

Energy bills have gone up 36 percent since Joe Biden and the Democrats took power. Rent is up 15 percent; clothes, 12 percent more. A tank of gas is up 51 percent, and a used car to put that gas in is going to cost you 33 percent more today than it did last June.

To counteract all of this, the Fed has raised interest rates at the fastest pace since the 1980s, which has in turn destroyed access to consumer credit and made it harder for small businesses to take out the loans they need to grow.

The problem isn't limited to a holiday celebration; our President and the Democrats have made life too expensive to afford every single day of the year.

Needless to say, spending has been out of control for over a decade. Regardless of what this administration believes, we cannot spend our way to prosperity. It does not happen. But we can directly trace this crippling inflation back to the reckless spending policies of this administration. So let's take a look at some of the things they have chosen to prioritize over the good of the country and the good of the people.

They used the 6,825-page Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 to set a new precedent for wasteful spending that, frankly, continues to baffle most Tennesseans. This bill, which no one had the opportunity to read, included billions in pure waste and authorized over \$1.82 trillion in total discretionary spending authority.

To make matters worse, the Inflation Reduction Act, which passed last August, gave the Internal Revenue Service \$80 billion for—guess what—more IRS agents. They estimate that the resulting increase in harassment will take \$204 billion from hard-working taxpayers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

The IRA also included \$386 billion for Joe Biden's radical climate agenda, including \$27 billion for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the sole purpose of which is to increase the power of the EPA; \$3 billion in environmental and climate justice block grants; and an extension of the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits.

This is hundreds of billions of dollars going to pet projects of the left, while Americans are struggling to put food on the table.

But the spending won't stop there. Earlier this year, President Biden released a pledge to make things worse. It is in the form of his 2024 budget request. This exorbitant wish list proved that he has no desire to get our national debt under control. It included annual budget deficits ranging between 4.6 and 6.8 percent above the baseline. He also included trillions in tax increases and added even more funding to the IRS. He doubled the tax on capital gains; increased the corporate income tax rate to 28 percent, which is the second highest rate in the developed world; and then made sure the IRS could find ways to take even more money—not exactly a taxpayer-friendly approach.

This path is not sustainable and will only lead to our children and grandchildren bearing the full brunt of our massive national debt burden. In my opinion, this is immoral.

This is why every Congress I introduce legislation to cut spending by 1, 2, and 5 percent all across the board. These small changes would make a big difference and help us return to a path of fiscal stability and fiscal sanity.

The Consumer Price Index rose 4 percent in May. Incredibly enough, the Biden administration celebrated this as a win, which leads me to believe they are still counting on the American people somehow ignoring what a mess they made in continuing to fork over the money.

Let's be clear. Four percent inflation is still double the target rate. This is not a win. It is not normal. The day Joe Biden came into office, inflation was at 1.4 percent.

Now, what this does do, it does guarantee that Tennesseans will face yet another month of groceries that are too expensive to afford and unsustainable spending on programs they did not vote for and do not want.

If we were to pass a 1-percent across-the-board cut to Federal spending, then there is a chance we can reverse this trend and ease the impossible burden that the Biden administration has placed on the American people. But if we continue to ignore the problem and spend even more money, that will lead us even further down the path to economic collapse.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 7 minutes and that Senator GRASSLEY be permitted to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABORTION

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today with a simple question: When exactly was the moment when military women like me no longer had the right to bodily autonomy?

Our Nation was just fine with me using my body as I saw fit when I chose

to use it to fight wars on its behalf. It was all right with me using it as I wish when I decided to risk every drop of blood in this body to fly a Black Hawk into combat. It was even OK with me losing parts of this body, leaving parts of it strewn across a battlefield in Iraq in defense of this great Nation. In fact, people thanked me for my service, for making that incredibly personal choice about my own being, my own life. I know the same is true for many of the other female servicemembers and veterans who have made the similar decision to serve our Nation.

So my question is, Precisely when do the folks pushing anti-choice policies think that we American women no longer have the basic human right to make our own decisions about our own health?

I ask because over the past year since the Supreme Court announced its Dobbs ruling, we have faced an onslaught of anti-woman, anti-choice bills that would effectively turn women into second-class citizens, rendering them incapable of adjudicating matters related to their own bodies, transforming them from people with autonomy into mere vessels subject to the political whims of lawmakers whose beliefs tend more toward insurrectionist than feminist, lawmakers who think making America great again equates to sapping away women's rights again.

This week is no exception because this week my colleagues across the aisle, led by my fellow veteran, Senator ERNST, are trying to hold our annual Defense bill negotiations hostage in an attempt to force through an extremist amendment that would overturn existing DOD policy—an amendment that would keep troops and their families who are stationed at military bases in anti-choice States from getting the resources they need to travel elsewhere to get basic reproductive healthcare.

You know, our servicemembers often move every 2 or 3 years. They don't get to choose where they are stationed. They receive orders to be somewhere. Then they pack up their rucksacks and go. And I have seen estimates that about 40 percent are assigned to bases in States that now have draconian reproductive rights laws.

If Senator ERNST's amendment to the NDAA becomes law, thousands of military women will be stripped of their right to bodily autonomy just because they have chosen to serve their country. Think about how shameful that is. Think about how disgraceful it is that so many of the same so-called leaders who applaud these women for choosing to put themselves in harm's way overseas are trying to wrest control over their bodies away from them when they are back on U.S. soil.

Think about how astounding it is that the folks backing this kind of policy seem ignorant to the hypocrisy laden in the idea that the greatest democracy in the world—a nation born

out of a fight against governmental overreach and that takes pride in self-determination—would actually strip away the right to personal freedom from the very citizens who have sworn an oath to protect others' rights, to keep others free.

When I fought in Iraq, at the beginning of our rotation, it was so early on in the war that full logistics were not yet set up. We were still living in tents and had no personal hygiene facilities other than the wet wipes we would get in care packages.

So when it came time for me to deploy, Army doctors issued me birth control patches so I could control my menstrual cycle since for the first 2 months I was set to be downrange, there would be no female sanitary support. In other words, because I wouldn't be able to get tampons, pads, or the like for those early days yet still needed to fly my missions, it advantaged the military for me to control my reproductive cycle. I was happy to do it because it was for the good of the Army, the good of the mission, and thus the good of this Nation that I love more than life itself.

But looking back, especially after this week, my takeaway is that our country was just fine with me seeking reproductive care when it suited them but only when it suited them because today we live in an America whose representatives waver even on the basic question of whether women should have access to the kind of care they readily supplied me when it fit their needs.

To me, this Republican amendment effectively punishes women for their willingness to put on the uniform. The policy is both morally corrupt and militarily shortsighted, as how could it not impact the future recruitment and retention of our Armed Forces if women understand that if they wear our Nation's colors, that if they follow orders and are stationed at whatever base they are told to report to, their fundamental rights may remain forever out of reach?

Yes, we are talking about abortions here certainly, but this amendment my colleagues are so focused on passing also impacts a range of other basic life-saving and sometimes even life-creating reproductive care, including fertility treatments, both for those who have worn the uniform and for the partners of those who serve, or the urgent medical services needed in the tragic event they miscarry a child they do want.

So when I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle champion this policy, what I hear them say is that they either don't understand or don't care about the very real, severe effects that servicemembers and dependents could face if they can't access reproductive care.

What I hear them say is that they want to force female servicemembers to give birth whether they want to or not, whether they are ready to or not,

regardless of the burden, the cost, the implications for their careers and, more importantly, their lives.

What I hear them say is that they don't believe that the readiness of women servicemembers affects our military's readiness, that they don't think recruiting women is important for the future of our military, that they don't care about the contribution women make to our Armed Forces, that they don't value the service of women, point blank.

Ultimately, sadly, that means they don't care about solving our military's recruiting challenges as much as they do about getting on the good side of anti-choice billionaires who bankroll campaigns. That is offensive and hypocritical.

These proposals are misogynistic and sadistic. These proposals are craven and cowardly. In other words, it is a perfect snapshot of today's self-interested, self-defeating GOP.

Look, we Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee have used every negotiation tactic under the Sun to try to stop our Republican colleagues from crashing down the entire Defense bill negotiations with this one poison pill. But let me be clear. We cannot pass a Defense funding bill if this amendment is hidden deep in its fine print. We have even offered to hold a separate vote on this same exact policy as a stand-alone bill—a solution that would both protect this week's larger NDAA process while also letting the rest of the Senate have a say on this single piece of legislation. But Republicans have decried this offer, calling it a ploy. It is not a ploy. We are giving them the vote they say they want.

They don't want a solution. They don't want fairness. They just want to scream and shout. They want to show off to the most fringe parts of their base, knowing that in a few days they will somehow contort reality and blame Democrats even when they are well aware that their own political agenda is at fault for Congress failing to pass this critical national defense legislation.

Just as I made my own decision about my body when I signed up to fly Black Hawks in Iraq, I am making my choice today to use my voice to say "enough."

We must not allow Republicans to score political points by restricting the personal freedom of the very people who have dedicated their lives to defending that most fundamental, most American ideal.

Our female servicemembers, veterans, and military families, deserve access to healthcare, regardless of what part of the country they happen to be stationed in. They deserve to have full control over their bodies here at home, just as they did when they were carrying rucksacks and M4s on those bodies overseas.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if you care about the

strength of our military, if you care about defending our freedoms that have defined America since the first drop of ink was written on our Constitution, then you will vote against this amendment. Please do not abandon the women who have done so much to keep our Union safe. Please do not repay our heroes for their sacrifices by telling them what they can and cannot do with their bodies they put at risk time and again to protect our country.

Please, as you sit at your fancy desks under this hallowed, historic dome, ask yourself if you are so desperate for a pat on the back from FOX News that you would be willing to vote to strip away the rights these women have spent their lives protecting. I certainly could not live with that decision—with that vote. I hope the same is true for each of my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JULIE RIKELMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Julie Rikelman to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She is a highly skilled litigator with almost 25 years of experience in private practice, as in-house counsel, and in public interest law.

After graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Ms. Rikelman clerked for Justice Dana Fabe on the Alaska Supreme Court and Judge Morton Greenberg on the Third Circuit. Ms. Rikelman then began her legal career as a Blackmun Fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights—CRR—litigating reproductive rights cases around the country. In private practice, Ms. Rikelman has handled a wide range of civil and criminal cases, at both the trial and appellate level, including securities fraud, commercial breach of contract, State antitrust law, and election law. As an in-house attorney at NBC Universal, Ms. Rikelman litigated a variety of matters in Federal and State courts—including defamation, intellectual property, and employment discrimination. In 2011, Ms. Rikelman returned to CRR to take on a more senior role litigating cases, as well as spearheading case strategy.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Rikelman has proven to be a skilled trial attorney and an accomplished appellate practitioner, arguing multiple appeals, including two before the U.S. Supreme Court. The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Rikelman “well qualified,” and she has the strong support of her home State Senators: Ms. WARREN and Mr. MARKEY. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Ms. Rikelman’s nomination.

VOTE ON RIKELMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rikelman nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Murphy	Rubio
Fetterman	Risch	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. KELLY.) The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider with respect to the Rikelman nomination be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 46 through No. 52, No. 82 through No. 107, No. 110 through No. 113, No. 130 through No. 139, No. 180 through No. 205, No. 224 through No. 234, No. 236 through No. 246; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider to 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this is now the sixth time that I have been on this floor asking for unanimous consent so that the U.S. Senate can do its job to ratify, to approve the nominations of flag officers’ promotions at the Department of Defense.

That is something that we have done as a matter of course in the U.S. Senate for the last 230 years. No Senator in the history of the United States has ever prevented the Senate from proceeding with these nominations of flag officers.

I certainly don’t have to tell the Presiding Officer how important these promotions are, how critical they are. And observer after observer after observer has said that it is in the national security interest of the United States, not surprisingly, for this Senate to confirm these promotions, to ratify these promotions.

We are compromising our national security when one Senator out of the whole 100 people decides that they are going to do something that no Senator has ever done in the history of the United States. No Senator has ever put a blanket hold on the promotions of flag officers, and there is a good reason for that, because if people are willing to play politics with that, they are playing politics with our national security. If they are willing to play politics with that, they are playing politics with the expectations of people who have spent an entire career defending the national security of this country, serving the public, serving in the Department of Defense, and who now have been promoted to a position of trust and responsibility.

By the way, this doesn’t just affect those people who are getting that promotion. It also affects the people who are below them who can’t get the promotion that now is no longer vacant because they are stuck in the job that they are in.

And I am shocked that somebody here would do this and pretend that this is just common: You know, this is the Senate. This is the way the Senate functions. This the way the Senate, as my colleague from Alabama has said, just does its business.

This is not how the Senate ever does its business. It is not how the Department of Defense does its business. And it, particularly, I think, should be particularly grieving to the American people because of the reasons the Senator from Alabama is doing what he is doing.

Tonight, we are here on basically the 1-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in the *Dobbs* decision. If you told me when I was in law school that a majority of the Supreme Court would join the majority opinion by Justice Alito that would say, if it wasn't a right or a freedom in 1868, it is not a freedom today—if you told me that was the basis on which they were going to strip a fundamental freedom from the American people, I would have said that will never happen; it is never going to happen.

That is what is happening, and that is the result of a 50-year crusade to overturn a woman's right to choose in the United States of America. It is the first time since Reconstruction that we have given up a fundamental right here. It is first time since Reconstruction that we have been stripped of our fundamental rights and our freedoms have been diminished, that they have grown smaller in the hands of a 50-year campaign that was waged to put four people on the Supreme Court—a majority on the Supreme Court—who subscribe to the best named doctrine I have ever heard named in American political history or anybody's political history, and that is the doctrine of originalism, a doctrine that was dressed up to create a scenario or a legal set of arguments that somehow there were a group of people in this society with such mystical powers that they were capable—unlike anybody else in America, they would be capable of divining the originality intent of the Founding Fathers, putting aside the fact, tonight, that everybody in this Chamber who studied the Constitution even for 10 minutes knows that the Founders had fundamental disagreements among themselves and that the Constitution itself was a product of these fundamental differences—not their fundamental consensus but the fundamental differences. There was consensus on some issues. There was compromise on other issues.

But I dwell on that for a moment just to say, especially to people around here—maybe the age of the pages in the Senate—that you shouldn't give this theory of legal interpretation any great weight just because they dressed it up and called it something called originalism or they said somehow they could divine what the Founding Fathers said.

Fundamentally, what it came down to in the case of the Supreme Court was that because abortion wasn't a freedom, as they said, in 1868—a country where women didn't even have the right to vote in the United States yet—that it was not going to be a freedom today, and they stripped the American people of this freedom.

And there are people on this floor, people, you know, in the other party who spent 50 years trying to create a Supreme Court like this, basically since Ronald Reagan was our President. I think Ronald Reagan would be

shocked by the extreme nature of the opinion that was rendered by Justice Alito, but who knows.

What we do know is this has been a 50-year campaign that has been waged. And the second that the Supreme Court did what they have been shooting for the last 50 years, what they started to say was: Don't worry about it. It is not a big deal. This is just reverting to States' rights. This fundamental constitutional right, this fundamental constitutional freedom, it is just being reverted to the States.

What has happened since then? Twenty States have banned abortion since that decision was made or restricted access. Nine of those States have no exceptions for rape or incest, like the State of Alabama, I think, which has an exception for the life of the mother.

So there is a lot to worry about in this decision. There is a lot to worry about for our men and women in uniform.

Before *Dobbs*, women in the military had at least some assurance that wherever the Pentagon sent them, they would have minimal access to reproductive care, a protected constitutional right, a protected freedom. That is no longer the case.

One of the very first calls I got after *Dobbs* was decided was from a woman whom I know in Colorado who was an Air Force officer. She was a pilot. She told me her personal story, and then she said: I don't understand how they could have possibly made the decision they made because this is a fundamental readiness issue.

Well, they didn't have to deal with that. They didn't have to deal with that fundamental issue of readiness. They didn't have to deal with the fundamental fact of how people every single day would be dealing with the loss of this right or the loss of this freedom because nothing in their interpretive doctrine requires them to do that. It only requires them to ask: Was it a freedom in 1868? Not a freedom today.

And in response to this shocking development—and it is shocking. You know, if you are the age of the pages who are here, if you are my daughter's age—my oldest daughter is 23 years old—you are wondering how it is possible. We were having this conversation the other day. We were driving by a billboard in Colorado advertising some stuff in Colorado. Amazing thing that we could be, on the one hand, legalizing marijuana in this country and on the other hand, banning abortion. If you told me that when I was a teenager in America, I would have said: What are you smoking? That is impossible. That is impossible, and that is where we are.

What the Supreme Court did in this case is fundamentally unpopular with the American people. The American people are angry that this has happened. It didn't happen by accident. This is a war that has been waged on a woman's right to choose. It is a war that has been waged for that doctrine of originalism.

And a lot of people and a lot of institutions in America are having to make adjustments in the wake of this shocking development, and the Pentagon is one of those places.

In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Pentagon extended two policies that already exists for servicemembers if a medical procedure is not available near their duty station. One was the travel allowance. If you are not—if you can't get that knee operated on close to your duty station, we are going to pay you to travel. That is what the rules say today.

By the way, that is not a law that Congress passed. That is the DOD making regulations, which is how this works, to ensure that people serving our country are able to get the medical care that they need. We say: You know what, you will have to travel and because you have to travel to do this, we are going to give you paid leave to do that, to go get that knee surgery.

And what the DOD said in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision reversing *Roe v. Wade* is that if you are doing that because you made a decision to seek reproductive healthcare, you made a decision to have an abortion, we are going to apply the same rules to you that we apply for these other surgeries. We are not going to treat you differently. We are going to treat you exactly the same. That is what we are going to do. And if you need to travel because it is not available, you can do it.

So if you live in a State like Alabama, where my colleague who is blocking every single appointment or promotion in the DOD, where he lives—where, if you are a doctor and you perform an abortion, you can go to jail for 99 years—if you are living in a State like Alabama where abortion is banned, and there are very limited exceptions, if any exception, that you can go somewhere else to do it or the DOD will actually pay for you to go, and the DOD will give you paid leave. That is true whether you are seeking women's reproductive healthcare or you are going for knee surgery. But knee surgery isn't banned in 20 States in this country.

And there was one other thing that the Department of Defense said. They said: You know what, in the case of a pregnancy, you can tell your commanding officer, you can tell your command 20 weeks after you learned of your pregnancy. You don't have to tell people right away because things might happen in the early stages of pregnancy or you might make a decision to have an abortion in that time. This was an attempt by DOD to harmonize the rules at DOD for healthcare with the changes of the Supreme Court. It would be difficult, in my mind, at least, to imagine a more modest set of changes to the rules by DOD.

I thought about what could be more modest than saying: OK. If we are going to pay people who are getting

knee surgery or pay them paid leave, then we are going to do this for everybody else—for women who need reproductive healthcare. If we are going to pay people to travel for these other things, then we are going to let people travel.

I would think most people who have disagreements about abortion in this country might say: Well, that is fair. People have the right to be able to make this decision on their own—or they should have the right to make this decision on their own—and we shouldn't discriminate against people just because we might have a disagreement about abortion.

One thing this set of rules does not do in any shape or form is pay for an abortion. The Senator from Alabama has almost admitted as much on this floor. He said it is sort of tantamount to that. It is sort of this, and Senator LEE from Utah was saying it is sort of, but they know that it is not. That is not what the rules do. That is a debate that we are going to need to have here, but that is not what is happening here. What is happening here is the rules, as I stated.

The Senator from Alabama was so enraged by this, so infuriated by this, so angered by this, that he has now put a blanket hold on 249 military promotions to unwind those rules, to change those rules, to force the DOD to retreat and for the DOD to say: OK. From here on out, here is what we are going to do. We will pay for your travel for every single operation that you can't get at your duty station except if you are a woman who is seeking reproductive healthcare. If you are a woman who is going to have an abortion, we are going to discriminate against you. We are going to treat you differently than anybody else for every other purpose.

And we are going to give you paid leave because we understand that it is inconvenient to have to go somewhere else from your duty station. By the way, you haven't asked to be at that duty station. We are going to give you paid leave except if you are going because of reproductive healthcare, in which case, we are going to discriminate against women and say, uniquely: You do not get paid leave. And, I guess, you have to inform your commanding officer—somebody does—that you are pregnant sooner than the 20 weeks.

That is the world that the Senator from Alabama is trying to pursue here on this floor by holding every single military promotion, every flag officer promotion in the United States of America when Putin is invading Ukraine and China is sailing their shiny new navy all over the South China Sea. And I know he knows. He can't think it is a good idea.

He has come out here and said: Don't worry about it. There are acting people who are doing those jobs. Don't worry about it. The generals don't actually make decisions. It is the enlisted people who are doing all the work. Don't

worry about it. Somehow this is going to help with the recruiting quagmire that he has pointed out.

I don't think, by the way, it is going to help with the recruiting quagmire that he has talked about out here; that women who are thinking about joining the military are going to know that their life, their lives, are in the hands of politicians in Washington, DC. Their very lives are in their hands. Their destiny is in their hands. And DOD can send them to a place where abortion is banned and doctors go to jail for 99 years if they perform an abortion or they might be lucky enough to serve in a place like Colorado where we codified Roe v. Wade anyway. We are the first State in America to do it.

And I don't have to tell the Presiding Officer, who, by the way, served and has been on the Armed Services Committee, how important these jobs are we are talking about: the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force General C.Q. Brown; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Chief of the National Security Agency; the next military representative to NATO. You think that is an important job?

Soon this hold is going to include the next Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Army Chief of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, putting our national security at risk.

Mr. President, I asked unanimous consent at the outset of tonight's proceedings if we could have unanimous consent on a number of these promotions.

I ask unanimous consent that those names and ranks and positions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #46—Col. Leigh A. Swanson to be Brigadier General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #47—Maj. Gen. Sean A. Gainey to be Lieutenant General; Exec. Cal. #48—Maj. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle to be Lieutenant General; Exec. Cal. #49—Brig. Gen. Laurence S. Linton to be Major General; Exec. Cal. #50—Brig. Gen. Stacy M. Babcock to be Major General and Col. Peggy R. McManus to be Brigadier General

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #51—Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara to be Lieutenant General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #52—Maj. Gen. Robert M. Collins to be Lieutenant General

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #82—to be Brigadier General: Col. David J. Berkland; Col. Amy S. Bumgarner; Col. Ivory D. Carter; Col. Raja J. Chari; Col. Jason E. Carrothers; Col. John B. Creel; Col. Nicholas B. Evans; Col. Bridget V. Gigliotti; Col. Christopher B. Hammond; Col. Leslie F. Hauck, III; Col. Kurt C. Helphinstine; Col. Abraham L. Jackson; Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson; Col. Joy M. Kaczor; Col. Christopher J. Leonard; Col. Christopher E. Menuey; Col. David S. Miller; Col. Jeffrey A. Philips; Col. Erik N. Quigley; Col. Michael

S. Rowe; Col. Derek M. Salmi; Col. Kayle M. Stevens; Col. Jose E. Sumangil; Col. Terence G. Taylor; Col. Jason D. Voorheis; Col. Michael O. Walters; Col. Adrienne L. Williams

Exec. Cal. #83—Col. Corey A. Simmons to be Brigadier General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #84—Rear Adm. George M. Wikoff to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #85—Rear Adm. Frederick W. Kacher to be Vice Admiral

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #86—to be Brigadier General: Col. Sean M. Carpenter; Col. Mary K. Haddad; Col. James L. Hartle; Col. Aaron J. Heick; Col. Joseph D. Janik; Col. Michael T. McGinley; Col. Kevin J. Merrill; Col. Tara E. Nolan; Col. Roderick C. Owens; Col. Mark D. Richey; Col. Norman B. Shaw, Jr.

Exec. Cal. #87—to be Brigadier General: Col. Kristin A. Hillery; Col. Michelle L. Wagner

Exec. Cal. #88—to be Major General: Brig. Gen. Elizabeth E. Arledge; Brig. Gen. Robert M. Blake; Brig. Gen. Vanessa J. Dornhoefer; Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Freeman; Brig. Gen. David P. Garfield; Brig. Gen. Mitchell A. Hanson; Brig. Gen. Jody A. Merritt; Brig. Gen. Adrian K. White; Brig. Gen. William W. Whittenberger, Jr.; Brig. Gen. Christopher F. Yancy

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #89—Col. Carlos M. Caceres to be Brigadier General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #90—Rear Adm. Shoshana S. Chatfield—to be Vice Admiral

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #91—Col. William F. Wilkerson to be Brigadier General

Exec. Cal. #92—Col. Evelyn E. Laptook to be Brigadier General

Exec. Cal. #93—Brig. Gen. Ronald R. Ragin to be Major General

Exec. Cal. #94—to be Brigadier General: Col. Brandon C. Anderson; Col. Beth A. Behn; Col. Matthew W. Braman; Col. Kenneth J. Burgess; Col. Thomas E. Burke; Col. Chad C. Chalfont; Col. Kendall J. Clarke; Col. Patrick M. Costello; Col. Rory A. Crooks; Col. Troy M. Denomy; Col. Sara E. Dudley; Col. Joseph E. Escandon; Col. Alric L. Francis; Col. George C. Hackler; Col. William C. Hannan, Jr.; Col. Peter G. Hart; Col. Gregory L. Holden; Col. Paul D. Howard; Col. James G. Kent; Col. Curtis W. King; Col. John P. Lloyd; Col. Shannon M. Lucas; Col. Landis C. Maddox; Col. Kareem P. Montague; Col. John B. Mountford; Col. David C. Phillips; Col. Kenneth N. Reed; Col. John W. Sannes; Col. Andrew O. Saslav; Col. Charlone E. Stallworth; Col. Jennifer S. Walkawicz; Col. Camilla A. White; Col. Scott D. Wilkinson; Col. Jeremy S. Wilson; Col. Scott C. Woodward; Col. Joseph W. Wortham, II; Col. David J. Zinn

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #95—to be Brigadier General: Col. David R. Everly; Col. Kelvin W. Gallman; Col. Adolfo Garcia, Jr.; Col. Matthew T. Good; Col. Trevor Hall; Col. Richard D. Joyce; Col. Omar J. Randall; Col. Robert S. Weiler

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #96—to be Rear Admiral (lower half): Capt. Walter D. Brafford; Capt. Robert J. Hawkins

Exec. Cal. #97—to be Rear Admiral (lower half): Capt. Amy N. Bauernschmidt; Capt. Michael B. Devore; Capt. Thomas A. Donovan; Capt. Frederic C. Goldhammer; Capt. Ian L. Johnson; Capt. Neil A. Koprowski; Capt. Paul J. Lanzilotta; Capt. Joshua Lasky; Capt. Donald W. Marks; Capt. Craig

T. Mattingly; Capt. Andrew T. Miller; Capt. Lincoln M. Reifsteck; Capt. Frank A. Rhodes, IV; Capt. Thomas E. Shultz; Capt. Todd E. Whalen; Capt. Forrest O. Young

Exec. Cal. #98—to be Rear Admiral (lower half): Capt. Brian J. Anderson; Capt. Julie M. Treanor

Exec. Cal. #99—to be Rear Admiral: Rear Adm. (lh) Casey J. Moton; Rear Adm. (lh) Stephen R. Tedford

Exec. Cal. #100—Rear Adm. (lh) Rick Freedman to be Rear Admiral:

Exec. Cal. #101—Rear Adm. (lh) Kenneth W. Epps to be Rear Admiral:

Exec. Cal. #102—to be Rear Admiral: Rear Adm. (lh) Stephen D. Barnett; Rear Adm. (lh) Michael W. Baze; Rear Adm. (lh) Richard T. Brophy, Jr.; Rear Adm. (lh) Joseph F. Cahill, III; Rear Adm. (lh) Brian L. Davies; Rear Adm. (lh) Michael P. Donnelly; Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel P. Martin; Rear Adm. (lh) Richard E. Seif, Jr.; Rear Adm. (lh) Paul C. Spedero, Jr.; Rear Adm. (lh) Derek A. Trinqué; Rear Adm. (lh) Dennis Velez; Rear Adm. (lh) Darryl L. Walker; Rear Adm. (lh) Jeromy B. Williams

Exec. Cal. #103—Capt. Frank G. Schlereth, III to be Rear Admiral (lower half):

Exec. Cal. #104—to be Rear Admiral (lower half): Capt. Joshua C. Himes; Capt. Kurtis A. Mole

Exec. Cal. #105—to be Rear Admiral (lower half): Capt. Thomas J. Dickinson; Capt. Kevin R. Smith; Capt. Todd S. Weeks; Capt. Dianna Wolfson

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #106—to be Major General: Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Harrell; Brig. Gen. Jeannine M. Ryder

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #107—Lt. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr. to be Lieutenant General

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #110—To be Major General: Brig. Gen. Curtis R. Bass; Brig. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell; Brig. Gen. Charles D. Bolton; Brig. Gen. Larry R. Broadwell, Jr.; Brig. Gen. Scott A. Cain; Brig. Gen. Sean M. Choquette; Brig. Gen. Roy W. Collins; Brig. Gen. John R. Edwards; Brig. Gen. Jason T. Hinds; Brig. Gen. Justin R. Hoffman; Brig. Gen. Stacy J. Huser; Brig. Gen. Matteo G. Martemucci; Brig. Gen. David A. Mineau; Brig. Gen. Paul D. Moga; Brig. Gen. Ty W. Neuman; Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Niemi; Brig. Gen. Brandon D. Parker; Brig. Gen. Michael T. Rawls; Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder; Brig. Gen. David G. Shoemaker; Brig. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss; Brig. Gen. Claude K. Tudor, Jr.; Brig. Gen. Dale R. White

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #111—Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Gering to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #112—Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Masiello to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #113—Rear Adm. James P. Downey to be Vice Admiral

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #130—Maj. Gen. John W. Brennan, Jr. to be Lieutenant General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #131—Vice Adm. Karl O. Thomas to be Vice Admiral

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #132—Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm to be Lieutenant General

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #133—Brig. Gen. Derin S. Durham to be Major General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #134—to be Brigadier General Col. Brandi B. Peasley; Col. John D. Rhodes Col. Earl C. Sparks, IV

Exec. Cal. #135—Brig. Gen. William Green, Jr. to be Major General

Exec. Cal. #136—Maj. Gen. Mark T. Simerly to be Lieutenant General

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #137—Maj. Gen. Ryan P. Heritage to be Lieutenant General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #138—Vice Adm. Craig A. Clapperton to be Vice Admiral

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #139—Col. Brian R. Moore to be Brigadier General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #180—Vice Adm. Daniel W. Dwyer to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #181—Rear Adm. Daniel L. Cheever to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #182—Rear Adm. (lh) Darin K. Via to be Rear Admiral

Exec. Cal. #183—Rear Adm. (lh) Darin K. Via to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #184—Lt. Gen. Scott L. Pleus to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #185—Brig. Gen. Dale R. White to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #186—Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, Jr. to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #187—Maj. Gen. David R. Iverson to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #188—Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider to be General

Exec. Cal. #189—Maj. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman to be Lieutenant General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #190—Maj. Gen. David M. Hodne to be Lieutenant General

IN THE MARINE CORPS

Exec. Cal. #191—Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr. to be Lieutenant General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #192—Rear Adm. Yvette M. Davids to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #193—Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #194—Rear Adm. John E. Gumbleton to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #195—Rear Adm. Christopher S. Gray to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #196—Vice Adm. Charles B. Cooper, II to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #197—Rear Adm. James E. Pitts to be Vice Admiral

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #198—Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach to be General

Exec. Cal. #199—Maj. Gen. Linda S. Hurry to be Lieutenant General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #200—Brig. Gen. Miguel A. Mendez to be Major General

Exec. Cal. #201—Col. Marlene K. Markotan to be Brigadier General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #202—Vice Adm. William J. Houston to be Admiral

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #203—Col. David M. Castaneda to be Brigadier General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #204—Rear Adm. Robert M. Gaucher to be Vice Admiral

Exec. Cal. #205—Rear Adm. Douglas G. Perry to be Vice Admiral

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #224—Maj. Gen. Karl H. Gingrich to be Lieutenant General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #225—to be Rear Admiral Rear Adm. (lh) Kenneth R. Blackmon; Rear Adm.

(lh) Marc S. Lederer; Rear Adm. (lh) Robert C. Nowakowski;

Exec. Cal. #226—to be Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Capt. Jeffrey A. Jurgemeyer; Capt. Richard S. Lofgren; Capt. Michael S. Mattis; Capt. Richard W. Meyer; Capt. Bryon T. Smith; Capt. Michael R. Vanpoots

Exec. Cal. #227—Capt. John E. Byington to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

Exec. Cal. #228—Capt. John A. Robinson, III to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

Exec. Cal. #229—Capt. David E. Ludwa to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

Exec. Cal. #230—Capt. Peter K. Muschinske to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

Exec. Cal. #231—Capt. Marc F. Williams to be Rear Admiral (lower half)

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #232—Lt. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #233—Maj. Gen. John B. Richardson, IV to be Lieutenant General

IN THE NAVY

Exec. Cal. #234—Vice Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes to be Vice Admiral

IN THE AIR FORCE

Exec. Cal. #236—Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot to be General

Exec. Cal. #237—Maj. Gen. Heath A. Collins to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #238—Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #239—Maj. Gen. Michael G. Koscheski to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #240—Lt. Gen. Donna D. Shipton to be Lieutenant General

IN THE ARMY

Exec. Cal. #241—Maj. Gen. Anthony R. Hale to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #242—Lt. Gen. Laura A. Potter to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #243—Maj. Gen. William J. Hartman to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #244—Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski to be Lieutenant General

Exec. Cal. #245—Col. Matthew N. Gebhard to be Brigadier General

Exec. Cal. #246—Col. Katherine M. Braun to be Brigadier General.

Mr. BENNET. Former Defense Secretary Gates, who, by the way, for those who don't know, was appointed by George W. Bush, said that the Senator from Alabama has made the military "a pawn." That is a guy who served in a Republican administration. We have had Secretaries of Defense from both sides of the aisle who said the Senator from Alabama is hurting our national defense, hurting our national security, is playing politics with our Department of Defense.

What is his justification again? Well, it is no different than what I already said. He uses different words. He says that the DOD has made—the Department of Defense—by making these rules, into an abortion travel agency. Those are his words: abortion travel agency. Well, that is not true.

We have already talked about the travel allowance and the absence without leave and more time to notify. I am sure there are some people—a handful of people in America—who couldn't see the wisdom in that, who would disagree with that. But I will bet you that the vast majority of people in this country, including people who have a different view on a woman's right to choose than I have, would say that women ought to

have the right, in the Department of Defense, to get travel paid for just like anybody else and to get paid leave and to be able to have 20 weeks to be able to tell their commanding officer that they are pregnant.

This is an effort to punish women who are seeking reproductive healthcare and forcing them, for reasons I don't understand, to tell their commanding officer the minute that they are pregnant.

This is reminiscent to me of the States after *Dobbs*—after the Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*—that started to look at bills to try to prevent women from traveling from States that had banned abortion to States that had made abortion legal.

It is kind of a shocking place for us to be in to hear people—a party—embrace freedom and talk about freedom all the time and still live in a place where we are talking about trying to ban Americans from traveling from one State to another or not allowing the Department of Defense to pay money or to use paid leave for women's reproductive healthcare the way they do for anything else.

I mean, I do believe strongly—I believe strongly in a woman's right to choose, and I believe it should be a decision that is made between a woman and her doctor. Most Americans agree with that. I know that there is profound moral disagreement on this question, and I respect that. But I think it is fair to say that the Senator from Alabama's position on this to not allow paid leave, to not allow paid travel, to not allow women to get 20 weeks before they have to tell their commanding officers that they are pregnant—the vast majority of Americans, I think, would agree that those rules are appropriate.

By the way, one of the other reasons the Senator from Alabama has objected to this is that he has said that if the Senate wanted those rules, it should have passed those rules. Well, the Senate doesn't write the rules like that. We didn't pass the rules that exist today that pay for people to be able to go get surgery or get paid leave in the military. Those are rules that the Department of Defense makes, having been delegated that authority by the Congress.

But, man, he is in a totally different place on this. He says that he is going to keep this hold until the Pentagon follows the law or Congress changes the law; that is the way we do it here in the Senate. That is a reference to what I was just talking about in terms of the rules.

By the way, this is not how we do this in the Senate. It is just not. It is not. And the evidence is that no one in the history of this body has ever done this—ever in the history of the country. Nobody has done this. Nobody has done it. And I would say that not only has nobody done it, nobody has done it and taken a political position that is so far outside the mainstream of conventional American politics.

I think the American people should be asking their Senators where they stand on this. There are only 100 people here. It is not hard to find our telephone numbers or our addresses. They should be asking them: Do you agree that we should be holding up every single flag officer's promotion because one Senator thinks that we shouldn't have paid leave or paid travel for women who need reproductive healthcare?

He says he is going to relent only when that is true. He is only going to relent when there is a DOD policy that pays for every other surgery that somebody could get, that has paid family leave for any other procedure that you could get, but bans that for abortion. That is an extreme position. That is an extreme position.

It is an extreme position to say that we are going to not allow people to have 20 weeks to make this decision.

There are no exceptions in Alabama for rape or incest. That may be part of the reason why he has the perspective he does. It is a State where, if you are a doctor and you perform an abortion, you could go to jail for 99 years. But that is not what the majority of Americans believe on this issue. It is not. It is not. I don't even think the majority of Alabamians believe that. But the majority of Americans certainly don't. The majority of Americans believe in a woman's right to choose. The majority of Americans believe that these questions are best decided between a woman and her doctor or her family and her faith if she has one.

That is what my State believes. We were the first State that decriminalized abortion before *Roe* was even decided and were the first State to codify a woman's right to choose. That is, I think, what freedom actually looks like.

Our State, Colorado, is the first State to codify *Roe* since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. And other folks were saying: You don't need to worry about the States. Now one of the largest States in America—a large State where something like 65 percent of the people support a woman's right to choose—the Governor of that State, the State of Florida, has banned abortion after 6 weeks. He signed that law at 11 at night when nobody would be around to see the way he was trampling on the freedom of his constituents.

Most Americans, if they knew this debate was happening, would be shocked, I think, to hear that what we are trying to do here is prevent women from getting paid leave; that we are trying to prevent women from having paid travel; that we are trying to prevent women from having 20 weeks to tell their commanding officer. That is what the Senator from Alabama is saying, that until that happens—until we are preventing women from those things, until we are discriminating against women who are seeking reproductive healthcare—he is going to continue to hold all these nominations. Forever?

I don't know how anybody can take that position and say they stand for freedom, but that is the position the Senator from Alabama has taken. I hope he will reconsider what he is doing because of the damage it is causing our national security at a moment when, as I said, Putin has invaded Ukraine and China is pressing, you know, its advantages in various places around the world.

We need the Senator to lift these holds, and I am going to keep coming to the floor until he does.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. JACKSON, JR.

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we honor an outstanding Idahoan and great American, Robert S. Jackson, Jr., for his service to our country, fellow veterans, and community.

Robert "Bob" Jackson is an Idaho native who spent many years in the U.S. Navy, serving throughout the world on various aircraft carriers that traveled to Vietnam, Libya, Lebanon, and locations for Desert Shield/Storm. His numerous awards throughout his career include Sailor of the Year three times, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Silver Wreath with six stars, and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Following his retirement in 1992, he found ways to assist local veterans, particularly with his administrative and organizational skills. He is well-respected in the State veterans community and has helped a number of projects advance smoothly with his input and expertise. His list of efforts is long and includes leadership positions with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, State Convention posts, and MC responsibilities. He is also a proud father of four daughters and one

son and husband to Jennifer, who also volunteers with the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. In 2009, Bob's military service, commitment, and sacrifice were honored with the 2009 Spirit of Freedom Award.

Bob, like so many of his fellow veterans, did not stop serving others long after his military service ended. He has demonstrated again and again his devotion to our country and others through his admirable actions. Despite overwhelming health challenges, he continues to show us all how to face difficulty with courage and honor. It seems deeply fitting that folks are gathering just after the Fourth of July to honor this remarkable American, as he served nobly for so many years to protect the freedoms we celebrate on Independence Day. Bob, our hearts are with you as we thank you for your admirable service to our country and our great State.●

RECOGNIZING FAMILY HEALTH CHIROPRACTIC

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Family Health Chiropractic of Sanborn, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Dr. Stacy Carlin founded Family Health Chiropractic in 2008 following her graduation from the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport. The original location for her practice was in Waterloo, which she began after Dr. Carlin and her husband Patrick moved to Cedar Falls following graduation. In 2018, Patrick became the Hartley-Melvin Sanborn School District superintendent. Dr. Carlin opened the Sanborn location that year and traveled between the two locations until June 2019 when she sold the Waterloo practice. Family Health Chiropractic continues to operate at the former Vander Haag Museum building in Sanborn.

Dr. Carlin is a member of the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association—ICPA. In 2012, she became a certified specialist in pediatric and pregnancy care following 200 additional hours of training through the ICPA's Academy Council of Chiropractic Pediatrics—CACCP—and Webster Certification. Throughout her 15-year career, she has treated patients of all ages, including patients as young as newborns. Family Health Chiropractic is also a dedicated member of the Sanborn Chamber of Commerce and active in the O'Brien County community. Family Health Chiropractic hosted a "Cookies with Santa" event at the Sanborn Community Center and sponsored "Safe Kids Day" at the Sanborn Fire Station in 2022. The O'Brien County Economic Development Corporation spotlighted Family Health Chiro-

practic in September 2022 for their dedicated service to continuing economic growth in the county.

Family Health Chiropractic's commitment to providing care to patients of all needs in Northwest Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate Dr. Carlin, and the entire team at Family Health Chiropractic for their continued dedication to the field of chiropractic medicine in rural Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING CAMP BARNABAS

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the work being done by Camp Barnabas in Purdy, MO, a remarkable organization that provides summer camp opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Founded in 1994, Camp Barnabas has compassionately transformed the lives of nearly 100,000 individuals with special needs. When I had the opportunity to visit Camp Barnabas, I saw the tremendous amount of care and professionalism their staff exhibits to ensure that every camper gets to experience summer camp just like every other kid. Their ministry in Southwest Missouri touches countless lives and inspires positive experiences in an environment where everyone can thrive, no matter what hand life has dealt them.

As they undergo a ribbon cutting soon for their new water park, the camp will be offering another unique opportunity for these campers to have an incredible summer and make amazing memories. This new water park is designed to make sure individuals of all abilities can participate and includes an intentional space for sensory relief, a lazy river, splash pads, adaptive slides, and several wheelchair accessible features.

I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the incredible work from Camp Barnabas and share in their excitement as they unveil their new water park features to provide more amazing summer camp experiences for their campers.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13219 OF JUNE 26, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United

States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, and which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, and the situation in the Western Balkans, which stymies progress toward effective and democratic governance and full integration into transatlantic institutions, outlined in these Executive Orders, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2023.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—PM 17

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in

scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 277. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

H.R. 288. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 288. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 277. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

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. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2044. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish reference prices for prescription drugs for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2045. A bill to improve air quality management and the safety of communities using the best available monitoring technology and data; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2046. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate certain charges under the TRICARE dental program for members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2047. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2048. A bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and provide for the discoverability and admissibility of gun trace information in civil proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2049. A bill to prevent price gouging at the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 2050. A bill to promote ethics and prevent corruption in Department of Defense contracting and other activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2051. A bill to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2052. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enforce any willing pharmacy requirements and establish safeguards to ensure patient access to pharmacies in Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENEN-

DEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2053. A bill to protect freedom of travel and reproductive rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2054. A bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2055. A bill to provide urgent acquisition and deployment authority for purposes of replenishing United States stockpiles; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2056. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to strengthen and expand restrictions on retired members and members of reserve components of the uniformed services accepting employment and compensation from foreign governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2057. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to deliver on foreign military sales to Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2058. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to modify the areas of focus for centers of excellence at 1890 Institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2059. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to pharmaceutical companies of the People's Republic of China and certain cartels that traffic fentanyl into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2060. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to strengthen oversight over foreign investment in the United States agricultural industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2061. A bill to require the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to establish a task force to develop and implement strategies to deter, prevent, and combat the theft and trafficking of catalytic converters and other automobile parts that contain precious metals targeted by thieves; 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. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 258. A resolution reaffirming the importance of the United States promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons in the United States and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the program for direct housing loans made to Native American veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

S. 760

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 760, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to authorize mandatory funding for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1036, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1069

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos and mixtures and articles containing commercial asbestos, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision and dental plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on overdoses among members of the Armed Forces.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise payment for air ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1811, a bill to ensure treatment in the military based on merit and performance, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1953

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs.

S. 1983

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1983, a bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available.

S. 1985

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1985, a bill to prohibit the flying, draping, or other display of any flag other than the flag of the United States at public buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 2030

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to establish a United States Commission on Hate Crimes to study and make recommendations on the prevention of the

commission of hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. J. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 31, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ‘Federal ‘Good Neighbor Plan’ for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards’.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2051. A bill to reauthorize the Missing Children’s Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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. 2051

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 ‘Missing Children’s Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023’.

SEC. 2. MISSING CHILDREN’S ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11292) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ‘and’ at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

‘(5) the term ‘child sexual abuse material’ has the meaning given the term ‘child pornography’ in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code;

‘(6) the term ‘child sexual exploitation’ means the sexual victimization or abuse of a child;

‘(7) the term ‘sexting’ means sending and receiving messages containing sexually explicit, nude, or partially nude images by cell phone or messaging application;

‘(8) the term ‘sextortion’—

‘(A) means sexual exploitation in which coercion, a threat, or blackmail, is used to cause a child to—

‘(i) provide child sexual abuse material; or
‘(ii) agree to engage in sexual activity; and

‘(B) may involve a threat to publicly disclose nude or sexual images of a child if the child does not comply with a demand to—

‘(i) engage in conduct described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A); or

‘(ii) provide financial payment; and

‘(9) the term ‘sexually exploited child’ means a child who has been victimized by any form of sexual exploitation, including—

‘(A) the live-streaming, production, distribution, or possession of child sexual abuse material;

‘(B) enticement for sexual abuse;

‘(C) sexual molestation or abuse;

‘(D) sextortion; and

‘(E) child sex trafficking.’.

(2) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 404 of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11293) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(6)(E), by striking ‘the tipline established’ and inserting ‘the CyberTipline established’; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ‘hotline by which’ and inserting ‘call center to which’; and

(bb) by striking ‘individuals may report’ and all that follows and inserting ‘individuals may—

‘(I) report child sexual exploitation and the location of any missing child; and

‘(II) request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child’s parent.’;

(II) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

‘(i) manage the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program; and’;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ‘with their families’ and inserting ‘with their parents’;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking ‘to families’ and inserting ‘to parents’;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

‘(G) provide technical assistance and case-related resources, including—

‘(i) referrals to—

‘(I) child-serving professionals involved in helping to recover missing and exploited children; and

‘(II) law enforcement officers in their efforts to identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children; and

‘(ii) searching public records databases and publicly accessible open source data to—

‘(I) locate and identify potential abductors and offenders involved in attempted or actual abductions; and

‘(II) identify, locate, and recover abducted children.’;

(v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ‘on long-term missing child cases’ after ‘techniques to assist’;

(vi) by striking subparagraph (I) and inserting the following:

‘(I) provide training, technical assistance, and information to—

‘(i) nongovernmental organizations with respect to procedures and resources to conduct background checks on individuals working with children; and

‘(ii) law enforcement agencies with respect to identifying and locating noncompliant sex offenders.’;

(vii) in subparagraph (J), by striking ‘with their families’ and inserting ‘with their parents’;

(viii) in subparagraph (K)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ‘tipline’ and inserting ‘CyberTipline’;

(bb) in subclause (I)—

(AA) in item (aa), by striking ‘child pornography’ and inserting ‘child sexual abuse material’; and

(BB) in item (ee), by striking ‘extra-familial’; and

(cc) in subclause (II)—

(AA) by striking ‘tipline’ and inserting ‘CyberTipline’; and

(BB) by adding ‘and’ at the end;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ‘child pornography’ and inserting ‘child sexual abuse material’;

(bb) by inserting ‘and’ after ‘other sexual crimes’; and

(cc) by striking ‘; and’ at the end and inserting ‘, including by providing information on legal remedies available to such victims.’; and

(III) by striking clause (iii);

(ix) by redesignating subparagraphs (L) through (O) as subparagraphs (M) through (P), respectively;

(x) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

‘(L) provide support services, consultation, and assistance to missing and sexually exploited children, parents, their families, and child-serving professionals on—

‘(i) recovery support, including counseling recommendations and community support;

‘(ii) family and peer support;

‘(iii) the removal of child sexual abuse material and sexually exploitive content depicting children from the internet, including by facilitating requests to providers (as defined in section 2258E of title 18, United States Code) to remove visual depictions of victims that—

‘(I) constitute or are associated with child sexual abuse material; or

‘(II) do not constitute child sexual abuse material but are sexually suggestive.’;

(xi) in subparagraph (M), as so redesignated—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ‘educational’ before ‘information to families’;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ‘child abduction and’ and inserting ‘missing children and child’; and

(bb) by adding ‘and’ at the end; and

(III) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

‘(ii) internet safety, including tips and strategies to promote safety for children using technology (including social media) and reduce risk relating to—

‘(I) cyberbullying;

‘(II) child sex trafficking;

‘(III) youth-produced child sexual abuse material or sexting;

‘(IV) sextortion; and

‘(V) online enticement.’;

(xii) in subparagraph (N), as so redesignated, by inserting ‘and preventing child sexual exploitation’ after ‘recovering such children’;

(xiii) by striking subparagraph (O), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

‘(O) assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies and State child welfare agencies to—

‘(i) coordinate on the reporting, documentation, and resolution of cases involving children missing from a State child welfare system; and

‘(ii) respond to foster children missing from a State child welfare system; and’; and

(xiv) in subparagraph (P), as so redesignated, by inserting ‘and recovery support services’ after ‘technical assistance’.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 409(a) of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11297(a)) is amended by striking ‘\$40,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2023, up to \$32,200,000’ and inserting ‘\$49,300,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, up to \$41,500,000’.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on October 1, 2023.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—RE-AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES PROMOTING THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 258

Whereas June 20, 2023, is an international day designated by the United Nations as “World Refugee Day,” to honor refugees around the globe and celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their homes to escape conflict or persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas July 28, 2023, is the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951, which defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of refugees and the legal obligations of nation states to protect such rights;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this preamble as “UNHCR”) has recently reported that—

(1) there are more than 108,000,000 displaced people who have been forced from their homes worldwide, which is more displaced people than at any other time in recorded history, including more than 35,200,000 refugees and 62,500,000 internally displaced persons;

(2) 67 percent of the world’s refugees originate from just Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, or Venezuela;

(3) more than 50 percent of the population of Syria (at least 13,000,000 people) have been displaced since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011, either exiting Syria across the international border or going to other areas within Syria, and this displacement crisis has been exacerbated by major earthquakes that struck Turkiye and Syria in early February 2023;

(4) more than 14,000,000 Ukrainian nationals and other third country nationals are currently displaced as a result of Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine;

(5) there are an estimated 5,700,000 Afghan refugees around the world, of whom more than 90 percent are hosted in either Iran or Pakistan, while an additional 3,500,000 Afghans are internally displaced, having fled their homes searching for refuge within Afghanistan;

(6) Latin America and the Caribbean currently host 84 percent of the more than 7,000,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants globally, and the Americas currently host approximately 20,000,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people from around the world;

(7) more than 1,800,000 people are currently displaced due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, and a large majority of such people

are women and children who are traveling to neighboring countries; and

(8) 76 percent of all refugees worldwide are hosted in low and middle income countries and fewer than 1 percent of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement have had such opportunity due to lack of sufficient resettlement places;

Whereas welcoming people from around the world who have been oppressed and persecuted is a central tenet of our great Nation, and the United States is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who have added to the economic strengths and cultural richness of our communities;

Whereas since seeking asylum is a protected right under United States domestic and international law, the United States is legally obligated to contribute to the maintenance of a humane and functioning international asylum system;

Whereas the principle of non-refoulement is also a central tenet of the United States refugee and asylum systems, and thousands of people living in the United States who immigrated from countries around the world would be subject to harm if they were deported to their countries of origin due to widespread conflict or persecution in such countries;

Whereas the United States Refugee Admissions Program, which was established in 1980—

(1) is a lifesaving pillar of global humanitarian efforts;

(2) advances United States national security and foreign policy goals; and

(3) supports regional host countries;

Whereas resettlement is an essential part of a comprehensive strategy to respond to refugee crises, promote regional stability, and strengthen United States national security;

Whereas resettlement to the United States is available for the most vulnerable refugees who undergo rigorous security vetting and medical screening processes;

Whereas the United States supports the efforts of the UNHCR to increase protection for, and the global resettlement of, LGBTQI+ refugees overseas;

Whereas women and girls have an increased risk of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking while they are traveling to seek safe living conditions;

Whereas through the United States Refugee Resettlement Program—

(1) only 11,411 refugees arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2021, which is the lowest number of refugees for any fiscal year since the program began;

(2) only 25,465 refugees arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2022 despite an admissions goal of 125,000; and

(3) as of May 30, 2023, only 31,797 refugees had arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2023;

Whereas resettlement organizations, businesses, and other community and faith-based groups offer support for refugees who resettle in the United States;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2014, refugees who have resettled in the United States contributed an estimated \$269,100,000,000 to the national economy, which far surpasses the \$206,100,000,000 spent by the United States to assist refugees worldwide during such period; and

Whereas most refugees integrate and quickly become self-sufficient by joining the workforce, paying taxes, supporting local commerce, helping to fill labor shortages in critical industries, and creating new jobs; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the urgency to establish and follow comprehensive, fair, and humane policies to address forced migration and refugee challenges;

(2) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of millions of refugees and asylum seekers, including the education of refugee children and displaced persons fleeing war, persecution, or torture in search of protection, peace, hope, and freedom;

(3) recognizes the many individuals who have risked their lives working, either individually or on behalf of nongovernmental organizations or international agencies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this resolution as “UNHCR”), to provide lifesaving assistance and protection for people around the world who have been displaced from their homes;

(4) reaffirms the imperative to fully restore United States asylum protections enshrined in the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212) by rejecting harmful bans and restrictions that limit refugees’ access to protections and due process at the United States border;

(5) reaffirms the importance of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as a critical tool of the United States Government—

(A) to strengthen national and regional security; and

(B) to encourage international solidarity with host countries; and

(6) calls upon the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations—

(A) to uphold the United States’ international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance, and restoring its leadership role in the protection of vulnerable refugee populations that endure gender-based violence, human trafficking, persecution, and violence against religious minorities, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation;

(B) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts, prevent new conflicts from emerging, and tackle the root causes of involuntary migration;

(C) to continue supporting the efforts of the UNHCR and advance the work of nongovernmental organizations to protect refugees and asylum seekers regardless of their country of origin, race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs;

(D) to continue to alleviate pressures, through humanitarian and development assistance, on frontline refugee host countries that absorb the majority of the world’s refugees, while effectively advocating for refugee well-being, including access to education and livelihoods;

(E) to meaningfully include refugees and displaced populations in creating and achieving the policy solutions affecting them;

(F) to respond to the global refugee crisis by meeting robust refugee admissions goals;

(G) to actively participate in the Global Refugee Forum scheduled to take place in Geneva in December 2023 to advance United States goals and gain commitments from the global community to expand refugee protection; and

(H) to reaffirm the goals of “World Refugee Day” and reiterate the United States’ strong commitment to protect refugees and asylum seekers who live without adequate material, social, or legal protections.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 136. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and

the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 137. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 136 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 138. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 136. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This resolution of ratification shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after ratification.

SA 137. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 136 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 4, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 138. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoid-

ance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

() The Convention authorizes the United States to request or accept, regardless of whether such information is exchanged on an automatic basis, only information that is individualized and relevant to an individual investigation for carrying out the provisions of the Convention or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic tax laws concerning taxes covered by the Convention. Information that is not individualized or not relevant to an individual investigation shall not be requested or accepted, regardless of whether that information is provided on an automatic basis, by the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until the end of the Congress: Nell Palumbo, Reagan Philbeck, and John Orantes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 277

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 277) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major

rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., on Wednesday, June 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of the veto message with respect to S. J. Res. 11 and that the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objection of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, at 11:30 a.m.; further, that following the disposition of the veto message, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Merle nomination, and following the cloture vote on the Merle nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked, all time be considered expired and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Merle nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 20, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

JULIE RIKELMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOME TO APOSTLE PROPHET REV. DR. PAULSON RAJ SANGALA, PASTOR OF THE LARGEST CHURCH IN ASIA LOCATED IN WARANGAL INDIA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome and pay tribute to Apostle Prophet Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala to the United States of America and pay tribute to him for being pastor of the largest church in Asia with 300,000 members.

Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala was born into a Christian family on March 7, 1973, in Bheemaram Village, Hanamkonda District, Telangana State, India. His father was a mason and his mother was an attendant at a government school. His younger brother is a pharmacist and acupuncture doctor. His grandfather was wealthy and once owned a great deal of land and other businesses, but lost it all due to an alcohol addiction.

Rev. Paulson Raj Sangala states that, at the age of 10, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and his spiritual life began to thrive. He states that, in 1989, his father died, and everything fell on him because he was the oldest son. Later in 1989, he became ill and collapsed in school and was finally unable to walk. Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj describes in a biography how he began to pray and prayed until he heard a voice saying, "Get up". He says he got up and has never looked back since.

He states that fasting and praying is a continuous part of his spiritual practice. And, although he started his church with virtually nothing, his church organization now consists of over one thousand pastors, prayer services every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (four worship services), and whole-night services every second Tuesday of the month. Thirty-five thousand people attend these prayer services, and all prayer services are telecasted.

Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala states that their organization has a Bible college, five hundred churches in different cities, thirty prominent pastors, and thirty sisters who are in ministry. Warangal, a city in Telangana, is now in the record book as being the city in India with the largest church facility as of May 4th, with a structure that seats 40,000 people at one time.

I congratulate Apostle Prophet Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala for his spiritual leadership and success. May the blessings of the Lord continue to be upon him.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the transformative work of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) El Paso over the last ten years in the Paso del Norte region.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso became an independent university within the Texas Tech University System on May 18, 2013, with the goal of improving lives and empowering generations through accessible health education and world-class patient care. Now, the university's four schools train tomorrow's Borderplex health care leaders. By partnering with local hospitals, primarily University Medical Center, the medical school provides vital opportunities for medical residencies, clinical rotations, and postgraduation job placements.

In addition to transforming the lives of 2,135 graduates, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso continues to serve our community by removing access barriers to health care, addressing the health care worker shortage, and conducting cutting-edge research on diseases that directly impact Latino and residents of our border community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the 10th anniversary of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso and am confident that its strong leadership will remain steadfast in their mission to improve access to health care and inspire future generations of physicians, dentists, nurses, and biomedical researchers.

HONORING THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF HINCHLIFFE, YANKEE STADIUM OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article titled, "The Glorious Return of Hinchliffe, Yankee Stadium of the Negro Leagues" written by Eric Wills about Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey.

[From GQ SPORTS, June 19, 2023]

THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF HINCHLIFFE, YANKEE STADIUM OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES

(By Eric Wills)

One of the last remaining Negro League ballparks was nearly lost to history. But professional baseball has now returned to the fabled stadium, which stands as a monument to generations of Black players once con-

signed to the periphery of our national pastime.

Hinchliffe Stadium hosted some of the greatest Black ballplayers in history, including more than 20 future Hall of Famers. A Juneteenth game and ceremony will honor their legacy.

Keon Barnum, a lefty first baseman who, at 6'5" and 225 pounds, makes everything around him look curiously out of scale, stepped into the batter's box at Hinchliffe Stadium. The full sweep of Paterson, New Jersey, unfolded before him: brick mill buildings and church steeples rising beyond the outfield wall, the city's thundering Great Falls just a long toss away. It was a Friday afternoon in mid-May. Barnum and his teammates from the New Jersey Jackals, a Frontier League team that had recently moved from nearby Little Falls, were taking measure of their new ballpark the day before their home opener. A majestic Art Deco number built in 1932, Hinchliffe had sat vacant for more than a quarter century, its concrete and graffiti-covered bleachers crumbling, the unhoused living in its locker rooms. Once the pulsing heart of Paterson, the stadium was reduced to a ruin, a heart-rending symbol of the city's decline. But now, following a \$100-million-plus restoration, Hinchliffe once again glimmers anew—a restored monument to one of baseball's most mythical and complicated legacies.

Thwack! Thwack! Thwack! Barnum began launching moonshots into the sun-streaked ether—the glorious sound of baseball returning to Hinchliffe. "It's an honor to play here," he later said, after joining a select lineage of Black ballplayers who once called the ballpark their own. In its heyday, Hinchliffe flourished as the home to a trio of Negro League teams—the New York Black Yankees, the New York Cubans, and the Newark Eagles—and host to dozens of other Black ball clubs. More than 20 future Hall of Famers once haunted its confines: the likes of Monte Irvin, the legendary outfielder for the New York Giants; Larry Doby, who grew up in Paterson and became the second man, after Jackie Robinson, to break baseball's color barrier; and Josh Gibson, the fabled bomber reputed to have hit nearly 800 home runs. The 1933 Colored Championship of the Nation between the Black Yankees, the Pittsburgh Crawfords, and the Philadelphia Stars unfolded at Hinchliffe, as did a 1935 no-hitter by Black Yankees pitcher Terris "Elmer" McDuffie.

"Jackie got all the publicity for putting up with it. He was first, but the crap I took was just as bad. Nobody said, 'We're going to be nice to the second Black.'"—Larry Doby, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Newark Eagles and Cleveland Indians

Today, only a handful of Negro League players still survive from the era before Robinson broke the color barrier, in 1947; only a handful of stadiums where they played still stand. Of those that do—including Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama; Hamtramck Stadium in Michigan; and J.P. Small Memorial Stadium in Jacksonville—Hinchliffe and Rickwood retain most of their original grandstands and look much as they did about a century ago. Along with Wrigley Field, Hinchliffe is the only ballpark named a National Historic Landmark. You can read oral histories about the Negro Leagues, peruse statistics on the Seamheads Negro

• 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.

Leagues Database, an authoritative set of records compiled by a group of trailblazing researchers. To make a pilgrimage to Hinchliffe, however, is to foster a more intimate connection: to walk where the players themselves once did, to commune with the spirits of the athletes who helped build momentum for the Civil Rights movement. If Centre Court at Wimbledon can be considered hallowed ground, Hinchliffe is no less sacred.

On Juneteenth, the Jackals will hold a game at Hinchliffe that doubles as a celebration of the Negro Leagues. In a rare tribute, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will bring its plaque commemorating Larry Doby from Cooperstown to the stadium as part of a ceremony launching the museum's forthcoming exhibition on the history of Black baseball. Doby was the first Black player in the American League, suiting up with the Cleveland Indians less than three months after Robinson's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was only 23, and unlike Robinson, got no time in the minors, going straight from the Newark Eagles to Comiskey Park in Chicago. In less than 24 hours he recorded his last Negro Leagues hit (a home run), and his first major league at bat (a pinch hit strike out). His reception from his new teammates was hardly welcoming; he nearly ended up in the stands in St. Louis, when a fan taunted him with sexual innuendos about his wife. "Jackie got all the publicity for putting up with it," Doby said of the racial slurs. "He was first, but the crap I took was just as bad. Nobody said, 'We're going to be nice to the second Black.'"

After his playing career, Doby once again recorded a historic second, becoming the second Black manager in the majors after Frank Robinson when he took the job with the White Sox in 1978. But before all of that, he was just an 18-year-old kid who had come to Hinchliffe for a try out with the Newark Eagles, a Negro Leagues team, after the owner heard that "there was a pretty good ballplayer out of Eastside High School," as Doby recalled at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "And I played the rest of the summer with Newark"—the effective start of his long climb to Cooperstown.

I first visited Hinchliffe in 2009, when the chances of its revival seemed remote. The Paterson Public School District, which owned the stadium, had shuttered it in 1997; demolition at one point appeared likely. My guide, Brian LoPinto, who had gotten his first varsity hit at the ballpark, had co-founded a group called the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium that was rallying support to save the site. (The restored stadium, the product of decades of grass-roots organizing and political wrangling, will be reserved for school events and games 180 days a year.)

Attempting to unearth Hinchliffe's storied past, I tracked down the man who was then the greatest living player with a meaningful connection to the site: Monte Irvin, who was teammates with Doby on the Eagles before he led the Giants to the World Series in 1951. He was then 90 and living in Houston. When I reached him by phone, he helped illuminate the meaning of an era I had only begun to understand, unspooling stories with a casual grace. He told me how, in the spring of 1937, he had stepped into the batting box in Hinchliffe as a 18-year-old high school star from nearby Orange with a .666 batting average. And how he had launched some 400-foot moonshots of his own over the left field fence during his try out for the Eagles. The sound caught the attention of two visiting players from the Homestead Grays, who were preparing for a game against Newark later that day: Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard (considered by newspapers at the time to be the

Black Babe Ruth and Black Lou Gehrig, respectively, although who's to say Lou Gehrig wasn't the white Buck Leonard?). As Irvin recalled, "Buck hollered out to William Bell, the manager, 'Hey, who is that youngster?'"

"Our games gave Black Americans hope all across the country. They said, 'If these ball players can succeed under these very difficult conditions, then maybe we can too.'"—Monte Irvin, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Newark Eagles and New York Giants

It was the start of an enduring friendship, and also of Irvin's professional career. His stories revealed hard truths: the assumed name (Jimmy Nelson) he played under to preserve his college eligibility; the meagerness of his starting salary (earning only \$125 a month, he lived with his parents to save money); the long bus rides (Negro League teams sometimes logged 30,000 miles in a summer); the difficulty finding restaurants or hotels that would serve him and his teammates (players remembered staying at bed-bug-infested motels, even funeral homes, and with their \$1-per-day meal money and challenges of life on the road sometimes subsisted on sardines, bologna, crackers, or ballpark hot dogs). "Conditions were abominable, but we didn't know any better," as Irvin once recalled. "We were young and strong, and we loved the game so much."

Perhaps the greatest injustice was that segregation had robbed him of his prime. "This should have happened to me 10 years ago," he once said of joining the Giants at age 30. "I'm not even half the ballplayer I was then." (And what a player he was: With his grace and all-around game, many of his contemporaries thought he should have been the one to break the color barrier in the majors.) Yet Irvin expressed no abiding anger at his fortunes, and shared with me but one overriding regret, touching in its magnanimity: that the full sweep of the country hadn't seen the likes of Satchel Paige and Gibson, "one of the greatest hitters who ever lived."

Because almost none of the Negro League teams owned their own stadiums, they relied on brokers and agents to arrange games, often at major league stadiums, for a cut of the profits, of course. Conditions at cheaper and more accessible fields could be abysmal—rocky sandlots with peculiar dimensions, smoke wafting in from passing trains. But at Hinchliffe, the Black Yankees and New York Cubans found a reliable and dignified home base that afforded them a measure of freedom—and a chance to build their own community against the backdrop of segregation. Here, and across the Negro Leagues, they made the national pastime their own: a game of speed and stylish intelligence, one that elevated the bunt-and-run into an art form, say, or saw Paige handcuff batters with his hesitation pitch, later outlawed in the majors.

Irvin had grown up watching the Negro Leaguers—"the way they looked, the way they dressed, the way they played, it was a great inspiration," he told me—and he remembered how his generation had played a similar role. "Our games gave Black Americans hope all across the country," he once recalled, before his passing at age 96, in 2016. "They said, 'If these ball players can succeed under these very difficult conditions, then maybe we can too.'"

After a rainout, and two days after Barnum staged his batting-practice show, opening day finally arrived at Hinchliffe: the Jackals vs. the Sussex County Miners. One fact emerged from the start: It is a hitter-friendly ballpark. In the late afternoon glow, after LoPinto secured the first pitched ball for the museum that's being established at the stadium, the Miners' lead-off hitter went deep, recording the first of 10 home runs in

the Jackals' 10-6 victory. ("The ball just flies," Barnum said, after hitting one out.) Purists might wish the field were grass, not turf, or that home plate was positioned at the bottom of the horseshoe, as in the Negro League days, and not in the northeast corner of the stadium, where the school district later moved it. The right field line, listed at 327 feet, appears far shorter than that; a 40-foot-high net prevents line drives from leaving the park. But none of those quibbles overshadowed the thrill of baseball returning to Hinchliffe.

Bobby Jones, the vice president and chief business officer for the Jackals, and a former left-handed pitcher for the Mets who grew up going to Kennedy-Eastside High School Thanksgiving day football games at Hinchliffe, helped broker the deal to bring the team to Paterson—a move he hopes will contribute to the city's economic revival. "I thought coming here that we could be a positive light in a community that needed it," he told me. "These kids who go to that school have never thought they'd get out of Paterson because they looked down and saw nothing but garbage. And now it's transformed their whole thinking. The possibilities are real to these kids. It's bigger than baseball."—Harold Reynolds, former All-Star second baseman for the Seattle Mariners

In March, Paterson, a majority Latino city with a 25 percent poverty rate, made headlines when police shot and killed a Black counselor from an anti-violence organization, which helped lead to the state Attorney General's office takeover of the police department. It's too early to say whether the Hinchliffe project, which relied on a significant infusion of state tax credits that helped fund the construction of affordable senior housing at the site, can help solve some of the city's most pressing problems (some local activists are skeptical). Or whether Jackals fans, a few of whom expressed their disappointment on social media at the team's move away from Yogi Berra Stadium, in Little Falls, will stay away (attendance on opening day was sparse).

But at the stadium's ribbon cutting a few days earlier, Harold Reynolds, the former Seattle Mariners second baseman turned TV analyst, who's become an unofficial ambassador for Hinchliffe, told me the project has already had a positive effect on the students of Public School 5, which rises above the stadium's northwest side. "These kids who go to that school have never thought they'd get out of Paterson because they looked down and saw nothing but garbage," Reynolds said. "And now I was talking with the principal, and it's transformed their whole thinking. The possibilities are real to these kids. It's bigger than baseball." Reynolds has been lobbying MLB to host a Field of Dreams-style game at Hinchliffe (a game that will be held at Rickwood next year). "The beauty of baseball is the folklore," he told me. "The stories are what carry our sport."

In 2020, MLB attempted to atone for its original sin by announcing that it was "elevating the Negro Leagues to 'Major League' status," and gave credit for the decision in part to the Seamheads Negro Leagues Database. Of course, it was the majors that needed elevating, and the often sublime players of the Negro Leagues who transformed the majors into actual major leagues. (Black baseball teams logged a winning record against major league and all-star teams between 1900 and 1948, according to research compiled by Todd Peterson in the book *The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues*.) But because many games were lost to history, the box scores never reported, Negro League statistics will never be comprehensive (Gibson has but 240 reported home runs in

Seamheads); they will never reveal the constraints that Black ballplayers faced, lack of coaching among them; and they will always have been generated independent of the majors, an injustice that can never be corrected.

Hinchliffe invites you to consider difficult questions: consider if baseball had integrated a decade or two earlier, or if the game had never been segregated at all; consider if Paige, Gibson, Leonard, Oscar Charleston, Cool Papa Bell, and dozens of others had enjoyed their primes in the majors, what the record book might look like today, how different our understanding of the game would be. Consider also the fate of the Black players who never made it to the show because they came of age too soon or found themselves shut out of the game, unable to find a team, after the color line was broken, the leagues they helped build vanishing like a ghost ship into darkness. In a bittersweet twist, when Black fans flocked to see Robinson at Ebbets Field, the demise of the Negro Leagues soon followed, even as major league teams were slow to sign Black players: The Red Sox, for instance, took 12 years after Robinson's debut to integrate. And finally, consider the forces that kept baseball segregated, and how those forces persist today: Witness the declining percentage of Black ballplayers in the majors and the continuing struggle to diversify the coaching and front office ranks.

In the thickening shadows of Hinchliffe, after the Jackals' victory in their home opener, I stood with Nilo Rijo, the team's second baseman, as he fielded questions from reporters. He attended high school in nearby Passaic and often drove by Hinchliffe on the way to his workout facility without recognizing the then-ruin as a ballpark. Like so many others, he has now started learning its history.

Standing there in that repository of myths, I thought back to my chat with Reynolds after the ribbon-cutting. During his playing days he had befriended Buck O'Neil, the legendary first baseman turned manager from the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs, who had passed along stories from his fabled career. And now, as members of the next generation step through the gates at Hinchliffe, they too can discover the history of the Black owners and managers who built the Negro Leagues, and the Black ballplayers who changed the sport. Reynolds, for his part, hopes that a trip to the ballpark will convey a simple yet transformative truth: "that baseball was a Black sport."

Eric Wills is a former senior editor at *Architect* magazine whose work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Smithsonian*, and *GQ*.

RECOGNIZING KAREN AYALA FOR
HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC
HEALTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Karen Ayala for her substantial contributions to the well-being of Illinois residents throughout her career in public health. Ms. Ayala has spearheaded efforts to improve health outcomes at the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), including playing a central role responding to the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her successful leadership, DuPage County was re-

cently rated the healthiest of Illinois' 102 counties for the third consecutive year. She tirelessly endeavored to mitigate multiple public health crises while simultaneously establishing programs that will maintain the DCHD's track record of success for years to come.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Wartburg College and her Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois-Chicago, Ms. Ayala began working in Winnebago County, Illinois as a case manager for pregnant and parenting teens. She supported the delivery of services to approximately 350 families and witnessed the capacity of local government to improve the well-being of residents, an experience that solidified her commitment to helping others as a public health official. Ms. Ayala transitioned to the DCHD in 2007 to serve as Unit Director of Community Health Services. She quickly proved her capabilities and was named Executive Director in 2014.

As Executive Director, Ms. Ayala has worked to combat the opioid crisis, an effort that has benefited not only DuPage County but the nation as a whole. She helped lead a comprehensive crisis management approach including an opioid education program, the collection of unused medications, partnerships with mental health service providers, and increasing Narcan usage, which is an essential tool in the event of an overdose. Eager to share DuPage County's hard-learned lessons, Ms. Ayala submitted testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to detail options to address the opioid crisis. Her innovative approach, which utilized community assessment and community collaboration, created a model for other public health departments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ayala led the DCHD through the public health crisis. Under her leadership, the DCHD kept residents informed with nuanced and accurate information despite initial uncertainty regarding the virus's characteristics. The DCHD provided guidance on masking and social distancing despite the intense scrutiny faced by public health departments and constantly fluctuating infection rates. Upon the rollout of the vaccine, Ms. Ayala facilitated the establishment of a mass vaccination clinic at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Her steady leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic provided essential guidance to DuPage County residents, heightened vaccination rates, and helped save lives.

Ms. Ayala has worked diligently to mitigate health crises within her local community and across the country. She has made life-changing impacts on Illinois residents and paved the way for the future of improved public health in DuPage County. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Ayala, who has recently announced her upcoming retirement. It is a privilege to recognize the achievements of Karen Ayala and express my immense gratitude for her years of public service and contributions to the citizens of Illinois and the country.

RECOGNIZING CARL BOLCH, JR.
FOR HIS SERVICE TO RACETRAC,
INC. AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Georgia's finest business leaders and an outstanding individual, Carl Bolch, Jr., Executive Chairman of the Board of RaceTrac, Inc.

Throughout his career, Carl has been a pioneer in the convenience retail industry, driving innovation and redefining convenience for millions of consumers. During his more than fifty years with the company, Carl helped RaceTrac grow from 100 stores in two states, to more than 780 stores in 12 states with over 10,000 employees—and today, RaceTrac is the second largest privately held company in Georgia and the 22nd largest in the United States.

Carl joined RaceTrac, his family's business, after earning a degree in Economics from the Wharton School of Business and a Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law, moving through various roles until he served as CEO and now continues as Executive Chairman of the Board.

Beyond RaceTrac, Carl has also left his mark on the convenience store industry through his service as President of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America and Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Convenience Stores.

It has also been Carl's mission to give back to his community. He served as a 25-year member of the Atlanta Rotary Club's Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors for Camp Sunshine, a Georgia-based organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children with cancer. Carl also serves on the Patient Council for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is a pivotal reason RaceTrac and its guests have contributed more than \$7 million to the organization over the past decade.

Additionally, Carl and his wife, Susan, have made significant contributions to education, including founding the Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke University School of Law. A father of five—all of Carl's children have served RaceTrac in different capacities over the years, including Carl and Susan's two daughters, who currently lead the company's day-to-day operations, and their son, who serves on the Board.

Carl Bolch, Jr. is an inspiration to us all. His contributions to society will have a lasting impact. I am honored to represent him in Congress. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating his achievements.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BYRON OTTO
"MANNIE FRESH" THOMAS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Mastermind Record

Producer, Rapper, and King of DJ'ing, Mr. Byron Otto Thomas, best known by his stage name, Mannie Fresh. Thomas is applauded for his work with Birdman's Cash Money Records, both solo and as a member of the label's then flag-ship group, Hot Boys in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Byron Otto Thomas (born March 20, 1969), better known by his stage name Mannie Fresh, is an American record producer and rapper. He's best known for his productions on Cash Money Records releases, as well as being half of the hip hop duo (alongside label co-founder Baby, later known as Birdman) the Big Tymers. He produced most of the songs on the 17 multi-platinum, platinum, or gold albums for Cash Money from 1998 to 2004 before leaving the label. He was also their only in-house producer when the company started in 1991.

Thomas was born and raised in the 7th Ward of New Orleans. Influenced by his father DJ Sabu, Thomas became a DJ for New Orleans hip hop crew, New York Incorporated, in 1984 at age 15. In the late 1980s, he began a partnership with New Orleans rapper MC Gregory D. They released their first album together, *Throwdown* in 1987, with Mannie Fresh producing and MC Gregory D rapping. They released two more records together in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After their last album together, in 1993, Thomas met Bryan "Baby" Williams, who gave him an opportunity to become the in-house producer of his record label Cash Money Records. With Williams' help, Thomas made chart-topping albums for the Hot Boys, which was composed of Lil Wayne, B.G., Juvenile, and Turk, producing all the group's albums. He also produced all tracks on the members' solo works as well.

Later, Thomas formed the Big Tymers along with Williams, as Mannie Fresh and Birdman respectively, bringing him fame, and released five albums. In 2004, he released his own debut solo album *The Mind of Mannie Fresh*, which consisted of 30 tracks and featured the single "Real Big," which peaked at No. 72 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. In 2005, he split from Cash Money and later joined Def Jam South, to which he is currently signed. On October 27, 2009, Mannie Fresh released his second solo album, *Return of the Ballin'*. The album was entirely produced by Fresh himself and featured prominent guests Rick Ross and Lil Jon.

Mannie Fresh is most deserving of the highest recognition for proudly representing the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana as a globally recognized musical artist. I am proud to acknowledge Byron Otto "Mannie Fresh" Thomas for his musical and cultural contributions, recognizing his pivotal role in popularizing the New Orleans Rap and Bounce style of music around the world, extending sincerest wishes that he continues to flourish in all his endeavors, both in Louisiana and across the country.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BOB
HAMMERSCHMIDT

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and celebrate

the retirement of Bob Hammerschmidt, my constituent in Springfield Missouri.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Hammerschmidt for his exceptional 49-year career in banking and finance, and especially his 35 years of service to Commerce Bank. Mr. Hammerschmidt's unwavering commitment to excellence throughout his tenure at Commerce Bank has had a profound impact on the financial community of Southwest Missouri.

From his early days as a young professional to his current position as Chairman of Commerce Trust Co., Mr. Hammerschmidt has consistently demonstrated his expertise and integrity to the benefit of countless businesses and individuals in our community.

At the young age of 28, Mr. Hammerschmidt became the youngest bank president in the history of the state of Arkansas. After serving the first 13 years of his career in Arkansas, Missouri was lucky to gain Mr. Hammerschmidt's talents in 1988, and we have been blessed by his knowledge and experience ever since.

As Mr. Hammerschmidt prepares to celebrate his retirement with Commerce Bank after 35 years, it is my privilege to honor him in this way, and to represent him here in Washington, D.C.

CELEBRATING THE MANCHESTER
LIONS CLUB CENTENNIAL ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Manchester Lions Club for their centennial of service, devotion, and benevolence. As New Hampshire's first chapter, all members strive to uphold the centenary tradition of service not for oneself. The Manchester Lions Club supports and empowers underserved Granite Staters, and ensures our veterans receive the proper care and respect they deserve. It is through their generosity and altruism that we may grow as a community, and as the Granite State.

The Lions Clubs International began as a 1917 experiment by founder Melvin Jones in testing the benefaction of citizens in improving their communities. The result is an organization with more than 1.4 million members across 48,000 global clubs. The admirable mission of Lions Clubs International extends far beyond the borders of local communities. They acknowledge and employ the power of community service as a force to change the world. There is no task too small or too inconsequential for Lions Clubs International, and it is through that ethos that they affect and uplift our communities. As the local chapter of this organization, the Manchester Lions Club holds close the importance of service, and the global mission of Lions Clubs International.

The Manchester Lions Club's unfettered dedication to service over self is a valuable contribution to our community, and the epitome of their distinguished motto, "We serve!" From health-related services such as fighting hunger and providing accessibility devices, to protecting our environment and honoring our veterans, you represent the very best and brightest that our community has to offer. Your

service is of the highest quality and maintains a high standard for all of us to strive for. Your continued investment into the Queen City of Manchester will yield unprecedented results and growth for generations to come.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend the Manchester Lions Club for 100 years of service and dedication to our communities. We are fortunate to call them trusted investors and protectors of our community and our success. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, I was not present to vote due to a minor medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 249, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 495; YEA on Roll Call No. 250, On Agreeing to H. Res. 495; YEA on Roll Call No. 251, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3099; NAY on Roll Call No. 252, On Passage of H.J. Res. Res. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 253, On Passage Objections of the President To The Contrary Notwithstanding, H.J. Res. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 254, On Agreeing to Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 1615; YEA on Roll Call No. 255, On Passage of H.R. 1615; and YEA on Roll Call No. 256, On The Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 377.

REMEMBERING MRS. STEPHANNIE
FORTUNE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the life of community service of Mrs. Stephanie Fortune, who was taken from us too early by leukemia on June 13, 2023. Simply put, Mrs. Fortune was a loving champion of the Pikes Peak Region.

Stephanie Fortune had a remarkable career as a public servant in numerous capacities. Most recently she served on the Colorado Springs City Council and was a champion for the U.S. Olympic Museum which opened in July, 2020. Early in her career, Stephanie was part of President George H.W. Bush's advance team; served as Assistant Director and Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; as Executive Director for University Partnerships and Public Policy at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; as President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy for the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce; as Chief of Staff to Lt. Gov. Jane Norton; and as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Scott McInnis. Everywhere she served, she made an impact with her strong will, determination, and compassion.

Stephanie's love for community was also evident in her service on numerous non-profit

boards. Her impact was felt by: Pikes Peak United Way, the Colorado Springs Conservatory, Pikes Peak Workforce Investment Board, the Girl Scouts of Colorado, Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, the Colorado Springs Chamber's Center for Regional Advancement, Care and Share, and the YMCA.

In particular, Mrs. Fortune loved the youth of our community. She led church youth groups at First Presbyterian Church, mentored younger co-workers, and at Pikes Peak United Way helped start Colorado Springs Promise, providing life coaching to local high school students. She also worked to reopen the Westside Community Center.

In 2016 Stephanie married her true love, Kent Fortune. Their marriage was a vivid representation of how Mrs. Fortune lived, exhibiting mutual respect and sacrificial love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring the life and love of Stephanie Finley Fortune, who lovingly served and sacrificed for her community, family, and Colorado's 5th Congressional District.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS HARRY GLASCO, HOMETOWN HERO

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco, Hometown Hero.

Born and raised in Camden, New Jersey, longtime resident, Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco enlisted to serve in the United States Navy at the age of sixteen years old. From November of 1964 to November of 1968, Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco bravely served on active duty in the United States Navy. He was stationed in San Diego, California and saw three tours of duty in Vietnam. During his time in the service he exemplified commitment and exemplary conduct which earned him several accolades including the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Champion Medal. His dedication was recognized, and he was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class Gun Fire Control.

After four years of active-duty service, Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco was honorably discharged from the United States Navy. When he returned home, he began his career with Lockheed Martin and his prior training allowed him to work on televisions. His commitment to making a positive impact on his community pushed him to pour his heart into mentoring athletes and teaching them the true value of teamwork, discipline, and determination. Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco's coaching left a lasting impact on his players as he instilled in them a sense of pride and camaraderie.

As a civilian, Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco continued to care for the fellow men and women who served, becoming an active member of the American Legion Post 473. The American Legion is dedicated to supporting veterans and their families which provided him a platform to continue his service beyond the Navy. His commitment to his fellow veterans and guidance from his brother,

Robert, a Korean War veteran, led him to become Commander of Post 473, which he remains to this day. Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco works tirelessly to ensure that the veterans in his community receive the care, recognition, and support that they deserve. He has been able to assist both friends and other veteran communities through programs such as Home of the Brave. He has exemplified the qualities of a true leader, devoted patriot, and compassionate community member with an unwavering dedication to serving his country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Petty Officer 3rd Class Harry Glasco of Camden, New Jersey, as a resident dedicated to his community, country, and those who have bravely served and defended the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would apply the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977 (DCHRA) to employees of the local D.C. courts and the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS). Last year, the D.C. Court of Appeals held in *Robertson v. District of Columbia* that the DCHRA, which protects employees of the D.C. government and private employers from discrimination, does not apply to employees of the local D.C. courts. The court has not ruled on the applicability of the DCHRA to PDS employees.

The local D.C. courts and PDS are unique entities, and they sometimes fall through the regulatory cracks. They are neither federal nor D.C. government entities, though both were created and are funded by Congress, and their employees are treated as federal employees for some employee benefits. This bill would ensure that their employees have comprehensive protections from and remedies for employment discrimination.

While employees of the local D.C. courts and PDS are protected by federal anti-discrimination laws, the DCHRA provides much broader protections and remedies for employees than federal anti-discrimination laws.

While the D.C. Council may have the authority to pass such a bill itself, only Congress has the clear authority to do so, given the express limitations in the D.C. Home Rule Act on the Council's authority to legislate on matters affecting the operations of the local D.C. courts, and given that Congress has generally served as the legislative body for PDS.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the iconic Hollywood Sign in Hollywood, California. This year, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Hollywood Sign Trust will celebrate the Hollywood Sign on its Centennial Anniversary as one of Los Angeles's memorable historical landmarks.

The Hollywood Sign will celebrate its centennial on December 8, 2023. In December 1923, a large sign spelling out the word Hollywoodland was illuminated by an array of lightbulbs on top of Mount Lee in Hollywood. The sign, with its over-forty-foot-tall letters, was created as a revolutionary form of advertising for a new housing development in the Hollywood Hills.

Although the Hollywood Sign originally represented a new beginning for residents of Los Angeles up in the gleaming Hollywood Hills, the sign also began to capture the limelight, a symbol of the emerging film industry within the area and throughout California.

In 1938, the sign was reflective of positive change when the 20 acres behind Mount Lee, which is named after renowned entrepreneur Don Lee, became the location of the Don Lee Network that broadcast a vast range of televised programming including remotely filmed and in-studio shows. After the Hollywoodland housing development fell through, the sign fell into disrepair, stirring debates about tearing it down. Fortunately, as owners of the sign, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce stepped up to repair and reimagine the sign by removing the last four letters—at which point the Hollywood Sign was born.

Thirty years later in the mid-1970's, the Hollywood Sign, which had been made a cultural landmark, began to fall apart again. However, with a renovation fund campaign led by Hugh Hefner and others in 1978, the Hollywood Chamber once again restored the sign to its now amazing stature.

Other memorable moments in the sign's history include the 1997 photoshoot of Michelle Yeoh, who daringly performed a stunt in a helicopter over the sign for a National Geographic cover story. Then in 2013, the sign became the backdrop for a photo of the beloved mountain lion, P-22, who was captured roaming the trails in the Hollywood Hills.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Hollywood Sign Trust will celebrate the Hollywood Sign on its 100th birthday throughout 2023 and 2024. These celebrations will highlight the transformation of the sign from a real estate marketing effort to a cultural monument, beloved community icon and global symbol of glamor and imagination.

I am proud to recognize the Hollywood Sign upon its 100th Anniversary and I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring this timeless icon.

CONGRATULATING AMBER JEFFERSON PEARSON UPON HER SWEARING IN TO THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE RANKS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride, admiration, and joy that I rise to extend congratulations to Ms. Amber Jefferson Pearson upon her advancement to the highest civilian rank in the U.S. federal government. On June 20, 2023, Ms. Amber Jefferson Pearson was sworn in as Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, Executive Director, Information Security Policy and Strat-

egy, within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ms. Amber Jefferson Pearson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norvell Jefferson, Jr. Mr. Norvell Jefferson, Jr., is the son of Mr. Norvell Jefferson, Sr., and Mrs. Nancy B. Jefferson. Mr. Norvell was an outstanding plumber in our community; his son, Norvell, Jr., is a retired Superintendent of Streets and Sanitation for the City of Chicago.

Ms. Pearson's grandmother, Nancy B. Jefferson, was Executive Director of the Midwest Community Council for many years and was an influential leader in the area where we lived. Mrs. Jefferson was an intimate advisor to Mayor Harold Washington. A post office is named in her honor, and many people in the area affectionately called her the Mother Theresa of the Westside. Ms. Pearson's family are icons of our community.

I congratulate Ms. Amber Pearson on her achievements. We are all proud of her and her accomplishments.

I am sure that Mr. Norvell and Mrs. Nancy are looking down with a gleam in their eyes, and her father Norvell is riding around in his little antique sports car talking about her accomplishments and keeping watch over the community. We love and respect her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2131–S2149

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2044–2061, and S. Res. 258. **Pages S2145–46**

Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, notwithstanding rule XXII, Senate begin consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards”; that Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objection of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, at 11:30 a.m.; that following disposition of the veto message, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m. **Page S2149**

Message from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to the Western Balkans; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–16) **Page S2144**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, with respect to North Korea; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–17) **Pages S2144–45**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 166), Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit. **Pages S2131–43**

Messages from the House: **Page S2145**

Measures Referred: **Page S2145**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S2145**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2146–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2147–48**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2143–44**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2148–49**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2149**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2149**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—166) **Page S2139**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2149.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: CIA AND NSA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a closed hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, after receiving testimony from William J. Burns, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; and General Paul M. Nakasone, Director, National Security Agency.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces approved for full committee consider-

ation those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 4204–4229; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 523–528, were introduced. **Pages H2989–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2992–93**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2813, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from the definition of health insurance coverage certain medical stop-loss insurance obtained by certain plan sponsors of group health plans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–114, Part 1); and

H. Res. 524, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3564) to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3799) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual health insurance coverage; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 461) condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States (H. Rept. 118–115).

Page H2989

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Garbarino to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2969**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2972**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC. **Page H2972**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2972**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2978**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023: H.R. 1606, amended, to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 407 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 272;

Pages H2973–75, H2978–79

Fiscal Year 2023 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act: S. 30, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023; and

Pages H2975–76

Designating the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the “Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”: H.R. 3672, to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the “Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 409 yeas with none voting “nay” and one answering “present”, Roll No. 273.

Pages H2976–77, H2979

Authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 523, authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes. **Page H2980**

Order of Business: Agreed by unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, June 22, 2023, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

Page H2980

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Luna announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 521) censuring Adam Schiff, Representative of the 30th Congressional District of California. **Page H2980**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Boebert announced her intent to offer a

privileged resolution (H. Res. 503) impeaching Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. **Pages H2980–81**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–48).

Pages H2977–78

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to North Korea is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–49).

Page H2978

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2978–79 and H2979.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

**CHOICE ARRANGEMENT ACT;
CONDEMNING THE USE OF ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES TO
PROVIDE SHELTER FOR ALIENS WHO ARE
NOT ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES;
CLASS BORROWER PROTECTION ACT OF
2023**

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3799, the “CHOICE Arrangement Act”; H. Res. 461, condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States; H.R. 3564, the “Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3564, the “Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023”, H.R. 3799, the “CHOICE Arrangement Act”, and H. Res. 461, Condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3564, the “Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–8 as modified by the amendment printed

in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 3799, the “CHOICE Arrangement Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides eighty minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committees on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees and Ways and Means or their respective designees. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–9 as modified by the amendment printed in part C of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in part D of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in part D of the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 461, Condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 461. The rule provides that the amendments to the resolution and the preamble recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce

now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. Testimony was heard from Chairman Smith of Missouri, Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Scott of Virginia, Davidson, and Waters.

THE STATUS OF VA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "The Status of VA Financial Management Business Transformation". Testimony was heard from Teresa Riffel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Business Transformation, Department of Veterans Affairs; Nick Dahl, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

SPECIAL COUNSEL JOHN DURHAM

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Special Counsel John Durham". This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Seapower, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 10 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 11 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's

jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 11:15 a.m., SD-106.

Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup S. 822, to terminate the Department of Defense memorandum relating to access to abortions, to prohibit the use of travel and transportation allowances, medical convalescent leave, and administrative absences to travel to obtain abortions, and the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1271, to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be Vice Chairman, and Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, and Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, both to be a Member, all of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine fossil fuel threats to climate and the Federal budget, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joel Matthew Szabat, of Maryland, Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, and Christopher Koos, of Illinois, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, and Alvin Brown, of Florida, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 284, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to include on the engravings on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in the District of Columbia the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., who carved the statue, S. 351, to designate 6 creeks in the State of North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 384, to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, S. 527, to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, S. 562, to establish the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 886, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, S. 924, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S.

961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historic Park”, S. 1059, to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, focusing on state and local perspectives, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kara C. McDonald, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, and Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 728, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, S. 1664, to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families, S. 567, to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine defending the civil rights of LGBTQ+ Americans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the effectiveness of the Office of Integrated Veteran Care, 3:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Closing the Digital Divide in Rural America”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Homeland Security FY 2024 Appropriations Bill; and the Legislative Branch FY 2024 Appropriations Bill, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2670, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024”; and H.R. 1282, the “Major Richard Star Act”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Competition and Transparency: The Pathway For-

ward for a Stronger Health Care Market”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Responding to America’s Overdose Crisis: An Examination of Legislation to Build Upon the SUPPORT Act”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Microvast and More: Oversight of President Biden’s Energy Spending Spree”, 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Federal Reserve’s Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “HUD Oversight: Testimony of the HUD Inspector General”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 488, calling on the Biden administration to immediately provide Army Tactical Missile Systems to Ukraine; H.R. 3033, to repeal the sunset provision of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, and for other purposes; H. Res. 492, condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; H.R. 4039, to prohibit the use of funds supporting any activities within Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China; H.R. 4132, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1150, to establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, hearing entitled “Countering Threats Posed by Nation-State Actors in Latin America to U.S. Homeland Security”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Report of Special Counsel John Durham”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 615, the “Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023”; H.R. 1380, the “Protecting America’s Rock Climbing Act”; H.R. 1726, the “Continued Rapid Ohio Death Response Act of 2023”; H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 3324, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029; and H.R. 3397, to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled

“Churches vs. Casinos: The Constitution is Not Suspended in Times of Crisis”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Examining the Environmental Protection Agency’s Proposed Emissions Standards”, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, hearing entitled “Please Leave Your Message at the Tone: Addressing Post-Pandemic Backlogs and Delays at Federal Agencies”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, begin markup on H.R. 369, the “NIST Wildland Fire Communications and Information Dissemination Act”; H.R. 4090, the “Fire Grants and Safety Act of 2023”; and H.R. 4143, the “National Construction Safety Team Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Review of the National Academy of Sciences Report ‘The Coast Guard’s Next Decade: An Assessment of Emerging Challenges and Statutory Needs’”, 10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 3520, the “Veterans Care Improvement Act of 2023”; H.R. 1182, the “Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2023”; H.R. 1774, the “VA Emergency Transportation Act”; H.R. 2683, the “VA Flood Preparedness Act”; H.R. 2768, the “PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act”; H.R. 2818, the “Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act”; H.R. 3581, the “Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act”; H.R. 1278, the “DRIVE Act”; H.R. 1639, the “VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2023”; and H.R. 1815, the “Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act”, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 21 through June 23, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Wednesday*, Senate will begin consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 11, Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards, and vote on passage thereon at 11:30 a.m., the objection of the President notwithstanding.

Following disposition of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 11, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Treaty Doc. 112–8, Chile Tax Convention Treaty.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: June 22, business meeting to consider 302(b) Subcommittee allocations, an original bill entitled, “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”, and an original bill entitled, “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: June 21, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9 a.m., SR–232A.

June 21, Subcommittee on Seapower, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9:30 a.m., SR–232A.

June 21, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

June 21, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 11 a.m., SR–232A.

June 21, Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 11:15 a.m., SD–106.

June 21, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup S. 822, to terminate the Department of Defense memorandum relating to access to abortions, to prohibit the use of travel and transportation allowances, medical convalescent leave, and administrative absences to travel to obtain abortions, and the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

June 22, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

June 23, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: June 21, business meeting to consider S. 1271, to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be Vice Chairman, and Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, and Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, both to be a Member, all of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

June 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: June 21, to hold hearings to examine fossil fuel threats to climate and the Federal budget, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joel Matthew Szabat, of Maryland, Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, and Christopher Koos, of Illinois, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, and Alvin Brown, of Florida, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, 10 a.m., SR-253.

June 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Fara Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Brendan Carr, of Virginia, Anna M. Gomez, of Virginia, and, Geoffrey Adam Starks, of Kansas, each to be a Member, all of the Federal Communications Commission, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: June 21, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 284, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to include on the engravings on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in the District of Columbia the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., who carved the statue, S. 351, to designate 6 creeks in the State of North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 384, to establish the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, S. 527, to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, S. 562, to establish the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, S. 886, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, S. 924, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the "Salem Maritime National Historic Park", S. 1059, to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify

locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 21, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, focusing on state and local perspectives, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: June 22, to hold hearings to examine cattle supply chains and deforestation of the Amazon, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: June 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kara C. McDonald, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, and Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Italian Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino, both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 2 p.m., SD-419.

June 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States and global commitments to combatting human trafficking, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: June 21, business meeting to consider S. 728, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, S. 1664, to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families, S. 567, to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 21, to hold hearings to examine defending the civil rights of LGBTQ+ Americans, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

June 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1080, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require electronic communication service providers and remote computing services to report to the Attorney General certain controlled substances violations, and the nominations of Tara K. McGrath, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, Loren L. AliKhan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Susan Kim DeClercq, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Julia Kathleen Munley, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Vernon D. Oliver, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: June 21, to hold hearings to examine the effectiveness of the Office of Integrated Veteran Care, 3:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: June 21, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, June 22, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, markup on

the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government FY 2024 Appropriations Bill, 8:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

June 22, Full Committee, markup on the Defense FY 2024 Appropriations Bill; and the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies FY 2024 Appropriations Bill, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Reigniting American Growth and Prosperity Series: Incentivizing Economic Excellence Through Tax Policy”, 12 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Competencies Over Degrees: Transitioning to a Skills-Based Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 22, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Driving Affordability: Preserving People’s Freedom to Buy Affordable Vehicles and Fuel”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 22, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “MACRA Checkup: Assessing Implementation and Challenges that Remain for Patients and Doctors?”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 22, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC”, 9 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

June 22, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Division of Trading and Markets”, 10:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, June 22, Subcommittee on Africa, hearing entitled “Examining the Fiscal Year 2024 State and Foreign Operations Budget Request for Africa”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

June 22, Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Responding to Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel Bias in the UN, Palestinian Authority, and NGO Community”, 11 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

June 22, Subcommittee on Europe, hearing entitled “The Vilnius Summit and War in Ukraine: Assessing U.S. Policy towards Europe and NATO”, 1 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 22, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Growing the National Cybersecurity Talent Pipeline”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

June 22, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “An Examination of TSA’s FY 2024 Budget and Priorities”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, June 22, Subcommittee on Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight, hearing

entitled “Hearing on Compliance with Committee Oversight”, 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

June 22, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Examination of Clemency at the Department of Justice”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Council on Environmental Quality Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request and Related Policy Matters”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 22, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 2997, the “Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act”; H.R. 3025, to provide for no net increase in the total acreage of Federal land in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands; H.R. 3049, the “Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023”; H.R. 3250, the “National Museum of Play Recognition Act”; and H.R. 4141, to provide that certain communications projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, June 22, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “Using Cutting-Edge Technologies to Keep America Safe”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 22, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 369, the “NIST Wildland Fire Communications and Information Dissemination Act”; H.R. 4090, the “Fire Grants and Safety Act of 2023”; and H.R. 4143, the “National Construction Safety Team Act of 2023”, 9:40 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence: Advancing Innovation Towards the National Interest”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Reviewing the SBA’s Office of Advocacy Report on the Regulatory Flexibility Act”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, June 22, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request: Agency Perspectives (Part I)”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, June 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day: Testimony and Proposals on the Department of Veterans Affairs”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 22, Full Committee, business meeting on Documents Protected under Internal Revenue Code Section 6103, 8 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 21

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will begin consideration of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 11, Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards, and vote on passage thereon at 11:30 a.m., the objection of the President notwithstanding.

Following disposition of the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 11, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Treaty Doc. 112–8, Chile Tax Convention Treaty.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 3799—CHOICE Arrangement Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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