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No. 147

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

FIX SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to welcome everyone back to Congress, where hopefully we will get something done.

There was an ominous note sent by the Speaker earlier in a press conference that there will be an impeachment proceeding, an inquiry. I don't think that is what the American people are ready for back home.

They also said that they are here to shut down government. We need to shut down government? What the American people need is what everyone gave speeches about yesterday, talking about how after September 11 we all came together as a country and focused on what needs to be done.

I have a great suggestion for you. How about we fix Social Security for the Americans that need it. We talk to the veterans and we talk to all the individuals who were first responders and tell them how much we appreciate what they do, but then we never vote that way in Congress.

It has been 52 years since Congress has done anything to enhance Social Security. It has been 52 years and no action. How about we do something unique in this body and get a vote on Social Security.

Every Member has a Social Security card. You know exactly how many of your constituents receive a Social Security check, something that is an earned benefit, something that they have paid for and worked all their lives.

Yet, we are content here in this body to let 5 million fellow Americans in all your districts, 5 million Americans get a below-poverty level check from the Federal Government when what they need is subsistence to survive.

How about we get together as a body and come together and enhance the greatest insurance program in the Nation's history, the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly, and the number one anti-poverty for children. There are 10,000 baby boomers a day—if you are out there, baby boomers, call your Members and ask them to take a vote on Social Security.

Look at your pay stub. It says FICA, Federal Insurance Contributions. Whose? Yours. And this Congress hasn't done anything for 52 years. It is long overdue. Think of this as an economic development. If you think this is

socialism, think about all the constituents in your district that are going to get a paycheck. Think about the economic activity. Where do they spend that money? Right back in your district.

They need your help. The Nation needs your help. We need to come together and unite and enhance Social Security, not just protect it, not cut it, as some have suggested, but to actually protect and expand the Nation's number one program that helps the elderly and helps our children of this great country of ours.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEAH SHACKLEY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leah Shackley of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who won a second gold medal this past Thursday at the World Junior Aquatic Swimming Championship in Israel as a member of Team USA.

A senior in high school, Leah has won races across the country, and now around the world. Through her commitment to training at both the Blair Regional YMCA in Hollidaysburg and in her family's pond in Bedford County, Leah has shown that hard work and determination can provide an incredible recipe for success.

As she represents both our district and our Nation, Leah faced tough competition from over 600 athletes representing 100 nations. During the team relay event, Leah set a personal record in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 57.75 seconds.

With Leah's continued success in the water and her support of friends and

□ 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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neighbors in Bedford, she continues to set an incredible example for student athletes in central Pennsylvania.

On behalf of all of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Leah and all of Team USA on their success in the World Junior Aquatics Swimming Championship.

PASS A FARM BILL THAT ENSURES AMERICA'S SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, during the August district work period, I traveled over 3,200 miles across central and western Pennsylvania.

As I met with members of our agricultural community, from orchard growers in Adams County to dairy farmers in Cambria County, I saw firsthand the need for Congress to pass a farm bill that supports the farmers in our rural communities.

This legislation is vital to ensuring America continues providing our country with abundant and affordable food. Very simply put, food security is national security, and now more than ever we need a farm bill that addresses the concerns facing our Pennsylvania farmers.

As production costs continue to soar because of President Biden's inflationary policies, we must find ways to ensure that our food remains affordable for families, while also protecting our local farmers.

We need to better target resources to maintain our commitment to rural farmers and the rural development that is at the cusp of what they do. What we don't need is legislation that overregulates and overburdens the farmers that we rely on to grow the food and provide the dairy products and the wholesome grains that are so important to the economy and to the health of all Americans.

It is time to pass a farm bill that ensures our security and allows at the same time for our farmers to prosper.

AMERICA'S POLITICAL CONS AND SCANDALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republicans to investigate one of modern America's biggest scandals and political cons.

Why did the Saudi Government give Jared Kushner \$2 billion just months after he left the Trump White House?

Kushner, who oversaw Middle East policy for his father-in-law, has enriched himself and his family in what is clearly an enormous grift and likely serious conflict of interest crimes.

Let's review: First, Jared Kushner conned his way to a cushy White House job with no clear job description and no experience. Then he took it upon himself to prioritize pushing out the U.S. Secretary of State so he could cozy up to the Saudi Government.

Once he was close enough to the Saudis, we have records of a \$110 billion arms deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia that was inflated at the direction of Jared Kushner.

Mere months after Kushner exits the White House, what happens? The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia overrules his own advisers and sends \$2 billion to Kushner's company bank account.

In the exact words of Republican Chris Christie, who I will quote: "The grift from this family is breathtaking. It is breathtaking. Jared Kushner and Ivanka Kushner walk out of the White House, and months later get \$2 billion from the Saudis."

Some colleagues from across the aisle have explicitly said the Kushner family has engaged in business dealings that may have crossed the ethical line, and I agree, yet they refuse to act.

Is this the same party that is obsessed with President Biden's family?

The American people deserve answers, and I urge my colleagues across the aisle to answer our calls and subpoena Jared Kushner's company once and for all.

REMEMBERING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 TERROR ATTACKS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked the 22nd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks. I rise today to remember the innocent lives that were lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Flight 11 flew into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Not long after that, Flight 175 roared over lower Manhattan into Tower 2.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon, the center of our Armed Forces and national defense.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, originally headed to San Francisco, was hijacked and made an abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C. But because of the brave passengers and crew members who attempted to take back the plane, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the days, weeks, months, and now two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down.

We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and servicewomen who join the fight to protect our freedoms, and we must remember the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families every day since.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we as Americans are resilient. We will continue to fight the evil and terror that exists today, and

we will continue to be a beacon of the freedom to the world.

Let us reflect on the gift of life so tragically lost at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Let us honor the memory of every American who perished on that fateful day. Their legacies will be forever intertwined with the strength and courage that defined our great country. We will never forget, not 22 years later, not ever.

Madam Speaker, this message of "never forget" was evident on Friday when I attended the Penn State University's 9/11 memorial service. This service is held the Friday before September 11, usually before a home football game, to unite the community ahead of Patriot Day. For the entire weekend, families, students, and guests in State College saw the flags and remember the innocent lives taken from us that day.

Students from college Republicans, college Democrats, the student body government, and members of the Penn State community joined together to remember the innocent lives lost.

In front of Old Main, the community placed 2,977 flags, each one representing a soul, a person, a family member that was taken from us. We also read the names of the 10 Penn State alumni who died in the attacks.

At the beginning of the memorial, Hunter, a sophomore at the university, said that while he was born 2 years after the attacks, he recognizes the importance of taking the time to remember that fateful day.

This is what we mean when we say, "never forget." Those who lived through the day will always have the date burned into our minds. It is the actions of those who were not yet born that show Americans will truly never forget.

We will also remember that we are and always will be the land of the free, only because of the home of the brave.

May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all those who keep us safe.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AUKUS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, Friday, September 15, will mark the second anniversary of AUKUS, a historic new security agreement between the Governments of the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom that will integrate the most sophisticated technologies amongst the three countries, including quantum computing, undersea warfare, hypersonics, and cyber, to name just a few, in order

to create a new level of joint deterrence by these longtime allies to address a security environment that has been deteriorating for the last two decades in the Indo-Pacific region.

Its goal is simple: to preserve an open and free Indo-Pacific and a rules-based order at sea, in the air, and in the cyber domain. It is not a policy of aggression. It is, rather, one of maintaining the integrity and sovereignty of all nations in the region to achieve peace and prosperity.

Madam Speaker, this is a big undertaking for the country of Australia. The centerpiece is recapitalizing their submarine fleet, which today are diesel, electric submarines that have to surface to recharge their batteries and replace them with conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines.

Over the last 2 years, our three Navies' leadership have been meeting to try to come up with a plan to execute this undertaking. Last March, in San Diego, California, at Naval Base Point Loma, the three heads of government—President Biden, Prime Minister Albanese from Australia, and Prime Minister Sunak—came together and stacked hands to make a commitment, and particularly our country, to do something that we have not done since 1958, which is to share the crown jewels of our national security technology; namely, nuclear propulsion.

This program, which again was announced last March, calls for the U.S. to sell three Virginia-class attack submarines in the early 2030s, again, as a way of allowing Australia to replace their fleet with a more capable set of vessels that have longer reach and more capacity in terms of executing deterrence. For the U.S. Navy and for our industrial base here in the U.S., it will call for a much greater capacity for submarine construction than exists today.

Madam Speaker, I represent Groton, Connecticut, which is the home of General Dynamics Electric Boat, the general contractor for the Virginia-class submarine program and also for the Columbia-class program, which today are both working hard to address our own Navy's needs. With AUKUS, this is going to add another level of production targets that again will strain and call for more capacity.

The Biden administration last year saw this coming. They have laid out a \$2.4 billion plan over the next 5 years to increase the workforce, supply chain, and facility to achieve this goal. We saw it happening in real time during my break in August.

If you go back 3 years ago, the shipyard's workforce was about 17,000 people. As of last Friday, it is 21,700 strong. The investments in supply chains that are going all over the country to 48 different States is standing up to meet this demand signal so that this alliance, which, again, is about preserving peace and protecting freedom, will succeed.

The development of the workforce is very exciting to see. This last spring,

trade school graduates and comprehensive high school graduates were going right into the shipyard. The U.S. Department of Labor workforce investment training program, the manufacturing pipeline, reached 4,000 graduates in the metal trades, electricians, welders, machinists.

This is a level of job training and investment that we have not seen for a long time. The 2023 hiring goal for Electric Boat is the largest in the 120-year history of the company—5,750 people. As I said, last week they hit the 21,700 mark, and they will be on target to complete that goal by the end of December.

It is going to require more commitment. We now have people in the Senate who are talking about increasing the Biden budget for investment in the industrial base. Again, this will provide benefit not just for southeastern Connecticut or southern New England, but for States all across the country: manufacturers and small businesses that provide the parts and pieces that go into these amazing vessels, the amazing technology that makes these vessels go.

For the three countries of Australia, the U.K., and the U.S., this Friday will be a proud moment in terms of advancing a goal which all of the neighbors in the region—smaller countries and larger countries—are supporting, which, again, is to push back against some of the encroachment and coercive behavior that now exists in the Indo-Pacific region.

SPEAKER MCCARTHY MUST KEEP HIS WORD

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, on this very floor in January, the whole world witnessed a historic contest for House Speaker.

I rise today to serve notice: Mr. Speaker, you are out of compliance with the agreement that allowed you to assume this role. The path forward for the House of Representatives is to either bring you into immediate, total compliance or remove you pursuant to a motion to vacate the chair.

We have had no vote on term limits or on balanced budgets, as the agreement demanded and required. There has been no full release of the January 6 tapes, as you promised. There has been insufficient accountability for the Biden crime family. Instead of cutting spending to raise the debt limit, you relied on budgetary gimmicks and rescissions so that you ultimately ended up serving as the valet to underwrite Biden's debt and expand his spending agenda.

Mr. Speaker, you boasted in January that we would use the power of the subpoena and the power of the purse, but here we are 8 months later, and we haven't even sent the first subpoena to Hunter Biden. That is how you know

that the rushed and somewhat rattled performance you just saw from the Speaker isn't real.

At this point during Democrat control over the House of Representatives, they had already brought in Don Jr. three times, and we haven't even sent the first subpoena to Hunter Biden. Power of the subpoena.

Power of the purse. The only thing the 118th Congress is known for at this point is electing KEVIN MCCARTHY Speaker and underwriting Biden's debt. Unfortunately, there is only one of those things we can remediate at this time. Power of the purse.

Our leadership right now is asking us to vote for a continuing resolution. A vote for a continuing resolution is a vote to continue the Green New Deal and inflationary spending. In the most troubling of fashions, a vote for a continuing resolution is a vote to continue the election interference of Jack Smith.

Mr. Speaker, we told you how to use the power of the purse: individual, single-subject spending bills that would allow us to have specific review, programmatic analysis, and that would allow us to zero out the salaries of the bureaucrats who have broken bad, targeted President Trump, or cut sweetheart deals for Hunter Biden.

September 30 is rapidly approaching, and you have not put us in a position to succeed. There is no way to pass all the individual appropriations bills now, and it is not like we didn't know when September 30 was going to show up on the calendar. I must be better, you must be better, and this House must be better, for it is the last best hope for tens of millions of Republicans.

We demand real oversight against this weaponized government. Just look at the bribery. If tens of millions of dollars flowing from foreign corrupt people into the bank accounts of the Biden family wasn't enough for actual impeachment, why were we even looking? Joe Biden deserves impeachment for converting the Vice-Presidency into an ATM machine for virtually his entire family. We all see it. We all know it.

Moments ago, Speaker MCCARTHY endorsed an impeachment inquiry. This is a baby step following weeks of pressure from House conservatives to do more. We must move faster.

Now, I will concede that the votes I have called for will likely fail—term limits, balanced budgets, maybe even impeachment. I am prepared for that eventuality. At least if we take votes, the American people get to see who is fighting for them and who is willing to tolerate more corruption and business as usual.

Mr. Speaker, dust off our written January agreement. You have a copy. Reflect on the spirit of that agreement and build on the start that we had moments ago and begin to comply:

No continuing resolutions; individual spending bills or bust.

Votes on balanced budgets and term limits.

Subpoenas for Hunter Biden and the members of the Biden family who have been grifting off this country and the impeachment for Joe Biden that he so richly deserves.

Do these things or face a motion to vacate the chair.

Let me alert the country, a motion to vacate might not pass at first, but it might before the 15th vote. If Democrats bail out MCCARTHY, as they may do, then I will lead the resistance to this uniparty and the Biden-McCarthy-Jeffries government that they are attempting to build.

I know that Washington isn't a town where people are known for keeping their word. Well, Speaker MCCARTHY, I am here to hold you to yours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

Members are further reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

HERKY THE HAWK CELEBRATES 75 YEARS AS UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MASCOT

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herky the Hawk, who this August celebrated 75 years as the beloved mascot of the University of Iowa.

Herky embodies the spirit of the University of Iowa, representing the determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment of its students, alumni, and supporters. With his distinctive black and gold feathers, imposing stature, and fierce countenance, Herky exudes an unmistakable aura of Hawkeye pride. His presence at sporting events, campus gatherings, and community outreach activities has created countless memories and fostered a sense of camaraderie among Hawkeye fans young and old.

As we celebrate Herky's 75th year as the University of Iowa's mascot, we not only honor a beloved icon but also recognize the enduring values, unity, and pride that make the University of Iowa a special place.

Here is to Herky, a symbol of excellence and Hawkeye spirit for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING KALAYNA DURR, 2023 IOWA STATE FAIR QUEEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kalayna Durr of New London in Henry County, Iowa, for being crowned the 2023 Iowa State Fair Queen this past August.

The annual Iowa State Fair Queen competition takes place during the Iowa State Fair as county queens from across the State compete for the coveted crown. Judging is based on personality, leadership, attitude, citizenship, contribution to the community, as well

as overall appearance, demeanor, and poise. After 5 days of workshops, evaluations, and interviews, Kalayna was able to beat out 103 other contestants for the title.

In addition to the well-deserved crown, Kalayna Durr's triumph comes with substantial awards, including \$8,000 in scholarships, a \$600 gift card, a pair of cowboy boots, exquisite diamond earrings, an Iowa State Fair brick, and, of course, a sash that signifies her role as the State's ambassador of agriculture and community.

Her reign promises to be a symbol of grace, intelligence, and leadership as she represents Iowa and its cherished traditions throughout her term as the Iowa State Fair Queen.

Congratulations to Kalayna Durr on this outstanding accomplishment.

□ 1230

REST IN PEACE K9 OFFICER KURLY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired K9 Officer Kurly who passed away at the age of 12 due to natural causes in August. Kurly served alongside Corporal Brian Schertz for 9 years in the Davenport Police Department.

Kurly was more than just a dedicated member of the department. She was a beloved member of the community who worked tirelessly in the patrol division and contributed to countless cases on both sides of the river. In retirement, Kurly enjoyed long walks, playing, and spending time with the Schertz family.

As we bid farewell to this loyal and valiant K9 officer, we express our gratitude for her years of service to the community. Kurly's memory will live on in the hearts of those she protected and the lives of those she touched.

May Kurly rest in peace. She will be deeply missed.

IOWA FOOTBALL KID CAPTAINS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 Hawkeye football kid captains. Each season, the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital designates current or former patients as kid captains for each game of the football season.

These kid captains, who have faced challenges that most of us can only imagine, will spend their game day immersed in the world of Iowa football, experiencing the excitement and camaraderie that comes with it. The highlight of their day, however, is the heartwarming wave they initiate, sending love and encouragement to the children at the hospital across the street. It is a simple gesture that carries immeasurable meaning, symbolizing their triumph over adversity and their enduring spirit of hope.

This year's kid captains are Gracelyn Springer, Nile Kron, Maggie Larson, Gabby Ford, Wyatt Rannals, Max Schlee, Madi Ramirez, Bentley Erickson, Lincoln Veach, Chloe Dinkla, Cooper Estenson, and Nathan McDonald.

As we cheer the Hawkeyes on the field this season, let us also take a mo-

ment to salute these kid captains. They are true champions.

TWO IOWANS RETURNING HOME AFTER CIRCUMNAVIGATION TO ERADICATE POLIO

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of two Iowans, Peter Teahan and John Ockenfels, who returned home in August after circumnavigating the globe as part of Rotary International's End Polio Now initiative.

Their journey started at the Eastern Iowa Airport, taking them through 19 countries on four continents. Along the way, they engaged with local leaders, sparking crucial discussions about their mission. Their unwavering dedication to eradicating polio and the impact of their journey led to over \$1 million raised for Rotary's Polio Plus Program, which provides vital vaccines to those in need globally.

This self-funded expedition, costing approximately \$100,000, served as a poignant reminder that the fight against polio is ongoing, and their efforts have brought it one step closer to its end. With ongoing donations matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, their mission continues to inspire and uplift, emphasizing that hope knows no bounds when dedicated individuals join forces to make a difference.

HONORING GINA SPAGNOLA

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the president and CEO of the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce, a fighter for small businesses, an advocate for our youth, and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Gina Spagnola.

I am very proud to stand here on the House floor and celebrate the remarkable Gina Spagnola for her 20 years of unwavering service to the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce. Under her guidance, the chamber has thrived.

For over 178 years, the Galveston Regional Chamber's mission has been to foster business and community development, and Gina's leadership has elevated this historic institution to unprecedented heights.

Gina has not only embraced this mission, she has embodied it. Her unwavering commitment to Galveston Island and the broader Texas Gulf Coast region has been a driving force behind the chamber's success.

I could go on about the great work and things Gina has accomplished, but we could be here for hours. Instead, Madam Speaker, I will highlight a few things to give you a little picture of how lucky Galveston is to have her advocacy and passion for the businesses in our community.

One of Gina's proudest accomplishments has been the inauguration of this very Galveston Women's Conference she started 16 years ago. After

years of surprising and celebrating the amazing women in Galveston, we get to surprise her by celebrating her. Surprise, Gina.

Gina's ability to build effective relationships with elected officials has facilitated numerous achievements.

She championed the creation of Lemonade Day to help today's youth become the business leaders, the social advocates, the community volunteers, and the forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow.

In times of adversity, Gina's resilience and commitment shine through. Just 2 months after Hurricane Ike wreaked havoc on Galveston Island, she spearheaded a successful recovery expo that enabled local businesses to reopen their doors. This initiative garnered State and national recognition, showcasing Gina's effectiveness in driving impactful initiatives. Gina's compassion extends beyond our District 14 and its borders.

Gina's remarkable leadership has been widely acknowledged. In December 2022, the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce received a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest rating in the industry. Out of the 7,000 chambers in the Nation, only 142 hold this prestigious distinction, with the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce being just 1 of 27 in Texas and the only one in Galveston County, not to mention all of the awards and recognition she has received and all the boards she sits on and has sat on.

As I said, I could go on and on.

Madam Speaker, we thank Gina for two decades of remarkable service, but let us also celebrate the values of dedication, leadership, and community that she embodies.

Gina's legacy is one of inspiration, and we are grateful for her tireless efforts to make Galveston a better place. Congratulations on her outstanding achievements. May her journey ahead be as bright and rewarding as the path she has for our community.

I thank Gina for her unwavering commitment to Galveston and the Texas Gulf Coast. We are very blessed to have her in our lives, and I can't wait to cheer her on as she continues leading this chamber to greatness.

WE MUST BAND TOGETHER TO ADVANCE AMERICAN INTERESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, today Congress returns to session after a 6-week break, and I hope we are all motivated by the input we heard while back home with the same people who sent us here to represent them in the body.

I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put the partisan rhetoric aside and get to work on delivering results for the American people.

I ask that we start by addressing the funding of our government via the ap-

propriations process to ensure we do not have a government shutdown.

A vast majority of Americans are struggling to make ends meet, and a lot of those folks are in our Nation's Armed Forces. A shutdown would only hurt the very people who are putting their lives at risk for all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that we can all rise above the din of the media's attempts to influence what comes out of these Chambers.

I believe we can set aside our political differences and work together for the sake of our country, just as we did 22 years ago following the tragedies of 9/11.

Let's not forget that in the most solemn times in our Nation, we all banded together the strongest to advance America's interests.

Madam Speaker, I would like to end with observing a moment of silence in recognition of all who have fallen due to the unspeakable acts of September 11, 2001.

NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's 3.5 million truckers during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

Truckers are the unsung heroes of our supply chain. Each year they drive over 320 billion miles—the equivalent of nearly 13 million trips around the globe—to deliver 11.5 billion tons of freight.

Every one of those miles represents a stocked store shelf, a package placed on a household doorstep, materials delivered to a manufacturer, and equipment conveyed to a construction site.

I am proud of America's dedicated truckers, including the 66,830 professional drivers in North Carolina. Today, 23 North Carolinians from the trucking industry are on Capitol Hill sharing their stories.

Additionally, a North Carolina driver with over 2 million accident-free miles is demonstrating a simulator to staffers and my colleagues to share the perspectives of truckers.

I look forward to thanking these individuals in person for the work they do.

BOWMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of visiting Bowman Middle School in Mitchell County to view the school's International Space Station, ISS, contact project.

Thanks to the diligent work of Dan Hopson, a STEM teacher at the school who has a penchant for securing these kinds of opportunities, this project was able to come to fruition. Students were able to ask a variety of questions in real time via ham radio to Warren Hoburg, a NASA astronaut who suc-

cessfully traveled to the ISS on March 3 of this year.

This impressive event was one that these students will surely remember as they continue their educational journeys. Hopefully, some will be inspired to engage in careers in STEM areas.

Congratulations to Dan Hopson, Principal extraordinaire Amber Young, and the dedicated staff at Bowman Middle School who made this event and this learning opportunity such a success.

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 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

God, You are our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our world where thousands have been killed in the earthquakes in Morocco and thousands more have died in the floods in Libya. Make Your presence known in the rescue and relief efforts that none will fear, though entire communities fall into the heart of the sea.

We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our country, where countless families still mourn the loss of their loved ones in the horrific events of 9/11 and the wars that followed. Make Your presence known in their sorrow and grief, that none will fear the upheaval of their lives, for You, O Lord of hosts, are with them.

We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our Congress, where the waters of discord roar and foam. Make Your presence known, for You, O God, are in the midst of us. Utter Your voice and melt the ground that separates us from the direction You would have us go.

In these days of great challenge, let us then be still and know that You are God. In Your everlasting name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO 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.

RECOGNIZING EARLEYVILLE FARM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earleyville Farm located near Kersey, Pennsylvania, in Elk County as a Century Farm.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recognizes Pennsylvania families who have been farming the same land for 100 years through the Century Farm programs.

In order to qualify, the same family must have owned the farm for at least 100 consecutive years, a family member must live on the farm on a permanent basis, and the farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holding or gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products.

The Earleyville Farm, owned by the Mattiuz family, has been operating since June of 1923 when Giovanni Mattiuz, an immigrant from Italy, purchased the 10.2 acres. He raised his family there, and the farm has been passed down for four generations.

Today, Ernest, Jr. continues to work on the farm along with his nephew, Mike Bona. Mike actually would be the great-grandson of Giovanni.

Thank you to the Mattiuz family for your work to feed American families.

Congratulations to the Mattiuz family for this remarkable milestone.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the University of California Riverside School of Medicine.

Over the past 10 years, the UCR School of Medicine has become a crucible of knowledge, a sanctuary of healing, and a force against healthcare disparities.

It produces skilled physicians, fosters innovation, and engages our community. With six clinics throughout the region, the UCR School of Medicine brings medical attention to those in need across southern California.

In celebrating the UCR School of Medicine, I applaud their growth and

progress over the last decade. As they turn the page to the next chapter, we anticipate even more remarkable achievements, bolder strides, and continued transformation of countless lives.

I congratulate the University of California Riverside School of Medicine on their 10-year journey. May its impact shape a healthier, brighter future for all.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a century of excellence at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

For 100 years, this institution has been a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and progress in the great State of Texas.

From its humble beginnings to its current status as a thriving hub of education and research, Lamar University has transformed countless lives and shaped our community.

I commend the dedicated faculty, the staff, and the students who have contributed to this remarkable legacy.

Here is to 100 more years of empowering minds, fostering creativity, and making Texas and our Nation stronger. Happy centennial, Lamar University.

ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ensuring everyone has access to high quality and affordable healthcare is a top priority for me.

That is why, together with House Democrats, we have fought tirelessly in Congress to bring down healthcare and prescription drug costs.

Finally, Medicare can negotiate lower prescription drug costs for seniors and other beneficiaries, which will take effect in 2026.

I am excited that the first 10 Medicare part D drugs have been selected for the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

In my home State of Texas, 623,000 seniors will save money thanks to these negotiations.

We are building a healthcare system that prioritizes the well-being of all Americans, regardless of their age, income, or background.

When it comes to healthcare, we are all in this together. We are putting seniors over profits. We are putting people over politics.

RECOGNIZING LAULAUGA TAUSAGA

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laulauga Tausaga who became the United States first women's discus gold medalist at the World Athletics championship in August. Laulauga graduated from the University of Iowa in 2021 where she was the 2019 NCAA discus champion.

In a stunning display of talent and determination, her throw of 69.49 meters to win the world championship marked a significant improvement over her previous best. Laulauga's former Iowa track and field coach, Joey Woody, expressed immense pride in her journey.

He noted her unwavering dedication and resilience in the face of challenges, praising her as one of his best competitors the program has ever seen.

Laulauga Tausaga's legacy is firmly cemented as an eight-time all-American, a regional champion, and now as a gold medalist at the World Athletics—the first woman.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a very happy birthday to my husband, Curt Meeks. Happy birthday, honey.

THE WAR ON FOSSIL FUELS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Biden war on fossil fuels has already caused a 40-year high of inflation, harms families, and continues to enrich war criminal Putin and force dependency on the Chinese Communist Party for batteries.

Now the threat to American families has intensified, as explained in a September 8 editorial by The Wall Street Journal. "Oil prices have climbed this week after Saudi Arabia and Russia extended their production cuts. The Biden administration's response? Restrict U.S. oil and gas development."

"The Interior Department . . . canceled seven oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge . . ."

"Its climate agenda is also the most lawless and economically destructive in history."

"Russia is drilling in the Arctic and using it as a shipping route to deliver oil to China. The administration's restrictions on U.S. Arctic oil and gas development amount to unilateral energy disarmament."

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. We also extend our sympathy to the great people of Morocco.

PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF THE GREAT LAKES

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about DNA from invasive silver carp found in the St. Joseph River, which runs through my district.

Silver carp have overtaken watersheds across the country and would pose a significant challenge to preserving the health of the Great Lakes and its tributaries.

This news increases the urgency to take commonsense steps to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species.

That is why I have continued to support bipartisan efforts that will maintain a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem through securing funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and why I continue to support efforts like the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to fight invasive species.

I will continue to closely monitor the additional testing conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service and pursue long-term solutions to keep the Great Lakes healthy.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2023.

The Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 11, 2023, at 4:18 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 294.

That the Senate passed S. 2747.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1602

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

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

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

FIGHT AND COMBAT RAMPANT IRANIAN MISSILE EXPORTS ACT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3152) to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3152

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 "Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act" or the "Fight CRIME Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) restricts certain missile-related activities and transfers to and from Iran, including all items, materials, equipment, goods, and technology set out in the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex, absent advance, case-by-case approval from the United Nations Security Council.

(2) Iran has transferred Shahed and Mohajer drones, covered under the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex, to the Russian Federation, the Government of Ethiopia, and other Iran-aligned entities, including the Houthis in Yemen and militia units in Iraq, without prior authorization from the United Nations Security Council, in violation of the restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

(3) Absent action by the United Nations Security Council, certain missile-related restrictions in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 will expire in October 2023, removing international legal restrictions on missile-related activities and transfers to and from Iran.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to urgently seek the extension of missile-related restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015);

(2) to use all available authorities to constrain Iran's domestic ballistic missile production capabilities;

(3) to combat and deter the transfer of conventional and non-conventional arms, equipment, material, and technology to, or from Iran, or involving the Government of Iran; and

(4) to ensure countries, individuals, and entities engaged in, or attempting to engage in, the acquisition, facilitation, or development of arms and related components and technology subject to restrictions under Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 are held to account under United States and international law, including through the application and enforcement

of sanctions and use of export controls, regardless of whether the restrictions under Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 remain in effect following their anticipated expiration in October 2023.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, that includes the following:

(1) A diplomatic strategy to secure the renewal of international restrictions on certain missile-related activities, including transfers to and from Iran set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), prior to October 2023.

(2) An analysis of how the expiration of missile-related restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 would impact the Government of Iran's arms proliferation and malign activities, including as the restrictions relate to cooperation with, and support for, Iran-aligned entities and allied countries.

(3) An assessment of the revenue, or in-kind benefits, to be accrued by the Government of Iran, or Iran-aligned entities, as a result of a lapse in missile-related restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

(4) A detailed description of a United States strategy to deter, prevent, and disrupt the sale, purchase, or transfer of covered technology involving Iran absent restrictions pursuant to Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

(5) An identification of any foreign person engaging in, enabling, or otherwise facilitating any activity involving Iran restricted under Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, regardless of whether such restrictions remain in effect after October 2023.

(6) A description of actions by the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, including the European Union, to hold accountable foreign persons that have violated the restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, and efforts to prevent further violations of such restrictions.

(7) A description of actions by individual member states of the United Nations Security Council to hold accountable foreign persons that have violated restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 and efforts to prevent further violations of such restrictions.

(8) A description of actions by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, or any other country to prevent, interfere with, or undermine efforts to hold accountable foreign persons that have violated the restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, including actions to restrict United Nations-led investigations into suspected violations of such restrictions, or limit funding to relevant United Nations offices or experts.

(9) An analysis of the foreign and domestic supply chains in Iran that directly or indirectly facilitate, support, or otherwise aid the Government of Iran's drone or missile program, including storage, transportation, or flight-testing of related goods, technology, or components.

(10) An identification of any foreign person, or network containing foreign persons, that enables, supports, or otherwise facilitates the operations or maintenance of any Iranian airline subject to United States sanctions or export control restrictions.

(11) An assessment of how the continued operation of Iranian airlines subject to United States sanctions or export control restrictions impacts the Government of Iran's ability to transport or develop arms, including covered technology.

(b) SCOPE.—The initial report required by subsection (a) shall address the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date that is 90 days after date of the enactment of this Act, and each subsequent report shall address the one-year period following the conclusion of the prior report.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS TO COMBAT THE PROLIFERATION OF IRANIAN MISSILES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall apply to any foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) knowingly engages in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy covered technology to, from, or involving the Government of Iran or Iran-aligned entities, regardless of whether the restrictions set forth in Annex B to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) remain in effect after October 2023;

(2) knowingly provides entities owned or controlled by the Government of Iran or Iran-aligned entities with goods, technology, parts, or components, that may contribute to the development of covered technology;

(3) knowingly participates in joint missile or drone development, including development of covered technology, with the Government of Iran or Iran-aligned entities, including technical training, storage, and transport;

(4) knowingly imports, exports, or re-exports to, into, or from Iran, whether directly or indirectly, any significant arms or related materiel prohibited under paragraph (5) or (6) to Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) as of April 1, 2023;

(5) knowingly provides significant financial, material, or technological support to, or knowingly engages in a significant transaction with, a foreign person subject to sanctions for conduct described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4); or

(6) is an adult family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to revocation regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with

section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(c) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, or attempts to violate, subsection (b) or any regulation, license, or order issued pursuant to that subsection, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person only if, not later than 15 days prior to the date on which the waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out any amendments made by this section.

(f) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

(g) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(h) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(i) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Government of Iran no longer repeatedly provides support for international

terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State pursuant to—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(D) any other provision of law; and

(2) Iran has ceased the pursuit, acquisition, and development of, and verifiably dismantled its, nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person”—

(A) means an individual or entity that is not a United States person; and

(B) includes a foreign state (as such term is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code).

(3) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term “Government of Iran” has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2021.

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The terms “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a permanent resident alien of the United States;

(C) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(D) a person in the United States.

(5) IRAN-ALIGNED ENTITY.—The term “Iran-aligned entity” means a foreign person that—

(A) is controlled or significantly influenced by the Government of Iran; and

(B) knowingly receives material or financial support from the Government of Iran, including Hezbollah, the Houthis, or any other proxy group that furthers Iran's national security objectives.

(6) COVERED TECHNOLOGY.—The term “covered technology” means—

(A) any goods, technology, software, or related material specified in the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) any additional goods, technology, software, or related material added to the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex after the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(7) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family member” means—

(A) a child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sibling, or spouse; and

(B) any spouse, widow, or widower of an individual described in subparagraph (A).

(8) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(9) MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME.—The term “Missile Technology Control Regime” means the policy statement, between the United States, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Canada, and Japan, announced on April 16, 1987, to restrict sensitive missile-relevant

transfers based on the Missile Technology Control Regime Annex, and any amendments thereto or expansions thereof, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(10) MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME ANNEX.—The term “Missile Technology Control Regime Annex” means the Guidelines and Equipment and Technology Annex of the Missile Technology Control Regime, and any amendments thereto or updates thereof, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Iran poses an existential threat to the global balance of power, threatening our national security, as well as those of our allies, and regional stability.

General Kurilla, the commander of the U.S. Central Command, who I met with at the Munich Security Conference, testified to Congress this year that Iran possessed both the largest and most diverse missile arsenal in the Middle East and the largest and most capable unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone, force in the region, which is why the passage of the Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act is so vital.

For years, we have seen Iran and its terrorist proxies use these weapons against the United States as well as our partners and allies throughout the Middle East.

In January 2020, Iran launched a missile attack on U.S. troops in Iraq. Iranian UAVs are frequently used to attack U.S. servicemembers and personnel in the Middle East. These UAVs are a deadly threat that have killed and wounded Americans.

Iranian UAVs have also been used in destructive strikes on Saudi- and Israeli-linked targets. Iran frequently provides these deadly weapons to its proxies, including Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iraqi militia groups.

Now, Iran’s lethal drones are wreaking havoc outside the Middle East. Hundreds of these drones have been deployed by Vladimir Putin against civilian and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, becoming a key element in his unprovoked war of aggression and war crimes.

For years, Iran’s missile and drone proliferation to its terror proxies and to Russia has taken place in outright

violation of the United Nations international embargo on Iran’s missile and drone programs.

We note that the Ayatollah, Vladimir Putin, and Iran’s terrorist proxies don’t care about violating U.N. resolutions, but other countries do. Next month, these international restrictions on Iran’s lethal missile and drone programs will expire after 15 years. I am deeply concerned that the marketplace for Iran’s missiles and drones will expand. Dangerous autocrats, war criminals, and terrorists around the world will turn to Iran for missiles and drones, just as we saw them doing following the expiration of the U.N. arms embargo on Iran in 2020.

That is why it is urgent that the House pass my bipartisan bill, the Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports, or Fight CRIME, Act. The bill, which I was proud to introduce with Ranking Member MEEKS, imposes strict mandatory sanctions on Iran’s missile and drone capability to fill the gap left by the expiration of the U.N. restrictions.

Everyone must know that if they purchase Iran’s weapons of war, they will be frozen out of the U.S. financial system, denied use of the U.S. dollar, and denied access to the United States. For years, Iran and its proxies have rained hell on the Middle East from the sky with their attack UAVs. Now Iran’s dangerous arsenal is enabling Russian war crimes and the devastation of Ukraine.

We cannot wait to act until the U.N. restrictions expire. We need to prevent these weapons sales now before these deadly missiles and drones are on the battlefield. In fact, Iran is working with Russia inside of Russia to make these very drones.

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write regarding H.R. 3152, the Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee’s jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee’s report to accompany this legislation. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on

matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3152, the “Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act,” so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, for decades, the United States and our allies have harbored grave concerns regarding Iran’s ballistic missile program. Leading among those concerns is the fear that they are being developed to one day deploy a nuclear warhead. However, we have also experienced Iran’s short- and medium-range missiles that pose a direct and deadly threat to American forces in the region and the territories of numerous allies and partners.

Iran currently has more than 3,000 ballistic missiles in its stockpile. In recent years, despite international pressure, these missiles have achieved a much greater range and accuracy. Iran has also supplied precision-guided missiles and drones to proxies in Lebanon and Syria. Iran’s growing missile capabilities could one day allow it to threaten Europe and the United States’ mainland directly.

Without a doubt, it is in the interest of the United States to prevent Iran from further expanding its missile capabilities. Today, global sanctions are in place which aim to limit Iran’s missile program. They are found in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, and unfortunately, they are set to expire in October of 2023. Russia and China’s presence on the Security Council has made it impossible to negotiate an extension of these multilateral sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, in October, when the U.N. regulations expire, Iran would be free in the eyes of the U.N. to develop nuclear weapon delivery systems, including ICBMs that could reach the United States homeland. Let’s be clear. Iran has never abided by the missile restrictions outlined in the Security

Council resolution, but when the sanctions expire, it would open the door for Iran to advance its missile program by utilizing technologies more freely from around the world.

Upon expiration of the sanctions, Iranian leaders will immediately gain access to items it cannot easily acquire domestically, such as gyroscopes, sensors, and numerous other sophisticated components necessary for modern ballistic missiles. Upon securing these technologies from abroad, Iran could begin to reverse engineer them and begin domestic production as it has done in the past.

That is why, together with our allies, we must act. I applaud the European Union for telling Iran they plan to retain their own EU, European Union, ballistic missile sanctions set to expire in October. Today we want to send Iran the message that the United States intends to do the same.

That is why we are considering this bipartisan legislation introduced by Chairman MCCAUL that imposes mandatory property blocking and visa sanctions on anyone involved in the supply, sale, or transfer of or support for Iran's missiles and drones. The legislation also requires the executive branch to submit a report on the Iranian missiles and drones to Congress, specifically outlining their strategy to counter this menace.

Mr. Speaker, there is near-global consensus that Iran should not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon or the missile that could help them carry one. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure. I thank Mr. MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEAN for her strong support of this measure and her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the right to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

The threat of Iranian missiles and drones is real. The clock is ticking, and Congress, the United States Government, and the world at large needs to act. This bill is an important measure to prevent Iran from being able to acquire more sophisticated technology as a result of the expiring sanctions.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for introducing this legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

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

Despite what you may hear about partisan divides, our committee, I think, stands apart. This bill to impose

sanctions on those doing business with Iran's missile and drone program was introduced by myself and Ranking Member MEEKS of the Foreign Affairs Committee. It passed our committee unanimously. It has over 225 cosponsors, with a mix of Republicans and Democrats.

Congress and the American people are keenly aware of the destructive power of Iran's drones, and we are absolutely committed to reining in this threat. We are united in delivering a bipartisan message to countries around the world: Do not buy or acquire Iranian drones and missiles. Do not associate yourself with the IRGC, Vladimir Putin, or Iran's terrorist proxies.

Putin and the Ayatollah may try to ramp up their military cooperation, but we will do everything in our power to stop them, and in doing so, safeguard free democracies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3152, the Fight CRIME Act.

This bill looks to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology.

For years, the Government of Iran has proven to be erratic and unpredictable.

With thousands of people being arbitrarily detained or unfairly prosecuted solely for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Women, people of the LGBTQ+ community, and people of ethnic and religious minority suffer intensified discrimination and violence in Iran.

We must impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions on foreign persons that are knowingly involved with Iran or Iran-aligned entities in certain missile-related activities.

This involves the acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring, or deploying missiles or related items and technology that are covered by the Missile Technology Control Regime, or developing missile or drone technologies.

We must also impose sanctions on certain adult family members of those who are subject to the sanctions previously mentioned.

Foreign persons who knowingly provide significant support to or engage in a significant transaction with those are also subject to the sanctions previously mentioned.

The bill also requires the Department of State to report to Congress on various topics, including a diplomatic strategy to renew international restrictions on certain missile-related activities.

The Government of Iran brought this upon themselves.

The many accounts of enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment are just some of many atrocities committed by the Iranian Government.

Similarly, the usage of the death penalty increased, and public executions resumed.

The people of Iran are tired of the regime forcing its unjust will on them.

In 2022 alone, more than 500 people were killed by the violent crackdown on protesting in Iran.

Additionally, more than 14,000 people were arrested, including protesters, journalists, lawyers, activists, artists, and athletes who voiced support for the freedom movement.

There are countless more stories and recollections as to why the Government of Iran should face these sanctions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3152, the Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act, and the limiting of the Iranian Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3152, 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. MCCAUL. 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.

□ 1615

MAHSA AMINI HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 589) to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 589

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 "Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act" or the "MAHSA Act".

SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER'S OFFICE, ITS APPOINTEES, AND AN AFFILIATED PERSONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Supreme Leader is an institution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(2) The Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over Iran's judiciary and security apparatus, including the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, law enforcement forces under the Interior Ministry, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and the Basij, a nationwide volunteer paramilitary group subordinate to the IRGC, all of which have engaged in human rights abuses in Iran. Additionally the IRGC, a United States designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, which reports to the Supreme Leader, continues to perpetrate terrorism around the globe, including attempts to kill and kidnap American citizens on United States soil.

(3) The Supreme Leader appoints the head of Iran's judiciary. International observers continue to criticize the lack of independence of Iran's judicial system and maintained that trials disregarded international standards of fairness.

(4) The revolutionary courts, created by Iran's former Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini, within Iran's judiciary, are chiefly responsible

for hearing cases of political offenses, operate in parallel to Iran's criminal justice system and routinely hold grossly unfair trials without due process, handing down predetermined verdicts and rubberstamping executions for political purpose.

(5) The Iranian security and law enforcement forces engage in serious human rights abuse at the behest of the Supreme Leader.

(6) Iran's President, Ebrahim Raisi, sits at the helm of the most sanctioned cabinet in Iranian history which includes internationally sanctioned rights violators. Raisi has supported the recent crackdown on protestors and is a rights violator himself, having served on a "death commission" in 1988 that led to the execution of several thousand political prisoners in Iran. He most recently served as the head of Iran's judiciary, a position appointed by Iran's current Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and may likely be a potential candidate to replace Khamenei as Iran's next Supreme Leader.

(7) On September 16, 2022, a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, died in the detention of the Morality Police after being beaten and detained for allegedly transgressing discriminatory dress codes for women. This tragic incident triggered widespread, pro-women's rights, pro-democracy protests across all of Iran's 31 provinces, calling for the end to Iran's theocratic regime.

(8) In the course of the protests, the Iranian security forces' violent crackdown includes mass arrests, well documented beating of protestors, throttling of the internet and telecommunications services, and shooting protestors with live ammunition. Iranian security forces have reportedly killed hundreds of protestors and other civilians, including women and children, and wounded many more.

(9) Iran's Supreme Leader is the leader of the "Axis of Resistance", which is a network of Tehran's terror proxy and partner militias materially supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that targets the United States as well as its allies and partners.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States shall stand with and support the people of Iran in their demand for fundamental human rights;

(2) the United States shall continue to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the Supreme Leader and President, accountable for abuses of human rights, corruption, and export of terrorism; and

(3) Iran must immediately end its gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

(c) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DETERMINATION AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall—

(A) determine whether each foreign person described in subsection (d) meets the criteria for imposition of sanctions under one or more of the sanctions programs and authorities listed in paragraph (2);

(B) impose applicable sanctions against any foreign person determined to meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions pursuant to subparagraph (A) under the sanctions programs and authorities listed in subparagraph (A) or (F) of subsection (c)(2) and pursue applicable sanctions against any foreign person determined to meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions pursuant to subparagraph (A) under the sanctions programs and authorities listed in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (c)(2); and

(C) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report in unclassified form, with a classified annex provided separately if needed, containing—

(i) a list of all foreign persons described in subsection (d) that meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions under one or more of the sanctions programs and authorities listed in paragraph (2); and

(ii) for each foreign person identified pursuant to clause (i)—

(I) a list of each sanctions program or authority listed in paragraph (2) for which the person meets the criteria for imposition of sanctions;

(II) a statement which, if any, of the sanctions authorized by any of the sanctions programs and authorities identified pursuant to subclause (I) have been imposed or will be imposed within 30 days of the submission of the report; and

(III) with respect to which any of the sanctions authorized by any of the sanctions programs and authorities identified pursuant to subclause (I) have not been imposed and will not be imposed within 30 days of the submission of the report, the specific authority under which otherwise applicable sanctions are being waived, have otherwise been determined not to apply, or are not being imposed and a complete justification of the decision to waive or otherwise not apply the sanctions authorized by such sanctions programs and authorities.

(2) SANCTIONS LISTED.—The sanctions listed in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Sanctions described in section 105(c) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514(c)).

(B) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13553 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons with respect to serious human rights abuses by the Government of Iran).

(C) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(D) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13818 (relating to blocking the property of persons involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption).

(E) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13876 (relating to imposing sanctions with respect to Iran).

(F) Penalties and visa bans applicable with respect to a person pursuant to section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021.

(3) FORM OF DETERMINATION.—The determination required by paragraph (1) shall be provided in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex provided separately containing additional contextual information pertaining to justification for the issuance of any waiver issued, as described in paragraph (1)(C)(ii). The unclassified portion of such determination shall be made available on a publicly available internet website of the Federal Government.

(d) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

(2) The President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran or the President's cabinet, including cabinet ministers and executive vice presidents.

(3) Any entity, including foundations and economic conglomerates, overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in financing or resourcing of human rights abuses or support for terrorism.

(4) Any official of any entity owned or controlled by the Supreme Leader of Iran or the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

(5) Any person determined by the President—

(A) to be a person appointed by the Supreme Leader of Iran, the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran, the President of Iran, or the Office of the President of Iran to a position as a state official of Iran, or as the head of any entity located in Iran or any entity located outside of Iran that is owned or controlled by one or more entities in Iran;

(B) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological

support for, or goods or services to or in support of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2);

(C) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2); or

(D) to be a member of the board of directors or a senior executive officer of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2).

(e) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a foreign person meets the criteria of a person described in subsection (d)(5), the President shall—

(A) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

(B) submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex provided separately if needed, to such chairman and ranking member with respect to such determination that includes a statement of whether or not the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions with respect to the person pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. SEVERABILITY .

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Iran has committed brutal human rights violations. This regime silences dissent and suppresses the truth, and those who dare speak out face severe consequences, including death.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini was murdered by the Iranian regime, the so-called morality police, while in police custody. Iran's morality police had detained her for a false crime unthinkable to most of us here in this Chamber.

What was the crime?

It was failing to properly cover her hair.

The people of Iran were outraged by her brutal murder and by the range of injustices that the Ayatollah subjects Iranians to day in and day out. This outrage led the great people of Iran to rise up in peaceful protest, demanding change.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the regime responded with a violent crackdown against the protesters. They detained tens of thousands of their own citizens and killed hundreds more. The regime choked off access to the outside world by blocking the internet. Disturbingly, violence and isolation are how they deny their own people their freedom and their voice.

The international community has failed the people of Iran by failing to compel their oppressors to stop this abuse. We have many sanctions laws designed to address the Iranian regime's human rights violations. However, it is clear that many officials and institutions in Iran have not yet been sanctioned for their role in these abuses. That is why it is so important that we pass this bipartisan bill that was authored and introduced by Representative BANKS from Indiana.

We must require the President to formally determine whether specific high-ranking regime officials and institutions meet the criteria for imposition of our sanctions and then act based on those determinations.

The Biden administration has its own political agenda when it comes to Iran. This administration wants to broker a bad nuclear agreement with Iran and has made it clear that it is willing to sacrifice leverage in the form of sanctions enforcement to do so.

My longstanding concerns only grew when we learned that the administration's chief negotiator, Rob Malley, was being investigated for problems with his security clearance. This administration must be transparent about these allegations and how they have impacted the last 2 years of Iran's policy.

To the administration, I say this: We must not sell out the Iranian people to reach a bad nuclear deal with Iran.

A nuclear Iran is simply not acceptable. We must fully enforce the laws on the books that we have in order to stop the grotesque human rights violations taking place in Iran.

That is why as we approach the 1-year anniversary of Mahsa Amini's tragic death—it is so fitting that we do it here in this Chamber this week—Congress must show the world that we have not forgotten Mahsa or the millions of Iranians who have experienced violence, oppression, and even death at the hands of the regime.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I am writing with respect to H.R. 589, the "Mahsa Amini

Human rights and Security Accountability Act." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions on which the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest, I will not request a sequential referral on this measure.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 589.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding his legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I write regarding H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 589 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Financial Services regarding H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act. I agree that the Committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 589 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your Committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2023.

HON. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H.R. 589 into our committee report on this bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no debate in Congress about the nature of the Iranian Government. The Supreme Leader of Iran murders, tortures, and abuses his own people. He denies Iranian citizens freedom and democracy. He guides proxy forces meant to destabilize numerous regional countries. He has threatened to wipe Israel off the map, and he is developing a nuclear program that has stockpiled enough highly enriched uranium for several nuclear warheads. I believe there must be costs associated with this behavior, and the United States is delivering those costs.

The Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, or the MAHSA Act, is a bill that would require the President of the United States to determine whether high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic regime in Iran should be listed under existing U.S. sanctions for human rights abuses and support of terrorism. If an Iranian person or entity is found to meet these criteria, the legislation strongly encourages the executive branch to sanction that person or entity to the fullest extent of the law.

Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats understand the despicable nature of Iran's Supreme Leader and his regime and the need to hold them accountable. The Supreme Leader is currently sanctioned under executive order 13876 which blocks the property of the Supreme Leader and his office, as well as persons determined to have provided material support to the Supreme Leader or his office.

As of April 20, 2023, 112 persons have been designated for sanctions pursuant to this order—75 entities, 36 individuals, and one vessel.

Some of these designations were made by the Trump administration,

and some have been made by the Biden administration. The Supreme Leader is fully cut off from the American financial system and is not allowed to travel to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that other prominent Iranian leaders currently under strict American sanctions include President Raisi, two of Iran's vice presidents, and seven cabinet ministers, including the Ministers of Communication, Culture, Defense, Intelligence, Interior, and Petroleum. Companies and subsidiaries tied to the Supreme Leader in the sectors of energy, textiles, mining, chemicals, and financial services are all under strict sanctions.

Let me be clear: there are more sanctions on the Supreme Leader and his cronies today than there were 1½ years ago. Applying maximum pressure on the Supreme Leader is an entirely bipartisan priority. We must always do more. Enforcement can be tighter. Legislation with transparency mechanisms such as the MAHSA Act provide value to the Congress and our Iran policy oversight efforts.

During committee consideration of the MAHSA Act, I voted to move the bill to the floor despite having reservations that the text as currently drafted could damage national security waivers found in the underlying statute. Though the bill improved throughout the negotiations process with the majority, an amendment was offered, which was adopted over the committee Democrats' objections, that undermines some of the progress we achieved before markup.

During a future conference process with the Senate, we want to assure this legislative text will not harm any President's ability to adjust any potential national security event vis-a-vis Iran, including addressing the nuclear issue. We also hope to streamline the reporting requirements to make them feasible for OFAC and the Treasury Department to deliver to Congress.

We look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner on crafting a final bill that continues to put pressure on the Supreme Leader of Iran and those who support his nefarious efforts. In the meantime, I will vote to advance the current draft from the House in order to prepare for negotiations with the Senate.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue and so many other issues related to our foreign policy and national security.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today in support of the passage of my bill, the MAHSA Act. As the chairman said, this bill is named in honor of

Mahsa Amini, a young woman in Iran who was killed by the Iranian regime nearly almost exactly 1 year ago this week.

Mahsa died after being snatched off the street and brutally beaten by a patrol of the regime's so-called morality police all because she was not wearing her headscarf correctly in public.

Mahsa's murder triggered months of the largest prodemocracy and anti-regime protests in Iran since the 1979 revolution. Iranians called for freedom and chanted "death to the dictator." Iranian women cast off their hijabs and burnt them in protest. They shook the regime to its core and showed the world that the Iranian people despise the Iranian regime. They will no longer tolerate its human rights abuses, corruption, and squandering of their wealth on terrorism.

Nevertheless, the Biden administration refused to take real action in support of the protesters last year and has been looking the other way ever since.

This administration is too afraid to jeopardize their dream of a new nuclear deal with Iran, so it is up to Congress to act instead. That is what we are doing here today.

The MAHSA Act will hold the most malicious elements of Iran's regime accountable while avoiding collateral damage on ordinary Iranians. My bill will require the administration to actually enforce sanctions on the books and to go after Mahsa's killers and funders of terrorism, including the Supreme Leader of Iran and senior regime officials and their money laundering organizations.

I thank all of those from both parties who made this bipartisan legislation possible and to become a reality today. More importantly, I thank all those Iranian-American groups here at home who showed their Representatives how important it is to stand in support of the Iranian people and to finally take action to hold this brutal regime accountable.

I call upon the Senate to immediately take up and pass the MAHSA Act, and I call upon President Biden to stop dragging his feet, listen to the Iranian people, and confront the Iranian regime once and for all.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in Iran, and it has been 1 year during which revulsion to repression has given birth to so many courageous Iranians expressing their defiance of arbitrary restrictions on their freedom.

Nevertheless, it has also been another year of torture and murder at the hands of a fanatical tyranny. With approval of this legislation named for Mahsa, we say to Iranians: "Your voices are heard, your voices are important, and you are not forgotten."

While the type of military action against Iran urged by fanatics outside

of Iran would be disastrous and counterproductive, through this act we seek to use all other available means to hold accountable the cruel repressors in Tehran.

Those of us who are progressives, opposing any war against Iran, are equally opposed to the Iran war that the government is currently carrying out against its own children. We share the battle cry of peaceful Iranian protesters: Woman, life, freedom.

This bill has little to do with the Iran nuclear agreement, which was wisely negotiated by President Obama's administration and our European allies. The world is less safe today not because of that agreement but because of President Trump's unilateral cancellation of the agreement presenting us today with an Iran that is nearer the development of a nuclear weapon than it was prior to the agreement.

We need to be seeking to do everything we can to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon short of war; but our desire for a safer world should not impair our willingness to do more to make Iran safer for its own citizens.

As Amnesty International reported just this past month, Iranian authorities have been subjecting victims' families to arbitrary arrest and detention, imposing restrictions on peaceful gatherings at gravesites, and even destroying victims' grave markers, and now within the last few days, detaining Mahsa's uncle so that he cannot speak out this Saturday on the anniversary of her murder.

Already this year, the Iranian Government has executed 320 people, doubling the rate prior to Mahsa's death, and giving Iran the wretched distinction of the highest number of executions per capita in the entire world.

Building upon current, existing executive orders, this bill proposes to codify existing sanctions targeting those at the top of the Iranian regime for their human rights abuses and for this egregious action over the last year.

Nevertheless, the attacks on President Biden really are misplaced if this is to be a truly bipartisan initiative. I believe that passage of the MAHSA Act sends a message to Iranians not about this administration, but of the fact that we, the elected Members of the people of the United States, oppose these abuses.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, passage of this act is not about what this administration has or has not done, but that it reflects the broad determination of this body, the Congress, the Representatives of the people of the United States, to speak out against a

brutal theocracy. We stand with Iranians who seek a brighter future where the rule of law and freedom are respected, and hopefully one day there will be an end to the terrible division between our two countries.

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of this measure as it is crucial that we continue to pressure the Supreme Leader of Iran and his cronies and enablers, but I look forward to further refining the text with our Senate colleagues to make this the best bill possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that I join Chairman MCCAUL and Representative DOGGETT in acknowledging that it has been nearly 1 year since the tragic death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. We will always remember her global impact not just for the girls and women of Iran, but for girls and women all over the world.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ranking Member MEEKS, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, and Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT for their work on this bill. I also thank Representative BANKS for leading this important bipartisan measure to ensure the United States upholds its moral responsibility as a beacon of freedom in human rights.

This bill does not create any new sanctions programs. The tools we are discussing here today already exist. We are simply asking the administration to enforce them. We must do everything we can to stand with the people of Iran and prevent more violence and suffering.

I feel for Mahsa's family, seeing her being beaten, tortured, and put to death for the so-called crime of merely not wearing her hijab correctly is really unfathomable to Americans and our way of life in a free society, and it cannot stand.

I look forward to a day when the Ayatollah is out of power and the people of Iran can be free to express themselves without this kind of oppression and tyranny. I know it will happen one day, and I hope it happens in my lifetime.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this legislation to stand with those advocating for human rights in Iran however I have concerns that the legislation could prohibit the President's ability to adjust sanctions as national security conditions warrant. I am hopeful this is the last time that Congress puts forward a sanctions bill without a clear mechanism to remove them as needed.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini

Human Rights Security Accountability (MAHSA) Act.

This bill would require the President of the United States to impose property- and visa-blocking sanctions on certain individuals and entities affiliated with Iran.

Additionally, this bill would impose requirements that the President periodically make determinations about whether certain existing sanctions apply to specified persons and impose the applicable sanctions, including determinations concerning:

(1) the Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran;

(2) the President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran; and

(3) any entity overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in supporting human rights abuses or terrorism.

Iran currently faces widespread unrest because of various human rights violations.

In 2022, security forces killed more than 500 persons, including at least 69 children, and arrested more than 19,000 protesters, including children, according to the nongovernmental organization Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Some of those arrested faced the death penalty, including children.

The government also routinely disrupted access to the internet and communications applications to prevent the free flow of information and to attempt to interrupt or diminish participation in protests.

Although the human rights violations in Iran are unacceptable and certainly condemnable and actionable in response, to address this matter in the manner set forth by this bill is concerning.

First, this bill and its text targets the Iran government itself, not individuals in the government.

Because of this, this bill would essentially remain in effect indefinitely, regardless of a change in leadership and political or social agenda.

Iran and its people deserve peace, not additional hardships.

Instead of implementing this act, Congress should investigate the sanctions that are already in place on the Iranian leadership and could consider amending those sanctions.

This bill has been built on positive intentions that seek to solve an important and pressing issue.

However, I think it would benefit us to reexamine already existing sanctions on Iranian leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 589, 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. MCCAUL. 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.

(8)

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF THE BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. RES. 492

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;

Whereas, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 Baha'is have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas June 18, 2023, marks the 40th anniversary of the execution of 10 Baha'i women by the Iranian Government each witnessing the hanging of those hanged before her in a final failed attempt to induce abandonment of their faith after over 6 months of imprisonment and violent abuse, with the youngest only 17 years old;

Whereas, on December 15, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/C.3/77/L.34) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including—

(1) to end its "continuing disregard for protections under Iranian law or internationally recognized safeguards relating to the imposition of the death penalty" and "to commute the sentences for child offenders on death row";

(2) "to ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment";

(3) "to cease the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention";

(4) "to release persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms";

(5) "to address the poor conditions of prisoners";

(6) "to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of systemic discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls";

(7) to cease the "increased harassment, intimidation, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention of, and incitement to hatred that leads to violence against, persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians (particularly converts from Islam), Gonabadi Dervishes, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Yarsanis, Zoroastrians, and, in particular, Baha'is, who have been subjected to a sudden increase in persecution, who have faced increasing restrictions and systemic persecution by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on account of their faith and

have been reportedly subjected to mass arrests and lengthy prison sentences, as well as the arrest of prominent members and increased confiscation and destruction of property"; and

(8) "to release all religious practitioners imprisoned for their membership in or activities on behalf of a minority religious group, to cease the desecration of cemeteries and to ensure that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief";

Whereas, in the 2023 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued in April 2023, it is reported that—

(1) the Government of Iran "escalated its persecution of Baha'is, conducting nationwide arrests and spreading propaganda against the group";

(2) in February [2022], Judge Mohammadghasem Ain al-Kamali of Branch 1 of the Semnan Revolutionary Court ruled that [the parastatal entity known as] the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO) could legally confiscate the property of Baha'is . . . Branch 54 of the Tehran Appeals Court upheld the decision in August following the destruction of six Baha'i houses in Rooshankooch;

(3) government officials arrested 14 Baha'is during a religious study in Ghaemshahr; and

(4) the Government of Iran "continued its systematic campaign of Baha'i arrests" throughout the latter part of 2022;

Whereas, in response to a surge in persecution in June and July 2022, involving the subjection of over 100 Baha'is to arrests, arraignments, sentencing, and raids on their homes and businesses across Iran, including the sentencing in June of 26 individuals in the city of Shiraz to a combined total of 85 years in prison, the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement on August 2, 2022, indicating that "[a]mid a continued rise in arrests, sentences, and imprisonments, the U.S. urges Iran to halt its ongoing oppression of the Baha'i community and honor its international obligations to respect the right of all Iranians to freedom of religion or belief";

Whereas the Iran section of the Department of State's 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom issued in May 2023 provides, in part—

(1) "According to the Baha'i International Community (BIC), Amnesty International, multiple international news organizations, and the United Nations, in July and August, security forces in cities across the country conducted multiple raids of Baha'i homes, confiscated property deemed 'illegitimate wealth,' and arrested Baha'is in their homes or workplaces on unsubstantiated charges including 'causing intellectual and ideological insecurity in Muslim society.'";

(2) "In August, a group of UN human rights experts released a joint statement calling on the government to stop the increasing arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of members of the Baha'i Faith and the destruction or confiscation of their properties in what the experts said 'bears all the signs of a policy of systematic persecution.'"; and

(3) "In their August 22 statement, the UN experts stated that as of April, more than 1,000 Baha'is awaited imprisonment, following their initial arrest and hearings.";

Whereas, on November 21, 2022, Ms. Mahvash Sabet and Ms. Fariba Kamalabadi, 2 former members of the disbanded informal 7-person leadership group of the Baha'is of Iran, who each served 10-year sentences from 2008 to 2018 and have been detained since July 31, 2022, in Evin prison, were sentenced to an additional 10 years in prison each after a summary trial lasting 1 hour; and on Feb-

ruary 10, 2023, another former member of the disbanded leadership group, Mr. Afif Naimi, who had also served a 10-year sentence from 2008 to 2018, was sentenced on February 10, 2023, to 7 years in prison, which he began to serve on April 29, 2023;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha'i International Community organization reported that, "More than 320 Baha'is have been affected by individual acts of persecution since the arrest [on July 31, 2022] of Mahvash [Sabet] and Fariba [Kamalabadi]. Dozens were arrested at various points in Shiraz, across Mazandaran province, and elsewhere throughout the country. Homes owned by Baha'is in the village of Roshankouh were demolished. Government plans to tar the Baha'is through hate speech and propaganda were also exposed. And at least 90 Baha'is are currently in prison or subject to degrading ankle-band monitoring.";

Whereas, on April 21, 2023, the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement in a tweet indicating that, "[w]e are deeply concerned following the news of Mahvash Sabet's injuries sustained while in prison. No one should be punished for their faith. We call on Iranian authorities to make sure Mrs. Sabet receives medical attention immediately and release her.";

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009"; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and the continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha'is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha'is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha'is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses,

including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the Iranian regime continues to violate human rights, we must condemn the regime's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its other ongoing abuses.

For the past year, Iran's barbaric human rights violations have faced renewed scrutiny following the regime's crackdown on peaceful protests after the murder of Mahsa Amini. Unfortunately, this sickening cruelty has become characteristic of the Iranian regime's control for over 40 years. The regime has consistently targeted the Baha'i and other religious minorities with harassment, discrimination, and violence.

For decades, the Iranian regime has terrorized the Baha'i, who face arbitrary arrest, forced disappearances, property confiscation, and economic discrimination at the hands of the regime.

Religious persecution in any form is repulsive, and we must condemn it in the strongest possible terms. That is why I cosponsored this resolution, which the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY, introduced.

This measure details Iran's ongoing crimes against the Baha'i minority and calls for further action to address these serious human rights abuses. Congress will continue to stand with all the people of Iran to defend their rights, including religious freedom.

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 492, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while the Congress is rightly concerned about Iran's nefarious nuclear program, its missile proliferation, and its destabilizing activities around the globe, we cannot forget those who continue to struggle for religious freedom and democracy in Iran.

Iran's Baha'i community has long been the target of severe religious persecution by the Iranian regime. Much of its informal leadership has been arrested and many members of the com-

munity executed. The Baha'i are not permitted to practice their religion and culture. Their marriages are not recognized, their dead cannot be buried according to Baha'i law, and their cemeteries are desecrated.

In addition, the Baha'i are denied government jobs and business licenses. They are not permitted to enroll in public universities and Baha'i schoolchildren are frequently harassed by classmates, teachers, and administrators.

No human being deserves this type of treatment and certainly not at the hands of their government. As has been noted in this House in the past, the social teaching of the Baha'i faith, such as the equality of women and men, and the principle of each individual's responsibility to investigate the truth, are impossible for theocratic leaders of Iran to comprehend; yet, these are universal values, human values, and they must be protected.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the international community cannot and will not ignore the systematic and violent attacks against the Iranian Baha'i community, and Tehran must be held accountable.

By passing this resolution, once again, we continue to shine a light on the persecution of the Baha'i, and hopefully move us one step closer to the day that true freedom reaches Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has passed this resolution in previous Congresses. We will pass this resolution today, and, if needed, we will pass this resolution again in the future.

We stand in solidarity with the persecuted Baha'i minority in Iran and demand the Iranian Government end its intolerable persecution of their people and religion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Ranking Member MEEKS, Congresswoman DEAN, and the gentlewoman from Illinois for offering this bipartisan resolution in support of human rights and religious freedom for the Baha'i community in Iran.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of 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."

Since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 Baha'is have been dismissed from government and university jobs.

June 18, 2023, marks the 40th anniversary of the execution of 10 Baha'i women by the Iranian Government each witnessing the hanging of those hanged before her in a final failed attempt to induce abandonment of their faith after over 6 months of imprisonment and violent abuse, with the youngest only 17 years old.

In the previous years, the Congress has declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith.

On December 15, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/C.3/77/L.34) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including:

End its continuing disregard for protections under Iranian law or internationally recognized safeguards relating to the imposition of the death penalty and to commute the sentences for child offenders on death row.

Ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment and eliminate in law and in practice, all forms of systemic discrimination and other human rights.

Cease the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention and releasing persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Through June and July 2022, there had been a surge in persecution of Baha'is including the subjection of over 100 Baha'is to arrests, arraignments, sentencing, and raids on their homes and businesses across Iran, as well as the sentencing of 26 individuals in the city of Shiraz to a combined total of 85 years in prison.

In response the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement on August 2, 2022, indicating that "[a]mid a continued rise in arrests, sentences, and imprisonments, the U.S. urges Iran to halt its ongoing oppression of the Baha'i community and honor its international obligations to respect the right of all Iranians to freedom of religion or belief".

The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers.

Resolved as follows:

Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives, condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and the continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Calls on the Iranian government to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha'is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion.

Calls on the Iranian Government to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha'is and to reverse the state-

imposed policies denying Baha'is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices.

Calls on the President of the United States and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

H. Res. 492, is an important bill supporting Congress' longstanding position condemning such atrocities against religious minorities.

I, therefore, urge all members to support this important legislation and reinforce this longstanding objection and condemnation to these horrific atrocities and inhumanity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 492.

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. McCAUL. 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.

ACCURATELY COUNTING RISK ELIMINATION SOLUTIONS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1567) to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1567

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 "Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act" or the "ACRES Act".

SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORTS.

(a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall include in the materials submitted in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report on the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) in determining the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the period covered by the report—

(i) record acres of Federal land on which hazardous fuels reduction activities were completed during such period; and

(ii) record each acre described in clause (i) once in the report, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during such period; and

(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land recorded in the report, include information on—

(i) which such acres are located in the wildland-urban interface;

(ii) the level of wildfire risk (high, moderate, or low) on the first and last day of the period covered by the report;

(iii) the types of hazardous fuels activities completed for such acres, delineating between whether such activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned project;

(iv) the cost per acre of hazardous fuels activities carried out during the period covered by the report;

(v) the region or system unit in which the acres are located; and

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

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

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether such data accurately correlates to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) such standardized procedures; and

(B) program and policy recommendations to Congress to address any limitations in tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

(c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study on the implementation of this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

(A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (a); or

(B) tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (b); and

(2) submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—The term "hazardous fuels reduction activity"—

(A) means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning; and

(B) does not include the awarding of contracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities.

(2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term "Federal lands" means lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands and units of the National Park System.

(4) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term "wildland-urban interface" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act, and the activities authorized by this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 1567, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative TIFFANY's legislation, H.R. 1567, the Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions, or ACRES Act.

This is a commonsense, good governance bill that will bring sorely needed transparency and accountability to the misleading way our Federal land managers are tracking and reporting hazardous fuel treatments.

We remain in the midst of a historic catastrophic wildfire crisis that has devoured an average of 7 million acres every year for the last two decades. This alarming figure is more than double the annual losses seen during the 1990s.

This worsening problem is directly linked to insufficient forest management, which has created a dangerous build-up of hazardous fuels in our forest. Despite the clear need to confront this crisis head on, Federal land management agencies like the Forest Service are still failing to increase the pace and scale of their treatments.

Even more concerning is the recent investigative reporting by NBC News that found that the Forest Service is overreporting the number of acres they treat annually by over 20 percent. This happens because the Forest Service will count the same piece of land toward its risk reduction goals multiple times if different treatments, such as prescribed thinning and burning, are completed on that land.

In some extreme cases, the Forest Service counted the same parcel of land 30 times, meaning the agency reported to Congress that they reduced hazardous fuels on 30 acres when, in fact, only one acre had received treatment.

This problem gets worse if treatments can span several years. For example, NBC News found an example of a hazardous fuels reduction project in southern California that lasted for 5 years. The Forest Service reported that they treated 744 acres of land when, in fact, only 173 acres had been treated.

If the Forest Service were treating at the order of magnitude that they need to be treating, these numbers wouldn't matter, but I think inflating the numbers is just a way to try to cover up the inadequate management that is happening. Instead of talking about hundreds of acres, we need to be talking about thousands and tens of thousands and even hundreds of thousands of acres that are being treated.

□ 1645

This kind of reporting means that the Forest Service suggested to Congress and the public that they are doing as much as four times more work than they had actually accomplished. This is absolutely unacceptable, particularly in an area where wildfire risk and the risk to communities is extremely high.

This legislation simply requires the Forest Service to submit data to Congress annually that details their hazardous fuels reduction work by only counting each individual acre once even if multiple treatments were performed. This exact idea has been supported in reports from the Government Accountability Office and USDA's Office of Inspector General.

The fact that we need to pass legislation to tell the Forest Service to count the way that we all learned how to count should show us just how deep this problem runs within our agencies when it comes to confronting our catastrophic wildfire crisis.

By holding Federal land managers accountable for their actual work, the work that they are doing on the ground to help improve forest health and to

make our Nation's forests safer for all of us, we are required to do this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative TIFFANY for bringing this bill forward. I ask that we support this bill strongly, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2023.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1567, the "Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act", or the "ACRES Act". Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1567 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2023.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 1567, the Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act or the ACRES Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on April 28, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 1567 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,
BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1567 introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative TIFFANY.

The United States Forest Service manages millions of acres of forestland, including vital watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, and countless outdoor recreational areas.

The Forest Service's 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy Implementation Plan

stresses the importance of fire-adapted landscapes and hazardous fuel treatments to build resilient forests.

Wildfire risk reduction projects are complex multistep processes requiring significant planning and investments often carried out over several years.

Therefore, it is important that we receive accurate, transparent, and accessible data on how forest management projects are being planned and implemented.

This legislation would require the agency to include a report in the President's annual budget on hazardous fuel activities carried out in a given fiscal year to account for each treated acre.

This ongoing reporting requirement will enhance transparency and accountability, providing critical information that can help guide investments in management of our national forests—including how we deploy our historic investments in wildfire risk reduction efforts that were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands and the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his support throughout the process in regard to this bill.

There is very little that I can add to what the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee has laid out in his opening remarks in regard to the need for the ACRES Act. One of the few things I can add is a picture.

The picture to my right here shows the need for this bill. When the amount of acres that are being treated are not counted accurately, we end up with a situation where those acres that should be treated don't get treated. This is the Grizzly Flats fire a couple years ago that wiped out that community. The Forest Service knew that it was time that these treatments needed to be put in place, and they weren't, and a community was destroyed out in the great State of California.

This bill will bring transparency to the misleading and inaccurate way hazardous fuels treatments are reported. Decades of mismanagement of our Federal lands have left our forests overstocked and created tinderbox conditions.

We have long known the reported pace and scale of forest management has been insufficient to truly address our forest health crisis. There is a better way to manage our public lands, and that starts with holding our Federal land management agencies accountable by requiring accurate reporting on the effectiveness of their work in fuel reduction.

According to troubling reports, the situation is even worse than we have been led to believe, as agencies have

been overstating their treatments by over 20 percent.

Accurate reporting is necessary to broadly track the progress made on our larger wildfire mitigation targets, as well as individual projects.

The ACRES Act is a simple solution to hold our Federal agencies accountable to see the actual work they are doing to reduce the enormous risk of wildfire.

American taxpayers deserve to know they are getting what they paid for. This bill is one of the steps needed to help ensure that happens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to ensure that our forests are being managed properly. The ACRES Act is one small step in the right direction. It is a commonsense solution to a problem that really shouldn't even exist in the first place.

Again, I thank the ranking member in the minority for supporting this bill. The idea that we are actually moving toward more forest management is encouraging to me.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 1567, which will require the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activity.

Hazardous fuels reduction activity is an important effort to curb wildfires.

Some sources state that wildfires cost the United States upwards of \$3 billion in damage from 2022 to 2023 and have destroyed 616,486 acres across the United States since January of this year.

In the State of Texas alone, three quarters of the state have been issued a wildfire declaration.

In the city of Houston, wildfires have damaged the air quality and burned through several homes, negatively affecting many civilians' lives.

Due to both the environmental and economic havoc that wildfires present, it is important that we have accurate reporting to best prepare for these disasters.

This bill is important because it monitors the risk elimination solutions for wildfires in an accurate and dependable manner while also allowing oversight of the USDA and the Interior.

This bill is a first step to accurately determine effective methods to reduce the risk of wildfire and because of this I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend

the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1567, 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. WESTERMAN. 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.

TREATING TRIBES AND COUNTIES AS GOOD NEIGHBORS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1450) to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1450

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 “Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.

(a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian tribe”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received from the sale of timber by a Governor, an Indian tribe, or a county under a good neighbor agreement shall be retained and used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or county, as applicable—

“(I) to carry out authorized restoration services under the good neighbor agreement; and

“(II) if there are funds remaining after carrying out subclause (I), to carry out authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements.”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2023” and inserting “2028”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian tribe,” after “Governor”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act apply to any project initiated pursuant to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if the project was initiated after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1450, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Congressman FULCHER's bill, the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act.

This legislation would greatly enhance the collaborative stewardship of our Federal lands with Tribal and county partners. This is a bipartisan effort that passed out of the House Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees unanimously, and it is my hope that we can pass this thoughtful proposal in a similar fashion here on the House floor today.

The Federal Government owns roughly 640 million acres, an astonishing 28 percent of the entire country. States, Tribes, and counties all have a very clear interest in how these lands are managed.

When Federal lands are mismanaged, it is those closest to the lands that are most impacted. There is no clearer example of this reality than the forest health and wildfire crisis affecting vast swaths of Federal lands. Fire knows no boundaries between managed land and unmanaged lands. It knows no jurisdictional boundaries.

As Federal land managers struggle to address this worsening problem, Congress developed the Good Neighbor Authority to empower States to assist in active forest management efforts on Federal lands.

Under the Good Neighbor Authority, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management had the ability to authorize States to undertake restoration projects such as hazardous fuel reduction, habitat improvement, and road restoration on Federal lands within their borders.

By all accounts, this program for States has been very successful. Since 2014, over 490 projects have begun in 38 States. Just last year, approximately 274 million board feet of timber was sold under Good Neighbor agreements.

The 2018 farm bill extended Good Neighbor Authority to counties and Tribes in the hopes that even more active forest management could be accomplished. Unfortunately, the participation of counties and Tribes has been limited.

Current law does not give Tribes and counties the same authority that States have benefited from to retain timber receipts for use on additional restoration work. This reality removes a substantial incentive for counties and Tribes to pursue Good Neighbor projects, and the numbers have shown this to be true. There are currently only six counties and five Tribes that have entered into Good Neighbor agreements.

H.R. 1450 offers a solution to this dilemma by extending the authority to retain timber receipts from Good Neighbor projects to counties and Tribes to fund additional restoration projects, bringing them into parity with the treatment that States currently receive.

In addition to providing important parity, this bill will also improve cross-boundary work by allowing restoration projects to occur on non-Federal lands. As I mentioned earlier, wildfires know no boundaries.

Good Neighbor Authority has unquestionably been a successful program that has not yet reached its full potential. I believe that Congressman FULCHER's bill will improve this program and pave the way for Tribes and counties to partner on much-needed forest management efforts. Fully empowering counties and Tribes to utilize this authority will reduce wildfire risks and improve the health of our Federal lands for generations to come. I applaud Congressman FULCHER for his leadership on this important issue.

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

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

H.R. 1450 is the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act introduced by my colleague from Idaho, Representative FULCHER.

This bill updates the Good Neighbor Authority program to update the incentives for Tribes and counties to partner with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management on restoration projects designed to enhance resilience and promote healthy landscapes.

As climate change intensifies, it is crucial that land managers utilize collaborative, consensus-driven tools such as Good Neighbor Authority to facilitate conservation, restoration, and resiliency of Federal lands and neighboring lands.

However, under current law, only States are authorized to retain revenues from timber sales and contracts executed through this program.

This legislation provides parity for Tribes and counties to increase community participation in the restoration of our public lands.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, for years, States could enter into cooperative agreements with Federal land management agencies to aid in reducing the excess fuel load that makes fires in the West so damaging to people, property, and wildlife.

H.R. 1450 fully extends the same authority and access to revenue that States have to counties and Tribes.

Some States, primarily in the Western U.S., have large percentages of their land controlled by the Federal Government. In my home State of Idaho, for example, it is 62 percent. As a result, citizens in my State must generate enough economic growth to sustain our needs from just the resources contained within the available land remaining.

One can argue that Idahoans and citizens from other States with a similar dynamic are merely tenants of their Federal landlord.

□ 1700

Counties and Tribes face a microcosm of that challenge within the States they reside. There are counties in my district, like Idaho around Owyhee, for example, where the Federal Government controls more than 83 percent of the land within their borders. Without ready access to the natural resources and related tax revenue in these areas, it is difficult for residents and local municipalities to create wealth and provide the ingredients necessary to raise families and grow businesses.

This bill would enable access to resources. As a result, the livelihoods of people in rural America would be enhanced through job creation, new sources of income, and the economic activity that comes with it.

Federal land management agencies are often unable, due to lack of resources, or unwilling, due to bad policy or litigation, to adequately maintain the density of tree growth, brush, and other vegetation that creates the fuel load for wildfires. Yet local residents, as tenants of the land under their own feet, can only wait and hope for their Federal landlord to come up with the resources needed to responsibly manage land in and around their communities. H.R. 1450 empowers local counties and Tribes so they can engage, and at least have a chance to put some wisdom into how these lands are managed.

We, in the West, care about our environment. God has blessed us with an abundance of natural resources, and that comes with the responsibility of wise stewardship. H.R. 1450 recognizes and incentivizes just that, allowing a portion of receipts from timber sales, for example, to be shared with counties and Tribes. That is a win-win situation. Tribes and counties are local, and as such, they are on the front lines of the land management battle.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, my co-lead, Representative MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ, and all of my other colleagues on the Natural Re-

sources Committee and the Agriculture Committee for their support of this legislation.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1450, the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act.

This bill is critical for districts like mine. Why? This bill gives back the flexibility that is critical to counties and Tribes, who understand that wildfires and natural disasters do not discriminate between Federal and non-Federal lands, and ensures that we use all of the tools at our disposal to mitigate the effects of wildfire and maintain healthy forests.

In the 2018 farm bill, Congress expanded Good Neighbor Authority to make Tribes and counties eligible to enter into Good Neighbor agreements. However, Tribes and counties were not afforded the same authority as States to retain the receipts from these GNA project revenues to reinvest in conservation. This fundamentally reduced the ability to engage and partner on critical management projects like wildfire mitigation, invasive species management, and habitat maintenance.

Additionally, the 2018 farm bill removed the ability to carry out restoration services that were agreed to under the Good Neighbor Agreements to take place off of Federal lands. You can literally get out in the woods, and you can see the boundaries and political boundaries between the treated land and untreated land that has resulted.

As a result, adjacent Tribal and county land that is essential to the health of national forests can no longer be restored as comprehensive landscapes.

Rural, timber-based Skamania County, my home county, is leading innovation with Good Neighbor Authority by hiring foresters with these funds to advance timber harvests for forest health, fire management, and invasive species management, all mounting issues in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest that have not been addressed for decades.

Skamania County was the first to build a relationship with the State Department of Natural Resources to determine how this Good Neighbor Authority could help the forest health conditions of the national forests, which make up 80 percent of Skamania County.

This partnership between the Forest Service, the State agency, and Skamania County has been hugely successful. The additional flexibility provided by this bill is a commonsense fix to a program that has been proven to be highly successful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I thank Congressman FULCHER for his leadership

on this bill. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, as well as Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member SCOTT, for their support of this critical legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1450, the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague, Representative FULCHER of Idaho.

St. Louis County, Minnesota, is the largest county east of the Mississippi River and the place I have always called home.

St. Louis County is a checkerboard of Federal and non-Federal land. As such, there are many actors managing the land, be it the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service that manage our Federal lands, or the States, the counties, and the local Tribes that manage our non-Federal lands.

Since its introduction over two decades ago, the Good Neighbor Authority program has facilitated co-stewardship of our Federal and non-Federal lands. By partnering Federal land managers with State stakeholders, we have created healthier forests, lowered fire risks, and better conserved our landscapes.

However, the most successful stewardship of our public lands occurs when all parties are brought together and everyone is able to do their part.

Unfortunately, our counties and Tribal partners, who do a lion's share of the work on Federal lands, are still unable to access the Good Neighbor Authority program.

H.R. 1450 will allow our counties and federally recognized Tribes to access this critical management tool and allow them the ability to reinvest in restoration projects. This will build on the success of the program and further benefit our conservation efforts across this Nation.

This bipartisan bill passed both the Natural Resources Committee and the Agriculture Committee with broad support. I am hopeful that the House can continue this forward momentum today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague and fellow chair for his leadership on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1450.

The Good Neighbor Authority has been a vital tool to get forest management and restoration projects off the ground. This program helps the Forest

Service address the wildfire and forest health crises and serves as a model for highly effective partnerships.

While the 2018 farm bill expanded the Good Neighbor Authority program eligibility to counties and Tribes, the law did not authorize counties and Tribes to retain timber revenues from the Good Neighbor Authority agreement, as States do.

In extending this authority to counties and Tribes, this bill will expand this important forest management tool to help reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health at a meaningful scale.

I am proud to report that H.R. 1450 passed unanimously out of the Committee on Agriculture and followed suit with the unanimous vote in the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear this legislation represents a commonsense fix to a valuable forest management program. I urge my colleagues to support the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act and vote "yes" on passage.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I must say it is an honor to work with a colleague like Chairman THOMPSON who cares so much about forest health, and I appreciate the ranking member in the minority for supporting this bill as well, as it did pass unanimously out of both committees.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It creates parity and access for two significant constituencies, counties and Tribes, and creates parity for them. I think at the end of the day, it creates a collaborative effort that is more comprehensive and more extensive.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of our forest health crises demands an all-hands-on-deck approach that utilizes all of the tools in the toolbox.

The Good Neighbor Authority has proven to be an exceptional tool when used by the States. We need to improve and expand on that with H.R. 1450 by including Tribes and counties.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1450, 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. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EMERGENCY WILDFIRE FIGHTING TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3389) to require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS), and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3389

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM (CAFFS).

(a) EVALUATION.—*Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an evaluation of the container aerial firefighting system to assess the use of such system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.*

(b) REPORT.—*Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker Board, shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees a report that includes the results of the evaluation required under subsection (a).*

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—*In this section, the term "appropriate committees" means—*

(1) *the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and*

(2) *the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3389, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Congressman VALADAO's bill, the Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023.

This legislation, rightly named, has the potential to provide another tool in the toolbox for addressing the catastrophic wildfire crisis. Americans have tragically grown accustomed to increasingly severe wildfire years that are lasting longer and producing more destruction than ever before. This summer, devastating wildfires impacted the community of Lahaina on the island of Maui, devastation I saw firsthand along with several of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Unfortunately, the reality is that decades of inadequate forest management have created an unprecedented forest health crisis. Across the U.S., there are now 1 billion acres of at-risk land for wildfire. In the absence of dramatic change, the future outlook remains bleak.

When it comes to fighting these out-of-control infernos, we simply don't have the luxury of ignoring potential new technologies that could improve the cost efficiency or effectiveness of suppressing fires.

It is critical that wildland firefighting agencies have all tools and methods available to them to fight fires and protect lives and property. Aircraft and helicopters provide life-saving support to ground crews, often by delivering water or fire retardant. In order to drop water or fire retardant from a plane or helicopter, the aircraft must be designed or retrofitted for such purposes, limiting the number of aircraft that are available.

Mr. VALADAO has worked with various stakeholders who have developed and improved a container aerial firefighting system to drop water and fire retardant from aircraft via disposable containers. This technology could decrease the response time to wildfires by increasing the number of aircraft available, thus saving more lives and more structures. This technology is not new. However, the system has not been recently studied by the wildland firefighting agencies.

H.R. 3389 would require the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior to conduct an evaluation on the use of container aerial firefighting systems in response to wildfires. The evaluation will focus on effectiveness, cost, ease of delivery, and safety.

Directing our wildfire fighting agencies to study new and emerging technology is a win for the wildland firefighting crews and a win for those who live in fire-prone areas.

I applaud Congressman VALADAO for his leadership on this important topic. He is a leader on bipartisan solutions that meaningfully improve forest health and reduce wildfires.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2023.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R.

3389, the "Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023". Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3389 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2023.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 3389, the Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on June 13, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 3389 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,
BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3389, the Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act, was introduced by my colleague, Representative VALADAO of California.

The bill requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, in coordination with the National Interagency Aviation Committee and Interagency Airtanker Board, to complete an evaluation of the container aerial fighting system to support wildland fire mitigation and suppression.

In 2011, the Forest Service conducted a study and determined that this particular delivery system did not meet existing standards and posed safety risks to our communities and forests.

However, there have been technological advancements in the decades since the initial report, and this bill aims to kick-start research that could promote the use of under-utilized technology.

□ 1715

The climate crisis is clearly increasing the severity and the duration of the wildfire season, so it is imperative that we continuously research and re-evaluate any emerging technology.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority for their willingness to work with us on amending the bill at markup. The updated text that we are considering today ensures that the Forest Service retains the decisionmaking authority with respect to the use of this particular tool.

This is an important safeguard for the safety of wildland firefighters and the communities impacted by the wildfire crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bill that will help combat severe wildfires and save lives. My home State of California has become all too familiar with devastating wildfires.

In 2022, just over 20,000 wildfires burned approximately 5.8 million acres across the Western United States. These numbers represent people's homes, businesses, and livelihoods that have been destroyed or tragically lost.

In my district, we deal with prolonged exposure to wildfire smoke, which settles in the central valley and results in some of the Nation's worst air quality.

As these wildfires become more aggressive, we need to take concrete steps to combat wildfires, while also focusing on improving the long-term management of our forests.

The bill we are considering today will help deploy new technologies to combat widespread damage these fires cause to our communities, our health, and our environment.

The Wildfire Fighting Technology Act would dramatically increase the number of airlift assets available in wildfire emergencies. We should be using every tool available to fight these fires.

Containerized Aerial Firefighting Systems, or CAFFS, are airdrop-capable disposable containers for water or fire retardant, which can be dropped from much higher altitudes with less visibility.

Current aerial firefighting operations depend on single-mission aircraft, but CAFFS can be used by any standard cargo plane. The use of CAFFS provides more coverage for firefighters on the ground and allows teams to quickly respond to prevent smaller fires from becoming uncontrollable.

These systems are being used in other countries, but not here in the U.S. We have the technology that we can and should use to stop the devastation of these fires.

The dangers and long-term impacts of wildfires are clear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the passage of the Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act to combat and contain these fires in a quicker and more efficient way.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again thank Mr. VALADAO for bringing this important piece of legislation. I thank the ranking member and the minority for their support on this bill.

Again, we must provide all necessary tools for the wildland firefighting agencies so that they can combat this wildfire crisis.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3389, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY TO COLLECT SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEES THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2029

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3324) to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029.

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

H.R. 3324

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

SECTION 1. SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEES.

Section 422 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat 2149) as amended, is further amended by striking “and each subsequent fiscal year through fiscal year 2019” and inserting “and each subsequent fiscal year through fiscal year 2029”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3324, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3324. This is a good bipartisan effort being led by Representatives HUFFMAN and LAMALFA and will help to improve recreation opportunities to their constituents in northern California.

This bill extends the authority of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to collect and retain existing marina fees for the purpose of enhancing recreation opportunities and improving access at the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area, which is located within Congressmen LAMALFA and HUFFMAN's districts.

The Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area encompasses large reservoirs and abundant mountain terrain. This area is very popular with hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists.

The authority to collect and retain marina fees expired in 2019 but has been temporarily extended through appropriations legislation. The marina fees retained by the Forest Service are spent on recreation enhancement projects such as boat ramp improvements, lake cleanup efforts, maintaining recreational facilities, and improving access for visitors with disabilities. The Forest Service also provides educational programs with these funds.

This bill would not increase or otherwise affect the price of the current marina fees. H.R. 3324 simply continues a current authority that has yielded positive results for families who enjoy visiting this idyllic destination. I commend Representatives HUFFMAN and LAMALFA for their collaborative work on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3324, introduced by my friend from California, Representative HUFFMAN, would extend the Forest Service's existing authority to collect and retain marina fees in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The chairman has outlined the content of the legislation, and I won't repeat that again. It is a good bill and it is essential to the operation and the management of the recreation area. It is a critical tool that needs to be extended.

The continuation of this authority has been an ongoing priority for the Forest Service and the surrounding communities. I thank and congratulate Mr. HUFFMAN for his leadership on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding time, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for supporting this bill.

I appreciate the chance to just take a moment to talk a little more about the importance of this bill to my district.

The Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is in northern California, part of it in my district and part of it in Mr. LAMALFA's district. It spans 246,000 acres and includes the Shasta, Trinity, Lewiston, and Whiskeytown lakes.

It is a recreation paradise. Every year, more than 3½ million people visit this area for all manner of outdoor activities, such as fishing, camping, horseback riding, swimming, paddling, backpacking, and more.

The area is a fundamental part of our regions' identity and our economy. It is one of our most popular tourist attractions, and it is obviously a very vital economic driver.

The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service manage the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area and support a large variety of these recreation opportunities and improvement projects, such as boat ramp upgrades, public service announcements about boating and water safety, enhancing accessibility to the lakes for those with disabilities, floating restrooms, and interpretive and educational programs.

The marina fees that they use to complete this work also support fire prevention patrols and fund 15 permanent staff members and 9 seasonal employees who make it possible for everyone to enjoy the recreation area.

It is clear how important these fees are to the continued operation of this regional treasure. My bipartisan bill on the floor today will extend the Department of Agriculture's ability to collect and hold these marina fees through the year 2029, allowing them to continue enhancing recreation and improving access.

This fee retention authority was initially granted back in 2008, and we have been fortunate enough to extend it through annual appropriations. That is pretty tenuous funding, and it is not a good basis on which to plan and implement important, longer-term projects.

The authority we are providing in this bill will provide that long-term stability. It will go a long way toward ensuring certainty and consistent funding for future projects.

Most of Trinity County is made up of Federally owned public lands, and its local economy is heavily reliant on the success of this national recreation area. It is essential that we extend this authority to collect marina fees and carry out the significant services that they support.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, especially Mr. LAMALFA, who has partnered with me on this legislation several years in a row now. I am grateful to colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working with us to support outdoor recreation in northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LAMALFA for bringing this legislation forward. I think this could actually be a model that could be expanded on across the country so that recreation fees collected in a certain area could be retained and used to reinvest back into that area to provide Americans more access to our public lands.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3324.

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. WESTERMAN. 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 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. GOODEN of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

- H.R. 3152;
- H.R. 589; and
- H. Res. 492.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FIGHT AND COMBAT RAMPANT IRANIAN MISSILE EXPORTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3152) to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, 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. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 8, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 383]
YEAS—403

Adams	Cole	Gomez
Aderholt	Collins	Gonzales, Tony
Aguilar	Comer	Gonzalez,
Allen	Connolly	Vicente
Allred	Correa	Good (VA)
Amodei	Costa	Gooden (TX)
Armstrong	Courtney	Gosar
Arrington	Craig	Gottheimer
Auchincloss	Crane	Granger
Babin	Crawford	Graves (LA)
Bacon	Crockett	Green (TN)
Baird	Crow	Green, Al (TX)
Balderson	Cuellar	Greene (GA)
Balint	Curtis	Griffith
Banks	D'Esposito	Grijalva
Barr	Davidson	Grothman
Barragan	Davis (IL)	Guest
Bean (FL)	Davis (NC)	Guthrie
Beatty	De La Cruz	Hageman
Bentz	Dean (PA)	Harder (CA)
Bera	DeGette	Harris
Bergman	DeLauro	Harshbarger
Beyer	DelBene	Hayes
Bice	Deluzio	Hern
Biggs	Deshaunier	Higgins (LA)
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Hill
Bishop (GA)	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Bishop (NC)	Dingell	Hinson
Blumenauer	Doggett	Horsford
Blunt Rochester	Donalds	Houchin
Boebert	Duarte	Houlahan
Bonamici	Duncan	Hoyer
Bost	Dunn (FL)	Hoyle (OR)
Boyle (PA)	Edwards	Hudson
Brecheen	Ellzey	Huffman
Brown	Emmer	Huizenga
Brownley	Escobar	Hunt
Buchanan	Eshoo	Issa
Bucshon	Espallat	Jackson (IL)
Budzinski	Estes	Jackson (NC)
Burchett	Evans	Jackson (TX)
Burgess	Ezell	Jacobs
Burlison	Fallon	James
Calvert	Feenstra	Jayapal
Cammack	Ferguson	Jeffries
Caraveo	Finstad	Johnson (GA)
Carbajal	Fischbach	Johnson (LA)
Cárdenas	Fitzgerald	Johnson (OH)
Carey	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (SD)
Carl	Fleischmann	Jordan
Carson	Flood	Joyce (OH)
Carter (GA)	Poster	Joyce (PA)
Carter (TX)	Fox	Kamlager-Dove
Cartwright	Frankel, Lois	Kaptur
Casar	Franklin, C.	Kean (NJ)
Case	Scott	Keating
Casten	Frost	Kelly (IL)
Castor (FL)	Fry	Kelly (MS)
Castro (TX)	Fulcher	Khanna
Chavez-DeRemer	Gaetz	Kiggans (VA)
Cheerfilus-	Gallagher	Kildee
McCormick	Galleo	Kiley
Chu	Garamendi	Kilmer
Ciscomani	Garbarino	Kim (CA)
Clark (MA)	Garcia (IL)	Kim (NJ)
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	Krishnamoorthi
Cleaver	Garcia, Mike	Kustoff
Cline	Garcia, Robert	LaHood
Cloud	Gimenez	LaLota
Clyburn	Golden (ME)	LaMalfa
Clyde	Goldman (NY)	Lamborn
Cohen		Landsman

Langworthy	Norcross	Smith (NJ)
Larsen (WA)	Norman	Smith (WA)
Larson (CT)	Nunn (IA)	Smucker
Latta	Obornolte	Sorensen
LaTurner	Ogles	Soto
Lawler	Owens	Spanberger
Lee (CA)	Pallone	Spartz
Lee (FL)	Palmer	Stansbury
Lee (NV)	Panetta	Stanton
Leger Fernandez	Pappas	Stauber
Lesko	Pascrell	Steel
Letlow	Payne	Stefanik
Levin	Pelosi	Steil
Lieu	Peltola	Steube
Lofgren	Pence	Stevens
Loudermilk	Perez	Stewart
Luetkemeyer	Perry	Strickland
Luttrell	Peters	Strong
Lynch	Pettersen	Swalwell
Mace	Pfluger	Sykes
Magaziner	Phillips	Takano
Malliotakis	Pocan	Tenney
Mann	Porter	Thanedar
Manning	Posey	Thompson (CA)
Mast	Quigley	Thompson (PA)
Matsui	Ramirez	Tiffany
McCaul	Raskin	Timmons
McClain	Reschenthaler	Titus
McClellan	Rodgers (WA)	Tokuda
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Tonko
McCollum	Rogers (KY)	Torres (CA)
McCormick	Rose	Trahan
McGarvey	Rosendale	Trone
McGovern	Ross	Turner
McHenry	Rouzer	Underwood
Meeks	Roy	Valadao
Menendez	Ruiz	Van Drew
Meng	Ruppersberger	Van Dine
Meuser	Rutherford	Van Orden
Mfume	Ryan	Vargas
Miller (IL)	Salazar	Vasquez
Miller (OH)	Salinas	Veasey
Miller (WV)	Sánchez	Velázquez
Miller-Meeks	Santos	Walberg
Mills	Sarbanes	Waltz
Molinaro	Scanlon	Waterman
Moolenaar	Schakowsky	Schultz
Mooney	Schiff	Waters
Moore (AL)	Schneider	Watson Coleman
Moore (UT)	Scholten	Weber (TX)
Moore (WI)	Schrier	Webster (FL)
Moran	Schweikert	Westrup
Morelle	Scott (VA)	Westerman
Moskowitz	Scott, Austin	Wild
Moulton	Scott, David	Williams (GA)
Mrvan	Self	Williams (NY)
Mullin	Sessions	Williams (TX)
Murphy	Sewell	Wilson (FL)
Nadler	Sherman	Wilson (SC)
Napolitano	Sherrill	Wittman
Neal	Simpson	Womack
Neguse	Slotkin	Yakym
Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Zinke
Nickel	Smith (NE)	

NAYS—8

Bowman	Massie	Pressley
Bush	Ocasio-Cortez	Tlaib
Lee (PA)	Omar	

NOT VOTING—22

Alford	Ivey	Pingree
Buck	Jackson Lee	Scalise
Carter (LA)	Kelly (PA)	Thompson (MS)
Crenshaw	Kuster	Torres (NY)
Fletcher	Lucas	Wagner
Foushee	Luna	Wexton
Graves (MO)	McBath	
Higgins (NY)	Nehls	

□ 1853

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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.

MAHSA AMINI HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 589) to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, 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. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 3, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 384]

YEAS—410

Adams	Ciscomani	Franklin, C.
Aderholt	Clark (MA)	Scott
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Frost
Alford	Cleaver	Fry
Allen	Cline	Fulcher
Allred	Cloud	Gaetz
Amodei	Clyburn	Gallagher
Armstrong	Clyde	Gallego
Arrington	Cohen	Garamendi
Auchincloss	Cole	Garbarino
Babin	Collins	García (IL)
Bacon	Comer	García (TX)
Baird	Connolly	García, Mike
Balderson	Correa	García, Robert
Balint	Costa	Jimenez
Banks	Courtney	Golden (ME)
Barr	Craig	Goldman (NY)
Barragán	Crane	Gomez
Bean (FL)	Crawford	Gonzales, Tony
Beatty	Crockett	Gonzalez,
Bentz	Crow	Vicente
Bera	Cuellar	Good (VA)
Bergman	Curtis	Gooden (TX)
Beyer	D'Esposito	Gosar
Bice	Dauids (KS)	Gottheimer
Biggs	Davidson	Granger
Bilirakis	Davis (IL)	Graves (LA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (NC)	Green (TN)
Bishop (NC)	De La Cruz	Green, Al (TX)
Blumenauer	Dean (PA)	Greene (GA)
Blunt Rochester	DeGette	Griffith
Boebert	DeLauro	Grijalva
Bonamici	DelBene	Grothman
Bost	Deluzio	Guest
Bowman	DeSaulnier	Guthrie
Boyle (PA)	DesJarlais	Hageman
Brecheen	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Brown	Harris	Harris
Brownley	Dingell	Harshbarger
Buchanan	Doggett	Hayes
Buck	Donalds	Hern
Bucshon	Duarte	Higgins (LA)
Budzinski	Duncan	Hill
Burchett	Dunn (FL)	Himes
Burgess	Edwards	Hinson
Burlison	Ellzey	Horsford
Calvert	Emmer	Houchin
Cammack	Escobar	Houlahan
Caraveo	Eshoo	Hoyer
Carbajal	Espallat	Hoyle (OR)
Cárdenas	Estes	Hudson
Carey	Evans	Huffman
Carl	Ezell	Huizenga
Carson	Fallon	Hunt
Carter (GA)	Feenstra	Issa
Carter (TX)	Ferguson	Jackson (IL)
Cartwright	Finstad	Jackson (NC)
Casar	Fischbach	Jackson (TX)
Case	Fitzgerald	Jacobs
Casten	Fitzpatrick	James
Castor (FL)	Fleischmann	Jayapal
Castro (TX)	Fletcher	Jeffries
Chavez-DeRemer	Flood	Johnson (GA)
Cherfilus-	Foster	Johnson (LA)
McCormick	Fox	Johnson (OH)
Chu	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (SD)

Jordan	Moore (UT)
Joyce (PA)	Moore (WI)
Kamlager-Dove	Moran
Kaptur	Morelle
Kean (NJ)	Moskowitz
Keating	Moulton
Kelly (IL)	Mrvan
Kelly (MS)	Mullin
Kelly (PA)	Murphy
Khanna	Nadler
Kiggans (VA)	Napolitano
Kildee	Neal
Kiley	Neguse
Kilmer	Newhouse
Kim (CA)	Nickel
Kim (NJ)	Norcross
Krishnamoorthi	Norman
Kuster	Nunn (IA)
Kustoff	Obernolte
LaHood	Ocasio-Cortez
LaLota	Ogles
LaMalfa	Owens
Lamborn	Pallone
Landsman	Palmer
Langworthy	Panetta
Larsen (WA)	Pappas
Larson (CT)	Pascrell
Latta	Payne
LaTurner	Pelosi
Lawler	Peltola
Lee (CA)	Pence
Lee (NV)	Perez
Lee (PA)	Perry
Leger Fernandez	Peters
Lesko	Pettersen
Letlow	Pfluger
Levin	Phillips
Lieu	Phillips
Lofgren	Pocan
Loudermilk	Porter
Luetkemeyer	Pressley
Luttrell	Quigley
Lynch	Ramirez
Mace	Raskin
Magaziner	Reschenthaler
Malliotakis	Rodgers (WA)
Mann	Rogers (AL)
Manning	Rogers (KY)
Mast	Rose
Matsui	Rosendale
McCaul	Ross
McClain	Rouzer
McClellan	Roy
McClintock	Ruiz
McCollum	Ruppersberger
McCormick	Rutherford
McGarvey	Ryan
McGovern	Salazar
McHenry	Salinas
Meeks	Sánchez
Menendez	Santos
Meng	Sarbanes
Meuser	Scanlon
Mfume	Schakowsky
Miller (IL)	Schiff
Miller (OH)	Schneider
Miller (WV)	Scholten
Miller-Meeks	Schrier
Mills	Schweikert
Molinaro	Scott (VA)
Moolenaar	Scott, Austin
Mooney	Scott, David
Moore (AL)	Self
	Sessions

NAYS—3

Bush	Massie	Omar
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NOT VOTING—20

Carter (LA)	Joyce (OH)
Crenshaw	Lee (FL)
Foushee	Lucas
Graves (MO)	Luna
Higgins (NY)	McBath
Ivey	Nehls
Jackson Lee	Pingree

□ 1902

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF THE BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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 agree to the resolution (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 on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 2, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 385]

YEAS—413

Adams	Casar	Evans
Aderholt	Case	Ezell
Aguilar	Casten	Fallon
Alford	Castor (FL)	Feenstra
Allen	Castro (TX)	Ferguson
Allred	Chavez-DeRemer	Finstad
Amodei	Cherfilus-	Fischbach
Armstrong	McCormick	Fitzgerald
Arrington	Chu	Fitzpatrick
Auchincloss	Ciscomani	Fleischmann
Babin	Clark (MA)	Fletcher
Bacon	Clarke (NY)	Flood
Baird	Cleaver	Foster
Balderson	Cline	Fox
Balint	Cloud	Frankel, Lois
Banks	Clyburn	Franklin, C.
Barr	Clyde	Scott
Barragán	Cohen	Frost
Bean (FL)	Cole	Fry
Beatty	Collins	Fulcher
Bentz	Comer	Gaetz
Bera	Connolly	Gallagher
Bergman	Costa	Gallego
Beyer	Courtney	Garamendi
Bice	Craig	Garbarino
Biggs	Crane	García (IL)
Bilirakis	Crawford	García (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Crockett	García, Mike
Bishop (NC)	Crow	García, Robert
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Jimenez
Blunt Rochester	Curtis	Golden (ME)
Boebert	D'Esposito	Goldman (NY)
Bonamici	Dauids (KS)	Gomez
Bost	Davidson	Gonzales, Tony
Bowman	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez,
Boyle (PA)	Davis (NC)	Vicente
Brecheen	De La Cruz	Good (VA)
Brown	Dean (PA)	Gooden (TX)
Brownley	DeGette	Gosar
Buchanan	DeLauro	Gottheimer
Buck	DelBene	Granger
Bucshon	Deluzio	Graves (LA)
Budzinski	DeSaulnier	Green (TN)
Burchett	DesJarlais	Green, Al (TX)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Greene (GA)
Burlison	Dingell	Griffith
Bush	Doggett	Grijalva
Calvert	Donalds	Grothman
Cammack	Duarte	Guest
Caraveo	Duncan	Guthrie
Carbajal	Dunn (FL)	Hageman
Cárdenas	Edwards	Harder (CA)
Carey	Ellzey	Harris
Carl	Emmer	Harshbarger
Carson	Escobar	Hayes
Carter (GA)	Eshoo	Hern
Carter (TX)	Espallat	Higgins (LA)
Cartwright	Estes	Hill

Himes	McGarvey	Schakowsky
Hinson	McGovern	Schiff
Horsford	McHenry	Schneider
Houchin	Meeks	Scholten
Houlahan	Menendez	Schrier
Hoyer	Meng	Schweikert
Hoyle (OR)	Meuser	Scott (VA)
Hudson	Mfume	Scott, Austin
Huffman	Miller (IL)	Scott, David
Huizenga	Miller (OH)	Self
Hunt	Miller (WV)	Sessions
Issa	Miller-Meeks	Sewell
Jackson (IL)	Mills	Sherman
Jackson (NC)	Molinaro	Sherrill
Jackson (TX)	Moolenaar	Slotkin
Jacobs	Mooney	Smith (MO)
James	Moore (AL)	Smith (NE)
Jayapal	Moore (UT)	Smith (NJ)
Jeffries	Moore (WI)	Smith (WA)
Johnson (GA)	Moran	Smucker
Johnson (LA)	Morelle	Sorensen
Johnson (OH)	Moskowitz	Soto
Johnson (SD)	Moulton	Spanberger
Jordan	Mrvan	Spartz
Joyce (OH)	Mullin	Stansbury
Joyce (PA)	Murphy	Stanton
Kamlaager-Dove	Nadler	Stauber
Kaptur	Napolitano	Steel
Kean (NJ)	Neal	Stefanik
Keating	Neguse	Steil
Kelly (IL)	Newhouse	Steube
Kelly (MS)	Nickel	Stevens
Kelly (PA)	Norcross	Stewart
Khanna	Norman	Strickland
Kiggans (VA)	Nunn (IA)	Strong
Kildee	Oberholte	Swalwell
Kiley	Ocasio-Cortez	Sykes
Kilmer	Ogles	Takano
Kim (CA)	Omar	Tenney
Kim (NJ)	Owens	Thanedar
Krishnamoorthi	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Kuster	Palmer	Thompson (PA)
Kustoff	Panetta	Tiffany
LaHood	Pappas	Timmons
LaLota	Pascrell	Titus
LaMalfa	Payne	Tlaib
Lamborn	Pelosi	Tokuda
Landsman	Peltola	Tonko
Langworthy	Pence	Torres (CA)
Larsen (WA)	Perez	Trahan
Larson (CT)	Perry	Trone
Latta	Peters	Turner
LaTurner	Pettersen	Underwood
Lawler	Pfluger	Valadao
Lee (CA)	Phillips	Van Drew
Lee (FL)	Pocan	Van Dуйne
Lee (NV)	Porter	Van Orden
Lee (PA)	Posey	Vargas
Leger Fernandez	Pressley	Vasquez
Lesko	Quigley	Veasey
Letlow	Ramirez	Velázquez
Levin	Raskin	Waltz
Lieu	Reschenthaler	Wasserman
Lofgren	Rodgers (WA)	Schultz
Loudermilk	Rogers (AL)	Waters
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (KY)	Watson Coleman
Luttrell	Rose	Weber (TX)
Lynch	Rosendale	Webster (FL)
Mace	Ross	Wenstrup
Magaziner	Rouzer	Westerman
Malliotakis	Roy	Wexton
Mann	Ruiz	Wild
Manning	Ruppersberger	Williams (GA)
Mast	Rutherford	Williams (NY)
Matsui	Ryan	Williams (TX)
McCaul	Salazar	Wilson (FL)
McClain	Salinas	Wilson (SC)
McClellan	Sánchez	Wittman
McClintock	Santos	Womack
McCollum	Sarbanes	Yakym
McCormick	Scanlon	Zinke

NAYS—2

Massie Simpson

NOT VOTING—18

Carter (LA)	Ivey	Pingree
Correa	Jackson Lee	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lucas	Thompson (MS)
Foushee	Luna	Torres (NY)
Graves (MO)	McBath	Wagner
Higgins (NY)	Nehls	Walberg

□ 1910

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall no. 383, “yea” on rollcall No. 384, and “yea” on rollcall No. 385.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Rollcall No. 383, “yea” on Rollcall No. 384, and “yea” on Rollcall No. 385.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed roll call votes today, due to the birth of my fourth grandchild. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 383, “yea” on rollcall No. 384, and “yea” on rollcall No. 385.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I invite all of my colleagues who have ties to Maui, who have been to Maui, or who stand by our community to join me here in the well of the Chamber.

Louise Abigail was 97 and an active grandmother that lived in the Hale Mahaolu Eono independent living complex. Tony Takafua was just 7 years old and was with his mother and grandparents.

They are the youngest and the oldest victims of the wildfires; the difference in their ages spanning almost a century, yet connected by one cruel fate.

On August 8, Maui and Hawaii Island were ablaze with 11 separate fires. Spurred by 80-mile-per-hour winds, fire ripped through our town of Lahaina in just 17 minutes, tragically taking the lives of 115 people with dozens more still unaccounted for and thousands displaced and grieving.

It would be easy enough to speak of our pain and our grief; the hands I have held, the stories I have heard. I have come to know all too well what death and destruction smells and feels like and how the sadness continues to cling with you long after.

Instead, I will focus on something just as important: Hope.

When I first went back to Lahaina, the absence of color, of structure, of anything familiar is what hit me. As I returned there, including with the Speaker and other Members of the House, whom I want to thank for the support made clear by their presence, I noticed something amidst the rubble: Life.

Sprinkled throughout the burn zone, I saw one plant in particular that has survived: banana trees. They are one of

the original canoe plants brought to Hawaii from Polynesia because of their ability to feed and to heal people. How fitting to see these trees come to life as we prepare for the most arduous journey ahead of us.

Our people are strong and resilient. They have a gracious grit that has both inspired me and moved me to tears in the face of this unthinkable tragedy.

They also feel justifiable anger and frustration that they are even in this situation, and we feel an overwhelming sense of urgency to provide the help, the support, and yes, the answers that they so desperately need.

This is a national disaster that will require a national whole-of-government response. Our strong support of our Maui ohana will send a clear message to every American: No matter where you live in this great country, you will not be left behind.

Mr. Speaker, we will need all of our colleagues as we set sail for what must be a better future for our people, determined by our people.

The asks we will make will not be insignificant, and the support we need will span generations, but today, I simply ask for your humanity.

Hawaii has so often shared its aloha, its people, whatever we can give, with the world. Now our people need your kokua, your help.

We have been tested, but we are not broken. We will rise again, and we will be stronger than before. I have said this once, and I will say this again: If there is anything you can always count on, it is that aloha always wins.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman CASE and myself, I humbly ask for a moment of silence so that we may lift up in honor our Maui ohana as they grieve, as they recover, and as they rebuild.

Mahalo.

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AT DOLLAR GENERAL IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Florida is still reeling from shock, horror, and sorrow.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, on a seemingly peaceful Saturday afternoon, the community of Jacksonville endured an evil attack. I am honored today to stand with the entire Florida delegation who stands as one against this evil.

On August 26 in Jacksonville, Florida, three innocent people lost their lives to an act of hatred at a Dollar General store: Angela Michelle Carr, 52 years old; Jerrald De’Shaun Gallion, 29 years old; Anolt Joseph “A.J.” Laguerre, Jr., 19 years old.

Angela was a beloved mother and Uber driver, Jerrald was the proud father of a 4-year-old little girl, and A.J. was a recent high school graduate. He had just started working at the Dollar General to earn some extra money.

They each had individual passions and dreams for the future. Each one had a spark that will continue to burn bright in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved them.

Today, I, and the delegation, join all Floridians in grieving for the victims and praying for their loved ones.

There are no words, Mr. Speaker, to describe our heartbreak but also the anger we feel over this racially motivated act of evil. Hate has no place, nor does it belong in America.

Today, my Florida colleagues and I stand in solidarity with the Jacksonville community. May their memories be a blessing. May God bless and comfort the families.

I now ask, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues in the House join us all for a moment of silence to remember these three individuals.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 22nd anniversary of September 11, 2001, when 2,977 American lives were taken from us on that fateful day in the worst act of terrorism in our Nation's history.

Over the last few days, I crisscrossed my entire district, attending more than 10 events, and meeting with constituents and families and victims of September 11.

Still today, we have first responders dying from 9/11-related illnesses. It is the responsibility of our Nation to continue to care for our heroes that went down to Ground Zero to try and save lives and recover the remains of those we lost.

As a Nation, we have an obligation to ensure that our children never forget and understand what occurred on that fateful day.

There is not a child in the school system today that was born on 9/11 or before. We must teach this in our schools. Only 14 States currently teach 9/11 as part of their curriculum. It is shameful, and it needs to change.

Mr. Speaker, on the 22nd anniversary of September 11, may we always remember the fallen, and thank our brave men and women who rush toward danger to preserve, protect, and defend the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

□ 1930

REPUBLICANS' LACK OF LEADERSHIP

(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 the lack of leadership from the House Republicans.

Today, we should be discussing how to fund our government and prevent

devastating service shutdowns for millions of Americans. Instead, Republicans want to waste taxpayer dollars on a pointless impeachment inquiry. Even House Republicans say there is no evidence for it.

Instead, they should look to President Biden as an example of true leadership. His policies brought the economy back after the COVID-19 shutdown. They are repairing and rebuilding roads and bridges nationwide. They are making America more energy independent, and they are protecting American technology around the world.

Let us get back to doing the work of the American people and stop using taxpayer dollars for revenge politics and unpopular political agendas.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS DESERVE FAIR PAY

(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, our Federal wildland firefighters have been performing much of the heavy lifting not only this year with fires raging in my district, but every year, especially in the Western States.

What is their reward? If we don't get legislation done promptly, they could see a 40 to 50 percent pay cut. How did this happen? Well, a temporary measure was inserted into the infrastructure bill that was supposed to last for 5 years and keep funding a bonus system up for the firefighters. Instead, it ran out after only 2 years, and time is up this September.

How can we have a situation where firefighters are going to receive a pay cut of 40 to 50 percent mid-season, where they might be forced to walk off the job because they have to go somewhere else in order to make a living in September, as fire season could well rage on, as indeed that is the peak of the year in the West?

We have legislation known as the Fair Pay for Federal Firefighters Act, which will repurpose funds that are sitting otherwise unused, and probably justifiably so in other bills, and repurpose that in order to boost firefighter pay to at least keep them at a level playing field for the rest of this year until we can do a proper job of legislating this correctly to keep their pay up.

FRANKLIN-VANCE-WARREN OPPORTUNITY, INC.

(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, we are putting our money where our mouth is. The dedicated team at Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Incorporated is shaping our future by ensuring young people in northeastern North Carolina are getting off to a good start.

At the Henderson Head Start Center, I attended Ms. Kearney's class and read the first book to first-time students on the first day of school. The book was "First Day Jitters." However, there were no jitters in her classroom.

Federal investments such as Head Start and Early Head Start make a huge difference. We are preparing young minds for a brighter future, to live the American Dream.

Many thanks to Abdul Sm Rasheed, the executive director; Naima Mosley, the Head Start director; Ms. Kearney; and all early childhood educators for their unwavering commitment. I also thank Sheriff Curtis Brame for letting the kids hold his badge and letting them know that they can do anything by putting their minds to it.

Ms. Mosley, indeed, Head Start rocks.

MORAL DECLINE IN AMERICA

(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, today we return from about a 6-week sabbatical back in our districts. I would like to address some more evidence of the moral decline that is coming over our country. I am talking about the cities, including Columbus, Seattle, Milwaukee, and New York, that are suing Kia and Hyundai because of car thefts in their district.

They are not blaming the breakdown in the families encouraged by the government, not blaming the weak DAs they elect, not blaming the weak judges they elect. They are blaming the car companies. How must we look to the South Koreans when they pick up their newspaper and find out the Americans are suing their car companies because our young people can't be prevented from taking them?

Wake up, America. Please stop this horrible moral decline before it is too late. Please, please, American cities, don't sue car companies anymore because we are doing such a bad job of raising the young generation.

MIGRANT CRISIS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the migrant crisis in my home State of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts is the only State with a right-to-shelter law that guarantees every family with children a place to stay. According to recent reporting in The New York Times, 80 cities and towns across the Commonwealth have received migrants to date, with the number of families living in emergency shelters and hotels statewide doubling in the past year to nearly 6,300 last week.

As the great-grandson of Jews who fled the Russian pogroms, I take seriously, like so many do, upholding the values this Nation was founded upon, including providing a safe haven for those seeking refuge. However, that promise is under threat now by our broken immigration system.

Right now, Governor Healey and her administration are doing everything they can to rise to the challenge, but without Federal action to fix what was a Federal problem, States will continue to operate with their hands tied behind their backs.

In addition to passing a disaster supplemental to provide FEMA with additional resources for States, we should be having a serious conversation in Washington about how to fix our immigration system to provide safe and legal pathways to entry.

Last Congress, Democrats invited Republicans to the table in good faith to make progress on issues like infrastructure. Now, Republicans should do the same on immigration instead of demonizing those seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of business in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 13, 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-1831. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Private Fund Advisers; Documentation of Registered Investment Adviser Compliance Reviews [Release No.: IA-6383; File No.: S7-03-22] (RIN: 3235-AN07) received August 25, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1832. A letter from the Senior Policy Advisor, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Updating the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations (RIN: 1235-AA40) received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-1833. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-046, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1834. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-028, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1835. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-077, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1836. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-036, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1837. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 20-093, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1838. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Henderson Bay, Henderson Harbor, NY [Docket Number USCG-2023-0308] (RIN: 625-AA08) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1839. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kaiser Fireworks, Lake St. Clair; Grosse Pointe Park, MI [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0616] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1840. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Henderson Bay, Henderson Harbor, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0309] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1841. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Mercury Powerboat Race; Sheboygan Harbor, Sheboygan, Wisconsin [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0490] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1842. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Fleet Week Maritime Festival, Pier 62, Elliot Bay, Seattle, Washington [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0614] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1843. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Erie, Cleveland, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0580] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1844. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Marysville Funfest Fireworks, St. Clair River; Marysville, MI [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0375] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1845. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Markers 90.4-91, Wheeling, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0610] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1846. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0623] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1847. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, Upper Mississippi River MM 660.5-659.5, Lansing, IA [USCG-USCG-2023-0664] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1848. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile Markers 46 to 46.5, St. Albans, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0648] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1849. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Recurring Fireworks Displays and Swim Events in Coast Guard Sector New York Zone [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0075] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1850. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Horsepower on the Hudson, Hudson River, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0015] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1851. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0355] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1852. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Type of Regulation; Lake of the Ozarks MM.5-1, approximately 500 feet off the Bagnell Dam, Lake of the Ozarks, MO [Docket Number: USCG-2023-

0457] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1853. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0353] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1854. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Giants Drone Display; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0454] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1855. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sausalito Fireworks Display; San Francisco Bay, Sausalito, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0415] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1856. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Illinois River Mile Markers 163.3 to 162.7, Peoria, IL [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0229] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1857. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Hampton Roads, VA [USCG-2023-0059] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1858. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Chinese Harbor; Santa Cruz Island, California [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0009] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1859. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Nitro, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0354] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1860. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0560] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1861. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland

Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0569] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1862. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, CA [Docket Number USCG-2023-0473] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1863. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware River, Fireworks Display, Philadelphia, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0557] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1864. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, Upper Mississippi River MM 660.5-659.5, Lansing, IA [USCG-USCG-2023-0564] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1865. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro Bay, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0528] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1866. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone' Delaware River, Cheste, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0574] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1867. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River MM 469.5-470.5 and Licking River MM 0.0 to 0.3, Cincinnati, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0256] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1868. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Mile Markers 41.5 to 42.5, Nitro, WV [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0613] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1869. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Laguna Madre, South Padre Island, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0463] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1870. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0934; Project Identifier AD-2022-01443-T; Amendment 39-22503; AD 2023-14-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1871. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-277; Point Lay, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0430; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-75] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1872. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Renaming of Restricted Areas R-6602A, R-6602B, and R-6602C; Fort Pickett, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1534; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AEA-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1873. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-282; Ruby, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0221; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-77] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1874. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-719 in the Vicinity of Sitka, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0429; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AAL-40] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1875. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-226; Central, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0197; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AAL-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1876. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-380; Emmonak, AK [Docket No. FAA-2022-0245; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-49] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3784. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; with an amendment (Rept. 118-191). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3667. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; with an amendment (Rept. 118-192). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5384. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the automatic qualification of certain Medicaid beneficiaries for premium and cost-sharing subsidies under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 5385. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish pharmacy benefit manager reporting requirements with respect to prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans under Medicare part D; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5386. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for adjustments to the Medicare part D cost-sharing reductions for low-income individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER (for herself and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5387. A bill to improve the provision of health care to unsheltered homeless individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 5388. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of certain technologies and medical devices under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consider-

ation of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5389. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure transparency in the national coverage determination process under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 5390. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing in the United States products for critical infrastructure sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

H.R. 5391. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a rebate by manufacturers for selected drugs and biological products subject to maximum fair price negotiation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 5392. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure timely review of local coverage determination requests under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 5393. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fair assessment of pharmacy performance and quality under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Mr. MURPHY):

H.R. 5394. A bill to ensure appropriate access to remote monitoring services furnished under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5395. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration program relating to medical necessity determinations under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 5396. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit Medicare

local coverage determinations from restricting access to care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 5397. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of external infusion pumps and non-self-administrable home infusion drugs under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 5398. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on tech startups, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5399. A bill to substantially restrict the use of animal testing for cosmetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 5400. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure pharmacy access and choice for Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 5401. A bill to provide a one-time grant for the operation, security, and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center to commemorate the events, and honor the victims, of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 5402. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GREENE of Georgia,

Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HERN, Mr. HILL, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. KILEY, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. MACE, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SELF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STEIL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. OGLES, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 5403. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 5404. A bill to direct the Attorney General to prepare a report on the Department of Justice activities related to countering Chinese national security threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 5405. A bill to ensure that a fair percentage of Federal cancer research funds are dedicated to pediatric cancer research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LATTA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. OGLES, Ms. FOX, and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 5406. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse of zip-code based information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 5407. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve direct certification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5408. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5409. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to determine whether a national security review is needed for reportable agricultural land transactions referred by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 5410. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and pilot digital dol-

lar technologies that replicate the privacy-respecting features of physical cash; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MCCLEINTOCK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. MACE, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 5411. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5412. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H.R. 5413. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5414. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BILLRAKIS, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 5415. A bill to require the Federal Government to report on efforts to locate, establish contact with, conduct wellness checks on, and investigate any suspicion of human trafficking related to approximately 85,000 unaccompanied alien children who crossed the U.S. southern border, were released from Federal custody, and with whom subsequent contact has been lost; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5416. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 5417. A bill to require the denial of admission to the United States for individuals subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13876, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 5418. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 5419. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the definition of employee as it relates to direct sellers and real estate agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MACE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 5420. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance and regulations regarding opioid overdose reversal medication and employee training; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 5421. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the earned income tax credit to all taxpayers with dependents and to qualifying students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 5422. A bill to require FinCEN to establish a small business working group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. PANETTA):

H. Res. 675. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 8, 2023, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H. Res. 676. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 17 through September 23, 2023, as "Telehealth Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 677. A resolution condemning the Government of the Russian Federation for exacerbating global food insecurity through its illegal, unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY):

H. Res. 678. A resolution recognizing the seriousness of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2023 as "PCOS Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. CRAIG):

H. Res. 679. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week beginning on September 10, 2023, as "Celebrate Community Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

PRIVATE BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mrs. HARSHBARGER introduced a bill (H.R. 5423) for the relief of Uwe Romeike, Hannelore Romeike, Daniel Romeike, Lydia Romeike, Josua Romeike, Christian Romeike, and Damaris Romeike; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. PAPPAS:

H.R. 5384.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To automatically qualify certain Medicaid enrollees for low-income subsidies under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 5385.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Medicare PBM Accountability Act would require more transparency for pharmacy benefit managers when contracting with Medicare-related prescription drug plans.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 5386.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health—Medicare

By Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER:

H.R. 5387.

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

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the provision of health care to unsheltered homeless individuals.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 5388.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Supporting innovation in Medicare.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 5389.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This is a healthcare issue.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 5390.

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

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Directs the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing more goods in the United States that are key to our critical infrastructure sector.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5391.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for a rebate by manufacturers for selected drugs and biological products subject to maximum fair price negotiation

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 5392.

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 alter the review process for Medicare local coverage determinations

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 5393.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fair assessment of pharmacy performance and quality under Medicare part D

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 5394.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Supporting innovation in Medicare.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5395.

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. BUCSHON:

H.R. 5396.

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:

Health

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5397.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Statutorily Codify the DME Proposed Rule Criteria and Help Medicare Patients with Rare Diseases.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 5398.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Department of Commerce to study and report on the impact of technology startup companies on the U.S. economy.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 5399.

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

article I section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Cosmetics Testing Reform

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 5400.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure pharmacy access and choice for Medicare beneficiaries.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 5401.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single legislative subject of this bill is "Monuments and Memorials."

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 5402.

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 will strengthen fundamental protections that allow workers to get the money they have earned through hard work, and it will crack down on corporations that subject workers to these abuses.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 5403.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill concerns central bank digital currencies.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 5404.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Attorney General to annually report to Congress on Department of Justice activities to counter national security threats by the Chinese Communist Party.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5405.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the share of federal funds for cancer research that is allocated to pediatric cancer research to equal the percentage of the U.S. population that is under the age of 18.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5406.

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 Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 5407.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "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 Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes programs and revises requirements relating to direct certification processes for the National School Lunch Program.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 5408.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Supplemental Security Income

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5409.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to determine whether a national security review is needed for reportable agricultural land transactions by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5410.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and pilot digital dollar technologies that replicate the privacy respecting features of physical cash.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 5411.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing the proposed rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers."

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5412.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To create a commission to investigate how the United States can maintain democratic traditions while responding to threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 5413.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5414.

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

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Mental Health Care

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5415.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:
Child Trafficking

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5416.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Government reform

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 5417.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Prohibiting individuals subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13876 from receiving a visa.

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 5418.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 5419.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the definition of employee as it relates to direct sellers and real estate agents

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 5420.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: 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:

To require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance and regulations regarding opioid overdose reversal medication and employee training.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 5421.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the earned income tax credit to all taxpayers with dependents and to qualifying students, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 5422.

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

Adds an additional function to the responsibilities of the FinCEN domestic liaison program to include an annual small business working group that shares information with small businesses on rules, regulations, and compliance.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5423.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

Adds an additional function to the responsibilities of the FinCEN domestic liaison program to include an annual small business working group that shares information with small businesses on rules, regulations, and compliance.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 5423.

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:

Immigration

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 33: Ms. ROSS and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 34: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 56: Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 231: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 253: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 303: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 459: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 549: Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BALINT, Mr. OWENS, and Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 620: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 666: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 679: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 681: Ms. WILD, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BALINT, Ms. CROCKETT, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 700: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mrs. Steel.

H.R. 722: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 770: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 795: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 807: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 809: Mr. POSEY and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 866: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 873: Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 906: Mr. STEUBE and Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 972: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1073: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1088: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1118: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 1138: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1139: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1150: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 1191: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 1200: Ms. VAN DUYN and Mr. MCCORMICK.

H.R. 1235: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1250: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1259: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1277: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GREEN

of Texas, Ms. PORTER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ESPALLAT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1278: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1290: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1295: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1318: Ms. TITUS and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1385: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1432: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1437: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1447: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 1483: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1488: Mr. TONKO and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1503: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1517: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1535: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 1555: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1572: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1614: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1623: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1637: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. RYAN.

- H.R. 1638: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1643: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 1679: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 1721: Ms. CROCKETT and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1728: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1740: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 1758: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1763: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 1770: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 1777: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 1788: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1831: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1841: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 1842: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2365: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2367: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 2370: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2389: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 2406: Mr. BARR, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2407: Mr. BURGESS, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NICKEL, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 2410: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 2412: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2431: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2510: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2550: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 2583: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2630: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2667: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 2697: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2700: Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 2718: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2720: Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2723: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 2736: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2739: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 2743: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 2814: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 2855: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 2869: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 2871: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 2891: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2929: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 2957: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 2987: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 3007: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 3029: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 3074: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3108: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3137: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3139: Mr. RYAN and Ms. FOX.
H.R. 3145: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3152: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3170: Mr. PALLONE and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3184: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 3192: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3206: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3235: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3251: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3272: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3378: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3380: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 3381: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BABIN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RYAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MANNING, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CAREY, and Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3394: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3410: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3413: Ms. CHU, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3424: Mr. TONKO and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3425: Mr. TIFFANY and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 3448: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 3464: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 3468: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3473: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 3488: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3492: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 3503: Mr. LIEU and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3518: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3519: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 3530: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ROSS, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3539: Mr. CROW and Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 3549: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3576: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3585: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 3589: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3600: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3601: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3608: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3618: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 3662: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3679: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3681: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3730: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 3755: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 3774: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCCLIN-TOCK, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3782: Mr. FRY and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3792: Mr. LIEU, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 3838: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3843: Mr. POCAN and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3851: Ms. VAN DUYN and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3859: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3867: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 3875: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3876: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3879: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3882: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 3916: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BICE, Ms. McClellan, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3923: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 3949: Mr. FRY and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3965: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 3988: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 3990: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4007: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4024: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4034: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4035: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 4040: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4059: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4061: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4076: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4118: Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4144: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 4149: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4157: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FLOOD, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4170: Ms. ROSS and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 4174: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4175: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 4183: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4198: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 4202: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 4238: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 4241: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4249: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4259: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 4262: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 4273: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4274: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4295: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 4314: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4328: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 4334: Mr. BACON and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 4384: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 4395: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 4432: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4438: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 4466: Mr. MCGARVEY and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4475: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 4478: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 4514: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.
H.R. 4534: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4561: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4562: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4563: Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4566: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4577: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 4581: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 4587: Ms. SALAZAR and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 4598: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4602: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4612: Mr. DUARTE and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4624: Mr. CARSON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4663: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 4702: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4728: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4729: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. FRY.
H.R. 4733: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4745: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 4750: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4758: Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMUCKER, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4769: Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 4779: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4782: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4817: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 4844: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4886: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4895: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4904: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 4914: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4919: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 4921: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 4965: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4970: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 5006: Ms. STEFANIK.

- H.R. 5008: Ms. KAMPLAGER-DOVE and Ms. BALINT.
- H.R. 5012: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 5013: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 5041: Mr. RUIZ.
- H.R. 5094: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
- H.R. 5106: Mr. WOMACK.
- H.R. 5107: Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 5110: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Ms. FOXF, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. HOUCIN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BOST, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. LAHOOD.
- H.R. 5113: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 5130: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H.R. 5136: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 5145: Mr. BOWMAN.
- H.R. 5159: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COMER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
- H.R. 5169: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
- H.R. 5171: Mr. SWALWELL.
- H.R. 5175: Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
- H.R. 5182: Mr. FRY and Mr. OWENS.
- H.R. 5184: Mr. FALLON, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MEUSER.
- H.R. 5203: Mr. MOONEY.
- H.R. 5221: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 5233: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 5239: Ms. LEE of Florida.
- H.R. 5242: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 5245: Mr. ISSA and Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 5247: Mr. SABLAN.
- H.R. 5249: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 5250: Mr. LAWLER.
- H.R. 5252: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 5265: Mr. STAUBER.
- H.R. 5283: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
- H.R. 5290: Mr. TONKO and Ms. BUSH.
- H.R. 5291: Ms. BUSH.
- H.R. 5292: Mr. TONKO, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CHU, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
- H.R. 5293: Ms. BUSH.
- H.R. 5294: Ms. BUSH and Ms. JAYAPAL.
- H.R. 5295: Mr. TONKO and Ms. BUSH.
- H.R. 5302: Mr. WALTZ.
- H.R. 5308: Mr. COSTA and Mr. RYAN.
- H.R. 5318: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5323: Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 5329: Mr. TAKANO.
- H.R. 5342: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
- H.R. 5349: Mr. OWENS.
- H.R. 5351: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 5361: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
- H.R. 5368: Mr. FRY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MILLS.
- H.R. 5369: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 5377: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5379: Mr. NORMAN.
- H.J. Res. 88: Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. HOUCIN, Mr. YAKYM, and Ms. HAGEMAN.
- H. Con. Res. 31: Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H. Con. Res. 44: Mr. CASAR.
- H. Con. Res. 59: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
- H. Con. Res. 61: Ms. WATERS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CASAR, Ms. BALINT, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. POCAN.
- H. Res. 50: Mr. MOONEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLOUD, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
- H. Res. 77: Mr. LYNCH.
- H. Res. 100: Mr. WALBERG.
- H. Res. 108: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
- H. Res. 154: Mr. KHANNA.
- H. Res. 198: Mrs. FLETCHER.
- H. Res. 339: Mr. DONALDS.
- H. Res. 345: Mr. NADLER.
- H. Res. 374: Mr. FROST.
- H. Res. 451: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOST, and Mr. SORENSEN.
- H. Res. 492: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. ALLRED.
- H. Res. 509: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
- H. Res. 585: Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
- H. Res. 615: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
- H. Res. 616: Mr. PETERS, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ROSS.
- H. Res. 623: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. TRONE.
- H. Res. 625: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H. Res. 627: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. CRAIG.
- H. Res. 634: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H. Res. 651: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
- H. Res. 674: Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CRENSHAW.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We pause at the convening of this Senate session, Eternal God, to acknowledge our total dependence upon You. We are aware of the fragile and temporary nature of our earthly pilgrimage and look to You, the changeless one, to guide our steps. From You we borrow our heartbeats and because of You we live and move and have our being.

Guide our lawmakers today with more than human wisdom. Give them the ability to solve the difficult problems of these turbulent days. Break in and through their human efforts, empowering them to let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya J. Bradsher, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INSIGHT FORUM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for Congress to legislate on artificial intelligence is for us to engage in one of the most complex and important subjects Congress has ever faced. In just a few years, artificial intelligence has grown in complexity, speed, and power, doing things even experts didn't think possible so soon.

In past situations, when subjects like this that are so complex and difficult have come forward, too many Congresses have tended to behave reactively or have favored delaying action until it is too late. But on AI, we can't behave like ostriches and stick our heads in the sand. It will affect just about every aspect of society in major ways, both positive and negative, and on an issue this wide-ranging and important, we must make every good-faith effort to act.

Congress must recognize two things; that this effort must be bipartisan and that we need outside help if we want to write effective AI policies. We need help, of course, from developers and experts who build AI systems, but we also need help from critics who can make sure the liabilities of AI are minimized by guardrails. Those critics will come from two places, like from outside the industry, such as labor and civil rights and the creative community, but we also need critics from inside the industry as well who may know, in a very technical sense, how to minimize the dangers.

That is why tomorrow will be so important. Tomorrow morning, I will convene, with Senators ROUNDS and HEINRICH and YOUNG, the first of a series of AI Insight Forums to bring leaders from inside and outside the industry to debate Congress's role in regulating AI.

We will have a balanced and diverse group at the table, not just those from tech but AI experts and ethicists who have spent years researching and advancing the technology. We will also have organizations outside the industry representing labor and civil rights, the world of academia and defense, and so much more—all of these groups together in one room, talking about how and why Congress must act, what questions to ask, and how to build a consensus for SAFE innovation. That is, of course, what we have called our suggestion because AI innovation must be our North Star in all we do.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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And I am talking about innovation in both a transformational sense—the kind of innovation that unlocks new cures, improves education, protects our national security, protects our food supply—and sustainable innovation so that we may find new and creative ways to protect against AI's risks and minimize the chances of this technology going off the rails, which would undermine innovation altogether.

The only way we will achieve this goal is by bringing a diverse group of perspectives together, from those who work every day on these systems to those openly critical of many parts of AI and who worry about its effects on workers, on racial and gender bias, and more. So I look forward to tomorrow's conversation, the first of many we will have this fall. I expect we will hear a wide range of views and opinions and lots of dissenting views. That is how it should be.

I want to thank every participant attending tomorrow's forum. Thank you also to Senators ROUNDS and HEINRICH and YOUNG, who helped to organize tomorrow's meeting. And, of course, I want to thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who recognize the urgency of AI.

The Senate is fully engaged on this issue and is ready to do more. Our committees and subcommittees have already held no fewer than nine hearings on AI, with more happening this week, all on issues ranging from national security to human rights, to IP, and more. We need all hands on deck if we want to maximize AI's societal benefits while minimizing its many risks. Tomorrow, we will take the next step in this great undertaking, and I urge all of my colleagues from both sides to attend.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY IRVINE CUMMINGS

On nominations, Mr. President, today, the Senate will continue the business of confirming more judicial nominees. We will vote this afternoon to confirm Jeffrey Cummings of Illinois to serve as district judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Cummings was reported out of committee with a bipartisan vote, and he would be the 104th district court judge that we confirm under President Biden.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, after a lot of hard work and compromise by appropriators on both sides—a salute goes to PATTY MURRAY and SUSAN COLLINS—today, the Senate will take up the first procedural vote on a package of three appropriations bills: MILCON-Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD. Each of these bills passed unanimously out of committee, so I hope they will have strong bipartisan support here on the floor.

And I mentioned both Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS. I want to also thank all of the members of the Appropriations Committee for their great work. None of it was easy. They deserve great credit.

The Senate appropriations, thus far, has been the gold standard for good governance. All 12 appropriations bills passed through regular order, with Democratic chairs and Republican ranking members working together to move bills forward.

As the Senate continues the work of funding the government, the House gavels back in today with one very important responsibility: following the Senate's example and working in a bipartisan fashion to prevent a government shutdown. The American people don't want a shutdown. It would undo so much of our progress to lower costs, create millions and millions of jobs, and help our economy recover from the pandemic.

So I, once again, implore the House Republican leadership to reject all-or-nothing tactics, to reject unrealistic expectations, and refuse to cave to the extremist demands we are hearing from 30 or so Members way out on the fringe.

There is only one way we will avoid a costly government shutdown: bipartisanship. It is as simple as that. We have seen bipartisanship work in the Senate, and now the House must follow suit.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will begin consideration of the first package of full-year appropriations for the coming fiscal year. This is an important milestone and a downpayment on our goal of funding the Federal Government through regular order.

Our progress on this front has been due in large part to the leadership of Senator COLLINS and Senator MURRAY of the Appropriations Committee. For months—months—our colleagues have worked diligently to build consensus and process as many bills as possible with deadlines looming large.

The legislation before us this week is designed to address a trio of important commitments—to America's farmers, to our veterans, and to investing in transportation infrastructure.

Seven percent of American adults are veterans of the Armed Forces. Ten percent of American jobs are supported by agriculture. And our entire economy hinges on safe and efficient airports, roads, bridges, and ports. So it is difficult to overstate the importance of this legislation, but it is especially important that we get it right. To that end, I hope and expect that all Senators will receive ample opportunity to offer amendments for consideration.

Ultimately, our work will need to earn the support of a divided Congress and earn the President's signature. So I am grateful to our colleagues' commitment to regular order appropriations, and I look forward to supporting a sensible step forward in the coming days.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on another matter, I have spoken in recent days about the most common arguments deployed against U.S. assistance to the fight against Putin in Ukraine and how they fall short. Today, I would like to address the misconception that America's lethal aid lacks necessary accountability and protections against misuse.

The United States probably has a deeper understanding of how Ukraine is using weapons provided by the United States and our allies than we have had with any other partner nation, period. There are many reasons for this.

First, Ukraine is not Iraq or Afghanistan; it is a modern democracy, firmly committed to integration with the West.

Second, Russia's escalation last year led to a political sea change in how Ukraine treats corruption. Today, corruption and misuse of funds or weapons can mean the death of loved ones or imperil critical Western support.

I am not saying that corruption has vanished. Even in the worst conflicts or most advanced democracies, human nature remains. But the cost calculus has changed, and robust, independent anti-corruption bodies are making a difference.

Third, American diplomats, military officers, and USAID employees have finally returned to Kyiv. Their presence allows for more oversight and accountability of our assistance.

Senators who have visited the American-led headquarters in Germany and seen the professional, multinational effort supporting Ukraine firsthand have come away impressed. They have also been impressed by LTG Tony Aguto, the senior American officer who runs this effort and was confirmed by the Senate last year by a voice vote.

Through these coalition efforts, we have unprecedented insight into how nearly 30 types of Western weapons systems and vehicles are being used by Ukraine, often down to the serial number.

Take for example an American-led effort in Poland that remotely assists Ukrainian units on the frontlines to maintain and prepare various weapons and vehicles. When trouble arises, Ukrainian units have every incentive to share data, photos, and video in real time about the status of their weapons and benefit from engineering solutions we have provided to help maintain and prepare these weapons out in the field.

This is a win-win. The United States gets unprecedented insight into how our weapons are being used—often overused—in combat, which helps us improve and maintain America's own arsenal. U.S. forces also get a unique view into the situation on the battlefield and the challenges Ukrainian forces are facing.

Given his oversight role and regular contact with Ukrainian commanders, I have requested the administration make Lieutenant General Aguto available to brief Senators on these insights.

Finally, here in the Senate, Ranking Member RISCH, Ranking Member WICKER, Vice Chairman COLLINS, and Vice Chairman RUBIO have been conducting proactive oversight based on lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have ensured that \$50 million was included in previous supplementals specifically to conduct oversight of assistance to Ukraine. We have added dozens of transparency and reporting requirements so Congress has more insight than ever.

Tomorrow, my colleagues will have an opportunity to learn even more. At my request, the inspectors general for the Pentagon, the State Department, and USAID will come to brief Republican Senators on the state of their own independent oversight of these assistance efforts. Already, as the State Department's IG put it, "Our completed work has not substantiated any allegations of diversion."

So it is my hope that each of our colleagues will take the opportunity to get the facts from these independent auditors.

ENERGY

Mr. President, now on one final matter, across the country, the end of summer gave working families gas prices near alltime highs, beyond just a seasonal swing.

Last week, Washington Democrats opened a new front in their war on affordable and abundant American energy. The Biden administration announced the withdrawal of more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve from oil and gas leasing and canceled—canceled—seven oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The President calls this move a necessary step to "meet the urgency of the climate crisis," but any serious observer would call it bad news for families trying to make ends meet.

Last fiscal year, under President Biden's stranglehold, the number of new Federal acres leased plummeted. Comparing the first 30 months of each administration, onshore leasing is down from 67 sales under the previous administration to a mere 9 sales under President Biden—67 sales down to 9 under this administration.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration has let a 5-year plan for offshore energy production—required by law—to expire over a year ago with no new plan in sight. In other words, there are no new offshore energy leases in the hopper.

Now, Congress has exercised its authority and forced the President to reinstate an offshore lease it had already canceled, but in response, his administration put 6 million acres of the sale off limits to oil and gas exploration.

Senate Democrats have been more than willing to tow the party line. Last year, every single one of our Democratic colleagues voted against Senator BARRASSO's effort to require dependable onshore leasing, and every single

one voted against Senator KENNEDY's measure to restore certainty to offshore leasing.

Freezing the development of clean and reliable energy here at home does nothing more than kick production of more expensive and less reliable fuels into overdrive overseas. You can guarantee fuels won't be climate-conscious or environmentally sound when they come from hostile regimes overseas.

The cost of Washington Democrats' shortsighted obsession is measured in higher costs at the pump, higher home heating and cooling bills, and greater reliance on foreign energy.

By outsourcing our energy policy to the radical environmentalists, the Biden administration is literally outsourcing America's energy security. Our Nation really deserves better.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, President Biden officially launched the second part of his student loan giveaway—his dramatic overhaul of the REPAYE program, an income-driven repayment plan for Federal student loans.

The President's revamp flew under the radar a bit when it was first announced, overshadowed by his plan to forgive up to \$10,000 of student loan debt outright—or \$20,000 for Pell grant recipients. But the truth is that the President's new income-driven repayment plan, which he has dubbed the Saving on a Valuable Education plan—or the SAVE plan—is just as problematic, if not more, as the President's scheme to forgive student debt outright because the new SAVE plan will create a system in which the majority of future Federal borrowers will never fully repay their student loans.

The nonpartisan Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates that just 24.6 percent of future borrowers will repay their loans in full—in other words, less than a quarter of borrowers.

The Department of Education estimates that borrowers with only undergraduate debt enrolled in the SAVE program can, on average, expect to pay back just \$6,121 for each \$10,000 they borrow. That amount the Federal Government is taking on, on average, is almost 40 percent of the cost of these undergraduates' student loans.

Let's call this what it is: It is loan forgiveness by another name. You don't have to take my word for it.

One scholar from the left-leaning Urban Institute had this to say on NPR the other day:

I think it's going to be less obvious that it's a big loan forgiveness program to both

borrowers and onlookers as well. But, yeah, it's a big loan forgiveness program. . . . So no longer a safety net like it has been in the past for undergraduates—this looks more like a broad-based subsidy for undergraduate degrees through loan forgiveness.

That, from a scholar at the left-leaning Urban Institute. Let me repeat that: "a broad-based subsidy for undergraduate degrees through loan forgiveness."

Or, in other words, in the words of one scholar from the American Enterprise Institute, "a functional entitlement program" whose costs, he adds, "will prove difficult to control."

I don't need to tell anyone that the problems here are myriad. Just think about it. For starters, someone is going to have to bear the cost of all these unrepaid student loans. And that someone is the American taxpayers, including taxpayers who worked hard to pay off the full balance on their own student loans, without a handout from the Federal Government, and taxpayers who worked their way through school to avoid a heavy loan burden and parents who scrimped and saved to send their children to college debt-free and individuals who covered the cost of their education by enlisting in the military and risking their lives for their country. And I could go on.

I am at a loss to understand why taxpayers, as a whole, should assume a substantial part of the educational burden for individuals, who, if they graduated from college, have greater long-term earning potential than many of the Americans who will be helping to shoulder the burdens for their debts.

And, of course, this program isn't just being offered to help undergraduate debt. No. Graduate students, including those in professional degree programs like medical school and law school, will also be eligible for the so-called SAVE program.

And I don't need to tell anyone that the lifetime earning potential of a doctor or a lawyer is usually pretty good. But leaving aside questions of fairness, let's talk about the costs of this de facto new entitlement program. Again, the Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates the SAVE program will cost roughly half a trillion dollars over the next 10 years.

We have a national debt today of \$32 trillion and a Federal budget that has increased by 41 percent since 2019. Contrary to what President Biden seems to believe, we can't afford to be constantly expanding government programs. We simply don't have the money to be subsidizing the college—and graduate—education of a group of people whose earning potential will exceed the earning potential of a lot of the people subsidizing their schooling.

Perhaps the worst thing about the President's new program is that we will be spending all that money and doing nothing—nothing—to solve the real problem, and that is the high cost of a college education.

President Biden's student loan giveaway provides actually zero—exactly

zero—incentive for colleges to contain costs. In fact, there is reason to fear that it could actually encourage colleges to raise their prices or, at least, make them significantly less reluctant to do so.

And, of course, the President's proposal does nothing to discourage students from borrowing substantial amounts of money to finance their education. Indeed, there is a good chance students will increase their borrowing as a result of the President's plan.

The President's ill-conceived student loan giveaway is a tremendous disservice to taxpayers—and a terrible move for our economic health.

As I said, it does nothing to address the real problem, which is the high cost of higher education, which is why last week, I joined Senator CASSIDY to introduce a resolution of disapproval to block the President's plan. And I encourage Members of both parties to support this resolution. Anyone who cares about actually addressing the cost of higher education should oppose a program that not only fails to solve the underlying problems but is actually likely to make things worse.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JIMMY BUFFETT

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of a legendary native of Mississippi whose music is synonymous with the spirit of summertime and enjoying life: Jimmy Buffett.

Born in Pascagoula, MS, Jimmy Buffett's journey began in the heart of the South. His music touches the heart of those well beyond Mississippi or the South, but there is no denying Jimmy's music embodies the very essence of the South, with its warm hospitality, vibrant culture, and distinctive charm.

Jimmy's early years were filled with the sights and sounds of Mississippi. The Sun shining over the Gulf of Mexico and many other beautiful experiences of the South would later inspire some of his most beloved songs.

But it was Jimmy's great appetite for adventure that ultimately propelled him to worldwide fame. He embarked on a journey that would take him to the Florida Keys, the Caribbean, and beyond those changes in latitudes. Amid more than 40 musical tours throughout his career, he churned his talents into a diverse business empire and charitable works.

As we reflect on the legacy of this son of a son of a sailor, we cannot help but be inspired by Jimmy Buffett's unyielding commitment to following

his dreams and embracing life. His songs transport us to sandy beaches, where the stresses of life fade away. He reminds us that sometimes we all need to kick back, relax, and take a moment to savor the simple pleasures of life. As Jimmy would put it, "it's 5 o'clock somewhere."

In honoring Jimmy Buffett, we celebrate the man who, through his music, brought us with him on many of his adventures around the Sun, from the Pascagoula Run to the shores of paradise, and we are all better for it.

I have so much gratitude for the joy, laughter, and the inspiration that Jimmy Buffett brought into so many Americans' lives. His music is a timeless reminder that no matter where we come from, we can all find a bit of paradise within ourselves, and, come Monday, it will be all right.

Jimmy Buffett is a true southern storyteller who was generous enough to share his piece of paradise with the world. I have no doubt his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

EGYPT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I want to paint a picture for you just for a moment. It takes place on a tarmac in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, just a few weeks ago, in fact.

A small private jet arrives from Egypt. It lands there, hoping to go unnoticed because of what is on board that jet. But it does get noticed by Zambian authorities. They board the plane, and they find inside a cargo that sounds like something out of a James Bond movie. On board that plane is \$5.7 million in U.S. currency, 602 bars of gold, five pistols, and 126 rounds of ammunition.

To make the story even more bizarre, it turns out that the gold was not actually real. It was fake bars of gold. The currency is real, the ammunition is real, but the gold is fake.

Zambia arrests 12 people, 6 of whom are Egyptian citizens. Immediately, as you can imagine, speculation begins about what is exactly going on.

That is an interesting story, right? But the reason I tell you this story isn't because of what happened in Zambia. It is because of what happened next in Cairo. Six of these individuals were Egyptian citizens. The plane came from Egypt. So, of course, journalists in Cairo start to do some digging. A fact-checking platform named Matsadaash—I am probably butchering the pronunciation, but it is Arabic, roughly, for "don't believe it." They report on the alleged involvement of former Egyptian security officials in the incident, but this kind of truth telling is just not allowed in Egypt today.

Egypt is a closed society. It is a dictatorship in which political dissent is crushed. The free press is essentially nonexistent, and as a consequence, top

officials are allowed to enrich themselves without any accountability.

So what happened to the journalists at Matsadaash is interesting, but it is, frankly, par for the course in Egypt. Here is what happened. In response for doing this reporting, Egyptian security officials went straight to the home of the journalist. They raided his home. They forced him to log onto his computer as they were there, and they forced him to delete the Facebook posts about the issue at hand.

Egypt just wanted this story to disappear, and they were willing to do whatever it took to make this happen. We may never know the full story of what happened in that airport—what was going on with that plane—but what we do know is that the Egyptian Government's reaction is part of a completely predictable pattern to muzzle and silence the truth tellers by force.

Beyond these attacks on Matsadaash, two other journalists covering the episode were also detained immediately after without charge. One of the last remaining independent media outlets in Cairo, Mada Masr has repeatedly been refused a legal license to operate.

Websites that report on this kind of activity of Egyptian officials are shut down as soon as they appear. Activists are regularly jailed for "spreading false news" about human rights violations. Over and over again, the government's playbook is just the same: Shut down voices that are critical of the government and throw in jail people who don't comply.

Around this same time last year, I came down to the Senate floor to make a very similar speech, to talk about an annual decision that the administration has to make with regard to our aid to Egypt.

Now, Congress, in a bipartisan way, cares about this campaign of brutal repression against the press and political dissent in Egypt. That is why our annual appropriations bill limits the amount of money the administration can send to Egypt, depending on the government's human rights record.

Specifically, this year, Congress has said that \$320 million of the aid we send, which is roughly about a quarter of the aid, can't go to Egypt unless the administration certifies that Egypt has made real progress on these questions of political climate, \$85 million of which is tied to the release of specific political prisoners and the remaining \$235 million on broader improvements on questions of human rights and democracy.

Now, I just want to be honest with you. In the past, the Bush administration, the Obama administration, the Trump administration, they just routinely waived these conditions and sent the full amount without any real progress. They said it was about American national security, without any actual evaluation as to what the consequence of withholding the money would be to our national security. But

to the Biden administration's credit, over the past 2 years, they have withheld a portion of Egypt's military aid because of these human rights violations.

And last night, as I was writing this speech, the administration rightly decided to withhold that first tranche—\$85 million tied to the release of political prisoners—because there is just no question, there has not been enough progress.

Why do we know that? Because while Egypt released and has released more than 1,600 political prisoners since early 2022—that is good news—during that same time, they have jailed 5,000 more.

So for every political prisoner Egypt releases, three more are jailed. That is one step forward and three steps back. That is not the kind of “clear and consistent progress in releasing political prisoners” that the law requires. The administration was right to withhold the \$85 million.

But what about the remaining \$235 million? I would argue that the answer is just as simple. The Biden administration needs to hold the line. As evidenced by the response to the fake gold-filled plane, political repression is getting worse, not better, in Egypt.

Now, every year there are some people who argue that even though Egypt really hasn't made any progress on human rights, they should get the money anyway, in the name of national security; that if we dare to withhold even a small portion of that money, Egypt is going to stop cooperating with us and they are going to run to Russia or China instead.

But as we have seen in the last 2 years when the administration did withhold a portion of the \$1.3 billion, the sky did not fall. Yes, I will admit to you our diplomats in Cairo probably had some very tough conversations, and the Egyptians certainly have made life a little bit more difficult for our diplomats around the edges, but the core security relationship remains intact. Why is that?

It is because the things that we want Egypt to do that are good for our national security—like working to keep the situation in Gaza as stable as possible through its relationship with Hamas, ensuring the free flow of commerce and U.S. warships through the Suez Canal, keeping counterterrorism operations going in the Sinai—President Sisi does all those things because it is in Egypt's independent national security interest to do so, not because we pay them to do it.

Maybe when we started giving them a billion dollars in aid back in the 1980s, Egypt, in fact, complied with our national security requests because of that monetary relationship, but today Egypt engages in those activities because they have an independent reason to do so.

In fact, it is telling that even though the Egyptians continue to receive a billion dollars per year in military aid,

even with that money, they are reportedly, and have been reportedly, seeking to do deals with the Russians and the Chinese.

Earlier this year, reporting on leaked documents revealed that Egypt had made a secret deal to provide Russia, in the middle of the Ukraine war, with 40,000 rockets. Now, only after a flurry of high-level diplomatic interventions did the Egyptians change course.

And despite a reported request in March of this year from Secretary Austin for Egypt to help Ukraine, the Egyptians have not yet done so. And so the question is, Is this the behavior of a country that we call a key security partner?

And let me be clear, this decision that the administration is going to make, it matters far beyond Egypt. If we say human rights and democracy matters to America, then it has to matter in more than words. When we cut corners and we fail to hold our partners accountable for human rights abuses, people notice.

Now, I am not naive. I know that the question of whether we withhold a couple hundred million dollars in security assistance from President Sisi is not going to convince him to end his brutal campaign of political repression. But when we walk the walk, not just talk the talk, on human rights, another audience hears us: activists, the people who are doing this work on the streets in places like Cairo. Those who are fighting for democracy and human rights in countries with little of either, they gather courage from knowing that the United States is on their side. And it is those forces, those organic, domestic forces, that truly make change. But when we keep on doing business as usual with Saudi Arabia or Tunisia or Egypt, despite their behavior, we send a signal to democracy activists that we aren't serious, that we don't have their back.

And so I am glad for the administration's decision last night to withhold a part of the funding that Congress has required to be withheld unless we see significant progress on human rights. And my belief is that there is only one decision to be made on the remaining dollars because the record is clear, Egypt continues to help us on national security priorities where our interests align, and there is good reason to continue a security relationship with Cairo to preserve those interests.

In other areas like the war in Ukraine, Egypt has not been a helpful partner, and we need to be clear-eyed about our security relationship with Egypt and also about Egypt's human rights record.

The decision the administration will make this week about holding the Egyptians accountable for progress on human rights, it is critical to American credibility. And for that reason, I would urge the administration to finish the job and withhold the full \$320 million as required by the fiscal year 2022 appropriations act until Egypt's

human rights and democracy record improves.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BRADSHER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bradsher nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are requested.

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 Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.)

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rounds
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Cassidy	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden
Hassan	Rosen	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Markey
Duckworth	Padilla

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 124, Jeffrey Irvine Cummings, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey Irvine Cummings, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Markey	Tillis
Duckworth	Padilla	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Irvine Cummings, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY IRVINE CUMMINGS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Jeffrey Cummings to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge Cummings received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Ann Claire Williams on the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge Cummings then entered private practice in Chicago, where he developed expertise in various civil rights issues, including employment discrimination, voting rights, and housing discrimination.

He has spent nearly his entire practice litigating in Federal courts and has tried eight cases to verdict. Notably, he worked on the largest ever hospice-related recovery for the United States in the history of the False Claims Act.

While in private practice, Judge Cummings also served as an administrative hearing officer for the city of Chicago Commission on Human Relations and as a hearing officer for the city of Chicago Police Board, where he was responsible for conducting contested disciplinary hearings in cases involving allegations of misconduct against Chicago police officers.

In 2019, Judge Cummings was selected by the district judges of the Northern District to serve as a magistrate judge. Since joining the bench, he has handled both civil and criminal matters and has presided over three jury trials.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Cummings "well qualified," and he has the strong support of Senator DUCKWORTH and myself. Given his vast litigation background and experience on the bench, he will be a tremendous addition to the court. I am honored to vote for his confirmation, and I urge my colleagues join me.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:16 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON CUMMINGS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the Cummings nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 226 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Markey	Sanders
Duckworth	Padilla	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maine.

APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to the next rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this motion is the first procedural vote to consider an appropriations package containing the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and Transportation and Housing appropriations bills.

In order for us to consider amendments to these bills, we have to get on the bills; and that is what this vote is all about. These bills were reported unanimously, all three of them, by the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on proceeding to the bills and then we can have a robust amendment process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I echo the words of Vice Chair COLLINS and thank her for her tremendous work on this.

A lot of work has gone into these bills. All three of them were reported unanimously out of our committee after a tremendous amount of work. To finish that work and to allow all the Senate to speak, we need to vote yes to get on this bill.

I urge a “yes” vote.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blackburn	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sanders
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Capito	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	Kennedy	Smith
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casadevall	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Tester
Collins	Lee	Thune
Coons	Lujan	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Vance
Cotton	Menendez	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Warnock
Crapo	Moran	Warren
Daines	Mullin	Welch
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Paul	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—12

Braun	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Ricketts	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth Markey Padilla
(Ms. KLOBUCHAR assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 12.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The clerk will the report the motion to proceed.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, at the start of the year, when Vice Chair COLLINS and I took over as leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee, we announced something ambitious: We were going to return the committee to regular order.

The first thing everyone told us was: That is great. We all want to return to regular order. We all want to show the American people that Congress can actually function; that we can work together and solve problems and pass bills to make their lives better.

But the second thing they told us was essentially: Good luck. You are going to need it.

Well, Vice Chair COLLINS and I went to work. We said: Look, if this is going to happen, we have to show we are serious about writing these bills that can actually be signed into law. That meant a few things.

First of all, it meant we had to work with the funding levels in the debt ceiling deal struck by President Biden and Speaker MCCARTHY, a deal that I had—and I still have—concerns about and which required tough funding decisions across each of our 12 bills. But the President and Speaker shook hands, and that is the agreement that Congress passed into law. We can’t produce serious bills if we start by throwing that framework out the window.

Secondly, it meant we had to work together to find common ground, including on tough and thorny issues, and compromise where necessary to produce spending bills that could make it through both Chambers and to the President’s desk. That meant avoiding poison pills that could sink these bills.

And, third, we wanted to make sure that we had an open, bipartisan process. We wanted to give each and every one of our colleagues the chance to weigh in on these bills and the American public the chance to see our work on them. So we held over 40 hearings this spring to assess our Nation’s needs for the year ahead. We sought input from all of our colleagues. We wrote these bills together, and then we held markups for the first time in 2 years. We televised the markups—the first time ever—so people could follow this debate from home. And at those markups, we discussed the draft legislation, considered amendments, and voted on our bills.

The result: For the first time in 5 years, we passed all 12 of our funding bills out of our committee, and we did it with overwhelming bipartisan support. Nine of the twelve bills passed unanimously or had just a single “no” vote. In total, 97 percent of the votes on our bills in committee were “yes” votes.

These are not the bills I would have written on my own. They are not what Vice Chair COLLINS would have written on her own. They are the bills we wrote together, along with our colleagues on the committee and with input from nearly every Senator on both sides of the aisle.

They are serious bills that can be signed into law, which is how this process should work. We should come together, look for common ground, and build on it to write bills that solve problems and make people’s lives better and give our Nation and communities the resources they need to stay safe and competitive, to grow and thrive. That is exactly what the three bills in this package do.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, I am

pleased to say I was able to work with Senator BOOZMAN to put together a bill that gets our military and our veterans the support we owe them, the support that they need.

This is essential to keeping our Nation safe because our ships and submarines and aircraft are only as good as the infrastructure they rely on and the troops who operate them. So this bill provides DOD with \$19.1 billion for military construction. That is an increase over fiscal year 2023 levels.

This funding will help with construction needs across our country at base installations for projects like childcare development centers to make sure our servicemembers and their spouses can go to work knowing that their children are safe and housing like the barracks project at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in my home State and other facilities across the country to support our troops.

It will help make sure that our shipyards, like the naval base in Kitsap and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, are up-to-date and up to the challenges of this moment.

These investments will build our presence around the world, especially in the Indo-Pacific regions, and strengthen our military infrastructure to keep it resilient in the face of threats like severe weather and earthquakes.

And I am really glad we included funds to address harmful PFAS chemicals and other toxins at former installations that could put our communities in harm's way.

I am also very proud of the work we have done in this bill to support veterans and their families. As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I take the promises we made to those who fought for our country very seriously, and this bill ensures that we keep those promises by fully funding VA's budget request. We are talking about increased funding for mental health, suicide prevention programs, the caregivers program, expanding the childcare pilot program—that continues to be a huge priority for me across all of our appropriations bills—funding for homelessness prevention programs for our veterans, rural health programs, and, of course, women veterans' healthcare.

By the way, women are the fastest growing demographic of veterans overall. Our MILCON-VA funding bill also increases VA infrastructure funding so we can begin to address the challenges related to VA's aging medical facilities, and it reflects the much-needed pause and reset happening with the electronic health record modernization program.

I was raising the alarm from day one about how the unacceptable botched rollout of that program hurt veterans in my home State, and I am watching closely to make sure we see changes that provide real results for our veterans and our VA providers because, at the end of the day, these investments

are not just about programs and contracts. This is about our promise to get veterans the benefits they earned and need to stay healthy, like prescriptions, mental health care, cancer screenings, and more.

So the stakes could not be higher for those families, and we owe them that much, which is why I am proud this bill sends a clear, bipartisan message: We are not going to shortchange our veterans and servicemembers, and we will live up to our obligation to provide them with the resources that they need.

The next bill in this package—from the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies—makes sure we are living up to another crucial obligation, and that is to keep our food supply safe and secure, and support rural communities across our country, because, at the most basic level, we can't have strong communities if people can't put food on the table. That means making sure that the food that is sold in our country is safe. It means protecting families from shortages—so avoiding and mitigating supply chain disruptions, addressing climate crises, like droughts, which can threaten crops we all rely on. It means addressing food insecurity so people can afford—and access—the food they need to keep their families healthy and fed. And it means supporting our Nation's farmers, who are such a huge part of our economy. For example, every day in my home State of Washington, we ship apples, cherries, wheat, potatoes, pulse crops, and so many other commodities across the country and across the world.

So I want to thank Senator HEINRICH and Senator HOEVEN for their very hard work to help put together a bipartisan bill that delivers on those crucial issues. This bill will make sure the FDA has the resources it needs to keep grocery stores and dinner tables safe and to implement the bipartisan cosmetics legislation that we negotiated last year and that many of us worked on very hard to pass.

It also includes crucial funding to support our farmers, for example, increased investments in agricultural research. Just last month, I was home and visited my alma mater, Washington State University, which is home to world class agricultural research programs. This funding will help universities like WSU to tackle problems that our farmers are facing, like, in my State, smoke exposure to wine grapes, herbicide resistance, and little cherry disease; not to mention efforts that we need to make to address water shortages, improve our yields, use inputs, and more.

The bill also funds absolutely critical nutrition programs like WIC, which is a lifeline that keeps so many families from going under. This bill fully funds WIC at the level included in the President's budget request, and we know that participation and costs for the

program are changing. So as we work to get final appropriations bills signed into law, I will keep working around the clock to make sure that no one loses their WIC benefits and no one is forced to be on a wait list. We have got to maintain the strong bipartisan support for that program going forward and continue to fully fund it, and that is a top priority for me.

My family had to rely on food stamps for a short time, and thanks to that help that we got when I was young, every one of my six brothers and sisters and I have been able to now grow up and give back to our communities because our country had our back when we needed it.

So make no mistake, our investments in WIC are not just the right thing, the moral thing; it is an investment in the future of America.

So if I haven't painted a picture yet, investments like this, which maintain our nutrition programs, support our farmers, and keep our food supplies safe and secure are truly mission critical to our Nation's future, but they are also bipartisan. There are things that we can all agree on that are important for America.

Finally, this package includes the funding bill from the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. I previously led this subcommittee alongside Vice Chair COLLINS, as the chair and ranking member, and, I can tell you, investments here are critical to help prevent people from living on the streets or being out in the cold and to get people and goods where they need to go in a safe and timely way.

Washington State, like so many other States in our country, has really been grappling with our Nation's housing and homelessness crisis for years. So I am glad that we are able to maintain and build on some key investments in this bill that provide rental assistance to families in need, increase our housing supply, support maintenance for distressed properties, and connect people with healthcare, education, unemployment programs, and other support services.

And I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way to do more to tackle those challenges in a serious way in the future, because while this bill does take important steps and includes necessary investments, our housing and homelessness crisis is going to take a lot more than flat funding in most areas and modest funding increases in some programs, which is what was possible to negotiate under the tough budget caps in this debt ceiling deal.

When it comes to our Nation's transportation infrastructure, the investments in this bill are especially important in light of some of the derailments and disasters and disturbing close calls we saw this year. I am very pleased that we were able to increase funding for the Federal Aviation Administration so it can address the shortage of air traffic controllers, reduce flight

delays, increase efficiency, modernize technology, and critically improve safety, which is so important given the concerning number of near misses we have seen recently.

This bill also increases the Federal Railroad Administration's funding for its safety work to make sure we have enough inspectors to keep our rails safe and that we can research important questions to improve rail safety and efficiency.

So I really want to thank Senator SCHATZ and Senator HYDE-SMITH for their excellent work putting that bill together.

Each and every one of the appropriations bills in the package before us today is the result of an open, bipartisan process that invited input from every single Senator. In fact, that is true for all 12 of the bills our committee passed—all in overwhelming, bipartisan votes.

And, as my colleagues know, the Senate Appropriations Committee has plenty of Members on opposite ends of the political spectrum—strongly progressive Democrats and deeply conservative Republicans. In other words, getting here took a lot of hard work, late nights, and early mornings. And we had to really set politics aside, listen to each other, focus on the problems, and find common ground.

I think I speak for everyone when I say this work has not been easy. And, of course, I know as well as anyone that our work is not done. I think we all understand a CR will be necessary to see this process through. And we all understand supplemental funding is absolutely essential to respond to some of the urgent challenges our States are facing, like delivering disaster relief that communities desperately need today, paying our wildland firefighters, continuing to have our Ukrainian allies' back, and addressing the fentanyl crisis, not to mention the need, as I have spoken, of addressing the childcare funding cliff that threatens to put childcare further out of reach for too many families.

And, of course, even after we pass this funding package before us today, we need to get all the rest of our appropriations bills across the finish line. But by passing this package and the rest of our appropriations bills, we are showing the American people that there is a clear, bipartisan path for us to do our jobs and fund the government.

There is absolutely no reason for chaos or a shutdown, and I will continue working nonstop with my colleagues to make sure we get that job done. This was never going to be easy, but none of us came here because we thought it was easy. We came here because we wanted to make life better for folks back home, helping people and solving problems. I have said that a lot during my time here in the Senate, and I have brokered a lot of bipartisan deals, always in service to the people I represent back home, the friends and

neighbors that I grew up with. Helping people and solving problems, that is our job, and I would like to see us do more of that together—Democrats and Republicans.

So I urge all of our colleagues: Let's keep this momentum going. Let's show the American people that Congress can work for them. There doesn't have to be a calamity over funding the government. Let's show that there can and will be major policy disagreements on any number of issues, but their elected leaders can come together on what we agree on, and we will fund the government responsibly so they don't have to worry about chaos or shutdowns.

And on that note, I would like to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come to the floor and talk about these bills—what they mean for your State, what they mean for your constituents, what your priorities are here—and to talk to me and to talk to Senator COLLINS if you have amendments and ideas for how we can make these bills better, because Senator COLLINS and I are working now to clear a managers' package and set up votes. Our staffs are still working too, and we are happy to work with your team so we can pass the strongest bills possible.

We have been working closely from day one to run an open, bipartisan process and to get input from all of our colleagues and to make sure everyone can make their constituents' voices heard.

One issue Vice Chair COLLINS and I heard about from many of our colleagues is the need to support communities rebuilding after recent disasters. I will have more to say on that in the days ahead, but it is front of mind for both of us and the Appropriations Committee as a whole to take care of our communities that are working so hard to rebuild after the recent horrible disasters, which include, as we know, the wildfires in Hawaii and in areas in Washington State, flooding in Vermont and California, as well as the damage caused by Hurricane Idalia.

So, as we get started on this bill, I say to all of my colleagues: Come to the floor. Talk to us. Work with us so we can get this funding package passed, help people, and solve problems.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join Chair MURRAY as we begin debate on the first of what I hope will be a series of fiscal year 2024 appropriations packages considered on the Senate floor in the coming weeks. And I want to commend Chair MURRAY for her leadership, for her bipartisanship, for her relentlessness in getting us to where we are today. It did take a lot of work, and it has been a pleasure to be her partner.

When Chair MURRAY and I took the helm of the Appropriations Committee at the beginning of this year, we set forth the goal of returning regular

order to the appropriations process. Now, Chair MURRAY and I have served in the Senate long enough that we remember what regular order means. It means going through the committee process, reporting bills out after hearings and a markup, and bringing them to the Senate floor. But many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have never experienced regular order. That is how long it has been since we have done the process the right way.

The system just works better when we adhere to regular order, with committee members having the opportunity to shape legislation, and the Senate as a whole having the chance to work its will.

Regular order is not easy. In fact, it is a lot of work. Our committee members spent much of the winter and spring in hearing rooms, holding nearly 50 subcommittee hearings and briefings on the President's fiscal year 2024 budget requests. We scrutinized the funding levels, evaluated the programs, and asked the tough questions.

In June and July, our members were hard at work at developing, drafting, and advancing the fiscal year 2024 funding bills. For the first time ever, our committee markups were televised so that our deliberations and our votes on amendments and on passage of each bill were fully transparent. The result, as Senator MURRAY has said, for the first time in 5 years, the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported each and every one of the 12 appropriations bills. All of them passed with strong bipartisan support. Seven of them were approved unanimously.

Today, we take the next important step in restoring deliberation to the appropriations process as we bring the first package of funding bills to the Senate floor. I know that both Chair MURRAY and I are committed to doing our part to ensure a constructive floor debate with a robust amendment process. This will require the cooperation of all Members, and I hope we will be able to work together toward that goal. It is critical that we succeed in this effort so that we do not once again find ourselves in December faced with the unpalatable choice among a 4,000-plus-page omnibus bill, a yearlong continuing resolution, or, worst of all, a government shutdown.

The Republican leader spoke this morning about the importance of the package of bills before us. He noted that this legislation "is designed to address a trio of important commitments—to America's farmers, to our veterans, and to investing in transportation infrastructure." He went on to note that "seven percent of American adults are veterans of our Armed Forces." I am pleased to say that in Maine, that percentage is even higher. We rank among the top in the country in the number of veterans on a per capita basis who have answered the call to serve. The leader also noted that "ten percent of American jobs are supported

by agriculture. And our entire economy hinges on safe and efficient railroads, airports, roads, and bridges.” The leader’s remarks succinctly sum up the importance of these bills.

Our package includes the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, led by Senators MURRAY and BOOZMAN. It was approved by the committee on June 22, so Members have had a great deal of time to scrutinize and read the language of that bill. This wasn’t something assembled hastily, behind closed doors, at the last minute. To the contrary, it was subject to in-depth hearings, negotiations, and transparent markups.

We are also going to include, I hope, the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration bill written by Senators HEINRICH and HOEVEN, which was also approved on June 22. It is a very important bill to the State of Maine, where potatoes are our No. 1 crop.

I grew up in Northern Maine, where potatoes are grown, and I helped to pick potatoes when I was age 10. The schools would recess so that the schoolchildren could help the farmers get in the crop before the heavy freeze made that impossible.

Of course, Maine is also known for its wonderful wild blueberries and many other crops.

We are also going to look at and include the Transportation and Housing bill drafted by Senators SCHATZ and HYDE-SMITH, which was approved on July 20.

Each of these bills—each one of them—was reported unanimously. That hardly ever happens around here. It is a tribute to the chairmen and chairwomen of those subcommittees and the ranking members and how hard they worked to put together a bill that reflected not only the views of their subcommittees and the full committees and input from Chair MURRAY and me but from so many other Senators who wrote to us with their priorities.

The first bill, the MILCON-VA appropriations bill, invests in critical Department of Defense infrastructure. It provides funding to support the European and Pacific Deterrence Initiatives, unfunded construction priorities of the Active Guard and Reserve Forces, and improved housing for our servicemembers and their families, which is so important at a time when we are experiencing recruitment problems.

I am particularly pleased that this bill fully funds the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program, including the President’s request for \$545 million for Drydock No. 1 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard located in Kittery, ME—an essential national security asset for our submarine fleet.

This bill also keeps our commitment to our veterans by funding VA medical care and veterans’ benefits, including disability compensation programs, education benefits and vocational rehabilitation, and employment training.

Like Senator MURRAY, I, too, am the daughter of a World War II veteran, and thus, our commitment to our veterans is very personal to me. My father was a combat veteran in World War II who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded twice and earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. It was he who taught me to honor our veterans.

I will never forget as a child his taking me to the Memorial Day parade every year in our hometown of Caribou, ME. He would hoist me high on his shoulders so that I could see the veterans march by and salute our flag.

I will never forget those lessons, and they are the reason I care so deeply about the service of our veterans.

I want to commend Chair MURRAY and Ranking Member BOOZMAN for their great work on this bill, and I know they will describe its provisions in more detail. In fact, Senator MURRAY, Chair MURRAY, already has.

The second bill in the package is the Agriculture appropriations bill, which funds programs that support our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Both the Presiding Officer and I, I think, represent two of the most rural States in America. It also protects our Nation’s food and drug supply and ensures that low-income families have access to critical Federal nutrition programs.

I am particularly pleased that despite this tight budget environment, this bill provides increased funding for agriculture research to support food security and sustainability and for FDA initiatives focused on drug and device shortages, food safety, and critical research focused on neuroscience and ALS. I commend Chairman HEINRICH and Ranking Member HOEVEN for putting together such a strong bill.

Finally, the third bill in the package provides essential funding for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and related Agencies.

Both Chair MURRAY and I have a soft spot in our hearts for this bill because each of us spent many years as either the chair or the ranking member of the THUD Subcommittee.

It supports the RAISE grant transportation program and the Bridge Formula Program that help address our Nation’s deteriorating infrastructure.

It invests in the FAA, supporting the addition of 1,800 air traffic controllers. We have a huge shortage in Bangor, ME. I heard from the air traffic controllers about how terribly understaffed they are. And the bill would modernize outdated systems, such as the Notice to Air Missions System that went offline earlier this year, shutting down the Nation’s airspace for several hours.

I am especially pleased that this bill contains support for shoreside infrastructure improvements at our Nation’s State maritime academies—including Maine Maritime Academy—that are necessary for docking the

newly constructed national security multimission vessels that are also the training ships for the maritime academies.

At a time when virtually every State faces an affordable housing shortage, this bill also maintains existing rental assistance for more than 4.6 million households and continues to make meaningful investments aimed at tackling the persistent and growing problem of homelessness, especially among our Nation’s veterans and youth. I thank Chair SCHATZ and Ranking Member HYDE-SMITH for their tremendous efforts on this bill.

I also want to mention that both Senators from Hawaii—and Senator SCHATZ again today—have talked to all of us about the tragic loss of life, the devastation that the recent wildfires have caused in their beloved home State. I note that the Presiding Officer, representing the State of Vermont, also has had a need for disaster assistance, as have the State of Maine and so many other States. We need to support the people of States that have been hit by these devastating disasters in their time of need.

Let me conclude my opening remarks by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all of our committee members—particularly our subcommittee chairs and ranking members—for their extraordinary work in getting us to this point. Again, I especially want to commend Chair MURRAY for her leadership and commitment.

I look forward to a productive floor debate as we move forward, and I ask my colleagues for their support. The choice before the Senate is clear: Do we want to pass, with amendments, carefully considered funding bills or do we want to default to either an omnibus bill many thousands of pages long and with very little transparency or, worse, a yearlong resolution that funds programs that are no longer needed, prevents new programs from starting up, wastes taxpayer dollars, and is subject to indiscriminate cuts due to the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act? The choice is very clear. The Senate should proceed to debate, consider amendments, and pass the appropriations bills.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois, the Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this is indeed a historic moment in the U.S. Senate.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee for more than two decades, I can remember a time when, in fact, 12 different appropriations bills came to the floor of the Senate for consideration. It has been at least 5 years—maybe longer—since we have done that. Instead, we bundled all of the appropriations in one big omnibus bill and handed it over to leadership to decide. We waited for that desperate vote where they said: You have to vote for this; it is take it or leave it.

Well, we are back in the stage of due deliberation on appropriations, and I want to commend those who have brought us to this moment.

If you asked me at the beginning of this session to pick two Senators—one a Democrat and one a Republican—who could achieve this goal, I would have chosen the two who are here on the floor today, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Senator SUSAN COLLINS. They are extraordinary legislators, some of the hardest working people in the U.S. Senate, and they truly have dedication to a national purpose beyond anything that partisan politics might generate.

I have seen them at work for years and worked with them together. I can't think of a better team, and I am more than happy to work with them to achieve their goal for 12 appropriation bills considered and passed on the floor of the Senate. It will be historic, and it will serve the American people better than most of them could imagine today because it will mean we will take the time to do each of these bills in a thoughtful, careful way. So let me start by commending them for being here today and for the work that has brought us to this moment.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. President, on July 12, the United Auto Workers and the Big Three automakers—General Motors, Ford and Stellantis—began contract negotiations to determine their next 4-year labor deal. Since it was founded nearly 90 years ago, the United Auto Workers have fought for and won victories that have helped strengthen America's working families. The UAW has won better pay for its members, safer working conditions, employer-funded pensions, health insurance, education benefits, and much more. UAW helped to allow autoworkers and their families to buy homes, take vacations, send their children to college, and retire with dignity. Autoworkers work hard; they deserve their opportunity to enjoy the American dream.

But the legacy that I have just described is in danger. Over the last 20 years, autoworkers have faced dozens of plant closures, lost jobs, wage cuts, and contract concessions. In 2009, the UAW made major concessions in its contracts to help these same automakers receive government assistance. This included job security provisions, cost-of-living adjustments, and financing for retiree healthcare. They made sacrifices so that their employer companies survived during that terrible situation in our economy.

How have they done? The automakers have reaped billions of dollars in profit since. But these benefits have not been passed down to the workers, and UAW members have seen their wages and standards of living suffer. Over the past 4 years, the CEOs of the Big Three that I have listed have seen 40-percent wage hikes on average, while autoworkers have seen 6.1 percent.

Decades ago, the ratio between CEO and median worker pay was around 20

to 1, which meant the big shots in the boardrooms were making 20 times what the fellow was making on the assembly line. Today it has changed. No longer 20 to 1; it is 300 to 1. Should CEOs be earning 300 times more than autoworkers? I don't think so.

Stellantis, General Motors, and Ford have reported collective profits of nearly—get ready—\$250 billion between 2013 and 2022 and a combined profit of \$21 billion alone in the first 6 months of this year—\$21 billion.

The salaries of their CEOs—listen to these—\$29 million for the CEO of General Motors, \$21 million for Ford's CEO, \$24 million for Stellantis—further evidence of this notion of corporate royalty. In 2007, the average wage for workers at Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors was \$28 an hour—in 2007—while the starting wage was \$19.36 an hour. In today's dollars, that is \$28.50. Today, the starting wage for autoworkers at the Big Three is \$18.04 an hour—more than \$10 lower than what starting wages would be if they had kept up with inflation since 2007. Eighteen dollars an hour.

In Springfield, IL, coming back from picking up some hardware at Lowe's, I passed a Taco Bell. The sign out front said starting pay \$17 an hour at Taco Bell. Autoworkers—professional men and women who work hard—are being offered \$18; Taco Bell, \$17.

Meanwhile, these same workers who are making \$18 an hour for the automobile manufacturers are asked to work 10- to 12-hour days, 6 to 7 days a week. And 61 GM, Ford, and Stellantis plants have been idle or closed since 2003. Thousands of jobs have been lost. And I can tell that story personally because one of the idled plants was a Belvidere assembly plant in Belvidere, IL, owned by Stellantis. That plant opened 58 years ago. They once had 4,500 union workers. In February, they laid off 1,350 workers who were blindsided at the time by that announcement. This was devastating, not just to the families of the workers but to the community.

I begged Stellantis: Reconsider this decision. And I have spoken to the president of the United Autoworkers who tells me it is one of his highest priorities. Workers are fed up. Earlier this year, autoworkers struggled to breathe in factories across Illinois and other States due to unprecedented wildfire smoke in Canada. Now they are saying, in this negotiation: Enough.

At the same time, Congress and the Biden Administration have made major investments in clean energy—including the production of electric vehicles.

Corporations cannot impose the cost of transitioning to electric vehicles on the shoulders of today's workers. We can and should invest in these vehicles while making sure they continue to be produced with union labor. These corporations that I talked about—the Big Three—have benefited from billions of dollars in profits in recent years. Why haven't the workers benefited as much?

In just two days on September 14, contracts covering 150,000 UAW workers at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis will expire. At the same time, Stellantis put plants on critical status for 90 days.

What does that mean for the current workers before the contract would be announced? It would mean that they would work 7 days a week, 12-hour shifts. Why are they doing this? They are trying to pile up inventory.

Under critical status, workers can only receive 1 day off every 30 days, unless they use family medical leave. Meanwhile, Stellantis complains that it is behind thousands of units, while it continues to lay off workers. It just doesn't add up.

I urge the Big Three and the UAW to negotiate in good faith, reach an agreement before September 14—just 2 days away—and prevent a strike that will cost billions of dollars and impact 150,000 hard-working autoworkers.

This agreement must be fair to workers, include a restoration of the benefits that autoworkers sacrificed more than a decade ago, to keep these families afloat. And Stellantis must reconsider the closure of Belvidere assembly plant and welcome back the workers it laid off in February.

There is a lot at stake. The automobile industry is a major part of our economy. Autoworkers have done their best; they have sacrificed right and left to make sure that this industry stays as strong as it is—and even stronger—in America. The CEOs need to show a spirit of cooperation and teamwork to make sure that when they reopen this with a new contract, we are going to have many more years of prosperity for American automakers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 336

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Democrats' mandates that forced our young Senate pages to be vaccinated three times. In a free society, no one should be forced to take an injection; no one should be forced to have a surgery; no one should be forced to submit to a medical procedure—particularly a medical procedure that was approved under emergency-use authorization.

Democrats' support for medical choice when it comes to vaccines appears to be inconsistent and selective. But I fear they won't be persuaded by any arguments towards liberty, so I would like to direct the majority of my remarks to the actual science about whether or not adolescents should have to be forced to have three COVID vaccines.

Initially, there were arguments made saying: We must forcibly vaccinate these kids or they will infect the older folks, the antiquarian Senators. But it turns out that argument fails because the science in the end showed that the vaccine didn't prevent transmission of the disease.

In fact, in August 2021, CDC Director Rachel Walensky admitted for COVID-19 that the vaccine does not stop transmission:

Our vaccines are working exceptionally well . . . But what they can't do anymore is prevent transmission.

So the government, the proponents, those for the mandates argue: Well, we have to do it; it will stop the disease and we won't have any more spread.

Well, it turns out that wasn't true. The vaccine does not stop transmission. With that, it should have been the end of the arguments for mandates, because you are no longer talking about your health versus someone else's health. The only argument that those who are for the mandates argue now and those who argue for taking the vaccine is that it reduces your health risk—the individual who chooses to get vaccinated. However, when you look at the data, that appears only to be true for targeted populations.

If you are at risk for being hospitalized or dying from COVID, over age 75, immunocompromised, have other health concerns, there is some argument for a vaccine. But for a young, healthy person, there is no logical argument. If you look and ask yourself will taking a booster reduce transmission, the argument is no. Whether you are at risk or not, it does not reduce transmission.

If you are at risk for hospitalization or death, it may well reduce that. But the young pages we are talking about are not at risk for that. In fact, when we look at it, throughout Europe, there was a study of 23 million folks—young folks—and they found the death rate was zero. Israel looked at this: Death rate zero for young, healthy people. Germany looked at this, ages 5 to 17: Death rate for young, healthy people, zero.

And people say, well, what is the big deal? The vaccine is not that big a deal. You know, certainly, it is not going to hurt them. It has to be better than having COVID. Well, it turns out when you weigh the risks versus the benefits for a particular age group, it is actually not true. If you look at the risks of side effects from the vaccine—and the main worrisome side effect that we are concerned with is an inflammation of the heart called myocarditis or pericarditis—a study by Prasad and Knudsen looked at 29 different studies and found that the incidents, averaged out, was a little over 2 per 15,000.

The Vaccine Safety Datalink looked at this again and found also it was about 2, 2.5 out of 15,000. Even the CDC admits that the risk of myocarditis for young people is about 1 in 15,000. Tracey Beth Hoeg looked at a retrospective study of those who have been injured by vaccines and found the incidence of adverse cardiac events was about 1.62 per 10,000. So it's not like every kid is going to get myocarditis, but you have to weigh the incidence of 1 or 2 or 3 out of 15,000 getting a serious

disease that could affect their health or even debilitate them.

The risks and benefits are different for every individual. That is why in a free society, the individual or the individual and their parents make this decision with their doctor; sometimes they get more than one opinion. But we don't mandate—in a free society, we don't just tell them: Do what you are told or else. But that is what is happening.

It is not just happening here in the Senate—although, the Senate is setting a terrible example for the country. Many universities are still doing this. It is actually medical malpractice to require these vaccines for kids. It turns out when you look at the incidence of myocarditis, over 90 percent of the heart inflammation that occurs in young people occurs after the second dose.

You can get rid of 90 percent of—admittedly, not a real common problem—but you can get rid of 90 percent of the risk of this vaccine by not requiring more than one. But we are not talking about just the second dose, where 90 percent of the inflammation comes from the second dose. We are talking about Senate Democrats—because Republicans would like to get rid of this—Senate Democrats are requiring three vaccines. There is absolutely no scientific evidence. In fact, when this went to the committee studying this, the first committee that looked at this was the FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, and Dr. Paul Offit sits on this committee.

They voted not to advise giving the booster to anyone unless they are over 65. They said: Let's look at the risks and the benefits. The disease COVID appears to be affecting the older generation. They are more at risk. We can put up with some risk for the vaccine; but for the kids, it is not worth it. The committee voted.

So then it went from the FDA's committee to the CDC's vaccine committee. Guess what? They voted against recommending the booster also. They said, reserve the booster for those who are at risk, for at-risk populations.

So how did we get a booster mandate? How did we get a booster advice from the CDC saying everybody from the age of 2 months should get a booster? How did we get it? The CDC political appointee of the Biden administration overrode the FDA vaccine committee and overrode the CDC committee.

Dr. Paul Offit was and still is on the Vaccine Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, and he voted to reserve the booster for those at risk. He is the director of Vaccine Education Center and professor of pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

He is not someone who is opposed to vaccines. He spent his whole life advocating for vaccines. He is on a com-

mittee that has approved the COVID vaccine. He just simply said the vaccines should be targeted, and it should be extended and advised—not even mandated but advised—for people over 65 but not for kids. His committee voted no. The FDA committee on vaccines voted no; don't give the vaccine to kids.

The CDC committee on vaccines voted no; don't give it to kids.

What do Senate Democrats want? Put their heads in the sand and make a political decision because they love central authority to mandate that these kids get three vaccines, even though the science goes against all of it.

Paul Offit, when asked whether or not his son who was 24 would get the vaccine, he said:

He shouldn't get the vaccine.

So we are stuck with a situation where there is no evidence and no historical precedent for mandating this kind of treatment. There is no historical precedent for mandating that the Senate and Senate Democrats intervene between the doctor of these children and making their own medical decisions. It is taking away the idea that risk and benefit are debated and discussed based on your risks and benefits. So what we find is that advice that actually probably is good, if you are over 65, to consider getting a booster—although it still should be voluntary—we are going against the best advice to actually promote that these kids get a vaccine that may well be harmful to them.

The CDC has admitted it doesn't stop transmission. But then you want to ask yourself, what are other countries—what are they doing around the world? They looked at 23 million people, ages 12 and up, in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. What did they find? They found that after two doses of the mRNA COVID vaccine, the risk of myocarditis was higher than compared with those who were not vaccinated. This is exactly why much of Europe is now limiting the vaccine and not giving the vaccine to certain age groups.

What they found in these studies is that adolescent males, particularly between the ages of 12 and 26, are at a heightened risk for this. In fact, Tracy Beth Hoeg, in her study, looked at the possibility of adverse cardiac events versus a possibility that someone their age could go to the hospital over a 120-day period. They found that the possibility of an adverse cardiac effect was about five times greater than any of these kids even going to the hospital.

But what we did find is—and this is why several countries have actually limited this—Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway now restrict the mRNA vaccine and don't advise giving the vaccine to this age group, particularly don't advise giving them three vaccines.

A study in December in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* found about 14.7

cases of myocarditis—actually, 1.47 cases per 10,000 in ages 18 to 29. They also found that those who had the heart inflammation, 3 months later were still suffering from the inflammation of the heart.

Dr. Offit, who sits on the committee that voted against recommending this for adolescents and for children, wrote in an op-ed that “[a] healthy young person with two mRNA vaccine doses is extremely unlikely to be hospitalized with covid, so the case for risking any side effects—such as myocarditis—diminishes substantially.” That is why they did recommend against the third vaccine, which is exactly the opposite of what the Democrats are doing. They do and want to mandate three vaccines on these kids.

As one editorial put it last year, if being boosted becomes a prerequisite for participation in normal life, the vaccine’s diminishing efficacy means the boosting campaign will never end.

Dr. Marty Makary, professor of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, wrote in the Wall Street Journal:

The U.S. government is pushing Covid-19 vaccine boosters for 16- and 17-year-olds without supporting clinical data. A large Israeli population study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine . . . found that the risk of Covid death in people under 30 with two vaccine shots was zero.

Germany showed zero deaths among healthy kids ages 5 to 17.

There is no scientific rationale for mandating three COVID vaccines for healthy kids. Even World Health Organization Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said last year that “there’s no evidence” that suggests healthy children and adolescents need booster shots—no evidence. This is the head of the WHO. These are not opponents of vaccines. These are people saying that there is no evidence and that it might harm these kids to get vaccinated, and yet Democrats will vote today, the lot of them, to say that basically we must force these kids to get three vaccines or they can’t be up here.

Now, you might say: Well, gosh, we are just so worried and we don’t know everything and so what do we do?

Well, how about all the other people who work up here? At any point in time, the other 10 or 15 people in this room, are they required to get vaccines? No. We are only requiring one group subset to do it. These kids have to get three vaccines. They are the least likely to get sick from COVID. They get COVID, and they don’t even know it. The vaccine doesn’t stop them from getting COVID. They have naturally acquired immunity as well. If you don’t ask yourself what that means, you are not paying attention to any science.

Wouldn’t you want to know whether they have had it? Even if you really thought a vaccine mandate was great, what if I have already had COVID? Do I need three more vaccines? Because I have already had COVID, I developed natural immunity.

Dr. Martin Kulldorff of Harvard Medical School says that mandating people who have already had COVID that they still get vaccinated makes zero sense from a scientific point of view, and it makes zero sense from a public health point of view. A study in Lancet supported this view, stating that current evidence does not appear to show a need for boosting in the general population.

That is why the FDA committee and the CDC committee both voted against advising it. It is not only bad advice; it is a horrific mandate. It would be one thing if you want to give advice to tell people that we think it is a good idea, but it is another to tell them they have got no choice. Do you want to participate in the elite program here in the Nation’s Senate? You can’t come unless you do what Democrats want, submit to three vaccines, even though it may increase your risk of heart inflammation. They don’t care. Mandates are fine.

A study at Lancet looked at this and said that it was a bad idea. It says: Currently available evidence does not show the need for widespread use of booster vaccination in populations that have received an effective primary vaccine or who have already been infected with the disease.

When we consider the rules for the pages, we ought to ask: Will these policies be expected to continue indefinitely? The virus mutates about every 3 or 4 months. You have got a brandnew virus. You have got a virus now you didn’t have 3 or 4 months ago. The vaccines also lose their potency. Are you going to mandate until the end of time? It is also not the same.

Are you going to stick your head in the sand and say this is 2020? No, the virus in 2020 actually was more lethal.

One of the good things about viral evolution is they typically evolve to become less dangerous and more transmissible. You can catch COVID by looking at somebody wrong, but fortunately it is not as deadly as it once was.

Are there still some people dying from COVID? Yes, people who are at high risk. If you go to a doctor and you have chest pain and you are 12 years old, he doesn’t or she doesn’t treat you the same way as if you would go in and you are 60 years old.

If you walk into an emergency room and you are 15 years old with chest pain, they usually might think of asthma or other problems but typically not a heart attack. People are treated differently based on their age. Doctors think of what is common in that age group.

If I go in with chest pain, they are going to do heart enzymes. They are going look for a heart attack. That is the first thing they are going to look for. But they don’t treat everyone the same.

This is blindly what we are being told by the Democrats; that everybody is the same, submit or else. But it is not

just the pages whom they are hurting here. It is not just the pages that they are increasing their risk for this heart inflammation. They are setting an example and other universities are doing it. Still, tens of thousands of young American kids are being forced to take three vaccines.

You say: Well, they are not being forced. They can choose not to go to Yale or Harvard. What if your dream had always been to go to one of these schools? You have to give up your medical freedom and your good judgment just simply so you can do exactly what Democrats tell you to do?

Multiple scientific studies have shown a heightened risk of this heart inflammation or myocarditis for children and teenagers after taking the vaccine. Ninety percent of the myocarditis comes after the second or the third vaccine. If you simply went to one vaccine, you would get rid of 90 percent of the problem. And yet, they are still insisting that we do something that is actually medical malpractice, that these kids be forced to take three.

Multiple countries have begun restricting the vaccine for certain age groups. Germany, France, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden all have restricted Moderna’s vaccine for young people. Norway, South America, and the UK all chose to recommend only one dose of Pfizer due to the risk of cardiovascular side effects for boosters in children. And yet what we would get today is not a discussion, not we are open to compromise, no maybe the science has changed and we will re-evaluate it; you will get from the Democrats: No, get three boosters or you can’t come to the Senate.

Why is the U.S. Senate choosing to ignore the risk other countries have acknowledged when mandating these vaccines for young people who are in peak physical condition? What happened to a belief in medical choice? What happened to a belief in medical freedom?

Public health measures should be backed up with proof that the benefits outweigh the burdens, and if you want to treat everyone the same—you want to say that teenagers are the same as 75-year-olds—that is not good medicine; that is not good science.

There is no evidence that when it comes to vaccination and booster mandates, especially for teenagers who as a group are less vulnerable to the virus than any Senator, that is why I am asking unanimous consent today that we pass my resolution to get rid of this ridiculous and unscientific mandate.

So, therefore, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 336, which is at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. First of all, I want to assure the pages that we normally don't spend this much time debating you guys.

At the end of the July session, there was a verbal assault on pages who were in the Rotunda, which caused both Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL to rise to the pages' defense.

We have now spent an inordinate amount of time this week debating healthcare policies related to the pages.

Second, while Senator PAUL and I often find common cause, I am continually stunned at his unseriousness about the scope of this ongoing tragedy. No matter how many times I hear Senator PAUL rail against vaccines, I am still heartbroken by the fact that so many of my colleagues don't understand the devastation that has been wrought in this country, as 1.1 million Americans—1.1 million Americans—have died from COVID, in large part, because of the ongoing attacks against vaccines that work that has undermined the public's confidence in one of the very best tools that we have to combat the worst of this disease and this virus.

I am looking at a scientific study from earlier this year naming COVID-19 as the eighth leading cause of death for children in this country. It is true, it is rare for a child to die from COVID, but when you have 1.1 million people dying of COVID in this country, of course there is going to be an unacceptable number of children who die from COVID.

COVID-19 deaths displaced influenza and pneumonia, becoming the top cause of death for children caused by any infectious or respiratory disease. It caused substantially more deaths for children than any vaccine-preventable disease, historically, this study showed.

And so, yes, our pages are working for us. We are responsible for them while they are here. And, yes, children are not immune from COVID. And, lastly, the only mandate that we are talking about as we consider Senator PAUL's resolution is the mandate in his resolution. Right now, there is no statutory or rules-based vaccine mandate. The Senate has been silent on this question.

So it is up to the public servants who run the Senate and the medical advice they rely on as to whether or not pages should be required to get vaccinated.

There is no mandate.

Senator PAUL's resolution is a mandate. Senator PAUL says under no circumstances can pages be required to be vaccinated, even if the virus mutates, even if a new vaccine comes along that is even more efficacious—under no circumstances can there be a requirement for a vaccine. Under current policy, under current statute, under the cur-

rent rules of the Senate, it is up to the Senate leadership. It is up to the medical advice that they rely on, and they could change that advice as time goes on. Under Senator PAUL's mandate, they could only make one choice.

COVID cases are rising. People are at risk again, and this constant campaign to use every mechanism possible to try to undermine people's faith in medicine and science and vaccines is not just about the pages who serve here; it is about the entire American public that is disserved by a U.S. Senate that continues to try to undermine the basic tools that we have to try to fight this ongoing epidemic that still plagues too many in this Nation.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in no way, shape, or form have I opposed vaccines for those who are at risk. Back when my in-laws, who are 92 and 86, first became eligible for the vaccine, the first thing we did was call the health department to see if we could get them a vaccine. Unfortunately, the health department wouldn't answer the phone, but they did have a useful message. They said, if we knew anybody who was not wearing a mask, we could report them to the police, but they didn't do anything about vaccines.

But I have never been opposed to vaccines. In fact, a lot of the vaccine hesitancy that we have in our country comes from the unscientific, unfounded, and half-baked ideas of the Democrats on this. When Democrats tell you that we should force 15-year-olds to be vaccinated—because that makes no sense and because their parents know it makes no sense and they know it makes no sense—that leads to the distrust of the government on other fronts.

So I mentioned earlier—and this, apparently, was lost and not necessarily received by the other side—that the FDA committee, in looking at boosters, advised not to give boosters to teenagers. Now, they hide behind that by saying: Oh, there is no mandate. Ask these kids if there is a mandate. Ask their parents. Ask the media. Call them up. Ask them: Is there a mandate? No, they can't be here unless they have three vaccines. There is a mandate. We have the chance to undo the mandate, and that is what the vote would be about.

The FDA didn't even advise giving it. The FDA didn't even advise giving it to them, but they definitely didn't advise mandating it. The CDC said the same thing. The only reason we got any kind of approval for this booster is that the political appointee of the Biden administration overrode both of the vaccine committees in order to approve it.

Normally, you would have to prove efficacy—a reduction in hospitalization. Well, transmission would be one. The Senator came to the floor and said this is a vaccine-preventable disease.

Well, this isn't a vaccine-preventable disease because it doesn't stop transmission; it doesn't stop you from getting it.

But here is the thing: If you look at kids and boosters and you want to prove whether they are good for kids—and this is all we are talking about. We are not talking about the elderly or the infirm or people who have risk factors. We are talking about these kids. If you look at these kids and you ask, "Do they have any risk factors or are any of them dying?" we will refer to some statistics here. Well, the statistics aren't accurate. If you look at healthy kids—there was not one healthy kid. The answer wasn't a few. It was zero. In Germany, zero healthy kids died. In Israel, zero healthy kids died. A handful of unfortunate cases of children in our country did die. I think it was a little over 100 kids in a country of 330 million, and, sadly, every one of those cases had a severe medical illness and a problem.

I think it is an abomination that they want to say, "Oh, we are the only ones who care about the million people who died," when we are the only ones who have been trying to figure out where this virus came from. For the last 3 years, I have been asking every day: Did this virus escape from a lab?

And not one Democrat will stand up and say: I will help you find out. We will look at it together.

Every Democrat has said: We don't care. We don't know, and we don't want to know where the virus came from.

But if it came from a lab, maybe we should quit funding this research. Should we quit sending our money to China, to a lab that operates in an unsafe manner? That would be a way to show you care about a million people.

But this is, make no mistake, a mandate on these young pages. It is wrong. It is malpractice. It shouldn't happen. There is no scientific evidence, and the government's own vaccine committees don't advise it. Yet Democrats, today, have said they don't care about the pages. They don't care about their parents. They don't care about their medical privacy. They don't care about their ability to discern the risks and benefits of having a medical procedure. So medical choice be damned. Democrats are going to tell you what to do, and just remember that. Just remember that they don't care at all about your own choice about your own body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the Members of the Senate know, this week, we are expected to vote on a series of three appropriations bills—3 out of the 12 appropriations bills that passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee a couple of months ago. With just 2½ weeks left before the end of the fiscal year, time is of the essence. Unless Congress funds the government in the next 18 days, the government will shut down.

Now, you might ask yourself, if these appropriations bills passed out of the committee with strong bipartisan votes months ago, why are we waiting until 18 days before the deadline to begin the debate and vote on these appropriations bills—and not all of the appropriations bills, just a subset of three.

Well, we know shutdowns do not benefit anybody. I notice on social media there is a lot of anger out there in Washington, and people say: Yes, let's shut down the government. That is a good thing. It is too big. It is too intrusive. It is doing things I don't like.

But, if you think about this for a moment, with a shutdown, servicemembers—members of our military—will have to work without pay. Veterans won't get the benefits or services that they have earned. Mortgages and other loan applications will be delayed. Passport processing will grind to a halt. Maybe there is even a risk that Medicare and Social Security payments will not be delivered on time. So shutdowns are a blunt instrument. I think we have realized that, with a shutdown, when the government reopens, the same problem is staring you right in the face, so you might as well deal with it on the front end rather than on the back end.

From minor inconveniences to major disruptions, the American people are affected by lapses in government funding. We have learned that lesson before. The surest way to avoid any funding drama, which is what we are experiencing now, drama—the surest way to avoid that is to pass spending bills on time and in a transparent, normal process, something we call regular order around here. That means using the processes that are already in place to write, debate, and pass quality legislation. And it is done in a transparent sort of way, where every Senator—all 100 Senators—can participate. If they have got a better idea, they can offer an amendment. They can try to persuade colleagues, and they can get a vote.

Well, at the start of this summer, I was feeling somewhat optimistic about the government funding process. The day the Senate passed legislation to lift the debt ceiling and curb government spending, Leader SCHUMER and Leader MCCONNELL issued a joint statement about the funding process. They asked the chair and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee to get the regular process back on track. They also pledged to work in a bipartisan fashion to advance funding bills and noted “expeditious floor consideration would be key to preventing automatic funding cuts.”

Well, there is no question our friends on the Appropriations Committee, led by Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, have done their job. They did. As a matter of fact, I think three of these bills—maybe the three in front of us—passed with unanimous votes in the Appropriations Committee, and all of

them passed with broad bipartisan support. The point is the Appropriations Committee passed all 12 regular appropriations bills before the Senate adjourned for the August recess. To show you how rare that is these days, this is the first time in 5 years that the Appropriations Committee actually processed all 12 bills.

I want to commend Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS and the entire Appropriations Committee, on a bipartisan basis, for doing their job and for doing it on a timely basis.

Well, thanks to their hard work, the Senate was in a strong position to advance these appropriations bills on an individual basis or, if necessary, to combine a few of them in what sometimes are called minibuses. We were well positioned to do that well in advance of the September 30 deadline.

As Senator SCHUMER affirmed in that joint statement earlier this summer, expeditious floor consideration is key, but his actions don't match those words. Today, more than 80 days after the Appropriations Committee passed its first spending bill, the full Senate is beginning—beginning—to consider the first batch of those bills. This is 80 days after the first bill passed. That is not what anybody would call expeditious.

The American people may or may not know it, but the majority leader has tremendous power. He has near-full ball control in terms of the Senate's agenda and the timing of legislation. He actually determines which bills come to the floor, when they receive a vote, and how many amendments will be considered. The majority leader is in the driver's seat. Senator SCHUMER could have called any of these bills up for consideration, debate, and a vote at any time in the last couple of months, starting with the first one that was passed 80 days ago.

Senator SCHUMER has been around here a long time. He is a smart guy. He is a shrewd operator and a worthy adversary when it comes to politics, but he knows the Senate can't complete its work in 18 days. Plus, in addition to the 12 funding bills, we need to pass the farm bill, the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, and the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. That is a lot of work in an impossibly short amount of time. The majority leader knows that, and he knows, if he actually wanted to keep his commitment to the Senate, to Senator COLLINS, and to Senator MURRAY, that he should have started this process far earlier than today.

The Senate had a 2-week recess over the Fourth of July, and we had a 5-week recess in August. There has got to be some time in there that we could have used on something other than routine nominations, whereby Senator SCHUMER could have put these bills on the floor, and we could have kept to his commitment of the expeditious consideration of the bills. I understand that these recesses are sacrosanct. I am not

sure we needed 5 full weeks for the August recess. Maybe 4 weeks would have been good but with a little notice so that everybody could plan.

My point is that Senator SCHUMER, apparently, had no interest in seeing each of these 12 bills being voted on on the Senate floor before the deadline. So here we are.

Now, you may ask: Why would Senator SCHUMER sabotage the regular order process for the appropriations bills? Well, there are a couple of reasons. One is that it maximizes his power because he knows, once you get down to the deadline, that four or five people are the ones who are going to basically figure out how to get out of this box canyon.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Members of the Senate, all 98 or so of us, are left with no options. We can't engage on behalf of our constituents. We can't cut what needs to be cut. We can't prioritize the spending. We can't offer amendments. We can't vote. All of that goes down the drain when the majority leader sabotages the timing of this appropriations process.

Senator SCHUMER waited 18 days before a potential government shutdown before putting the first funding bill on the floor. Now, if there is a shutdown, and I don't recommend it, it was engineered by the majority leader himself, which is why it should be called a Schumer shutdown.

I hope that doesn't happen, but he knows that the House is in a different place than the Senate in terms of the spending levels. He knows that Speaker MCCARTHY has a razor-thin majority. He knows the politics of what is happening in the House. He has already been quick to blame the House for a potential shutdown. But, as I have explained here, any potential shutdown is Senator SCHUMER's own making.

The press has already taken hook, line, and sinker the narrative that this is somehow the fault of Republicans in the House.

While the majority leader is quick to say the Senate passed 12 bipartisan appropriations bills through the committee, we are engaging in a bipartisan process this week, maybe next week. Well, he knows we can't get through this process between now and the end of this month. So he knows that basically what he has engineered is one of two options: He has either engineered a shutdown, or he has engineered a continuing resolution, which essentially means postponing or continuing the funding at current levels to some future date. Of course, that is going to have to be negotiated, what that date looks like.

This is not a genuine effort to return to regular order. It is, frankly, political theater. It is an attempt to make good on the promise to return to regular order without actually doing it.

I have been fortunate to have been in the Senate for some time now. I have seen this place work well, where every Senator gets to contribute to the process, where the committees do their

work, where the majority leader gives the Members of the Senate an adequate time to debate bills and to vote on amendments and to pass legislation. When you do that, it is much easier to build consensus, bipartisan consensus, to actually get things done, and the work product is far superior because everybody has had a hand in crafting it.

Every Member of this Chamber—and by extension, all 330 billion of our constituents—deserves a say in this legislation. Regardless of where they are from, which committees they sit on, or how long they have been in the Senate, all 100 Senators should have a voice in this process.

The majority leader has squandered valuable time that could have been spent debating, amending, and passing appropriations bills on a timely basis. That is why everyone knows that a continuing resolution is the probable outcome of this disaster.

It did not have to be this way. And if there is a shutdown, which I hope there is not for the reasons I have tried to explain, I think it should be called the Schumer shutdown.

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.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise with many of my colleagues today to mark a new era for patients in this country.

Last year, we decided that enough is enough, and we put an end to the sweetheart deal that let drug companies charge seniors on Medicare whatever they wanted for some of the most common lifesaving and life-improving prescription meds on the market. Now the Big Pharma companies are trying to stop this legislation with absurd lawsuits.

I will talk about that effort in a moment, but for now, let me say unequivocally that allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices is a victory for seniors, a victory for taxpayers, a victory for patients and their families, and a victory for America.

Mr. President, thank you for your work on this as the Senator from Vermont. When you were the House Member for Vermont, you led this bill in the House, and I led it in the Senate. We worked together to allow for negotiation on drugs. Finally, this bill has been passed into law as part of larger legislation.

A number of our colleagues, including Senator WYDEN of Oregon, have long been leaders on this issue.

I think we all know this progress could not have come soon enough. We know that Americans pay the highest

prices in the world for the same brand name prescription drugs. In fact, prescription drug prices in the United States are more than 250 percent higher than drug prices in other industrialized countries. Not only are prices sky high, we have all watched them get higher.

As Senator WYDEN has worked on it; as you, Mr. President, have worked on this; as Senator SCHUMER has worked on this, we have continued to battle, sadly, the other side when it comes to putting our provision into law that allows Medicare to negotiate better prices. Finally, we did it on our own. We did it on our own but not really. We did it with the seniors of this country, with AARP at our side, with so many advocacy groups.

Taxpayers should not have to foot the bill to have the money go into higher profits for companies that already are making much more than the average company on the stock exchange.

Not only are we seeing high prices, but it literally makes it unaffordable for some patients. What good are treatments and cures if they go unused because they are unaffordable? The average price of the 25 brand name medications that Medicare spends the most on, 25 top blockbuster, has tripled on average, tripled since the drug hit the U.S. market.

Think about it. We all believe in competition. We believe in capitalism. Well, if you allow for real competition and generics to get on and you don't mess around and play around with the patent system and change this little thing so you get a longer patent and you don't put into law a sweetheart deal that says Medicare can't negotiate any prices for 50 million seniors—which, by the way, affects everyone else because when that, the biggest negotiating group in the country, is locked out from the table, when they are locked out of the room, it hurts everyone else as well.

This change alone, when the administration just put the first 10 drugs on the negotiating table, 900—900—we have so many people involved and who will be affected by this that we will save over \$300 billion. That is a big, big deal.

Not only are prices sky high, we know that the numbers only grow more shocking as you learn about the people behind them and about the profit margins of the big drug companies.

I am thinking of Kerry and his wife, who live in Cloquet, MN. Both take Jardiance. This prescription drug costs them \$750 each for just 1 month's supply, and that is on top of the cost of their other meds.

I know of a 71-year-old Medicare beneficiary from Oak Grove, MN, who also relies on Jardiance to control a heart issue. Last year, the drug cost her about \$530 for a 90-day supply, roughly a sixth of her take-home pay from her job at a senior care residence.

Another Minnesotan, a 67-year-old Medicare beneficiary from Glenville,

paid roughly \$750 total for a 90-day supply of Jardiance and Januvia and stopped taking the drugs altogether due to the cost.

Then there is another patient from Rochester, MN, southern Minnesota, who was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. She was relieved to find that she would be able to take an oral medication instead of invasive chemotherapy treatments, but it was going to cost \$680 per month, nearly half of her monthly Social Security check. Her daughter applied for grants and figured out a way to make ends meet, but it just shouldn't be that hard.

Those are just a few of the many Minnesotans who have had to tighten their belts to satisfy Big Pharma's greed. You will hear the stories from Oregon. You will hear the stories from every State in the country. In fact, Big Pharma makes almost, as I said, three times the average profit margin of other industries on the S&P 500 exchange, three times larger profit on average of other industries on the S&P stock market. Yet nearly 30 percent of Americans say they haven't taken their medications as prescribed due to costs. That is unacceptable.

The Presiding Officer, over in the House, and I led these bills to get rid of that sweetheart deal. And, yes, we got this in through the Inflation Reduction Act, got it signed into law.

A couple of years ago, Medicare announced the first 10 drugs selected for price negotiation, including, as I mentioned, Jardiance, which treats heart failure and diabetes; Januvia, another prescription for diabetes; Enbrel, for rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis treatment; and Xarelto and Eliquis, medications to prevent blood clots. Taken together, those two—Xarelto and Eliquis, to prevent blood clots—are taken by 5 million Medicare beneficiaries.

I want to correct one statistic I used. It is up to 9 million Americans with Medicare Part D who take the drugs that were selected, and they have spent—I said 300—they have spent \$3.4 billion in out-of-pocket costs. Up to 9 million Americans with Medicare Part D take those 10 drugs, paying an average of between \$121 and \$5,200 a month out-of-pocket. And \$5,200 a month—how much is that per year? The pages can do the math. That is \$60,000 on average per year.

What does this mean for a senior on a fixed income? That relief is finally coming.

For years, we toiled on this legislation, as the Presiding Officer and Senator WYDEN know, but it was Joe Biden who finally got it over the finish line and signed it into law, giving Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies to help bring the price of medications in the United States down.

The law also, as we all know, has other provisions—\$35 out-of-pocket monthly cap on insulin. This new policy has lowered the cost of daily living for over 1.5 million Americans already.

We now have drug companies that have voluntarily, for non-seniors, capped it. I predicted this would happen—several of us did—because it is kind of hard to say: Well, seniors get \$35, but a 15-year-old has to pay \$100 a month. So you are starting to see that change. That law also provides free recommended vaccines, like the shingles or pneumonia shots. That is going to help the average Minnesota senior save 100 bucks. Then, of course, the legislation puts a \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket spending for Medicare beneficiaries starting in 2025.

What happened? Lawsuits. Johnson & Johnson—let's name them—Johnson & Johnson has sued. I thought when we passed it, signed into law by the President of United States—anyone who knows "Schoolhouse Rock!" knows you have both Houses, a bill signed by the President, it is law. What do these guy do? They go out, and they sue in court, like: Oh, we made a sweetheart deal 20 years ago, and we want it back, so we are going to sue. They hired tons of lawyers.

Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Novartis, as well as the industry trade group, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, better known as PhRMA—they have all sued.

We know that this effort is patently absurd. Government Agencies negotiating on drug prices isn't novel or unprecedented. The VA has done it for years.

End story: We persisted after nearly \$400 million was spent on lobbying in Congress. After every Member of Congress had three lobbyists assigned to them, we still passed this bill.

We still passed this bill. So big surprise, they have gone to court. But we will win there, too. Their legal argument is somewhat absurd, that somehow this is a taking, when in fact it is their choice to participate in capitalism and provide these drugs and be part of a competition. It is not a taking if they don't want to sell drugs to 50 million Americans. I guess that is up to them.

These first 10 drugs are just the beginning. We must go then to the next 15, the next 15, the next 20. That is how the law works and, at the same time, take on these patent cases that Senator GRASSLEY and I have done, Senator CORNYN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, others in Judiciary are leaving those to take on the sham petitions, take on the product hopping, and take on all the bad stuff that keeps competitors off the market.

But in the end, this should be a celebration. This has finally begun, and they are not going to end the celebration for 50 million seniors with all their lawyers, no matter how many they hire, and no matter how many they bring to the courthouse.

With that, I yield to my wonderful colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Senator KLOBUCHAR has said it very well, and I want to pick up on her remarks. And we are here to reflect on the extraordinary achievement in the Inflation Reduction Act in order to provide for the first time a real measure of relief—a real measure of relief—for these staggering costs seniors and others pay for medicine in our country. And I am going to talk about the negotiation issue.

And I want to say, this is just the next and essential piece of what we are doing to get relief for the consumer. For example, through most of the summer, I talked about the price-gouging penalty that we got in the law.

And I see my friend Senator STABENOW, my colleague who has been my seatmate on the Finance Committee—we sure wish she wasn't retiring—but the price-gouging penalty is the first such thing in Federal law. This is a penalty that it has imposed, as Senator STABENOW remembers, when drug companies hiked their prices over inflation. They have to pay a rebate to Medicare, which is used to lower the out-of-pocket costs for seniors. And Senator STABENOW and I have been out crunching the numbers on this issue. And one of the areas that we found is that these drugs, particularly those that are administered in a doctor's office, already are producing massive savings.

Senator STABENOW, we found a drug a couple of weeks ago where seniors are saving several hundred dollars per dose—per dose—I would say to my colleagues—on one of these cancer drugs you get in the office. And this is just the beginning, as Senator KLOBUCHAR has said.

So this legislation, which didn't, unfortunately, get a single Republican vote, represents a seismic shift in the relationship between consumers and Big Pharma and especially authority for Medicare to negotiate prices of prescription drugs with manufacturers.

And I just want to take a few minutes to pick up on this issue of the barrage of legal actions Big Pharma and their allies are taking to stop Medicare drug price negotiation. And we have been talking about all these lawsuits that the big companies—and I gather the Chamber of Commerce is with them all the way—have filed to prevent seniors and families from getting a break on medicine.

So these legal actions that the big companies and the Chamber of Commerce are taking beg the question that I just want to offer up this afternoon: What would happen in America if our country didn't negotiate in our economy?

The fact is, negotiating on price is the underpinning of the American marketplace. It ensures you bring two sides together to get a fair deal. And the question really has to become: Are these companies that have filed these suits really arguing that the government shouldn't try to get a fair price

on medicine for more than 50 million American seniors?

Senator STABENOW, that is the essential question—are they really arguing to the American people—and by the way, this is taxpayer money, much of this is taxpayer money—are they really arguing that seniors and taxpayers shouldn't get a fair deal?

Now, the fact is that Medicare, in particular, with such strong taxpayer backing has a special argument for being a program that negotiates to get fair prices on because Medicare is not just a slip of paper, as we have examined in the Finance Committee often.

I see Senator WHITEHOUSE, our distinguished colleague.

Medicare is not just a slip of paper with a few words on it. Medicare is a guarantee; it is a guarantee for seniors of good quality coverage. And it just begs the question: If you have a guarantee and a guarantee of something specific—good quality coverage—wouldn't you automatically say that the taxpayer should be able to have a friend and advocate negotiating for them in order to get the best possible deal? And I think the answer to that question is pretty obvious.

Now, Big Pharma has, unfortunately, taken a very different position. They have been guarding the prohibition on price negotiation in this country like the Holy Grail. And they don't like that we have closed this chapter. And the first 10 drugs were not drawn out of a hat. Congress made it clear in black letter law the criteria of the Federal Government has to use.

And so what we are doing now, Senator STABENOW—we have been talking to many of the members of the Finance Committee—is we are looking at the fact that these 10 drugs also were ones where we made sure and put in the criteria specifically where you had significant taxpayer support in terms of getting the drug to market. So again, another argument for why you ought to negotiate, the costliest drugs and drugs that get to market with taxpayer money.

Now, Senator KLOBUCHAR, I thought, very eloquently described a number of the drugs, but I think—and I want to give my colleagues a chance to make their remarks—I think we ought to reflect on the importance of making sure that, when Big Pharma has been double-dipping into taxpayers' wallets for these important medications—groundbreaking research from the National Institutes of Health are another research arm of the Federal Government. Then, after the research was funded by taxpayers, manufacturers sell the drugs developed using taxpayer-funded research back to taxpayers at sky-high prices, are they really not going to have a chance to get a better deal?

Enbrel, which is the drug we mention often on the floor, was discovered at Massachusetts General Hospital using NIH-supported research. The hospital sold the patent rights to the drug manufacturer that has profited off Enbrel

at the expense, Senator STABENOW, of taxpayers for now going on 30 years.

My colleagues are going to have a chance to go into further detail about this, but I think when you are talking about Big Pharma and a new law that considers among a host of other factors prior to Federal financial support, provided by the taxpayers that we have the honor to represent, it means that the government should stand up for seniors and taxpayers to make sure that they get a good deal.

An investment in basic science funded by American taxpayers is based on our record in the Finance Committee, often the foundation of the new drug—and when drug manufacturers use this taxpayer-funded research to make a drug, the price of the drug should be lower to reflect taxpayer investment, and you get the best possible deal for those taxpayers when you negotiate.

And I will just close by saying, I think my colleagues know from talking to people at home, most people when you discuss this issue think it is absurd that for all these years, nobody could negotiate for them. What they are surprised about is not so much that a law passed, even though Senator KLOBUCHAR talked about beating all these lobbyists, what they are surprised about is how people with a straight face have made the case for years that, with all of the taxpayers' support for medicine that I just outlined, that you wouldn't have started negotiating for taxpayers and seniors a long time ago.

I really appreciate Senator KLOBUCHAR doing this. I see the Chair, who has been our champion in the other body for many years, my seatmate, Senator KLOBUCHAR—we have an exciting new Member from the west who has also joined us. This is an important chance to really think through where we are headed. And Senator STABENOW knows we have got a lot more to do. We are taking on the PBMs, the middle men, who are also a factor in driving up prices.

But tonight is a chance because Senator KLOBUCHAR has taken this time for us to outline what the negotiation issue is all about. I have tried to go through some of the history about how you were stunned to hear over the years that you couldn't negotiate. That has been changed.

My colleagues are going to continue this discussion, and you are going hear a lot more about it because, for all of those people, all of those people that I knew, starting with the Gray Panthers who were standing in those pharmacy lines, getting mugged at the pharmacy counter trying to figure out how they were going to choose between their food and their rent, they are going have new hope because prices are going to be negotiated. There is going to be hope for them, and there is going to be hope for American taxpayers. And it is long overdue.

I yield to my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, when I first arrived in this building a couple of years ago, Senator KLOBUCHAR—one of the first things she brought up was the cost of pharmaceuticals, drug prescriptions for the American people.

Well, this is the beginning of the end for Americans getting the short end of the stick from pharmaceutical companies peddling prescription drugs. For years, we all have been paying much more than those in other countries pay for the same drugs. But now, Medicare has taken the first step towards ending that stranglehold on lifesaving drugs.

Let's be clear: This is not some unfair assault on global drug companies. Rather, this is a transition that is going to give Americans the same opportunity to afford lifesaving drugs as others in other countries are given.

According to Kaiser Family Foundation, the U.S. spends far more than any other industrialized country for prescription drugs, from getting charged \$150 more for Xarelto—which reduces the risk of coronary artery disease—to getting ripped off by paying \$1,600 for Enbrel, an arthritis drug.

Eliquis, a very common blood thinner—and one that I have occasion to use myself—prevents blood clots but costs an extra \$514 out of pocket for Medicare enrollees in Colorado. In Germany, it is only \$96. It is five times more in the United States.

Why should we pay more than Germans and Canadians and the Swiss? What possible rules of common sense should permit drug companies the right to charge us many times more than what the rest of the world pays for the same drugs?

Part of the answer is that, up until now, we have let them. Medicare—the largest buyer of prescription drugs in the United States—has never been allowed to negotiate the price of drugs with pharmaceutical companies.

As Senator WYDEN was making painfully clear, the losses to the American people have been substantial. Until now, Medicare has had to accept whatever price Big Pharma dictated, even when Medicare knew we were subsidizing the rest of the world.

Well, that changes today. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act we passed last year, Medicare finally has the ability to negotiate with Big Pharma and get us a fair price for these drugs. Medicare will take the 10 most expensive drugs each year and negotiate their prices down.

But the impact goes far beyond the impact just on seniors or just for those 10 drugs. First, every year—every year—Medicare will negotiate down 10 more drugs, so the costs will keep coming down each year. In future years, Medicare will be able to negotiate even more drugs.

Second, because Medicare is the largest buyer in the American market, there is a darn good chance that other big buyers, like private insurance companies, are going to negotiate to bring

the price they pay down to what Medicare will pay. A falling tide lowers all prices.

So what exactly does that mean now? Medicare has announced the first drugs it will negotiate. They include the two I mentioned, Xarelto and Enbrel, along with eight others. Four of the drugs treat diabetes. The others treat or prevent blood clots, heart failure, kidney disease, blood cancers, and arthritis.

In 2022, Medicare enrollees taking these 10 drugs paid \$3.4 billion in out-of-pocket costs. That is what they paid out of their own savings. The average per-enrollee cost was a staggering \$5,247 for the most expensive drug on the list, Imbruvica, which treats blood cancer.

It is a big deal in every State. It is a big deal in my home State of Colorado. Over 100,000 Medicare enrollees in Colorado take these 10 drugs, and 43,000, including me, take Eliquis—this is a blood thinner to help prevent blood clots—with an average out-of-pocket cost of over \$500. Twenty-one thousand take Xarelto and pay \$447, on average, out-of-pocket costs.

The bottom line: Seniors on Medicare are getting ripped off, and going forward, they are going to spend less. They are finally going to spend less on the prescription drugs they need, in many cases, just to stay alive. If all goes according to plan, the rest of us will also pay less once insurance companies follow Medicare's lead.

This isn't a fix to all the problems in the healthcare system in this country, but it is a pretty big step, and it is a reminder that we are not helpless to fix the other problems we face that are still out there. All it takes is the will to come together and get things done. Hopefully, this is just the beginning.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I will be very brief. I wanted to come to the floor to thank all of my colleagues for coming to the floor and talking about this issue. Our Democratic caucus has been persistent champions in the fight to lower drug costs for Americans.

I want to thank Senator KLOBUCHAR, who has been such a leader on this issue, for calling us together tonight.

It was said year after year, decade after decade: They are never going to take on the big drug companies. They are never going to get those high costs—in some cases, outrageously high costs—down.

But last summer, we did, and we won. Now millions of Americans are seeing their drug costs go down as the Inflation Reduction Act goes into effect. The 10 prescription drugs which my colleagues have talked about are not drugs used by a rare few but are used by millions that affect so many different illnesses, and they will treat things like diabetes and heart failure and cancer and kidney disease and blood clots and more.

The pain you feel when you talk to a parent who says: My child has been diagnosed with cancer, but it costs \$1,000

a month for the drug, and I can't afford it. What am I going to do?

What pain. Well, that pain is going to be greatly reduced in hundreds of thousands of cases now that we have done this.

We are not stopping. We are going to keep going. It is a huge deal. We are capping the price of insulin at \$35. We did it for seniors on Medicare, and now we are going to fight to get it for everybody else. The Presiding Officer is helping to lead that charge. The cost of all drugs, which once was unlimited, will start at \$3,000 a year in January and go to \$2,000 in 2025.

The No. 1 thing our constituents are asking about is high costs. The No. 1 thing that bugs them about the government is that no one seems to get a handle on those high costs. Well, this is a shining example where we are reducing their costs by taking on the special interests. We are not stopping here.

I yield the floor and thank my colleagues for being here.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I really feel like this is a celebration because we have been talking about how Americans have been taken advantage of for years—forever—in terms of high prices. We have been paying the highest prices in the world forever and oftentimes three and four times more than people in other countries.

I know I receive messages from families every day who are struggling to pay for their prescription medications. The truth is, we understood this. We finally had the opportunity where we had President Biden and a Democratic majority in the House and the Senate. We took on Big Pharma, and we won. So this is really a celebration.

We are not done. We have more to do. We are just getting started, but this is a big deal. It is a big deal.

One out of four Americans can't afford their medicine right now—one out of four. That is shameful in the United States of America. Back in 1998, when I was a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I took busloads of seniors from Detroit, one side of the Ambassador Bridge to the other side. A few minutes across the bridge was Windsor, Canada. We crossed the bridge and cut prescription drug prices by 40 percent by crossing a bridge.

It has made no sense to me. The reason I have been championing this for so long and so appreciate the leadership of Senator KLOBUCHAR and so many of us who have worked together is that this just simply makes no sense, and it has cost lives and people's livelihoods, trying to pay for their medicine. You shouldn't have to skip doses or split pills in half or choose between paying your electric bill or taking your medicine.

So the good news is, despite the fact that if you just look at the U.S. Senate—just in the Senate, there are 15 lobbyists for every Senator, and they work every day to try to stop us from

lowering prices. But despite that, we took on Big Pharma, and we won.

I want to thank the Presiding Officer for your leadership on the first thing we were able to do that is so tangible.

In Michigan, we have nearly 67,000 Michiganders on Medicare who now benefit from a cap on insulin of \$35 a month—not the \$600 or \$700 that the average person was paying; \$35 a month. That is saving lives.

By the way, insulin is something that was discovered and developed 100 years ago—100 years ago. It costs \$10 to make, and we had to go through a major fight to cap it at \$35. But our Presiding Officer, the Senator from Georgia, led that, and I want to thank you for doing that.

We have nearly 673,000 Michiganders who are going to save an average of \$356 thanks to the \$2,000 total cap we are going to put on. Right now, folks are, on average, paying \$14,000, \$15,000 a year and oftentimes thousands of dollars more than that. We are capping that. This next year, it is capped at \$3,200; next year, \$2,000, and that is it—\$2,000-a-year out-of-pocket costs for seniors. It is extraordinary. It will save lives.

So this is a time, I think, of celebration.

We have nearly 1.8 million Michigan seniors who are now going to be able to get free shingles vaccines and other critical vaccines that before they maybe just didn't do because, on average, it was \$300 or \$400 to do, and now they can protect themselves with vaccines. That is a big deal.

Senator WYDEN was talking about his provision, which is so very important, which is to say that if a drug company, under Medicare Part D—which are the drugs you get in the hospital or in the doctor's office—that if they go up faster than the rate of inflation—the Biden administration now has the authority to check every 3 months—if it goes up faster than inflation, they will roll the price back. As of July 1, it was an average of over \$470 per dose on a cancer drug. So this is a big deal. It is a big deal that we are talking about right now.

The biggest of all: Medicare is beginning to negotiate prices just like the VA, which gets a 40-percent discount, by the way. That is the ultimate.

When I first came to the Senate after taking those bus trips across the border, I really took on this whole question about prescription drugs and really leaned in in so many ways. I was excited we were going to do Medicare Part D that passed under the Bush administration until I saw the fine print where it prohibited Medicare from negotiating prices. That was the fine print. It sounded great, but the drug companies were able to insert the language that says: You can't negotiate. We get to charge whatever we want.

That is what has happened since then.

So here we are. The first 10 drugs that will be negotiated through Medi-

care were announced just a week or so ago, and we are talking about those drugs that will deal with blood clots and heart failure, diabetes, psoriasis, blood cancers, arthritis, and so many more things. These are the top drugs in terms of usage and price—the first 10. Then there will be more, and there will be more, and there will be more until we get the full negotiation.

We know that negotiating on just these 10 drugs will help more than 9 million people—9 million people—lower their costs—just those first 10. This is a big deal. We know we have more to do to lower costs, more to do together to address healthcare costs and other costs that people pay.

But I think it is pretty safe to say that the prescription drug companies are the biggest lobby here. We finally had the votes. We had the President who was willing to do it, President Biden. We had the majority in the House and the Senate to do what we knew needed to be done regardless of how much clout they have, and so that is what we did.

You know, I get letters like all of you do and talk to people all the time, but Diane of Bloomfield Hills, who is retired and on Medicare, shared with me that she is a diabetic, and she takes two types of insulin, or four injections per day—four injections per day. She told me that she used to pay a copay of \$650—\$650 or more—for a 3-month supply for just one of her prescriptions. She takes four injections a day—for just one of her prescriptions. But not anymore. Back in January, Diane went to the pharmacy like usual, and the pharmacist told her that her 3-month supply would be \$105; not \$650—\$105. She said: "I paid and walked away with a big smile on my face."

The Presiding Officer led that effort to put a smile on her face and, I am sure, create a little more capacity for her to take care of herself and to be able to have a good life.

People like Diane should not have to go without the medicine they need. They shouldn't be forced to skip doses or take less than was prescribed to save money. They shouldn't have to choose between their medicine and putting food on the table or paying the bills. That is what this is about.

So it is a celebration, and I am so proud that we joined with President Biden to take the first step to make sure that people are going to be able to afford the medicine they need.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am very happy to be here and resolve a—I guess, celebrate the resolution of a longstanding wrong done to the American people. Senator STABENOW can correct me if I am wrong, but my recollection is that the ban that Congress put on Medicare negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies the way, say, the Veterans' Administration already does was a magical appearance of

a tiny little bit of language, not in the Senate, not in the House, but in the secret confines of the conference committee that merged the two bills.

It just slipped in as a sentence. Nobody took credit for it. I still can't identify who slipped that thing in there; but once it got slipped in, the pharmaceutical industry defended it with all the venom and power and money and muscle that they had. And we beat them. We took it away.

Now, just like the Veterans' Administration, Medicare gets to negotiate and drive prices down, and that is going to make a big difference for Rhode Islanders with diabetes, with cancer, with blood clots, with heart disease, with rheumatoid arthritis. This happened because all of us—Senate Democrats—got together, stuck to our guns, and made it happen through the Inflation Reduction Act which came out of the Budget Committee, originally—the authorization. We are lowering the prices of these 10 very expensive drugs; and even though the pharmaceutical industry is going to try to wrastle around in court, it is pretty hard to say that Medicare doesn't have the same authority that its sister Agency, the Veterans' Administration, has to negotiate for pharmaceuticals.

It shows how much they will try to try to get that little slippery sentence that got slipped into that bill back to defend their price gouging.

Vaccines are now free with Medicare. Insulin is capped at \$35 a month. Drug companies are penalized if they jack up their prices higher than the rate of inflation. A \$3,250 cap on out-of-pocket spending for seniors is just about to go into effect, and the next year it drops to a \$2,000 limit. I think that will cover 11,000 Rhode Islanders who now pay higher out-of-pocket costs than those.

These changes will save tens of thousands of Medicare Part D enrollees in Rhode Island over \$23 million. That is a big number in our small State. I would like to think that the Inflation Reduction Act was bipartisan. It would be great if this had passed with bipartisan support. It didn't. Not a single Republican vote came. I regret that, but we are going to continue. There is more progress to be made. We have shown that it can be done.

And while we are at it, we need to strengthen Medicare—both Social Security and Medicare, and we have a bill that has had its hearing in the Budget Committee to strengthen Social Security and Medicare by making people who are making over \$400,000 a year and the superrich—who hide their income through all sorts of tricks so it doesn't show up as regular income—pay a fair share, support these essential programs.

So we can celebrate a win today, and we can go forward with confidence to future wins.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in celebrating a major and long overdue achievement allowing the American people to have the benefit of a government that will stand up to negotiate prices and try its best to make the prescription medications that they need for themselves and the people they love to be affordable.

You know, what is a greater responsibility that a government has to its citizens to help create a healthcare system that is accessible and is affordable? Why is it that in this country, the citizens that we all represent are getting hammered on the cost of medications that if they just go across the border to Canada, they can get at one-tenth, one-fifth of the price?

Why is it? It is because until this day, we have been the only government that has not been willing to use price negotiation to protect consumers from price gouging by Big Pharma, and it is really brutal. I mean, every one of us—I talk to Vermonters, Senator STABENOW was talking about Michiganders, Senator WHITEHOUSE was talking about constituents in Rhode Island—by the way, some of whom are Republicans, some of whom are Democrats, some of whom are Independents, many of whom don't even bother to pay much attention to the political process. But when they have to get access to that medication that is really essential to their well-being, they can't afford it.

We are paying, they are paying—all our citizens—in many cases, 2½ times, on average, what folks across the border in Canada or in Europe are paying for the same medication. And, you know, it is terrific when Big Pharma, through their research, comes up with medications that can extend our life. But if they charge so much that we can't afford it, what does that do?

And time after time, we have seen folks make these horrible decisions about cutting back on their medication at the threat to their own life and safety because they literally can't afford it.

Now, the pharmaceutical industry, let's give them credit: They have created lifesaving drugs. That is a tremendous thing. But they can't use the fact that they are doing something good to jack up prices to make it unaffordable just for self-enrichment.

You know, we, as a government, have done an enormous amount to help pharma with the innovation side, and they are suggesting that this legislation is going to interfere with that capacity. Is it true? No. Think about what we have done—we, the government, taxpayers. No. 1, the intellectual property is protected; so for that period of time, oftentimes well over a decade, they can charge whatever they want to charge and they have the exclusive right to have that drug on the market. And they charge a lot.

No. 2, we have created an employer-sponsored healthcare system where we have employers in all of our States where it is really important to that

employer to provide good-quality healthcare to its employees, and they have to pay whatever the premiums are that are, oftentimes, inflated as a result of us having the highest prescription drug prices in the world.

Third, we have a Medicare/Medicaid program, which is a guaranteed purchasing pool to buy the products that they create. So pharma has protection on its profits with an exclusive period; it has a government that stands behind the right of citizens to have access to healthcare through Medicare particularly, Medicaid, and also employer-sponsored healthcare.

And then what you see is the pharmaceutical industry going beyond the patent rights that it has for that market exclusivity and do the things that Senator KLOBUCHAR was talking about where they try to extend the life of the patent well beyond what that limited period was supposed to be.

And then, by the way, Wall Street gets in the game here, because what many of the companies have claimed is research is a corporate buyout. Company A buys company B that has a patent, a popular and necessary drug. They pay billions for it; and then to pay for the purchase price, they inflate the cost of that prescription drug. And they can do it; they get away with it.

So, you know, Senator HICKENLOOPER asked the question: Why is the outrage not about that we let it go on for so long?

So pharma is going to do fine and keep doing what they are going to be doing. They are going to have the patent exclusivity; they are going to have a government and a Senate with Republicans and Democrats maintaining the Medicare program so that folks who are going to need prescription drugs are going to be able to get them. They are going to do fine.

But, finally, we have price negotiation so that, in effect, if you or I are going to the pharmacy to buy aspirin and we buy a hundred because the per-unit cost is a lot less, we get to pay wholesale—we get to decide about bargaining by what we purchase, a big amount or a little amount. Medicare should be able to do the same thing.

So this is so overdue and so beneficial to everybody that we all represent, regardless of, politically, whose side they are on. This is about a shared need that our society has for access to prescription medication. And, of course, to the Presiding Officer, we all appreciate the focus that you put on insulin. I mean, if there isn't a more shocking example of a rip-off. This drug has been around for decades; there is no new innovation. But what there is, is pricing power. So those companies that had the ability to set the price, to raise the price, and to do it again kept going up and up and up, even though there were not any additional intellectual breakthroughs with the actual core of what insulin is.

You know, we in this country know that working Americans are struggling

to pay their bills. Things are expensive, and it is not just inflation. Things are expensive in many cases because there is real corporate power, and they can set the price they want. Nowhere do they do that with more abusive consistency than in pharmaceutical prescriptions. And we can decide, as a Senate, that we are going to find ways to make things affordable by stopping the rip-off.

Having the capacity for Medicare to negotiate prices is a major breakthrough. It is no small thing. It is the beginning; it is not the end of our efforts. And I thank all of my colleagues for working together to help all of our constituents, regardless of who they voted for, because the thing they all have in common is they want to protect, especially, the people that they love.

And in the arguments from pharma, what I find so alarming is that what they prey upon is the love that people in America have for their families because, if you are a mom or you are a dad and you have got a son or a daughter who needs a prescription drug and you can't afford it, you will take out a second mortgage or you will sell the house or you will get rid of your retirement account. You will do whatever it takes to save the person you care about. And pharma, with their pushback, saying this is going to threaten innovation is preying on those fears that all of us have about what will happen if we don't do everything we can to help the person that we love.

And you know what, it is not about that for pharma. They are doing pretty well. Those salaries are astonishing. Those corporate buybacks are very rich. So I am proud to be with my colleagues here to stand up for the right that our citizens have—affordably, confidently, securely—to be able to have, when they need it, access to the prescription medication that is going to extend their life and save their loved ones.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, there are over 578,000 Nevadans across my State enrolled in Medicare, and their hard-earned Medicare benefits provide coverage for their healthcare expenses.

The problem is, when I travel around my State and I speak to Senators, the No. 1 thing that I hear about is how difficult it is to afford the prescription drugs that they need. Let me give you an example.

Sue Bird and her husband Tom, they live in rural Nevada in Fernley, NV. Tom has diabetes; and even though they are both on Medicare, covering all their healthcare expenses costs them nearly \$1,000 a month. That can be a crushing amount for two retirees on a fixed income.

The stress of Tom's diabetes alone affects his blood sugar, but add in the

worry over the price of their medication, their dental and vision and other healthcare costs, and it becomes almost too much to handle for them.

So why are Tom and Sue's medications so expensive? I will tell you why, and you have heard it from my colleagues over and over this afternoon: Because, year after year, Big Pharma has decided that they need to jack up prescription drug prices. All the while, their executives are raking in millions of dollars in profits.

These pharmaceutical companies are driving higher prices. They are forcing millions of older Americans to pay more in premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

Our seniors made this country what it is today. Tom is a fourth-generation Nevadan. We really have a duty to ensure quality affordable healthcare for people like Tom and Sue and seniors across the country when they retire.

That is exactly what Democrats did when we passed the Inflation Reduction Act. We capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for people with Medicare. We made vaccines free to seniors, and we are holding drug companies accountable for raising the prices faster than the rate of inflation.

Now you are hearing, in a major victory that has been decades in the making, that we finally gave Medicare the green light to negotiate lower prescription drug prices directly with Big Pharma. This is going to make a huge difference for Nevadans and for Americans across the country.

The Biden administration just selected the first 10 drugs for price negotiations under Medicare Part D. These are widely used medications. About 10 million people with Medicare take one or more of these drugs each year to treat serious conditions like diabetes, heart failure, blood clots, and cancer, and they are extremely expensive. Medicare enrollees taking any of these 10 medications paid a total of \$3.4 billion out of pocket in 2022.

For his diabetes, Tom Bird takes Jardiance, one of 10 drugs on the list. This month, he paid about \$466 for it.

Now, these 10 drugs cost Medicare over \$50 billion last year alone. That is outrageous. Think about where that money is going. Think about where it is going. How much money is enough for these Big Pharma companies?

But do you know what? The fact that Democrats fought to ensure that Medicare can negotiate directly with drug companies is going to change all that. It will give seniors a fair deal. It will lower healthcare costs, and it will also cut back on Federal spending by \$25 billion. That is \$25 billion that we are saving taxpayers across the country.

And this is just the beginning. Each year, more medications will be added to the negotiation list, allowing Medicare to keep bringing down prescription drug costs and saving more taxpayer dollars.

And I will tell you what, our seniors across this country, like Tom and Sue,

who helped build our country and make it what it is today, will be able to breathe a sigh of relief. This is all thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, which continues to benefit Nevadans and Americans across the country.

I am proud of the work that we all did when we passed this legislation. I am proud of the Biden-Harris administration for not only supporting the passage of it and working to get this done but also the implementation.

I can tell you that I know my colleagues and I are going to make sure and keep working to ensure that seniors across this country, whether they are in Nevada or across this country, see lower healthcare costs, because every senior should be able to retire with dignity. They have worked for it. They have worked hard to make that happen, and we should at least make sure that we are lowering those costs to help them.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. I rise today to stand alongside the over 80 percent of Americans who support Medicare being able to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, because despite being the wealthiest Nation in the world, too many Americans are struggling to afford the medications that they need to survive. More than 5 million Medicare beneficiaries are struggling to afford their medications.

I have heard devastating stories from Wisconsin seniors who have been put in impossible situations and forced to ration or forego their medications, all while the drug companies turn record profits.

No American, and especially our seniors who are on fixed incomes, should have to choose between putting food on the table or accessing the prescription drugs that they need to stay healthy. That is why I was so proud to support the Inflation Reduction Act to finally provide some relief for Wisconsin families and hold the big drug companies accountable for prioritizing profits over people.

And now, we are seeing the results. We capped the cost of insulin out-of-pocket at \$35 a month for seniors, we lowered healthcare premiums for millions of Americans, and we penalized drug companies for raising their costs faster than inflation.

Last month, we reached a new milestone that has been a long time coming. Medicare announced the first 10 drugs that they will negotiate with drug companies. These are lifesaving medications that millions of Americans take to stay healthy, treating everything from diabetes to heart disease, to blood cancers. By lowering the costs of these drugs, fewer seniors will have to choose between buying groceries and taking their medication, and fewer families will lie awake at night worrying about how they are going to afford the cost of their loved one's medication.

Most importantly, Medicare finally stepping up and taking on the big drug companies means that fewer Americans will be priced out of the care that they need to live healthy lives. We have more work to do, but the Inflation Reduction Act was a historic step in the right direction.

Every American deserves access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare, and I am committed to finishing what we started last year with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023—the FRA, by its initials—which Congress passed 3 months ago, represented a bipartisan agreement. It resolved a manufactured default crisis. It avoided an economic catastrophe that was threatened, and it set funding levels for the upcoming year. Pursuant to section 121 of that Act, I previously filed, on June 21, budgetary aggregates and committee allocations for fiscal year 2024. Today, I am adjusting those levels to account for Senate amendment No. 1092 to H.R. 4366, the proposed package making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

This first package includes the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies;

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; and Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bills.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the FRA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary funding levels for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and allows for adjustments to those limits. Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. Senate amendment No. 1092 is eligible for an adjustment. Division C, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024, includes \$10.8 billion of budget authority and \$8.3 billion of outlays that are designated as emergency funding. The emergency funding in this division is consistent with the bipartisan agreement tied to the enactment of the FRA.

In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported eight other bills that include funding eligible for an adjustment. I am also making those adjustments in today's filing.

In total, I am revising the allocation to the Appropriations Committee by \$62.2 billion of budget authority and \$23.8 billion of outlays. Excluding off-budget amounts, I am revising the

budgetary aggregates by \$61.9 billion of budget authority and \$23.5 billion of outlays.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment filing, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) (\$ in billion)

Table with 2 columns: Category and 2024. Rows include Current Spending Aggregates, Adjustment, and Revised Aggregates, with sub-rows for Budget Authority and Outlays.

REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

(Pursuant to Section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) (\$ in billions)

Table with 4 columns: Category, Current Allocation, Adjustments, Revised Allocation. Rows include Revised Security Budget Authority, Revised Nonsecurity Budget Authority, and General Purpose Outlays.

DETAIL OF ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) (\$ in billions)

Large table with 6 columns: Detail of Adjustments Made Above, Emergency, Disaster Relief, Program Integrity, Wildfire Suppression, Total. Rows list various departments like Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Energy and Water, etc.

Note: Emergency-designated funding in the Defense bill adjusts the revised security allocation; other emergency-designated funding adjusts the nonsecurity allocation. Of the program integrity amounts, \$344 million of budget authority and \$289 million of outlays are from the Disability Insurance Trust Fund and are off-budget. The off-budget amounts are not included in the adjustment to the budget aggregates.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS UNDER RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I certify that the information required by

rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items has been identified in the committee reports which are incorporated by reference in Senate amendment 1092 to H.R. 4366 and that the required information has been

available on a publicly accessible congressional website at least 48 hours before a vote on the pending bill.

TRIBUTE TO PAT HUGHES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for nearly three decades, the crack of the bat, the smell of fresh cut grass, the greening of the ivy, and the sound of Pat Hughes' voice reporting from the "beautiful and historic Wrigley Field" has let Cubs fans far and wide know, it is time for baseball. This July, Pat Hughes—the voice of Cubs baseball and a Chicago legend—was awarded the 2023 Ford C. Frick Award by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY—the highest honor in broadcasting.

Born in Tucson, AZ, Pat was raised in San Jose, CA. His father worked in the education department at San Jose State University, where Pat would later enroll. Pat would frequent the university's sporting events with his father and brother, smitten by the cadre of future greats that took the field for the Spartans. At around 17 years old, he realized he wasn't quite good enough to make a career playing, but his passion for sports fueled his determination to find a sports career.

Just hours before Pat's acceptance speech at Cooperstown, he recounted that, "It kind of feels a little bit surreal. As if it's almost happening to someone else, and I'm just kind of watching." Ironically, watching on sidelines was where Pat's broadcasting career began.

At San Jose State University, while sitting on the bench for his college basketball team, he started to announce the game unfolding in front of him before his first listening audience: the other benchwarmers on the team. One of his teammates complimented Pat's knack for play-by-play. Once basketball season was over, Pat called his first baseball game, San Jose State versus the University of California Santa Barbara.

In 1978, Pat graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in radio/TV journalism and began his baseball broadcasting career for a minor league team: the San Jose Missions. After a season with the Columbus Clippers, he joined the Minnesota Twins broadcast team in 1983 before moving to Milwaukee just a year later, where he called Brewers games on radio with Milwaukee legend Bob Uecker.

I first heard Pat when my son Paul enrolled at Marquette University. Back then, Pat was calling basketball games for Marquette, and even then, Pat had the distinct style that we all have come to appreciate. Pat would go on to call basketball games for Marquette for 16 seasons, including years spent alongside local legend, Coach Al McGuire.

Since 1996, Pat has been the radio play-by-play announcer for the Chicago Cubs. The 2022 season marked the 40th consecutive year that Hughes served as

a Major League Baseball announcer. With nearly three decades in Chicago, Pat is a Cubs institution. And, not only has he been a fixture in Wrigley since 1996, he almost never misses work. For nearly 11 years, he called nearly every inning of every Cubs game before he finally took a day off.

A student of the game and a master of his craft, Pat regularly studied broadcasters he admired. He would listen to recordings of games that he called, analyze the modulation of his voice, eliminate filler, and perfect his catchphrases, setting the standard of meticulous preparation that he carries with him today. And just like the benchwarmer back in the 70s that called the basketball game, Pat seizes every moment.

Never one to rest on his laurels, when Pat learned that he would be the just the third broadcaster to be inducted into the Cubs Hall of Fame, he went right back to calling the play, completely awestruck, but like the true professional he is, he never missed a beat. And little did he know that just a few months later, he would be getting the call from Cooperstown. Pat lives his life play-by-play—staying in the moment, constantly improving, and transporting Cubs fans everywhere to Wrigley Field with his distinctive voice. During Pat's acceptance speech in Cooperstown, he thanked Cubs fans for making him part of the Cubs family, inviting him to graduations, bar mitzvahs, and birthdays. And he was quick to give credit to the line-up of broadcasters that he deeply admired.

Many remember Pat's time in the booth with Cubs Hall of Famer, the late Ron Santo, his broadcasting partner from 1996 until 2010. The "Pat and Ron" show was a favorite for the fans as Hughes worked well with the former third baseman, who wasn't shy to hide his love for the Cubs. A nine-time winner of the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year Award, Pat also won three straight Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year Awards from 1990-92. He has called more than 6,000 MLB games, including eight no-hitters, the 25-inning White Sox v. Brewers contest in 1984 that was the longest game in American League history, and Kerry Wood's 20-strikeout game in 1998.

On November 2, 2016, when the Chicago Cubs ended a 108-year drought by winning game seven of the World Series, it was Pat who called the final out. He will forever be a part of Chicago Cubs history, and just as Pat studied other broadcasters, his legacy will be one to learn from.

I congratulate Pat; his wife Trish; their daughters Janell and Amber; and his entire family on this achievement. Cubs fans everywhere are flying the W for you. And, as Pat would say, "Get out the tape measure, Long Gone!"—all the way to Cooperstown.

REMEMBERING DR. SHANNON KULA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Shannon Kula, former Senator Barbara Mikulski's chief of staff and a beloved member of the Maryland congressional team and Capitol Hill community. Shannon passed away recently after a long and heroic fight against breast cancer.

As Senator Mikulski remarked, "Her vibrant, inspirational personality made an impact on us all. She had such dedication, during those long hours—always with a smile and encouraging word. Shannon was a great friend, great advisor and brilliant strategist who took charge of making things happen all while making everyone feel good while she did it. She had a luminous spirit that blessed us all."

We all know the role that our staff plays in the work and life of the Senate. Shannon helped Senator Mikulski on so many of her accomplishments—from the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to guaranteeing access to women's preventive healthcare to policies that support military families—Shannon was by Senator Mikulski's side. She also helped organize the bipartisan women Senators and played an important role in helping elect more women to the U.S. Senate.

Shannon played an important role in developing and enacting policies that improved people's lives. She also improved the lives of those who had the good fortune to work with her. The friendships she developed with the Mikulski staff and the wider Senate community were deep and lasting. She led with grace and humor. She mentored younger staff. She set a tone of civility and kindness, even in the rough and tumble world of politics. She was a valued colleague to so many people and a leader of what we in the delegation like to call "Team Maryland."

Shannon received B.A. degrees in political science and government and in psychology from the University of Rochester. She was the first person in her family to attend college. While Shannon was working in the Senate, she finished her master's degree and doctorate at Georgetown University, a truly remarkable accomplishment for anyone who knows the long and unpredictable hours Senate staff routinely work. After she left the Senate, she continued to serve, as director of the University of Saint Joseph's Women's Leadership Center and when she ran for a Congressional seat in her home State of Connecticut.

Shannon married her college sweetheart, Dr. Ron Clark, a U.S. Marine who served 20 years in the Corps. Everyone who knew the couple recognized what an incredible team they were. She was a loving aunt who was very involved in the lives of her nieces and nephews, traveling the world with them and encouraging them through their educations and military service.

Shannon's death is a tragedy. But her life was a triumph. I join Senator Mikulski and so many others in our Capitol community in honoring her extraordinary life. May her memory be a blessing to her family and friends; may her life be a continuing inspiration to all who, like Shannon, strive to serve others.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD HAYES CESLER, SR.

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my fellow Members of Idaho's congressional delegation Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, we pay tribute to an outstanding Idahoan, Richard "Rich" Hayes Cesler, Sr., who served our country and its veterans with great distinction. He passed away on July 16, 2023.

Rich not only assisted living veterans and their families, but also made sure thousands were recognized and honored after their passing. Rich partnered with Fred Salanti in co-founding the nonprofit Missing in America, MIA, Project. Rich served as the MIA Project's national cemeteries/laws coordinator. Since 2006, the duo led MIA Project volunteers nationwide who have interred the unclaimed cremated remains of nearly 5,800 veterans.

As a Vietnam veteran, Rich connected with the many veterans and their families he helped. He grew up in Portsmouth, VA, and joined the U.S. Air Force directly after high school. He obtained the rank of sergeant during his service from 1966 to 1972. He was trained as a jet aircraft mechanic and aircraft maintenance technician and served as a crew chief in Saigon, Vietnam, working on F-111 aircraft.

His loved ones characterize Rich as "a true renaissance man" who dabbled in many different hobbies and occupations. His obituary includes a list of his vocations after his military service noting that in no particular order he "was a life insurance agent, a police officer, Veteran Service Officer, small business owner, general contractor, cargo/baggage handler, senior customer service agent, international head judge for car stereo contests, promoter, Director of two State Veteran cemeteries, beta tester, trainer, VFW state commander, he drafted legislation, delivered seminars, was a competitor at car stereo contests, a published writer, and a die-hard veteran supporter and advocate." In fact, he was recognized with a 2011 Spirit of Freedom: Idaho Veterans Service Award for his unselfish dedication to his fellow veterans and their families. His work as director of two State veterans cemeteries to ensure veterans and their spouses received the burials they were promised and his founding of the MIA Project were among the many examples of his dedicated service to others cited in his award recognition.

Honoring Rich Cesler in Congress in September during National POW/MIA Recognition Month, a time set aside to highlight ongoing efforts to seek answers for families of America's prisoners of war—POWs—and missing in action—MIA—is deeply fitting as Rich made sure lost soldiers were honored here at home. He saw firsthand that America's veterans did not only go missing overseas. He recognized that the shelves of funeral homes, coroner's offices, and State hospitals and even far less ceremonial locations should not be the final resting places for veterans who do not have remaining family or have lost touch with their families. MIA Project volunteers' commendable efforts to honor veterans lost right here at home were rightly recognized. This includes our understanding that he was being considered for a Presidential award for his Missing in America Project. Rich said, "The MIA Project has become the voice for those who have none and continues to be dedicated to remembering our forgotten heroes."

Rich accomplished one of the greatest things we can achieve in our lifetime: He used his talents and experiences to meaningfully help others. His actions demonstrated his deep understanding that great personal rewards came from giving to others instead of seeking personal gains. And, despite his solemn work, he found and shared joy. Rich was known for his amazing sense of humor. As noted in his obituary, "This was one of his greatest joys, to laugh and make others laugh." May the joy, levity, and dedication he gave to so many during his time on earth comfort his many friends and loved ones, including his wife of 47 years Joyce; six children and their spouses; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and many others. We join in mourning this great Idahoan and American and pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy. •

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HECKER

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan's labor movement, David Hecker, president of the American Federation of Teachers—AFT—Michigan. David has made an immeasurable impact on the State of Michigan and its many educators and healthcare providers over the past 40 years, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today and celebrate his upcoming retirement.

David's engagement with the labor movement first began in 1977, when he became a member of AFT Local 3220, a union of graduate assistants at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned his Ph.D. in industrial relations. Following his graduation, David's commitment to strengthening the labor movement continued to grow, serving as the executive assistant to the president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO from 1986 to 1996, where

he worked to protect the welfare of Michigan's labor force and support the activities of local unions.

David's history with the Michigan chapter of the AFT began with his service as secretary-treasurer for the organization in the late 1990s. In 2001, David was named the president of AFT Michigan, a role which he has occupied with distinction since. Under his leadership, AFT Michigan has organized many new locals that represent thousands of Michiganders working in public education and healthcare, in addition to expanding partnerships in the State and overall strengthening Michigan's labor movement.

In 2004, David expanded his involvement with the labor movement to a national level, and began his service as a vice president of the national AFT, which included serving on the AFT executive committee and cochairing the AFT organizing committee. For many years, he has been a member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and Metro Detroit AFL-CIO's executive committees and has also been a member of AFT delegations to the Education International World Congress, worked with the National Union of Teachers in England, the Cambodian Independent Teachers Union, and higher education unions in Israel and the occupied territories.

David's legacy of leadership and service expands beyond the labor movement. His work includes serving as the chair of Community in Schools Michigan and the Green and Health Schools Coalition; as cochair of the Metropolitan Affairs Corporation; on the boards of Promote the Vote, the Michigan League for Public Policy, the Education Alliance of Michigan and New Detroit; and finally, as an officer-at-large of the Michigan Democratic Party.

I cannot understate the impact that David Hecker has had on Michigan's workforce and labor movement. A life-long trade unionist, he has over these many years steadfastly promoted positive change in our communities and created a model for public service that is unmatched. Though his leadership at the American Federation of Teachers Michigan will be sorely missed, his legacy will most certainly endure and continue to inspire.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KEVIN P. BURNS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kevin P. Burns as he retires from a distinguished 52-year career in the U.S. Air Force as an Active-Duty pilot and later as a civil servant at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Kevin graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975 and served honorably as an Active-Duty pilot until 2002. As a fighter pilot during the Cold War, he was deployed to Iceland where he intercepted and escorted Soviet bombers away from U.S. bases. He later served as a test pilot and flew more

than 65 different aircraft, including F-15s, F-16s, F-4s, and A-10s as well as other developmental aircraft. His last flight was in a B-52 Stratofortress out of Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana in June 2022.

Kevin retired from Active Duty in October 2002, after serving as the vice wing commander of the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base. Following Active Duty, Kevin continued his service to our great country as a civilian, leading the development of policy, products, and standards for the Air Force's 53rd Test Management Group, the U.S. Air Force's largest operational test wing, at Eglin Air Force Base.

Kevin's work over the decades has had an immeasurable impact on America's national security. His dedication to the mission and tireless efforts have contributed to the safety of all Americans.

I extend my best wishes to Kevin and his family on his retirement and thank him for his service.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1973. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pier 15 Fireworks; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0349)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1974. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pier 15 Fireworks; SFSU Graduation Fireworks; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0344)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1975. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0481)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1976. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Enforcement of Inland Navigation Rules" ((RIN1625-AC81) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0071)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1977. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regu-

lated Navigation Area; Hampton Roads, VA" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1978. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Henderson Bay, Henderson Harbor, NY" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0308)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1979. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Back River, Baltimore County, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0464)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1980. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Henderson Bay, Henderson Bay, NY" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0429)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1981. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; City of Toledo Fireworks; Maumee River; Toledo, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0509)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1982. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Marysville Funfest Fireworks, St. Clair River; Marysville, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0375)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1983. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Roosertail Fireworks, Detroit River, Detroit, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0377)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1984. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lake Erie, Cleveland, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0580)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1985. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Mercury Powerboat Race; Sheboygan Harbor, Sheboygan, Wisconsin" ((RIN1625-

AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0490)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1986. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Henderson Bay, Henderson Harbor, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0309)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1987. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kaiser Fireworks, Lake St. Clair; Grosse Pointe Park, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0616)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1988. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0560)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1989. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Anchor Bay Bass, Brew, and BBQ Fireworks, Lake St. Clair; Chesterfield, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0503)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1990. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Type of Regulation; Lake of the Ozarks MM.5 - 1, approximately 500 feet off the Bagnell Dam, Lake of the Ozarks, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0457)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1991. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway (AICW) and Miami Beach Channel, Miami, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0371)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1992. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Type of Regulation; Lake of the Ozarks MM.5 - 1, approximately 500 feet off the Bagnell Dam, Lake of the Ozarks, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0457)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1993. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Cooper River, Charleston, SC"

((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0517)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1994. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0569)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1995. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Horsepower on the Hudson, Hudson River, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1996. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; St. Mary's River, St. George's Creek, Piney Point, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0418)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1997. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Horsepower on the Hudson, Hudson River, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1998. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0473)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1999. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Back River, Baltimore County, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0462)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2000. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Back River, Baltimore County, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0461)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2001. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special

Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events, Fireworks Displays, and Swim Events held in the Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound Zone" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0001)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2002. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Recurring Fireworks Displays and Swim Events in Coast Guard Sector New York Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0075)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2003. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Recurring Fireworks Displays and Swim Events in Coast Guard Sector New York Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0075)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2004. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Bay, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0544)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2005. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Glorietta Bay, Coronado, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0144)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2006. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien, WI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0465)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2007. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Virginia Beach, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0524)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2008. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Firework Display; Appomattox River, Hopewell, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0452)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2009. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Marathon July 4th Fireworks, Marathon, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0508)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2010. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Key West July 4th Fireworks, Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0369)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2011. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Savannah River 4th of July Fireworks Show, Savannah, GA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0518)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2012. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Vineyard Wind 1 Wind Farm Project Area, Outer Continental Shelf, Lease OCS-A 0501, Offshore Massachusetts, Atlantic Ocean" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0277)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2013. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0355)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2014. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0421)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2015. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Laguna Madre, South Padre Island, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0463)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2016. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD, and King George County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2022-0145)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2017. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Racine, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0197)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2018. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Chinese Harbor; Santa Cruz Island, California” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0009)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2019. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Illinois River Mile Markers 163.3 to 162.7, Peoria, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0229)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2020. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Sausalito Fireworks Display; San Francisco Bay, Sausalito, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0415)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2021. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; San Francisco Giants Drone Display; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0454)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2022. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0353)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2023. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0355)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2024. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River MM 660.5-659.5, Lansing, IA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0664)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2025. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA”

((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0623)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2026. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Markers 90.4-91, Wheeling, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0610)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2027. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River MM 469.5-470.5 and Licking River MM 0.0 to 0.3, Cincinnati, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0256)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2028. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Mile Markers 41.5 to 42.5, Nitro, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0613)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2029. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Fleet Week Maritime Festival, Pier 62, Elliot Bay, Seattle, Washington” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0614)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2030. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware River, Chester, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0574)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2031. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River MM 660.5-659.5, Lansing, IA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0564)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2032. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro Bay, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0528)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2033. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Laguna Madre, South Padre Island, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0547)) received during adjournment of

the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2034. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Nitro, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0354)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2035. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware River, Fireworks Display, Philadelphia, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0557)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2036. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the President’s intent to exempt all military personnel accounts, including Coast Guard military personnel accounts, from any discretionary cap sequestration in fiscal year 2024, if a sequestration is necessary; to the Committees on Appropriations; Armed Services; and the Budget.

EC-2037. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Mid-Session Review of the Budget of the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2024”; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget.

EC-2038. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “(2S)-5-Oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylic Acid (L-PCA); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 11022-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2039. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Flg22-Bt Peptide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 11264-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2040. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Spinetoram; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 11035-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2041. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Process for Establishing Rates for Veterinary Services User Fees” ((RIN0579-AE67) (Docket No. APHIS-2021-0052)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2042. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs

Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Supply Assistance (SCA) Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2043. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child Nutrition Program Integrity" (RIN0584-AE08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2044. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thrifty Food Plan Cost Estimates for Alaska and Hawaii" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2045. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fertilizer Production Expansion Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2046. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting and Information Requirements Derivatives Clearing Organizations" (RIN3038-AF12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2047. A communication from the Chief of Staff, United States Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report by the Armed Forces on Out-Year Unconstrained Total Munitions Requirements and Out-Year Inventory Numbers (OSS-2023-0760); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2048. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2049. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Industrial Base Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to the reporting requirement on any negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan that the Secretary determines did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in the plan for the prior fiscal year; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2050. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2022 Purchases from foreign entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2051. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2052. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Industrial Base Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to the reporting requirement on any negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan that the Secretary determines did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in the plan for the prior fiscal year; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2053. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2054. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2055. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2056. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2057. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2058. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Commercial Solutions Opening" (RIN0750-AL57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-35. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021, which provides their citizens with access to broadband services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

Whereas, in August of 2019, by executive order, Governor John Bel Edwards created the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana commission. This commission facilitates private sector providers, public entities, and other broadband stakeholders to improve both the adoption and availability of broadband service for Louisiana residents by providing universal access to broadband service; and

Whereas, during the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, the legislature created the office of broadband and connectivity within the governor's office to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an ef-

fort to eliminate the digital divide in Louisiana by 2029; and

Whereas, the office of broadband and connectivity's mission is to coordinate federal, state, and municipal efforts by identifying best practices and tactics necessary in their goal; and

Whereas, in 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and

Whereas, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and

Whereas, under the ACP, eligible households can receive up to thirty dollars per month discount toward internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for households on qualifying tribal lands; and

Whereas, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers; and

Whereas, Louisiana was the first state to receive broadband award approval from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is number one in the nation for ACP enrollment with an estimated forty-six percent of eligible households enrolled; and

Whereas, currently, there are more than nine hundred thousand eligible households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and four hundred and twenty-two thousand, two hundred and fifty-seven households that have enrolled; and

Whereas, based on current take rates, the more than fourteen billion dollars in funding appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024; and

Whereas, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the "digital divide" that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications technology and those who do not; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Louisiana households can continue to receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-36. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) of the United States to have discussions with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) regarding the development of guidelines and procedures for individuals released from DPS&C custody and those on probation or parole for a pre-application process for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards (TWIC cards) while in custody and to work on a process to streamline felony conviction automatic denials; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 275

Whereas, the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2001 (MTSA) was introduced following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and became P.L. 107-295 in 2002; and

Whereas, the MTSA provided that TWIC cards were to be issued to workers who have access to secure areas of the nation's maritime facilities and vessels; and

Whereas, TSA and the United States Coast Guard jointly administer the TWIC card program; and

Whereas, TSA has rules and regulations in place to address an applicant's criminal history on a case-by-case basis through an appeals and waiver process; and

Whereas, DPS&C releases over thirteen thousand individuals back into the community each year and supervises over forty-four thousand individuals; and

Whereas, securing a TWIC card as soon as possible after release provides for more opportunities for employment; and

Whereas, according to the Ports Association of Louisiana, five hundred twenty-five thousand jobs in Louisiana are tied to the state's ports; additionally, there are over two hundred sixty thousand jobs related to the oil and gas industry in Louisiana; many of the jobs require a valid TWIC card; and

Whereas, employment is critical to the success of those on supervision and studies show that unemployment is a major predictor of recidivism; and

Whereas, it is critical to our national security to protect and secure the nation's maritime facilities and vessels through the TWIC card process; and

Whereas, it is also critical that opportunities are available to those who have demonstrated rehabilitation and are seeking a second chance; and

Whereas, according to TSA, individuals in the custody of DPS&C are not eligible to apply for a TWIC card until after they have been released from custody; and

Whereas, TSA issues TWIC cards within its current regulations to individuals with certain felony convictions; and

Whereas, the appeal and waiver process takes months for TSA to review conviction details, circumstances, proof of rehabilitation, and whether the person is in the process of rehabilitation before issuing a waiver or ruling on an appeal; and

Whereas, applying for a TWIC card and beginning the appeal and waiver process prior to a person's release from DPS&C will increase chances of employment shortly after release: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Transportation and Security Administration of the United States to have discussions with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections regarding the development of guidelines and procedures for individuals released from the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and those on probation or parole for a pre-application process for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards while in custody and to work on a process to streamline felony conviction automatic denials; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States, the administrator of the Transportation and Security Administration, presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

POM-37. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming recognizing and congratulating the United States Air Force on the 75th anniversary of its founding; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, the United States Air Force was founded in 1947 and has had a continuous and active presence in Wyoming since that time; and

Whereas, The United States Air force's heritage in Wyoming pre-dates the Air Force founded as a separate military branch and includes the significant training mission of strategic bomber crews at the Casper Army Air Field during World War II; and

Whereas, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base is the oldest continuously active, Air Force based in the Nation; and

Whereas, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base has played a vital role in the strategic defense of the United States and its allies by maintaining the first fully operational Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), the Atlas D, in 1959; and

Whereas, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base is home to the 90th Missile Wing, one of three active missile wings currently operating the Minuteman III ICBM and the headquarters of 20th Air Force, which commands all three (3) missile wings; and

Whereas, the 90th Missile wing was the only military unit to operate the Peacekeeper ICBM, the most advanced ballistic missile fielded to date which was deployed exclusively in Wyoming; and

Whereas, the 90th Missile Wing will continue to play a vital role in the strategic defense of the United States now and into the future and be the first unit to deploy the new Sentinel ICBM; and

Whereas, the University of Wyoming has a strong history of supporting the United States Air Force by establishing Air Force ROTC Detachment 940 in 1952 and counting Samuel C. Phillips, the leader of the Air Force's Minuteman ICBM program, as an alumnus; and

Whereas, the Wyoming Air National Guard has continuously supported our state and nation since 1946; and

Whereas, the Wyoming Air National Guard became part of the Air Force in 1947 and ever since has honorably, ably and faithfully been the "Sword and Shield" for our state and nation; and

Whereas, the Wyoming Air National Guard, as the Sword, has played a vital role in guarding the United States and defending freedom in nearly every major conflict and contingency by repeatedly answering the nation's call in places such as Korea, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world; and

Whereas, the Wyoming Air National Guard, as the Shield, has fought fires on the ground and in the air in Wyoming and throughout the West, mitigated flooding in Saratoga, Fremont county and elsewhere, and most recently provided desperately needed manpower for medical facilities throughout the state during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the State of Wyoming is dedicated to memorializing the story of the Air Force through the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum and Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility State Historic Site. Now, Therefore

Be it Resolved by the Members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1.

(a) The State of Wyoming commends the United States Air Force on its 75th anniversary.

(b) The State of Wyoming acknowledges the strong historic relationship between the United States Air Force and the State.

(c) The State of Wyoming recognizes the significant service that the United States Air Force currently provides in protecting our vital state and national interests.

(d) The State of Wyoming is determined to continue the strong partnership between the State and the United States Air Force.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Com-

mander of the 90th Missile Wing, 20th Air Force and the Commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 940.

POM-38. A resolution adopted by the Senate of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to pass the AMERICANS Act of 2023 to reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

Whereas, in August of 2021, United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin required COVID-19 vaccinations for all service members; and

Whereas, at the direction of Congress in January of 2022, Secretary Austin rescinded the COVID-19 vaccination mandate; and

Whereas, during the effective period of the mandate, approximately eight thousand two hundred service members of the armed forces were discharged for refusing to get the vaccine for religious or other reasons; and

Whereas, while the passing of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act ended the mandate, it did not go far enough to prevent a similar mandate in the future or provide meaningful remedies for service members that were kicked out of the military; and

Whereas, if the AMERICANS Act of 2023 is enacted, service members that were involuntarily separated from their service would be credited with missed retirement pay, have their rank restored, and receive any compensation for any pay or benefits lost due to the demotion or discharge; and

Whereas, the AMERICANS Act of 2023 would also change any "general" discharge given to the unvaccinated to "honorable" and expunge the records of service members who faced adverse action for their refusal to be vaccinated; and

Whereas, the enactment of the AMERICANS Act of 2023 would result in a fair and just outcome for those loyal service members who were discharged for remaining true to their personal convictions. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to pass the AMERICANS Act of 2023 to reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine. Be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-39. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to assist in the establishment of a Louisiana pilot program for the recruitment of new United States Army members to address the military recruitment shortage; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

Whereas, the United States Army was founded to serve the American people, defend the nation, protect vital national interests, and fulfill national military responsibilities; and

Whereas, the United States Army helps to maintain peace and stability in the United States and in regions critical to the interests of the United States; and

Whereas, recruiting and retaining service members is essential for our military members and national security; and

Whereas, in recent years, the United States Army has struggled to recruit qualified and willing recruits; and

Whereas, last fiscal year, the United States Army missed its recruiting goal by fifteen thousand active duty soldiers, or twenty-five percent of its target; and

Whereas, the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services convened recently to explore solutions to the military recruitment crisis; and

Whereas, for decades, Louisiana has had the nation's highest incarceration rate and state leaders have sought programs to reduce recidivism and alternatives to incarceration; and

Whereas, elected officials want to work with the armed forces, law enforcement, and advocates to develop a plan to improve military eligibility which includes nonviolent offenders between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five with a high school diploma or college degree, such as an associate degree or bachelor's degree, to participate in the pilot program and join the United States Army; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to assist in the establishment of a Louisiana pilot program for the recruitment of new United States Army members to address the military recruitment shortage.

Resolved, that the offenders who fail to complete the pilot program or who fail to enlist in the United States Army shall return to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections with credit for time served in the pilot program.

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-40. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to assist in the establishment of a Louisiana pilot program for the recruitment of new United States Army members to address the military recruitment shortage; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 90

Whereas, the United States Army was founded to serve the American people, defend the nation, protect vital national interests, and fulfill national military responsibilities; and

Whereas, the United States Army helps to maintain peace and stability in the United States and in regions critical to the interests of the United States; and

Whereas, recruiting and retaining service members is essential for our military members and national security; and

Whereas, in recent years, the United States Army has struggled to recruit qualified and willing recruits; and

Whereas, last fiscal year, the United States Army missed its recruiting goal by fifteen thousand active duty soldiers, or twenty-five percent of its target; and

Whereas, the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services convened recently to explore solutions to the military recruitment crisis; and

Whereas, for decades, Louisiana has had the nation's highest incarceration rate and state leaders have sought programs to reduce recidivism and alternatives to incarceration; and

Whereas, elected officials want to work with the armed forces, law enforcement, and

advocates to develop a plan to improve military eligibility which includes nonviolent offenders between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five with a high school diploma or college degree, such as an associate degree or bachelor's degree, to participate in the pilot program and join the United States Army; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to assist in the establishment of a Louisiana pilot program for the recruitment of new United States Army members to address the military recruitment shortage; and be it further

Resolved, That the offenders who fail to complete the pilot program or who fail to enlist in the United States Army shall return to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections with credit for time served in the pilot program; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 447. A bill to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, and for other purposes.

S. 1303. A bill to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees.

S. 1669. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Robert G. Taub, of New York, to be a Commissioner for the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2028.

*Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Danny Lam Hoan Nguyen, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2762. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert Cleckler ("Bobby") Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2763. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizona Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2764. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a rebate by manufacturers for selected drugs and biological products subject to maximum fair price negotiation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 2765. A bill to require a watermark for AI-generated materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2766. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2767. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2768. A bill to protect hospital personnel from violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2769. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2770. A bill to prohibit the distribution of materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media relating to candidates for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2771. A bill to allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges; to the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2772. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve direct certification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2773. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2774. A bill to require the denial of admission to the United States for individuals subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13876, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 335. A resolution designating September 23, 2023, through October 1, 2023, as "Blue Star Welcome Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Res. 336. A resolution prohibiting the imposition of vaccination requirements relating to COVID-19 for Senate Pages; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 337. A resolution designating the week beginning September 10, 2023, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 338. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. Res. 339. A resolution authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct a blood donation drive on September 28, 2023; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 76

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 76, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 89

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 139

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 139, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 140

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor

of S. 689, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to define currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, *supra*.

S. 743

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to establish a national commission on fiscal responsibility and reform, and for other purposes.

S. 940

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide payments on eligible loans for individuals who are eligible for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

S. 1261

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to clarify the treatment of 2 or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to provide for payment rates for durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes.

S. 1587

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1587, a bill to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1665

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1665, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the buildout of clean school bus charging infrastructure through community facilities direct loans and grants.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to extend the temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 2041

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2041, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2272

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2272, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for special base rates of pay for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes.

S. 2421

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2421, a bill to require the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to revise the terms of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement and the Livestock Price Reinsurance Agreement, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2589

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2589, a bill to amend the Research Facilities Act and the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to address deferred maintenance at agricultural research facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2705

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2705, a bill to grant States the authority to request additional nonimmigrant visas for foreign workers in their respective States, and for other purposes.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emer-

gency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to make commodities available for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2754, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish all information in the possession of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the origin of COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution recognizing Tunisia's leadership in the Arab Spring and expressing support for upholding its democratic principles and norms.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 335—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2023, AS “BLUE STAR WELCOME WEEK”

Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 335

Whereas Blue Star Families seeks to empower military families by connecting them with their neighbors, individuals, and organizations to create vibrant communities of mutual support;

Whereas Blue Star Families annually designates the week beginning the second to last Saturday in September and concluding 8 days thereafter as “Blue Star Welcome Week”;

Whereas, during Blue Star Welcome Week, the Senate recognizes the 600,000 active duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year during permanent change of station moves, nearly half of which occur during the summer;

Whereas only 33 percent of military family respondents to the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey conducted by Blue Star Families reported that they feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community; and

Whereas a sense of belonging is essential to the well-being and readiness of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 23, 2023, through October 1, 2023, as “Blue Star Welcome Week”;

(2) expresses gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members, transitioning veterans, and their families;

(3) commits to ensuring that military-connected families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and

(4) encourages civilians across the United States to welcome military-connected families into their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 336—PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO COVID-19 FOR SENATE PAGES

Mr. PAUL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 336

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SENATE PAGES.

A Senate Page or applicant to be a Senate Page may not be required to receive a vaccination for COVID-19.

SENATE RESOLUTION 337—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, 2023, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 337

Whereas direct care workers, including direct support professionals, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential services that ensure that all individuals with disabilities are—

(1) included as a valued part of the communities in which those individuals live;

(2) supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States; and

(3) empowered to live with the dignity that all people of the United States deserve;

Whereas, by fostering connections between individuals with disabilities and their families, friends, and communities, direct support professionals ensure that individuals with disabilities thrive, thereby avoiding more costly institutional care;

Whereas direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities and provide a broad range of personalized support to those individuals, including—

(1) helping individuals make person-centered choices;

(2) assisting with personal care, meal preparation, medication management, and other aspects of daily living;

(3) assisting individuals in accessing the community and securing competitive, integrated employment;

(4) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities;

(5) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and

(6) assisting individuals in the transition from isolated or congregate settings or serv-

ices to living in the communities of their choice;

Whereas there is a critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, a crisis that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing uncertainty and risk to individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals do not have their own Standard Occupational Classification for the purposes of Federal data collection, which includes data produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor;

Whereas the direct care workforce, including direct support professionals, is expected to grow more than any other occupation in the United States;

Whereas many direct support professionals—

(1) are the primary financial providers for their families;

(2) are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide a critical service in the United States; and

(3) continue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999)—

(1) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and

(2) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide person-centered, community-based service options to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 10, 2023, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities in the United States and the families of those individuals;

(4) commends direct support professionals for being integral to the provision of long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) encourages the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to collect data that is specific to direct support professionals; and

(6) finds that the successful implementation of public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States can depend on the dedication of direct support professionals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 338—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 338

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United

States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “’76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 339—AUTHORIZING THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT A BLOOD DONATION DRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Mr. CARPER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 339

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENATE BLOOD DONATION DRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—In addition to blood donation drives conducted under Senate Resolution 78 (118th Congress), agreed to February 16, 2023, the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, in conjunction with the Blood Bank of Delmarva, is authorized to conduct a blood donation drive, at a location in the Senate Office Buildings, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 28, 2023.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **LOCATION.**—The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall select the location of the blood donation drive described in subsection (a) in consultation with the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(2) **PREPARATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—Physical preparations for the conduct of, and the implementation of, the blood donation drive authorized under subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, in consultation with the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, may prescribe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1094. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1095. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1096. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1097. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1098. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1099. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1100. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1101. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1102. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be pro-

posed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1103. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1104. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1105. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1106. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1107. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1108. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1109. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1110. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1111. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1112. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1113. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1114. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1115. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1116. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the

bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1117. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1118. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1119. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1120. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1121. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1122. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1123. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1124. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1125. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1126. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1127. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1128. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1129. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1130. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1131. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1094. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO MODIFY OR REMOVE ANY DISPLAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MISSION STATEMENT.

None of the amounts appropriated by this division or otherwise made available for fis-

cal year 2024 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended to modify or remove any display of the Department of Veterans Affairs that bears the mission statement "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans."

SA 1095. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF INFANT FORMULA; TERMINATION OF TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ON INFANT FORMULA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 19 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended as follows:

(1) By striking Additional U.S. Note 2.

(2) By inserting after Additional U.S. Note 3 the following:

"4. For purposes of subheading 901.90.57, the term 'infant formula base powder' means a dry mixture of protein, fat, and carbohydrates that requires only the addition of vitamins and minerals in order to meet the definition of the term 'infant formula' in section 201(z) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(z)) and that is—

"(a) imported by a party that—
"(1) has been determined by the Food and Drug Administration to be authorized to lawfully market infant formula in the United States; or

"(2) has received a letter of enforcement discretion for the Food and Drug Administration relating to the marketing of its infant formula in the United States; and

"(b) intended to be used in manufacturing infant formula in the United States."

(3) By striking subheadings 901.10.11 and 901.10.16 and the superior text to such subheadings and inserting the following, with the article description having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 901.10.62:

Table with 4 columns: Subheading, Description, Rate, and Note. Row 1: 901.10.12 | Infant formula containing oligosaccharides | Free | \$1.217/ kg+ 17.5%

(4) By striking subheadings 901.10.26 and 901.10.29 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 901.10.23 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 901.10.21:

Table with 4 columns: Subheading, Description, Rate, and Note. Rows: 901.10.23 | Infant formula | Free | \$1.217/kg + 17.5%; 901.10.24 | Other | \$1.035/kg + 14.9% | \$1.217/kg + 17.5%; Other: 901.10.25 | Infant formula | Free | 35%; 901.10.28 | Other | 14.9% | 35%

(5) By striking subheadings 901.10.33 and 901.10.36 and the superior text to such subheadings and inserting the following, with the article description having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 901.10.62:

Table with 4 columns: Subheading, Description, Rate, and Note. Row 1: 901.10.34 | Infant formula containing oligosaccharides | Free | \$1.217/ kg+ 17.5%

(6) By redesignating subheadings 901.90.60 and 901.90.61 as subheadings 901.90.55 and 901.90.56, respectively. (7) By striking subheading 901.90.62 and inserting the following, with the article description having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 901.10.56, as redesignated by paragraph (6):

Table with 4 columns: Subheading, Description, Rate, and Note. Row 1: 901.90.57 | Infant formula base powder, as defined in additional U.S. note 4 to this chapter | Free | \$1.127/kg + 16%; Row 2: 901.90.58 | Other | \$1.035/kg +13.6% | Free (BH, CL, JO, KR, MA, OM, PE, SG) 20.7¢/kg + 2.7% (P, PA) See 9822.04.25 (AU) See 9823.08.01-9823.08.38 (S+) See 9915.04.30, 9915.04.50, 9915.04.74 (P+) See 9918.04.60-9918.04.80 (CO) | \$1.127/kg + 16%

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Additional U.S. Note 10 to chapter 4 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by striking “1901.90.61” and inserting “1901.90.56”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn for warehouse for consumption, on or after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1096. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 208 of the amendment, insert between lines 6 and 7 the following:

TITLE VIII—POVERTY MEASUREMENT IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 801. IMPROVING THE MEASUREMENT OF POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL BENEFIT.—The term “Federal benefit” means a benefit, refundable tax credit, or other form of assistance provided under any of the following programs:

- (A) Earned Income Tax Credit (refundable portion).
- (B) Child Tax Credit (refundable portion).
- (C) Supplemental Security Income.
- (D) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- (E) Title IV–E Foster Care.
- (F) Title IV–E Adoption Assistance.
- (G) Medicaid.
- (H) SCHIP.
- (I) Indian Health Services.
- (J) PPACA refundable premium assistance and cost sharing tax credit.
- (K) Assets for Independence program.
- (L) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Food Program.
- (M) School Breakfast.
- (N) School Lunch.
- (O) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Program.
- (P) Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- (Q) The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- (R) Nutrition Program for the Elderly.
- (S) Seniors Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.
- (T) Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- (U) Section 8 Housing.
- (V) Public Housing.
- (W) Housing for Persons with Disabilities.
- (X) Home Investment Partnership Program.
- (Y) Rural Housing Service.
- (Z) Rural Housing Insurance Fund.
- (AA) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- (BB) Universal Service Fund Low Income Support Mechanism (subsidized phone services).
- (CC) Pell Grants.
- (DD) Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.
- (EE) American Opportunity Tax Credit (refundable portion).
- (FF) Healthy Start.
- (GG) Job Corps.
- (HH) Head Start (including Early Head Start).
- (II) Weatherization Assistance.
- (JJ) Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

(KK) Child Care Subsidies from the Child Care and Development Fund.

(LL) Child Care from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant.

(MM) Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children.

(NN) Senior Community Service Employment Program.

(OO) Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Training Program.

(PP) Indian and Native American Employment and Training Program.

(QQ) Independent Living Education and Training Vouchers.

(2) RESOURCE UNIT.—The term “resource unit” means all co-resident individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption, plus any co-resident unrelated children, foster children, and unmarried partners and their relatives.

(3) MARKET INCOME.—The term “market income” means individual income from the following:

- (A) Earnings.
- (B) Interest.
- (C) Dividends.
- (D) Rents, royalties, and estates and trusts.

(E) The monetary value of employer-sponsored health insurance benefits.

(F) Other forms of income, as determined by the Director.

(4) ENTITLEMENT AND OTHER INCOME.—The term “entitlement and other income” means income from the following:

- (A) Unemployment (insurance) compensation.
- (B) Workers’ compensation.
- (C) Social Security.
- (D) Veterans’ payments and benefits.
- (E) Survivor benefits.
- (F) Disability benefits (not including benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program).
- (G) Pension or retirement income.
- (H) Alimony.
- (I) Child support.
- (J) Financial assistance from outside of the household.
- (K) Medicare.

(5) ENTITLEMENT AND EARNED UNIT INCOME.—The term “entitlement and earned unit income” means the sum of all market income and entitlement and other income.

(6) INCOME TAX DATA.—The term “income tax data” means return information, as such term is defined under section 6103(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(7) ADMINISTERING AGENCY.—The term “administering agency” means a State or Federal agency responsible for administering a Federal benefit.

(8) TOTAL RESOURCE UNIT INCOME.—The term “total resource unit income” means, with respect to a resource unit, an amount equal to—

- (A) the sum of—
 - (i) all market income attributable to members of the unit;
 - (ii) all entitlement and other income attributable to members of the unit; and
 - (iii) an amount, or cash equivalent, of all Federal benefits received by members of the unit; minus
- (B) all State and Federal income and payroll taxes attributable to members of the unit.

(9) EARNED RESOURCE UNIT INCOME.—The term “earned resource unit income” means, with respect to a resource unit, all market income attributable to members of the unit.

(10) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The term “personally identifiable information” means any information that identifies an individual or could reasonably be used to identify an individual that is—

- (A) collected pursuant to a survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census; or

(B) disclosed to the Bureau of the Census by an administering agency for the purpose of carrying out subsection (b).

(11) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of the Census.

(b) VERIFICATION OF DATA COLLECTED IN THE ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT TO THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year 2024, in order to more accurately determine the extent of poverty in the United States and the anti-poverty effectiveness of Federal benefit programs, the Director shall collect, in addition to the data collected under the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, data from the appropriate administering agencies related to the following:

(A) Participation in any Federal benefit program and the monetary or cash equivalent value of such benefit for an individual, where possible, and otherwise for resource units or households.

(B) The total amount of market income for individuals.

(C) The total amount of entitlement and other income for individuals.

(D) Payment of income taxes and payroll taxes for individuals.

(E) Total resource unit income.

(F) Total earned resource unit income.

(G) Any other information about benefits or income received by individuals that the Director determines necessary to carry out this section and that is not included in the data relating to participation in Federal benefit programs or market income for individuals.

(2) ADMINISTERING AGENCY DATA.—Not later than 6 months after receiving a request from the Director, the head of each administering agency shall make available to the Director such data (including income tax data) as the Director shall require for the purpose of carrying out this subsection and for the purposes outlined in section 6 of title 13, United States Code.

(3) PUBLICATION OF DATA.—

(A) RATES AND OTHER DATA.—

(i) REPORT.—The Director shall submit to Congress, not later than January 1, 2025, a report detailing the implementation of this section, including—

- (I) the availability of related data;
- (II) the quality of the data; and

(iii) the methodology proposed for assigning dollar values to the receipt of noncash Federal benefits.

(ii) TABLES AND GRAPHS.—The Director shall produce tables and graphs showing for each year the poverty rates and related data calculated using data collected under paragraph (1), including—

- (I) the total resource unit income for survey respondents;
- (II) the total earned resource unit income for survey respondents;
- (III) the total of all amounts described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (1) that are received by survey respondents;
- (IV) a breakdown of the amount of income taxes and payroll taxes attributable to survey respondents; and

(V) for 2027 and subsequent years, poverty rates calculated using updated poverty thresholds as described in clause (iii).

(iii) UPDATED POVERTY THRESHOLDS.—For 2027 and subsequent years, the Director shall, in addition to the official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget) and the supplemental poverty measure, provide an alternative poverty measure that uses the personal consumption expenditure price index (as published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis) and accounts for the

data collected under paragraph (1). The Director shall provide a comparison of the official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget), the supplemental poverty measure rate as defined by the Bureau of the Census, and the alternative poverty rate created using the alternative poverty measure under this section.

(iv) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The Office of Management and Budget shall not use the additional data collected by the Director pursuant to paragraph (1) for purposes of defining the official poverty line.

(B) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—Consistent with the provisions of sections 8, 9, and 23(c) of title 13, United States Code, the Director shall ensure the confidentiality of information furnished to the Director under this subsection.

(C) **PROTECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The security, disclosure, and confidentiality provisions set forth in sections 9 and 23 of title 13, United States Code, shall apply to personally identifiable information obtained by the Bureau of the Census pursuant to this section.

(2) **RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.**—Access to personally identifiable information collected to supplement the restricted-use Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements in accordance with subsection (b)(1) shall be available only to those who have access to the Current Population Survey data with the permission of the Bureau of the Census and in accordance with any other applicable provision of law.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—Any individual who knowingly accesses or discloses personally identifiable information in violation of this section shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in an amount of not more than \$300,000 under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both.

(d) **STATE REPORTING OF FEDERAL DATA.**—Beginning with the first full calendar year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any Federal benefit that is administered at the State level by a State administering agency, such State administering agency shall submit each year to the Federal administering agency responsible for administering the benefit at the Federal level a report that identifies each resource unit that received such benefits during such year by the personally identifiable information of the head of the resource unit and the amount, or cash equivalent, of such benefit received by such resource unit.

SEC. 802. COMMISSION ON VALUATION OF GOVERNMENT BENEFITS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the United States Census Bureau a commission, to be known as the “Commission on Valuation of Federal Benefits” (referred to in this section as the “Commission”).

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—

(A) 2 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(B) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(D) 2 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CO-CHAIRS.**—Of the members of the Commission—

(A) 1 co-chair shall be designated by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(B) 1 co-chair shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Each member appointed to the Commission shall have experience in—

(A) quantitative policy research; and

(B) welfare or poverty studies.

(c) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the last member is appointed under subsection (b), the Commission shall hold an initial meeting.

(d) **QUORUM.**—Six members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(e) **NO PROXY VOTING.**—Proxy voting by members of the Commission shall be prohibited.

(f) **STAFF.**—The Director of the Census Bureau shall appoint an executive director of the Commission.

(g) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay, but shall receive travel expenses in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) **DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall produce recommendations for the valuation of Federal benefits listed under section 801(a)(1) for the purpose of United States Census Bureau estimates of the Federal Poverty Level, including non-cash benefits.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report of the recommendations required under paragraph (1), including a detailed statement of methodology and reasoning behind recommendations.

(B) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be made available on an internet website of the United States Government that is available to the public.

(i) **POWERS OF COMMISSION.**—On request by the executive director of the Commission, the head of a Federal agency shall furnish information to the Commission.

(j) **TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**—The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the report under subsection (h)(2).

(k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 803. GAO REPORTS ON EFFECT OF SUPPLEMENTARY DATA ON CALCULATION OF POVERTY RATES AND RELATED MEASURES.

Not later than January 1, 2028, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that compares the poverty rates and related measures calculated under the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey with the poverty rates and related measures calculated using the data collected under section 801(b)(1).

SEC. 804. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect the eligibility of an individual or household for a Federal benefit.

SEC. 805. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect the eligibility of an individual or household for a Federal benefit.

TITLE IX—MODIFICATIONS TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEC. 901. WORK REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Congress further finds that it should also be the purpose of the supplemental nutrition assistance program to increase employment, to encourage healthy marriage, and to promote prosperous self-

sufficiency, which means the ability of households to maintain an income above the poverty level without services and benefits from the Federal Government.”.

(b) **DEFINITION OF FOOD.**—Section 3(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(k)) is amended by striking “means (1)” and inserting “means the following foods, food products, meals, and other items, only if the food, food product, meal, or other item is essential, as determined by the Secretary: (1)”.

(c) **GENERAL WORK REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 6(d)(1)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(1)(A)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “60” and inserting “65”.

(d) **HOURLY-BASED WORK REQUIREMENT.**—Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “other than a supervised job search program or job search training program” and inserting “including an in-person supervised job search program”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “50” and inserting “64”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (C); and

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

(3) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “area” and inserting “county or county equivalent”;

(B) in clause (i), by striking “or” and inserting “and”; and

(C) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) is not located within a labor market area, as determined by data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent.”;

(4) in paragraph (6)(D), by striking “15 percent” and inserting “5 percent”;

(5) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8);

(6) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) **WORK OR WORK PREPARATION HOURS REQUIREMENT FOR MARRIED COUPLES WITH CHILDREN.**—The total combined number of hours of work or work preparation activities under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2) for both spouses in a married couple household with 1 or more children over the age of 6 shall not be greater than the total number of hours required under those subparagraphs for a single head of household.”; and

(7) by inserting after paragraph (8) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(9) **MINIMUM WAGE RULE.**—The limitation under subsection (d)(4)(F)(i) shall not apply to any work requirement, program, or activity required under this subsection.”.

SEC. 902. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM OUTCOMES REPORTING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report, using data from the most recent 5 fiscal years available, detailing the outcomes of beneficiaries of the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) (referred to in this section as “SNAP”) who participate in employment and training programs (as defined in section 6(d)(4)(B) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)(B))) for each of those 5 years that includes the following information:

(1) The number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who participated in an employment and training program compared to the number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who did

not participate in an employment and training program.

(2) The number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who obtained a job while participating in an employment and training program compared to the number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who obtained a job but did not participate in an employment and training program.

(3) The number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who retained a job for 6 months, 1 year, and 5 years after completing an employment and training program and obtaining a job compared to the number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries in each State who retained a job for 6 months, 1 year, and 5 years but did not complete an employment and training program prior to obtaining that job.

(4) The increase or decrease in wages, if applicable, for SNAP beneficiaries in each State who retained a job for 6 months, 1 year, and 5 years after completing an employment and training program and obtaining a job compared to the increase or decrease in wages, if applicable, for SNAP beneficiaries in each State who retained a job for 6 months, 1 year, and 5 years but did not complete an employment and training program prior to obtaining that job.

(5) The number and percentage of SNAP beneficiaries who—

(A) previously participated in an employment and training program;

(B) after that participation, obtained a job or stopped receiving SNAP benefits; and

(C) after regaining eligibility for SNAP benefits, reentered an employment or training program.

(6) The average duration that SNAP beneficiaries in each State participated in an employment and training program.

(7) A breakdown of—

(A) the types of employment and training activities offered by the employment and training program of each State; and

(B) the types of jobs that States are preparing employment and training program participants to obtain.

SEC. 903. STATE MATCHING FUNDS.

Section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATE MATCHING FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that participates in the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall, as a condition of participation, be required to contribute matching funds in an amount equal to, of the funds received from the Secretary by the State for program administration—

“(A) for fiscal year 2024, 10 percent;

“(B) for fiscal year 2025, 15 percent;

“(C) for fiscal year 2026, 20 percent;

“(D) for fiscal year 2027, 25 percent;

“(E) for fiscal year 2028, 30 percent;

“(F) for fiscal year 2029, 35 percent;

“(G) for fiscal year 2030, 40 percent;

“(H) for fiscal year 2031, 45 percent; and

“(I) for fiscal year 2032 and each fiscal year thereafter, 50 percent.

“(2) ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS PERMITTED.—Nothing in this subsection prevents a State from contributing matching funds in an amount greater than the amount required under paragraph (1) for the applicable fiscal year.”.

SEC. 904. ELIGIBILITY.

Section 5(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by inserting “that are limited to families whose income and resources satisfy financial need criteria established in accordance with subsections (c) and (g) by the State for receipt of the benefits” after “(42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”; and

(2) by inserting after the second sentence the following: “To be deemed eligible for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under this subsection, a household shall receive a cash or noncash means-tested public benefit for at least 6 consecutive months valued at not less than \$50.”.

SEC. 905. COMPLIANCE WITH FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 6(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) COMPLIANCE WITH FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, an individual shall cooperate with any investigation into fraud under that program, including full participation in any—

“(A) meeting requested by fraud investigators; and

“(B) administrative hearing.”.

SEC. 906. AUTHORIZED USERS OF ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER CARDS.

Section 7(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(15) AUTHORIZED USERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency shall register—

“(i) at least 1 member of a household issued an EBT card as an authorized user of the card; and

“(ii) an authorized representative of a household as an authorized user of the EBT card issued to the household.

“(B) LIMIT.—Not more than 5 individuals shall be registered as authorized users, including the authorized representative of a household, on an EBT card.

“(C) UNAUTHORIZED USE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An EBT card shall not be used by any individual who is not an authorized user of the EBT card.

“(ii) 2 UNAUTHORIZED USES.—If an EBT card has been used 2 times by an unauthorized user of the EBT card, the head of the household to which the EBT card is issued shall be required to review program rights and responsibilities with personnel of the State agency.

“(iii) 4 UNAUTHORIZED USES.—If an EBT card has been used 4 times by an unauthorized user of the EBT card, the State agency shall suspend benefits for the household to which the EBT card is issued for 1 month.

“(iv) 6 UNAUTHORIZED USES.—If an EBT card has been used 6 times by an unauthorized user of the EBT card, the State agency shall suspend benefits for the household to which the EBT card is issued for 3 months.

“(v) 7 OR MORE UNAUTHORIZED USES.—If an EBT card has been used 7 or more times by an unauthorized user of the EBT card, the State agency shall suspend benefits for the household to which the EBT card is issued for 1 month per unauthorized use.

“(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Any action taken under clauses (ii) through (v) shall be consistent with sections 6(b) and 11(e)(10), as applicable.”.

SEC. 907. REAUTHORIZATION OF MEDIUM- OR HIGH-RISK RETAIL FOOD STORES AND WHOLESALE FOOD CONCERNS.

Section 9(a)(2)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “; and” and inserting “, which, in the case of a retail food store or wholesale food concern for which there is a medium risk or high risk of fraudulent transactions, as determined by the fraud detection system of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall be annually; and”.

SEC. 908. STATE ACTIVITY REPORTS.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(y) STATE ACTIVITY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall publish for each fiscal year a report describing the activity of each State in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, which shall contain, for the applicable fiscal year, substantially the same information as is contained in the report published by the Food and Nutrition Service entitled ‘Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program State Activity Report Fiscal Year 2016’ and published September 2017.”.

SEC. 909. DISQUALIFICATION BY STATE AGENCY.

Section 12 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2021) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) DISQUALIFICATION BY STATE AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), a State agency shall permanently disqualify from participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program an approved retail food store or wholesale food concern convicted of—

“(A) trafficking in food instruments (including any voucher, draft, check, or access device (including an electronic benefit transfer card or personal identification number) issued in lieu of a food instrument under this Act); or

“(B) selling firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)) in exchange for food instruments (including any item described in subparagraph (A) issued in lieu of a food instrument under this Act).

“(2) NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION.—The State agency shall—

“(A) provide the approved retail food store or wholesale food concern with notification of the disqualification; and

“(B) make the disqualification effective on the date of receipt of the notice of disqualification.

“(3) PROHIBITION OF RECEIPT OF LOST REVENUES.—A retail food store or wholesale food concern shall not be entitled to receive any compensation for revenues lost as a result of disqualification under this subsection.

“(4) EXCEPTIONS IN LIEU OF DISQUALIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency may permit a retail food store or wholesale food concern that, but for this paragraph, would be disqualified under paragraph (1), to continue to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program if the State agency determines, in its sole discretion, that—

“(i) disqualification of the retail food store or wholesale food concern, as applicable, would cause hardship to participants in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or

“(ii) (I) the retail food store or wholesale food concern had, at the time of the violation under paragraph (1), an effective policy and program in effect to prevent violations described in paragraph (1); and

“(II) the ownership of the retail food store or wholesale food concern was not aware of, did not approve of, and was not involved in the conduct of the violation.

“(B) CIVIL PENALTY.—If a State agency under subparagraph (A) permits a retail food store or wholesale food concern to continue to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in lieu of disqualification, the State agency shall assess a civil penalty in an amount determined by the State agency, except that—

“(i) the amount of the civil penalty shall not exceed \$10,000 for each violation; and

“(ii) the amount of civil penalties imposed for violations investigated as part of a single investigation may not exceed \$40,000.

“(C) REPORTING.—

“(i) TO THE SECRETARY.—If a State agency under subparagraph (A) permits a retail food

store or wholesale food concern to continue to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program in lieu of disqualification, the State agency shall annually submit to the Secretary a report describing the justification of the State agency for that action.

“(ii) TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report compiling the information contained in reports submitted to the Secretary under clause (i).”

SEC. 910. RETENTION OF RECAPTURED FUNDS BY STATES.

Section 16(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking “The officials” and inserting the following:

“(3) PROHIBITION.—The officials”;

(2) in the first sentence—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I), respectively; and

(B) by striking “section 17(n): *Provided*, That the Secretary” and inserting the following: “section 17(n).

“(2) ADMINISTRATION ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND IN NATIVE VILLAGES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(3) in paragraph (2) (as so designated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “35 percent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) USE OF RETAINED AMOUNTS FOR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS.—The value of funds or allotments recovered or collected pursuant to sections 6(b) and 13(c) that are retained by a State under subparagraph (A) in excess of 35 percent shall be used by the State for investigations of fraud in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.”; and

(4) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through “Subject to” in the matter preceding paragraph (2) (as so designated) and inserting the following:

“(a) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to”.

SA 1097. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division B, insert the following:

TITLE VIII—OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAIRNESS IN FARMING

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2023”.

SEC. 802. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the generic programs to promote and provide research and information for an agricultural commodity (commonly known as “checkoff programs”) are intended to increase demand for all of that agricultural commodity and benefit all assessed producers of that agricultural commodity;

(2) although the laws establishing checkoff programs broadly prohibit the use of funds in any manner for the purpose of influencing legislation or government action, checkoff programs have repeatedly been shown to use funds to influence policy directly or by partnering with organizations that lobby;

(3) the unlawful use of checkoff programs funds benefits some agricultural producers while harming many others;

(4) to more effectively prevent Boards from using funds for unlawful purposes, strict separation of engagement between the Boards and policy entities is necessary;

(5) conflicts of interest in the checkoff programs allow special interests to use checkoff program funds for the benefit of some assessed agricultural producers at the expense of many others;

(6) prohibiting conflicts of interest in checkoff programs is necessary to ensure the proper and lawful operation of the checkoff programs;

(7) checkoff programs are designed to promote agricultural commodities, not to damage other types of agricultural commodities through anticompetitive conduct or otherwise;

(8) prohibiting anticompetitive and similar conduct is necessary to ensure proper and lawful operation of checkoff programs;

(9) lack of transparency in checkoff programs enables abuses to occur and conceals abuses from being discovered; and

(10) requiring transparency in the expenditure of checkoff program funds is necessary to prevent and uncover abuses in checkoff programs.

SEC. 803. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means a board, committee, or similar entity established to carry out a checkoff program or an order issued by the Secretary under a checkoff program.

(2) CHECKOFF PROGRAM.—The term “checkoff program” means a program to promote and provide research and information for a particular agricultural commodity without reference to specific producers or brands, including a program carried out under any of the following:

(A) The Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.).

(B) The Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(C) The Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(D) The Beef Research and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.).

(E) The Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.).

(F) The Floral Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.).

(G) Subtitle B of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.).

(H) The Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.).

(I) The Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.).

(J) The Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.).

(K) The Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001 et seq.).

(L) The Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).

(M) The Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.).

(N) The Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

(O) The Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.).

(P) The Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Act of 1993 (7 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.).

(Q) The Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

(R) Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401).

(S) The Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411 et seq.).

(T) The Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441 et seq.).

(U) The National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461 et seq.).

(V) The Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481 et seq.).

(W) The Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.).

(3) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The term “conflict of interest” means a direct or indirect financial interest in a person or entity that performs a service for, or enters into a contract or agreement with, a Board for anything of economic value.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 804. REQUIREMENTS OF CHECKOFF PROGRAMS.

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), a Board shall not enter into any contract or agreement to carry out checkoff program activities with a party that engages in activities for the purpose of influencing any government policy or action that relates to agriculture.

(2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—A Board shall not engage in, and shall prohibit the employees and agents of the Board, acting in their official capacity, from engaging in, any act that may involve a conflict of interest.

(3) OTHER PROHIBITIONS.—A Board shall not engage in, and shall prohibit the employees and agents of the Board, acting in their official capacity, from engaging in—

(A) any anticompetitive activity;

(B) any unfair or deceptive act or practice; or

(C) any act that may be disparaging to, or in any way negatively portray, another agricultural commodity or product.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTS WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a contract or agreement entered into between a Board and an institution of higher education for the purpose of research, extension, and education.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on approval of the Secretary, a Board may enter directly into contracts and agreements to carry out generic promotion, research, or other activities authorized by law.

(c) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each contract or agreement of a checkoff program shall provide that the entity that enters into the contract or agreement shall produce to the Board accurate records that account for all funds received under the contract or agreement, including any goods or services provided or costs incurred in connection with the contract or agreement.

(2) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—A Board shall maintain any records received under paragraph (1).

(d) PUBLICATION OF BUDGETS AND DISBURSEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall publish and make available for public inspection all budgets and disbursements of funds entrusted to the Board that are approved by the Secretary, immediately on approval by the Secretary.

(2) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Board shall disclose—

(A) the amount of the disbursement;

(B) the purpose of the disbursement, including the activities to be funded by the disbursement;

(C) the identity of the recipient of the disbursement; and

(D) the identity of any other parties that may receive the disbursed funds, including any contracts or subcontractors of the recipient of the disbursement.

(e) AUDITS.—

(1) PERIODIC AUDITS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF USDA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture shall conduct an audit to determine the compliance of each check-off program with this section during the period of time covered by the audit.

(B) REVIEW OF RECORDS.—An audit conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include a review of any records produced to the Board under subsection (c)(1).

(C) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—On completion of each audit under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture shall—

(i) prepare a report describing the audit; and

(ii) submit the report described in clause (i) to—

(I) the appropriate committees of Congress, including the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(II) the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) AUDIT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 3 years, and not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(i) conduct an audit to assess—

(I) the status of actions taken for each checkoff program to ensure compliance with this section; and

(II) the extent to which actions described in subclause (I) have improved the integrity of a checkoff program; and

(ii) prepare a report describing the audit conducted under clause (i), including any recommendations for—

(I) strengthening the effect of actions described in clause (i)(I); and

(II) improving Federal legislation relating to checkoff programs.

(B) CONSIDERATION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall consider reports described in paragraph (1)(C) in preparing any recommendations in the report under subparagraph (A)(ii).

SEC. 805. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title, and the application of the provision to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

SA 1098. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to carry out Socially Disadvantaged Applicant funding under Farm Service Agency farm loan programs; or

(2) for Department of Agriculture loan programs that use race as a criteria for eligibility.

SA 1099. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

Section 3(b) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended by striking “shall not exceed 25 percent” and inserting “shall be equal to not less than 25 percent”.

SA 1100. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY AND FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CERTAIN CREDITS RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT.

(a) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) EXCLUSION OF PRIME FARMLAND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Expenditures which are properly allocable to property placed in service on prime farmland shall not be taken into account for purposes of this section.

“(B) PRIME FARMLAND DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘prime farmland’ means land determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be prime farmland within the meaning of part 657.5 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(b) EXCLUSION OF FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(14) PRIME FARMLAND EXCLUDED.—The term ‘qualified facility’ shall not include any facility located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to facili-

ties placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(c) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM ENERGY CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “or any property located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9))” after “any prior taxable year”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(d) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CLEAN ELECTRICITY INVESTMENT CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48E(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) EXCLUSION OF PRIME FARMLAND.—Expenditures which are properly allocable to property placed in service on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)) shall not be taken into account for purposes of this section.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to qualified investments with respect to any qualified facility or energy storage technology the construction of which begins after the date of the enactment of this section.

(e) EXCLUSION OF FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CLEAN ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45Y(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) PRIME FARMLAND EXCLUDED.—The term ‘qualified facility’ shall not include any facility located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to facilities placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

SA 1101. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ LET ME TRAVEL AMERICA.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Let Me Travel America Act”.

(b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF SURGEON GENERAL.—Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Surgeon General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or any Federal agency with the authority to mandate vaccination against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a prerequisite for interstate travel, transportation, or movement.”.

(c) INTERSTATE COMMON CARRIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 805 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 80505. COVID-19 vaccination status

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in subsection (b) may not deny service to any

individual solely based on the vaccination status of the individual with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“(b) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An entity referred to in subsection (a) is a common carrier or any other entity, including a rail carrier (as defined in section 10102, including Amtrak), a motor carrier (as defined in section 13102), a water carrier (as defined in that section), and an air carrier (as defined in section 40102), that—

“(1) provides interstate transportation of passengers; and

“(2) is subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation or the Surface Transportation Board under this title.

“(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section applies to the regulation of intrastate travel, transportation, or movement, including the intrastate transportation of passengers.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 805 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 80504 the following:

“80505. COVID-19 vaccination status.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, shall be construed to permit or otherwise authorize Congress or an executive agency to enact or otherwise impose a COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

SA 1102. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DISPLAY CERTAIN FLAGS.

None of the funds appropriated by this division or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended to display at a facility of the Department any flag other than a flag representing the United States, a State, a territory of the United States, an element of the Armed Forces, prisoners of war, or those who are missing in action.

SA 1103. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR GENDER TRANSITION SURGERIES AND THE PROVISION OF GENDER AFFIRMING CARE.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division may be used for gender transition surgeries or the provision of gender affirming care.

SA 1104. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ABORTIONS.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division may be used for abortions, including the provision of abortion services, the use of facilities for an abortion, or the granting of any per diem or travel allowances for the procurement of an abortion.

SA 1105. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Of the funds made available by this division or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Defense for the support of Ukraine, not more than two percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which all member countries of North Atlantic Treaty Organization that do not spend two percent or more of their gross domestic product on defense meet or exceed such threshold.

SA 1106. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN JAPAN.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available for military construction projects in Japan, other than those related to housing or the provision of medical services for members of the United States Armed Forces, until the Secretary of Defense conducts a thorough review of the United States-Japan Status of Forces Agreement and determines that—

(1) Japan is in compliance with all provisions of such agreement; and

(2) there are adequate safeguards in place for members of the United States Armed Forces to ensure access to legal counsel, competent interpretation, and communication with a representative of the United

States Government from the moment of arrest or detention and during all states of the legal process.

SA 1107. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT A MASK MANDATE.

None of the funds appropriated by this division or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended to implement a mask mandate at any facility of the Department.

SA 1108. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT A VACCINE MANDATE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division may be used to implement a vaccine mandate at any facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SA 1109. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TREATMENT OF FUNDS RECEIVED BY NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AS REIMBURSEMENT FROM STATES.

Section 710 of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) TREATMENT OF REIMBURSED FUNDS.—Any funds received by the National Guard Bureau from a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands as reimbursement under this section for the use of military property—

“(1) shall be credited to—

“(A) the appropriation, fund, or account used in incurring the obligation; or

“(B) an appropriate appropriation, fund, or account currently available for the purposes for which the expenditures were made; and

“(2) may only be used by the Department of Defense for the repair, maintenance, or other similar functions related directly to assets used by National Guard units while operating under State active duty status.”.

SA 1110. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PURPOSES RELATING TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, OR INCLUSION.

None of the funds appropriated by this division or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated or expended for any initiative of the Department relating to diversity, equity, or inclusion.

SA 1111. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 291, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 155. EXPEDITING COMPLETION OF THE UINTA BASIN RAILWAY.

(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “Uinta Basin Railway” means the Uinta Basin Railway project, as generally described and approved in the Surface Transportation Board Decision Docket No. FD 36284 (December 15, 2021).

(b) **CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION.**—Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the timely completion of construction and commencement of the operation of the Uinta Basin Railway is required in the national interest;

(2) the Uinta Basin Railway will serve as a common carrier railway infrastructure asset located within the borders of the state of Utah;

(3) the Uinta Basin Railway will provide needed infrastructure to solve the long-standing freight transportation challenges in the region by connecting northeastern Utah to the existing national railway network;

(4) this common carrier railway will move goods in a safe and cost-effective way to support the economic stability, sustainable communities, and enriched quality of life in the region by providing rail service that is equally open to all freight shippers of a broad range of goods, including oil, gas, minerals, manufactured goods, and agricultural products;

(5) this critical piece of infrastructure is an important economic development project that will create jobs and provide a higher quality of life to the local communities, in-

cluding the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

(c) **APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) Congress ratifies and approves all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the construction and initial operation at full capacity of the Uinta Basin Railway; and

(2) Congress directs the Surface Transportation Board, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as applicable, to maintain such authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the construction and initial operation at full capacity of the Uinta Basin Railway.

(d) **EXPEDITED APPROVAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 21 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Surface Transportation Board, for the purpose of facilitating the completion of the Uinta Basin Railway, shall issue all permits or verifications that are necessary—

(1) to complete the construction of the Uinta Basin Railway across the lands and waters of the State of Utah; and

(2) to allow for the continuing operation and maintenance of the Uinta Basin Railway.

(e) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(1) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no court shall have jurisdiction to review any action taken by the Surface Transportation Board, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, or a State administrative agency acting pursuant to Federal law that grants an authorization, permit, verification, biological opinion, incidental take statement, or any other approval necessary for the construction and initial operation at full capacity of the Uinta Basin Railway, including the issuance of any authorization, permit, extension, verification, biological opinion, incidental take statement, or other approval described in subsection (c) or (d) for the Uinta Basin Railway whether issued before, on, or subsequent to the date of the enactment of this section, including any lawsuit pending in any court as of the date of enactment of this section.

(2) **EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.**—The Supreme Court of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any claim alleging—

(A) the invalidity of this section; or

(B) an action taken by a Federal or State official is beyond the scope of authority conferred by this section.

(f) **EFFECT.**—This section supersedes any other provision of law (including any other section of this Act, any Federal law enacted before the date of the enactment of this Act, and any regulation, judicial decision, or agency guidance) that is inconsistent with the issuance of any authorization, permit, verification, biological opinion, incidental take statement, or other approval for the Uinta Basin Railway.

SA 1112. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Section 8526(7) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7906(7)) is amended by inserting “, except that this paragraph shall not apply to the use of funds under this Act for activities carried out under programs authorized by this Act that are otherwise permissible under such programs and that provide students with educational enrichment activities and instruction, such as archery, hunter safety education, outdoor education, or culinary arts” before the period at the end.

SA 1113. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities”, for competitive grants to assist in the facility construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities, as authorized by the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary” is hereby reduced by \$2,000,000.

SA 1114. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . THRIFTY FOOD PLAN COST ADJUSTMENTS FOR HAWAII DURING DISASTER DECLARATION.

For the period during which the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Hawaii is in effect, no cost adjustments shall be made to the thrifty food plan (as defined in section 3(u) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(u))) pursuant to paragraph (2) of that section.

SA 1115. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 120, line 15, strike “2250a.” and insert “2250a. *Provided further*, That of the total amount available under this heading, \$8,500,000 shall be for necessary expenses to carry out the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program under section 222 of subtitle A of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923), as amended by section 12302 of Public Law 115-334.”.

SA 1116. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE V—COUNTING VETERANS' CANCER ACT OF 2023

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Counting Veterans' Cancer Act of 2023”.

SEC. 502. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) According to 2017 data from National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 26,500 cancer cases among veterans were not reported to State cancer registries funded through such Program.

(2) Established by Congress in 1992 through the Cancer Registries Amendment Act (Public Law 102-515), the National Program of Cancer Registries under section 399B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e) collects data on cancer occurrence (including the type, extent, and location of the cancer), the type of initial treatment, and outcomes.

(3) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention support central cancer registries in 46 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, certain territories of the United States in the Pacific Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

(4) The data obtained by registries described in paragraph (3) combined with data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute and mortality data from National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comprise the official United States Cancer Statistics.

(5) The United States Cancer Statistics reflect all newly diagnosed cancer cases and cancer deaths for the entire population of the United States, except for unreported veterans.

(6) Federal law requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute to collect cancer data for all newly diagnosed cancer cases, but that currently cannot be achieved due to frequent lack of reporting by medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(7) Releasing all data from medical facilities of the Department to State cancer registries will provide more complete data for health care providers, public health officials, and researchers to—

(A) measure cancer occurrence and trends at the local and national level;

(B) inform and prioritize cancer educational and screening programs;

(C) evaluate efficacy of prevention efforts and treatment;

(D) determine survival rates;

(E) conduct research on the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer;

(F) ensure quality and equity in cancer care; and

(G) plan for health services.

(8) Capturing cancer data from medical facilities of the Department in State cancer registries and the United States Cancer Statistics can benefit veterans by—

(A) improving the ability to identify cancer-related disparities in the veteran community;

(B) improving understanding of the cancer-related needs of veterans, which can be incorporated into State Comprehensive Cancer Control planning for screening and treatment programs funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(C) increasing opportunities for veterans with cancer to be included in more clinical trials and cancer-related research and analysis being done outside of the health care system of the Department.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to improve care for veterans by ensuring all data on veterans diagnosed with cancer are captured by the national cancer registry programs supported by the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute.

SEC. 503. REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHARE DATA WITH STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.

(a) SHARING OF DATA WITH STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7330E. Sharing of data with State cancer registries

“(a) SHARING BY THE DEPARTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall share with the State cancer registry of each State, if such a registry exists, qualifying data for all individuals who are residents of the State and have received health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DATA SHARED.—In sharing data under paragraph (1) with a State cancer registry, the Secretary shall comply with the requirements for non-Department facilities to report data, in a manner that is as complete and timely as possible, without requiring a data use agreement in place between the Department and each State cancer registry—

“(A) to State cancer registries that are supported by the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under section 399B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e);

“(B) to State cancer registries that are supported by the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute authorized under the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218); and

“(C) to State cancer registries as set forth in relevant State laws and regulations that authorize a cancer registry.

“(b) QUALIFYING DATA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualifying data’, with respect to a State cancer registry, means all data required to be provided to the registry pursuant to the authorities specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(2).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of such chapter is amended by inserting after

the item relating to section 7330D the following new item:

“7330E. Sharing of data with State cancer registries.”.

(b) SHARING BY STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall assist State cancer registries described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 7330E(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), in facilitating, to the extent allowed under State laws regulating the cancer registry program, the sharing with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of data in the possession of each such registry regarding diagnosis of cancer for each veteran—

(1) enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated under section 1705(a) of such title; or

(2) registered to receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 17.37 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations.

SA 1117. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TELEHEALTH CAPACITY OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024 by this Act or any other Act under the “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Community Care”, and “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Support and Compliance” accounts, \$5,180,336,000 shall be made available to sustain and increase telehealth capacity, including in rural and highly rural areas, and associated programmatic efforts.

SA 1118. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . (a) It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress is concerned about staffing challenges faced by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level; and

(2) Congress supports the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in quickly filling hiring gaps, improving retention, and bringing pay for staff to competitive standards to improve public-facing customer service, particularly in rural areas.

(b) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report describing a plan for improving staffing at the

Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level, including recommendations for actions that Congress may take.

SA 1119. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

DIVISION D—RIO SAN JOSÉ AND RIO JEMEZ WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2023
SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Rio San José and Rio Jemez Water Settlements Act of 2023”.

TITLE I—PUEBLOS OF ACOMA AND LAGUNA WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

SEC. 111. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of all issues and controversies concerning claims to water rights in the general stream adjudication of the Rio San José Stream System captioned “State of New Mexico, ex rel. State Engineer v. Kerr-McGee, et al.”, No. D-1333-CV-1983-00190 and No. D-1333-CV1983-00220 (consolidated), pending in the Thirteenth Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico, for—

(A) the Pueblo of Acoma;
(B) the Pueblo of Laguna; and
(C) the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna;

(2) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the agreement entered into by the Pueblos, the State, and various other parties to the Agreement, to the extent that the Agreement is consistent with this title;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary—
(A) to execute the Agreement; and
(B) to take any other actions necessary to carry out the Agreement in accordance with this title; and

(4) to authorize funds necessary for the implementation of the Agreement and this title.

SEC. 112. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ACEQUIA.**—The term “Acequia” means each of the Bluewater Toltec Irrigation District, La Acequia Madre del Ojo del Gallo, Moquino Water Users Association II, Murray Acres Irrigation Association, San Mateo Irrigation Association, Seboyeta Community Irrigation Association, Cubero Acequia Association, Cebolletita Acequia Association, and Community Ditch of San José de la Cienega.

(2) **ADJUDICATION.**—The term “Adjudication” means the general adjudication of water rights entitled “State of New Mexico, ex rel. State Engineer v. Kerr-McGee, et al.”, No. D-1333-CV-1983-00190 and No. D-1333-CV1983-00220 (consolidated) pending, as of the date of enactment of this Act, in the Decree Court.

(3) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means—

(A) the document entitled “Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Local Settlement Agreement Among the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico, the City of Grants, the Village of Milan, the Association

of Community Ditches of the Rio San José and Nine Individual Acequias and Community Ditches” and dated May 13, 2022, and the attachments thereto; and

(B) any amendment to the document referred to in subparagraph (A) (including an amendment to an attachment thereto) that is executed to ensure that the Agreement is consistent with this title.

(4) **ALLOTMENT.**—The term “Allotment” means a parcel of land that is—

(A) located within—
(i) the Rio Puerco Basin;
(ii) the Rio San José Stream System; or
(iii) the Rio Salado Basin; and

(B) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of 1 or more individual Indians.

(5) **ALLOTTEE.**—The term “Allottee” means an individual with a beneficial interest in an Allotment.

(6) **DECREE COURT.**—The term “Decree Court” means the Thirteenth Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico.

(7) **ENFORCEABILITY DATE.**—The term “Enforceability Date” means the date described in section 117.

(8) **PARTIAL FINAL JUDGMENT AND DECREE.**—The term “Partial Final Judgment and Decree” means a final or interlocutory partial final judgment and decree entered by the Decree Court with respect to the water rights of the Pueblos—

(A) that is substantially in the form described in article 14.7.2 of the Agreement, as amended to ensure consistency with this title; and

(B) from which no further appeal may be taken.

(9) **PUEBLO.**—The term “Pueblo” means either of—

(A) the Pueblo of Acoma; or
(B) the Pueblo of Laguna.

(10) **PUEBLO LAND.**—
(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “Pueblo Land” means any real property—

(i) in the Rio San José Stream System that is held by the United States in trust for either Pueblo, or owned by either Pueblo, as of the Enforceability Date;

(ii) in the Rio Salado Basin that is held by the United States in trust for the Pueblo of Acoma, or owned by the Pueblo of Acoma, as of the Enforceability Date; or

(iii) in the Rio Puerco Basin that is held by the United States in trust for the Pueblo of Laguna, or owned by the Pueblo of Laguna, as of the Enforceability Date.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “Pueblo Land” includes land placed in trust with the United States subsequent to the Enforceability Date for either Pueblo in the Rio San José Stream System, for the Pueblo of Acoma in the Rio Salado Basin, or for the Pueblo of Laguna in the Rio Puerco Basin.

(11) **PUEBLO TRUST FUND.**—The term “Pueblo Trust Fund” means—

(A) the Pueblo of Acoma Settlement Trust Fund established by section 115(a);

(B) the Pueblo of Laguna Settlement Trust Fund established by that section; and

(C) the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund established by that section.

(12) **PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.**—The term “Pueblo Water Rights” means—

(A) the respective water rights of the Pueblos in the Rio San José Stream System—

(i) as identified in the Agreement and section 114; and

(ii) as confirmed in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree;

(B) the water rights of the Pueblo of Acoma in the Rio Salado Basin; and

(C) the water rights of the Pueblo of Laguna in the Rio Puerco Basin, as identified in the Agreement and section 114.

(13) **PUEBLOS.**—The term “Pueblos” means—

(A) the Pueblo of Acoma; and

(B) the Pueblo of Laguna.

(14) **RIO PUERCO BASIN.**—The term “Rio Puerco Basin” means the area defined by the United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 13020204 (Rio Puerco subbasin) and 13020205 (Arroyo Chico subbasin), including the hydrologically connected groundwater.

(15) **RIO SAN JOSÉ STREAM SYSTEM.**—The term “Rio San José Stream System” means the geographic extent of the area involved in the Adjudication pursuant to the description filed in the Decree Court on November 21, 1986.

(16) **RIO SALADO BASIN.**—The term “Rio Salado Basin” means the area defined by the United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 13020209 (Rio Salado subbasin), including the hydrologically connected groundwater.

(17) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(18) **SIGNATORY ACEQUIA.**—The term “Signatory Acequia” means an acequia that is a signatory to the Agreement.

(19) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of New Mexico and all officers, agents, departments, and political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico.

SEC. 113. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.

(a) **RATIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as modified by this title and to the extent the Agreement does not conflict with this title, the Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(2) **AMENDMENTS.**—If an amendment to the Agreement or any attachment to the Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary is executed in accordance with this title to make the Agreement consistent with this title, the amendment is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(b) **EXECUTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent the Agreement does not conflict with this title, the Secretary shall execute the Agreement, including all attachments to or parts of the Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary.

(2) **MODIFICATIONS.**—Nothing in this title prohibits the Secretary, after execution of the Agreement, from approving any modification to the Agreement, including an attachment to the Agreement, that is consistent with this title, to the extent that the modification does not otherwise require congressional approval under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177) or any other applicable provision of Federal law.

(c) **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing the Agreement and this title, the Secretary shall comply with—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the implementing regulations of that Act; and

(C) all other applicable Federal environmental laws and regulations.

(2) **COMPLIANCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing the Agreement and this title, the Pueblos shall prepare any necessary environmental documents consistent with—

(i) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(ii) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the implementing regulations of that Act; and

(iii) all other applicable Federal environmental laws and regulations.

(B) **AUTHORIZATIONS.**—The Secretary shall—

(i) independently evaluate the documentation required under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be responsible for the accuracy, scope, and contents of that documentation.

(3) EFFECT OF EXECUTION.—The execution of the Agreement by the Secretary under this section shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) COSTS.—Any costs associated with the performance of the compliance activities under subsection (c) shall be paid from funds deposited in the Pueblo Trust Funds, subject to the condition that any costs associated with the performance of Federal approval or other review of such compliance work or costs associated with inherently Federal functions shall remain the responsibility of the Secretary.

SEC. 114. PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.

(a) TRUST STATUS OF THE PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.—The Pueblo Water Rights shall be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Pueblos in accordance with the Agreement and this title.

(b) FORFEITURE AND ABANDONMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Pueblo Water Rights shall not be subject to loss through non-use, forfeiture, abandonment, or other operation of law.

(2) STATE-LAW BASED WATER RIGHTS.—Pursuant to the Agreement, State-law based water rights acquired by a Pueblo, or by the United States on behalf of a Pueblo, after the date for inclusion in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree, shall not be subject to forfeiture, abandonment, or permanent alienation from the time they are acquired.

(c) USE.—Any use of the Pueblo Water Rights shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this title.

(d) ALLOTMENT RIGHTS NOT INCLUDED.—The Pueblo Water Rights shall not include any water uses or water rights claims on an Allotment.

(e) AUTHORITY OF THE PUEBLOS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Pueblos shall have the authority to allocate, distribute, and lease the Pueblo Water Rights for use on Pueblo Land in accordance with the Agreement, this title, and applicable Federal law.

(2) USE OFF PUEBLO LAND.—The Pueblos may allocate, distribute, and lease the Pueblo Water Rights for use off Pueblo Land in accordance with the Agreement, this title, and applicable Federal law, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

(3) ALLOTTEE WATER RIGHTS.—The Pueblos shall not object in any general stream adjudication, including the Adjudication, or any other appropriate forum, to the quantification of reasonable domestic, stock, and irrigation water uses on an Allotment, and shall administer any water use in accordance with applicable Federal law, including recognition of—

(A) any water use existing on an Allotment as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) reasonable domestic, stock, and irrigation water uses on an Allotment; and

(C) any Allotment water right decreed in a general stream adjudication, including the Adjudication, or other appropriate forum, for an Allotment.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NO ALIENATION.—The Pueblos shall not permanently alienate any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights.

(2) PURCHASES OR GRANTS OF LAND FROM INDIANS.—An authorization provided by this title for the allocation, distribution, leasing, or other arrangement entered into pursuant to this title shall be considered to satisfy any requirement for authorization of the action required by Federal law.

(3) PROHIBITION ON FORFEITURE.—The non-use of all or any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights by any water user shall not result in the forfeiture, abandonment, relinquishment, or other loss of all or any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights.

SEC. 115. SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish 2 trust funds, to be known as the “Pueblo of Acoma Settlement Trust Fund” and the “Pueblo of Laguna Settlement Trust Fund”, and a trust fund for the benefit of both Pueblos to be known as the “Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund”, to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury, consisting of the amounts deposited in the Pueblo Trust Funds under subsection (c), together with any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts, for the purpose of carrying out this title.

(b) ACCOUNTS.—

(1) PUEBLO OF ACOMA SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.—The Secretary shall establish in the Pueblo of Acoma Settlement Trust Fund the following accounts:

(A) The Water Rights Settlement Account.

(B) The Water Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Account.

(C) The Feasibility Studies Settlement Account.

(2) PUEBLO OF LAGUNA SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.—The Secretary shall establish in the Pueblo of Laguna Settlement Trust Fund the following accounts:

(A) The Water Rights Settlement Account.

(B) The Water Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Account.

(C) The Feasibility Studies Settlement Account.

(c) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in each Pueblo Trust Fund the amounts made available pursuant to section 116(a).

(d) MANAGEMENT AND INTEREST.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—On receipt and deposit of funds into the Pueblo Trust Funds under subsection (c), the Secretary shall manage, invest, and distribute all amounts in the Pueblo Trust Funds in a manner that is consistent with the investment authority of the Secretary under—

(A) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a);

(B) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) this subsection.

(2) INVESTMENT EARNINGS.—In addition to the deposits made to each Pueblo Trust Fund under subsection (c), any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts held in each Pueblo Trust Fund are authorized to be used in accordance with subsections (f) and (h).

(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to, and deposited in, each Pueblo Trust Fund, including any investment earnings (including interest) earned on those amounts, shall be made available to the Pueblo or Pueblos by the Secretary beginning on the Enforceability Date, subject to the requirements of this section, except for those funds to be made available to the Pueblos pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

(A) amounts deposited in the Feasibility Studies Settlement Account of each Pueblo Trust Fund, including any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts shall be available to the Pueblo on the date on which the amounts are deposited for uses described in subsection (h)(3), and in accordance with the Agreement;

(B) amounts deposited in the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund, including any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts shall be available to the Pueblos on the date on which the amounts are deposited for uses described in subsection (h)(4), and in accordance with the Agreement; and

(C) up to \$15,000,000 from the Water Rights Settlement Account for each Pueblo shall be available on the date on which the amounts are deposited for installing, on Pueblo Lands, groundwater wells to meet immediate domestic, commercial, municipal and industrial water needs, and associated environmental, cultural, and historical compliance.

(f) WITHDRAWALS.—

(1) WITHDRAWALS UNDER THE AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 1994.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Pueblo may withdraw any portion of the amounts in its respective Settlement Trust Fund on approval by the Secretary of a Tribal management plan submitted by each Pueblo in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Tribal management plan under this paragraph shall require that the appropriate Pueblo shall spend all amounts withdrawn from each Pueblo Trust Fund, and any investment earnings (including interest) earned on those amounts through the investments under the Tribal management plan, in accordance with this title.

(C) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce the Tribal management plan under this paragraph to ensure that amounts withdrawn by each Pueblo from the Pueblo Trust Funds under subparagraph (A) are used in accordance with this title.

(2) WITHDRAWALS UNDER EXPENDITURE PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Pueblo may submit to the Secretary a request to withdraw funds from the Pueblo Trust Fund of the Pueblo pursuant to an approved expenditure plan.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to withdraw amounts under an expenditure plan under subparagraph (A), the appropriate Pueblo shall submit to the Secretary an expenditure plan for any portion of the Pueblo Trust Fund that the Pueblo elects to withdraw pursuant to that subparagraph, subject to the condition that the amounts shall be used for the purposes described in this title.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—An expenditure plan under this paragraph shall include a description of the manner and purpose for which the amounts proposed to be withdrawn from the Pueblo Trust Fund will be used by the Pueblo, in accordance with this subsection and subsection (h).

(D) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve an expenditure plan submitted under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the plan—

(i) is reasonable; and

(ii) is consistent with, and will be used for, the purposes of this title.

(E) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce an expenditure plan to ensure that amounts disbursed under this paragraph are used in accordance with this title.

(3) WITHDRAWALS FROM ACOMITA RESERVOIR WORKS TRUST FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Pueblo may submit to the Secretary a request to withdraw funds from the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund pursuant to an approved joint expenditure plan.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to withdraw amounts under a joint expenditure plan under subparagraph (A), the Pueblos shall submit to the Secretary a joint expenditure

plan for any portion of the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund that the Pueblos elect to withdraw pursuant to this subparagraph, subject to the condition that the amounts shall be used for the purposes described in subsection (h)(4).

(i) WRITTEN RESOLUTION.—Each request to withdraw amounts under a joint expenditure plan submitted under clause (i) shall be accompanied by a written resolution from the Tribal councils of both Pueblos approving the requested use and disbursement of funds.

(C) INCLUSIONS.—A joint expenditure plan under this paragraph shall include a description of the manner and purpose for which the amounts proposed to be withdrawn from the Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund will be used by the Pueblo or Pueblos to whom the funds will be disbursed, in accordance with subsection (h)(4).

(D) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a joint expenditure plan submitted under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the plan—

(i) is reasonable; and

(ii) is consistent with, and will be used for, the purposes of this title.

(E) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce a joint expenditure plan to ensure that amounts disbursed under this paragraph are used in accordance with this title.

(g) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section gives the Pueblos the right to judicial review of a determination of the Secretary relating to whether to approve a Tribal management plan under paragraph (1) of subsection (f) or an expenditure plan under paragraph (2) or (3) of that subsection, except under subchapter II of chapter 5, of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

(h) USES.—

(1) WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—The Water Rights Settlement Account for each Pueblo may only be used for the following purposes:

(A) Acquiring water rights or water supply.

(B) Planning, permitting, designing, engineering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing, rehabilitating, operating, or repairing water production, treatment, or delivery infrastructure, including for domestic and municipal use, on-farm improvements, or wastewater infrastructure.

(C) Pueblo Water Rights management and administration.

(D) Watershed protection and enhancement, support of agriculture, water-related Pueblo community welfare and economic development, and costs relating to implementation of the Agreement.

(E) Environmental compliance in the development and construction of infrastructure under this title.

(2) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE TRUST ACCOUNT.—The Water Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance Account for each Pueblo may only be used to pay costs for operation and maintenance of water infrastructure to serve Pueblo domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial water uses from any water source.

(3) FEASIBILITY STUDIES SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—The Feasibility Studies Settlement Account for each Pueblo may only be used to pay costs for feasibility studies of water supply infrastructure to serve Pueblo domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial water uses from any water source.

(4) ACOMITA RESERVOIR WORKS TRUST FUND.—The Acomita Reservoir Works Trust Fund may only be used for planning, permitting, designing, engineering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing, rehabilitating,

maintaining, or repairing Acomita reservoir, its dam, inlet works, outlet works, and the North Acomita Ditch from the Acomita Reservoir outlet on the Pueblo of Acoma through its terminus on the Pueblo of Laguna.

(i) LIABILITY.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure or investment of any amounts withdrawn from the Pueblo Trust Funds by a Pueblo under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (f).

(j) EXPENDITURE REPORTS.—Each Pueblo shall annually submit to the Secretary an expenditure report describing accomplishments and amounts spent from use of withdrawals under a Tribal management plan or an expenditure plan under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (f), as applicable.

(k) NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.—No portion of the Pueblo Trust Funds shall be distributed on a per capita basis to any member of a Pueblo.

(l) TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.—Title to, control over, and operation of any project constructed using funds from the Pueblo Trust Funds shall remain in the appropriate Pueblo or Pueblos.

(m) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT.—All operation, maintenance, and replacement costs of any project constructed using funds from the Pueblo Trust Funds shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Pueblo or Pueblos.

SEC. 116. FUNDING.

(a) MANDATORY APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary the following amounts for the following accounts:

(1) PUEBLO OF ACOMA SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.—

(A) THE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—\$296,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(B) THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.—\$14,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(C) THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—\$1,750,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(2) PUEBLO OF LAGUNA SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.—

(A) THE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—\$464,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(B) THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.—\$26,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(C) THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.—\$3,250,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(3) ACOMITA RESERVOIR WORKS TRUST FUND.—\$45,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(b) FLUCTUATIONS IN COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall be increased or decreased, as appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs, as indicated by the Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Index-Composite Trend.

(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS ADJUSTMENT.—The amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall be adjusted to address construction cost changes necessary to account for unforeseen market volatility that may not otherwise

be captured by engineering cost indices, as determined by the Secretary, including repricing applicable to the types of construction and current industry standards involved.

(3) REPETITION.—The adjustment process under this subsection shall be repeated for each subsequent amount appropriated until the applicable amount, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

(4) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of indexing and adjustment under this subsection for any increment of funding shall start on October 1, 2021, and shall end on the date on which funds are deposited in the applicable Pueblo Trust Fund.

(c) STATE COST SHARE.—Pursuant to the Agreement, the State shall contribute—

(1) \$23,500,000, as adjusted for inflation pursuant to the Agreement, for the Joint Grants-Milan Project for Water Re-Use, Water Conservation and Augmentation of the Rio San José, the Village of Milan Projects Fund, and the City of Grants Projects Fund;

(2) \$12,000,000, as adjusted for the inflation pursuant to the Agreement, for Signatory Acequias Projects and Offset Projects Fund for the Association of Community Ditches of the Rio San José; and

(3) \$500,000, as adjusted for inflation pursuant to the Agreement, to mitigate impairment to non-Pueblo domestic and livestock groundwater rights as a result of new Pueblo water use.

SEC. 117. ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

The Enforceability Date shall be the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1) to the extent that the Agreement conflicts with this title, the Agreement has been amended to conform with this title;

(2) the Agreement, as amended, has been executed by all parties to the Agreement, including the United States;

(3) all of the amounts appropriated under section 116 have been appropriated and deposited in the designated accounts of the Pueblo Trust Fund;

(4) the State has—

(A) provided the funding under section 116(c)(3) into appropriate funding accounts;

(B) provided the funding under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 116(c) into appropriate funding accounts or entered into funding agreements with the intended beneficiaries for funding under those paragraphs of that section; and

(C) enacted legislation to amend State law to provide that a Pueblo Water Right may be leased for a term not to exceed 99 years, including renewals;

(5) the Decree Court has approved the Agreement and has entered a Partial Final Judgment and Decree; and

(6) the waivers and releases under section 118 have been executed by the Pueblos and the Secretary.

SEC. 118. WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

(a) WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY PUEBLOS AND THE UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR PUEBLOS.—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (d), as consideration for recognition of the Pueblo Water Rights and other benefits described in the Agreement and this title, the Pueblos and the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, shall execute a waiver and release of all claims for—

(1) water rights within the Rio San José Stream System that the Pueblos, or the United States acting as trustee for the Pueblos, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication, on or before the Enforceability Date, except to the extent that such rights are recognized in the Agreement and this title; and

(2) damages, losses, or injuries to water rights or claims of interference with, diversion of, or taking of water rights (including claims for injury to land resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, or taking of water rights) in waters in the Rio San José Stream System against any party to the Agreement, including the members and parcientes of Signatory Acequias, that accrued at any time up to and including the Enforceability Date.

(b) **WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY PUEBLOS AGAINST UNITED STATES.**—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (d), the Pueblos shall execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States (including any agency or employee of the United States) first arising before the Enforceability Date relating to—

(1) water rights within the Rio San José Stream System that the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication, except to the extent that such rights are recognized as part of the Pueblo Water Rights under this title;

(2) foregone benefits from non-Pueblo use of water, on and off Pueblo Land (including water from all sources and for all uses), within the Rio San José Stream System;

(3) damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights (including damages, losses, or injuries to hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights due to loss of water or water rights, claims relating to interference with, diversion of, or taking of water, or claims relating to a failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure) within the Rio San José Stream System;

(4) a failure to provide operation, maintenance, or deferred maintenance for any irrigation system or irrigation project within the Rio San José Stream System;

(5) a failure to establish or provide a municipal, rural, or industrial water delivery system on Pueblo Land within the Rio San José Stream System;

(6) damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to construction, operation, and management of irrigation projects on Pueblo Land (including damages, losses, or injuries to fish habitat, wildlife, and wildlife habitat) within the Rio San José Stream System;

(7) a failure to provide a dam safety improvement to a dam on Pueblo Land within the Rio San José Stream System;

(8) the litigation of claims relating to any water right of the Pueblos within the Rio San José Stream System; and

(9) the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Agreement (including attachments) and this title.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The waivers and releases described in subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the Enforceability Date.

(d) **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.**—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases under subsections (a) and (b), the Pueblos and the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, shall retain all claims relating to—

(1) the enforcement of, or claims accruing after the Enforceability Date relating to, water rights recognized under the Agreement, this title, or the Partial Final Judgment and Decree entered in the Adjudication;

(2) activities affecting the quality of water and the environment, including claims under—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), including claims for damages to natural resources;

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”); and

(D) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(3) the right to use and protect water rights acquired after the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) damage, loss, or injury to land or natural resources that is not due to loss of water or water rights, including hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights;

(5) all claims for water rights, and claims for injury to water rights, in basins other than the Rio San José Stream System, subject to article 8.5 of the Agreement with respect to the claims of the Pueblo of Laguna for water rights in the Rio Puerco Basin and the claims of the Pueblo of Acoma for water rights in the Rio Salado Basin;

(6) all claims relating to the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in the State that are not due to loss of water or water rights; and

(7) all rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, powers, and claims not specifically waived and released pursuant to this title or the Agreement.

(e) **EFFECT OF AGREEMENT AND TITLE.**—Nothing in the Agreement or this title—

(1) reduces or extends the sovereignty (including civil and criminal jurisdiction) of any government entity, except as provided in section 120;

(2) affects the ability of the United States, as a sovereign, to carry out any activity authorized by law, including—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”);

(D) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.); and

(E) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(3) affects the ability of the United States to act as trustee for the Pueblos (consistent with this title), any other pueblo or Indian Tribe, or an Allottee of any Indian Tribe;

(4) confers jurisdiction on any State court—

(A) to interpret Federal law relating to health, safety, or the environment;

(B) to determine the duties of the United States or any other party under Federal law regarding health, safety, or the environment; or

(C) to conduct judicial review of any Federal agency action; or

(5) waives any claim of a member of a Pueblo in an individual capacity that does not derive from a right of the Pueblos.

(f) **TOLLING OF CLAIMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each applicable period of limitation and time-based equitable defense relating to a claim described in this section shall be tolled for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the Enforceability Date.

(2) **EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection revives any claim or tolls any period of limitation or time-based equitable defense that expired before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section precludes the tolling of any period of limitation or any time-based equitable defense under any other applicable law.

(g) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—This title shall expire in any case in which the Secretary fails to publish a statement of findings under section 117 by not later than—

(A) July 1, 2030; or

(B) such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Pueblos and the Secretary, after providing reasonable notice to the State.

(2) **CONSEQUENCES.**—If this title expires under paragraph (1)—

(A) the waivers and releases under subsections (a) and (b) shall—

(i) expire; and

(ii) have no further force or effect;

(B) the authorization, ratification, confirmation, and execution of the Agreement under section 113 shall no longer be effective;

(C) any action carried out by the Secretary, and any contract or agreement entered into, pursuant to this title shall be void;

(D) any unexpended Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized by this title, together with any interest earned on those funds, and any water rights or contracts to use water and title to other property acquired or constructed with Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized by this title, shall be returned to the Federal Government, unless otherwise agreed to by the Pueblos and the United States and approved by Congress; and

(E) except for Federal funds used to acquire or construct property that is returned to the Federal Government under subparagraph (D), the United States shall be entitled to offset any Federal funds made available to carry out this title that were expended or withdrawn, or any funds made available to carry out this title from other Federal authorized sources, together with any interest accrued on those funds, against any claims against the United States—

(i) relating to—

(I) water rights in the State asserted by—

(aa) the Pueblos; or

(bb) any user of the Pueblo Water Rights;

or

(II) any other matter covered by subsection (b); or

(ii) in any future settlement of water rights of the Pueblos.

SEC. 119. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

The benefits provided under this title shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of any claim of the Pueblos against the United States that are waived and released by the Pueblos pursuant to section 118(b).

SEC. 120. CONSENT OF UNITED STATES TO JURISDICTION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A PUEBLO WATER RIGHT PERMIT DECISION.

(a) **CONSENT.**—On the Enforceability Date, the consent of the United States is hereby given, with the consent of each Pueblo under article 11.5 of the Agreement, to jurisdiction in the District Court for the Thirteenth Judicial District of the State of New Mexico, and in the New Mexico Court of Appeals and the New Mexico Supreme Court on appeal therefrom in the same manner as provided under New Mexico law, over an action filed in such District Court by any party to a Pueblo Water Rights Permit administrative proceeding under article 11.4 of the Agreement for the limited and sole purpose of judicial review of a Pueblo Water Right Permit decision under article 11.5 of the Agreement.

(b) **LIMITATION.**—The consent of the United States under this title is limited to judicial review, based on the record developed through the administrative process of the Pueblo, under a standard of judicial review limited to determining whether the Pueblo decision on the application for Pueblo Water Right Permit—

(1) is supported by substantial evidence;

(2) is not arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to law;

(3) is not in accordance with this Agreement or the Partial Final Judgment and Decree; or

(4) shows that the Pueblo acted fraudulently or outside the scope of its authority.

(c) PUEBLO WATER CODE AND INTERPRETATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pueblo Water Code or Pueblo Water Law provisions that meet the requirements of article 11 of the Agreement shall be given full faith and credit in any proceeding described in this section.

(2) PROVISIONS OF THE PUEBLO WATER CODE.—To the extent that a State court conducting judicial review under this section must interpret provisions of Pueblo law that are not express provisions of the Pueblo Water Code, the State court shall certify the question of interpretation to the Pueblo court.

(3) NO CERTIFICATION.—Any issues of interpretation of standards in article 11.6 of the Agreement are not subject to certification.

(4) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction of the Decree Court to interpret and enforce the Agreement.

SEC. 121. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) NO WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY BY THE UNITED STATES.—Nothing in this title waives the sovereign immunity of the United States.

(b) OTHER TRIBES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.—Nothing in this title quantifies or diminishes any land or water right, or any claim or entitlement to land or water, of an Indian Tribe, band, or community other than the Pueblos.

(c) ALLOTTEES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.—Nothing in this title quantifies or diminishes any water right, or any claim or entitlement to water, of an Allottee.

(d) EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW.—Nothing in this title affects any provision of law (including regulations) in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act with respect to pre-enforcement review of any Federal environmental enforcement action.

(e) CONFLICT.—In the event of a conflict between the Agreement and this title, this title shall control.

SEC. 122. ANTIDEFICIENCY.

The United States shall not be liable for any failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this title, including any obligation or activity under the Agreement, if adequate appropriations are not provided expressly by Congress to carry out the purposes of this title.

TITLE II—PUEBLOS OF JEMEZ AND ZIA WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

SEC. 201. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of all claims to water rights in the Jemez River Stream System in the State of New Mexico for—

(A) the Pueblo of Jemez;

(B) the Pueblo of Zia; and

(C) the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia;

(2) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement entered into by the Pueblos, the State, and various other parties to the extent that the Agreement is consistent with this title;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary—

(A) to execute the Agreement; and

(B) to take any other actions necessary to carry out the Agreement in accordance with this title; and

(4) to authorize funds necessary for the implementation of the Agreement and this title.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADJUDICATION.—The term “Adjudication” means the adjudication of water rights

pending before the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico: United States of America, on its own behalf, and on behalf of the Pueblos of Jemez, Santa Ana, and Zia, State of New Mexico, ex rel. State Engineer, Plaintiffs, and Pueblos of Jemez, Santa Ana, and Zia, Plaintiffs-in-Intervention v. Tom Abouseleman, et al., Defendants, Civil No. 83-cv-01041 (KR).

(2) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means—

(A) the document entitled “Pueblos of Jemez and Zia Water Rights Settlement Agreement” and dated May 11, 2022, and the appendices and exhibits attached thereto; and

(B) any amendment to the document referred to in subparagraph (A) (including an amendment to an appendix or exhibit) that is executed to ensure that the Agreement is consistent with this title.

(3) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The term “Enforceability Date” means the date described in section 207.

(4) JEMEZ RIVER STREAM SYSTEM.—The term “Jemez River Stream System” means the geographic extent of the area involved in the Adjudication.

(5) PARTIAL FINAL JUDGMENT AND DECREE.—The term “Partial Final Judgment and Decree” means a final or interlocutory partial final judgment and decree entered by the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico with respect to the water rights of the Pueblos—

(A) that is substantially in the form described in the Agreement, as amended to ensure consistency with this title; and

(B) from which no further appeal may be taken.

(6) PUEBLO.—The term “Pueblo” means either of—

(A) the Pueblo of Jemez; or

(B) the Pueblo of Zia.

(7) PUEBLO LAND.—The term “Pueblo Land” means any real property that is—

(A) held by the United States in trust for a Pueblo within the Jemez River Stream System;

(B) owned by a Pueblo within the Jemez River Stream System before the date on which a court approves the Agreement; or

(C) acquired by a Pueblo on or after the date on which a court approves the Agreement if the real property—

(i) is located within the exterior boundaries of the Pueblo, as recognized and confirmed by a patent issued under the Act of December 22, 1858 (11 Stat. 374, chapter V);

(ii) is located within the exterior boundaries of any territory set aside for a Pueblo by law, executive order, or court decree;

(iii) is owned by a Pueblo or held by the United States in trust for the benefit of a Pueblo outside the Jemez River Stream System that is located within the exterior boundaries of the Pueblo, as recognized and confirmed by a patent issued under the Act of December 22, 1858 (11 Stat. 374, chapter V); or

(iv) is located within the exterior boundaries of any real property located outside the Jemez River Stream System set aside for a Pueblo by law, executive order, or court decree if the land is within or contiguous to land held by the United States in trust for the Pueblo as of June 1, 2022.

(8) PUEBLO TRUST FUND.—The term “Pueblo Trust Fund” means—

(A) the Pueblo of Jemez Settlement Trust Fund established under section 205(a); and

(B) the Pueblo of Zia Settlement Trust Fund established under that section.

(9) PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.—The term “Pueblo Water Rights” means the respective water rights of the Pueblos—

(A) as identified in the Agreement and section 204; and

(B) as confirmed in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree.

(10) PUEBLOS.—The term “Pueblos” means—

(A) the Pueblo of Jemez; and

(B) the Pueblo of Zia.

(11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(12) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of New Mexico and all officers, agents, departments, and political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico.

SEC. 203. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.

(a) RATIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as modified by this title and to the extent that the Agreement does not conflict with this title, the Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(2) AMENDMENTS.—If an amendment to the Agreement, or to any appendix or exhibit attached to the Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary, is executed in accordance with this title to make the Agreement consistent with this title, the amendment is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(b) EXECUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent the Agreement does not conflict with this title, the Secretary shall execute the Agreement, including all appendices or exhibits to, or parts of, the Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary.

(2) MODIFICATIONS.—Nothing in this title prohibits the Secretary, after execution of the Agreement, from approving any modification to the Agreement, including an appendix or exhibit to the Agreement, that is consistent with this title, to the extent that the modification does not otherwise require congressional approval under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177) or any other applicable provision of Federal law.

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the Agreement and this title, the Secretary shall comply with—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the implementing regulations of that Act; and

(C) all other applicable Federal environmental laws and regulations.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the Agreement and this title, the Pueblos shall prepare any necessary environmental documents, consistent with—

(i) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(ii) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the implementing regulations of that Act; and

(iii) all other applicable Federal environmental laws and regulations.

(B) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

(i) independently evaluate the documentation required under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be responsible for the accuracy, scope, and contents of that documentation.

(3) EFFECT OF EXECUTION.—The execution of the Agreement by the Secretary under this section shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) COSTS.—Any costs associated with the performance of the compliance activities under this subsection shall be paid from funds deposited in the Pueblo Trust Funds, subject to the condition that any costs associated with the performance of Federal approval or other review of such compliance work or costs associated with inherently Federal functions shall remain the responsibility of the Secretary.

SEC. 204. PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.

(a) **TRUST STATUS OF THE PUEBLO WATER RIGHTS.**—The Pueblo Water Rights shall be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Pueblos in accordance with the Agreement and this title.

(b) **FORFEITURE AND ABANDONMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Pueblo Water Rights shall not be subject to loss through non-use, forfeiture, abandonment, or other operation of law.

(2) **STATE-LAW BASED WATER RIGHTS.**—State-law based water rights acquired by a Pueblo, or by the United States on behalf of a Pueblo, after the date for inclusion in the Partial Final Judgment and Decree, shall not be subject to forfeiture, abandonment, or permanent alienation from the time they are acquired.

(c) **USE.**—Any use of the Pueblo Water Rights shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this title.

(d) **AUTHORITY OF THE PUEBLOS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Pueblos shall have the authority to allocate, distribute, and lease the Pueblo Water Rights for use on Pueblo Land in accordance with the Agreement, this title, and applicable Federal law.

(2) **USE OFF PUEBLO LAND.**—The Pueblos may allocate, distribute, and lease the Pueblo Water Rights for use off Pueblo Land in accordance with the Agreement, this title, and applicable Federal law, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

(e) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **NO ALIENATION.**—The Pueblos shall not permanently alienate any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights.

(2) **PURCHASES OR GRANTS OF LAND FROM INDIANS.**—An authorization provided by this title for the allocation, distribution, leasing, or other arrangement entered into pursuant to this title shall be considered to satisfy any requirement for authorization of the action required by Federal law.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON FORFEITURE.**—The non-use of all or any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights by any water user shall not result in the forfeiture, abandonment, relinquishment, or other loss of all or any portion of the Pueblo Water Rights.

SEC. 205. SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish 2 trust funds, to be known as the “Pueblo of Jemez Settlement Trust Fund” and the “Pueblo of Zia Settlement Trust Fund”, to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury, consisting of the amounts deposited in the Pueblo Trust Funds under subsection (b), together with any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts for the purpose of carrying out this title.

(b) **DEPOSITS.**—The Secretary shall deposit in each Pueblo Trust Fund the amounts made available pursuant to section 206(a).

(c) **MANAGEMENT AND INTEREST.**—

(1) **MANAGEMENT.**—On receipt and deposit of funds into the Pueblo Trust Funds under subsection (b), the Secretary shall manage, invest, and distribute all amounts in the Pueblo Trust Funds in a manner that is consistent with the investment authority of the Secretary under—

(A) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a);

(B) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) this subsection.

(2) **INVESTMENT EARNINGS.**—In addition to the deposits made to each Pueblo Trust Fund under subsection (b), any investment earnings, including interest, earned on those amounts held in each Pueblo Trust Fund are

authorized to be used in accordance with subsections (e) and (g).

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts appropriated to, and deposited in, each Pueblo Trust Fund, including any investment earnings (including interest) earned on those amounts, shall be made available to each Pueblo by the Secretary beginning on the Enforceability Date, subject to the requirements of this section, except for funds to be made available to the Pueblos pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), \$25,000,000 of the amounts deposited in each Pueblo Trust Fund shall be available to the appropriate Pueblo for—

(A) developing economic water development plans;

(B) preparing environmental compliance documents;

(C) preparing water project engineering designs;

(D) establishing and operating a water resource department;

(E) installing supplemental irrigation groundwater wells; and

(F) developing water measurement and reporting water use plans.

(e) **WITHDRAWALS.**—

(1) **WITHDRAWALS UNDER THE AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 1994.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Pueblo may withdraw any portion of the amounts in the Pueblo Trust Fund on approval by the Secretary of a Tribal management plan submitted by the Pueblo in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In addition to the requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Tribal management plan under this paragraph shall require that the appropriate Pueblo shall spend all amounts withdrawn from each Pueblo Trust Fund, and any investment earnings (including interest) earned on those amounts through the investments under the Tribal management plan, in accordance with this title.

(C) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce the Tribal management plan under this paragraph to ensure that amounts withdrawn by each Pueblo from the Pueblo Trust Fund of the Pueblo under subparagraph (A) are used in accordance with this title.

(2) **WITHDRAWALS UNDER EXPENDITURE PLAN.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Pueblo may submit to the Secretary a request to withdraw funds from the Pueblo Trust Fund of the Pueblo pursuant to an approved expenditure plan.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible to withdraw amounts under an expenditure plan under subparagraph (A), each Pueblo shall submit to the Secretary an expenditure plan for any portion of the Pueblo Trust Fund that the Pueblo elects to withdraw pursuant to that subparagraph, subject to the condition that the amounts shall be used for the purposes described in this title.

(C) **INCLUSIONS.**—An expenditure plan under this paragraph shall include a description of the manner and purpose for which the amounts proposed to be withdrawn from the Pueblo Trust Fund will be used by the Pueblo, in accordance with this subsection and subsection (g).

(D) **APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall approve an expenditure plan submitted under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the plan—

(i) is reasonable; and

(ii) is consistent with, and will be used for, the purposes of this title.

(E) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce an expenditure plan to ensure that amounts disbursed under this paragraph are used in accordance with this title.

(f) **EFFECT OF SECTION.**—Nothing in this section gives the Pueblos the right to judicial review of a determination of the Secretary relating to whether to approve a Tribal management plan under paragraph (1) of subsection (e) or an expenditure plan under paragraph (2) of that subsection except under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

(g) **USES.**—Amounts from a Pueblo Trust Fund may only be used by the appropriate Pueblo for the following purposes:

(1) Planning, permitting, designing, engineering, constructing, reconstructing, replacing, rehabilitating, operating, or repairing water production, treatment, or delivery infrastructure, including for domestic and municipal use, on-farm improvements, or wastewater infrastructure.

(2) Watershed protection and enhancement, support of agriculture, water-related Pueblo community welfare and economic development, and costs related to implementation of the Agreement.

(3) Planning, permitting, designing, engineering, construction, reconstructing, replacing, rehabilitating, operating, or repairing water production of delivery infrastructure of the Augmentation Project, as set forth in the Agreement.

(4) Ensuring environmental compliance in the development and construction of projects under this title.

(5) The management and administration of the Pueblo Water Rights.

(h) **LIABILITY.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure or investment of any amounts withdrawn from a Pueblo Trust Fund by a Pueblo under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (e).

(i) **EXPENDITURE REPORTS.**—Each Pueblo shall annually submit to the Secretary an expenditure report describing accomplishments and amounts spent from use of withdrawals under a Tribal management plan or an expenditure plan under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (e), as applicable.

(j) **NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.**—No portion of a Pueblo Trust Fund shall be distributed on a per capita basis to any member of a Pueblo.

(k) **TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.**—Title to, control over, and operation of any project constructed using funds from a Pueblo Trust Fund shall remain in the appropriate Pueblo.

(l) **OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT.**—All operation, maintenance, and replacement costs of any project constructed using funds from a Pueblo Trust Fund shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Pueblo.

SEC. 206. FUNDING.

(a) **MANDATORY APPROPRIATION.**—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary—

(1) for deposit in the Pueblo of Jemez Settlement Trust Fund established under section 205(a) \$290,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury; and

(2) for deposit in the Pueblo of Zia Settlement Trust Fund established under that section \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or reverted to the general fund of the Treasury.

(b) FLUCTUATION IN COSTS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount appropriated under subsection (a) shall be increased or decreased, as appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs, as indicated by the Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Index-Composite Trend.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION COSTS ADJUSTMENT.**—The amount appropriated under subsection (a) shall be adjusted to address construction cost changes necessary to account for unforeseen market volatility that may not otherwise be captured by engineering cost indices, as determined by the Secretary, including repricing applicable to the types of construction and current industry standards involved.

(3) **REPETITION.**—The adjustment process under this subsection shall be repeated for each subsequent amount appropriated until the applicable amount, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

(4) **PERIOD OF INDEXING.**—The period of indexing adjustment under this subsection for any increment of funding shall start on October 1, 2021, and end on the date on which the funds are deposited in the applicable Pueblo Trust Fund.

(c) **STATE COST SHARE.**—The State shall contribute—

(1) \$3,400,000, as adjusted for inflation pursuant to the Agreement, to the San Ysidro Community Ditch Association for capital and operating expenses of the mutual benefit Augmentation Project;

(2) \$16,159,000, as adjusted for inflation pursuant to the Agreement, for Jemez River Basin Water Users Coalition acequia ditch improvements; and

(3) \$500,000, as adjusted for inflation, to mitigate impairment to non-Pueblo domestic and livestock groundwater rights as a result of new Pueblo water use.

SEC. 207. ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

The Enforceability Date shall be the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1) to the extent that the Agreement conflicts with this title, the Agreement has been amended to conform with this title;

(2) the Agreement, as amended, has been executed by all parties to the Agreement, including the United States;

(3) the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico has approved the Agreement and has entered a Partial Final Judgment and Decree;

(4) all of the amounts appropriated under section 206 have been appropriated and deposited in the designated accounts of the applicable Pueblo Trust Fund;

(5) the State has—

(A) provided the funding under section 206(c)(2) into appropriate funding accounts;

(B) provided the funding under section 206(c)(1) or entered into a funding agreement with the intended beneficiaries for that funding; and

(C) enacted legislation to amend State law to provide that a Pueblo Water Right may be leased for a term of not to exceed 99 years, including renewals;

(6) the waivers and releases under section subsections (a) and (b) of section 208 have been executed by the Pueblos and the Secretary; and

(7) the waivers and releases under section 208 have been executed by the Pueblos and the Secretary.

SEC. 208. WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

(a) **WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY PUEBLOS AND UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR PUEBLOS.**—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (d), as consideration for recognition of the Pueblo Water Rights and other bene-

fits described in the Agreement and this title, the Pueblos and the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, shall execute a waiver and release of all claims for—

(1) water rights within the Jemez River Stream System that the Pueblos, or the United States acting as trustee for the Pueblos, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication, on or before the Enforceability Date, except to the extent that such a right is recognized in the Agreement and this title; and

(2) damages, losses, or injuries to water rights or claims of interference with, diversion of, or taking of water rights (including claims for injury to land resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, interference, diversion, or taking of water rights) in the Jemez River Stream System against any party to a settlement, including the members and parciantes of signatory acequias, that accrued at any time up to and including the Enforceability Date.

(b) **WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY PUEBLOS AGAINST UNITED STATES.**—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (d), each Pueblo shall execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States (including any agency or employee of the United States) for water rights within the Jemez River Stream System first arising before the Enforceability Date relating to—

(1) water rights within the Jemez River Stream System that the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication, except to the extent that such rights are recognized as part of the Pueblo Water Rights under this title;

(2) foregone benefits from non-Pueblo use of water, on and off Pueblo Land (including water from all sources and for all uses), within the Jemez River Stream System;

(3) damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights (including damages, losses, or injuries to hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights due to loss of water or water rights, claims relating to interference with, diversion of, or taking of water, or claims relating to a failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure) within the Jemez River Stream System;

(4) a failure to establish or provide a municipal, rural, or industrial water delivery system on Pueblo Land within the Jemez River Stream System;

(5) damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to construction, operation, and management of irrigation projects on Pueblo Land or Federal land (including damages, losses, or injuries to fish habitat, wildlife, and wildlife habitat) within the Jemez River Stream System;

(6) a failure to provide for operation, maintenance, or deferred maintenance for any irrigation system or irrigation project within the Jemez River Stream System;

(7) a failure to provide a dam safety improvement to a dam on Pueblo Land within the Jemez River Stream System;

(8) the litigation of claims relating to any water right of a Pueblo within the Jemez River Stream System; and

(9) the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Agreement (including exhibits or appendices) and this title.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The waivers and releases described in subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the Enforceability Date.

(d) **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.**—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases under subsections (a) and (b), the Pueblos and the United States, acting as trustee for the Pueblos, shall retain all claims relating to—

(1) the enforcement of, or claims accruing after the Enforceability Date relating to, water rights recognized under the Agreement, this title, or the Partial Final Judgment and Decree entered into in the Adjudication;

(2) activities affecting the quality of water, including claims under—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), including claims for damages to natural resources;

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”); and

(D) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(3) the right to use and protect water rights acquired after the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) damage, loss, or injury to land or natural resources that is not due to loss of water or water rights, including hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights;

(5) all rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, and powers not specifically waived and released pursuant to this title or the Agreement; and

(6) loss of water or water rights in locations outside of the Jemez River Stream System.

(e) **EFFECT OF AGREEMENT AND TITLE.**—Nothing in the Agreement or this title—

(1) reduces or extends the sovereignty (including civil and criminal jurisdiction) of any government entity;

(2) affects the ability of the United States, as sovereign, to carry out any activity authorized by law, including—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”);

(D) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.); and

(E) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(3) affects the ability of the United States to act as trustee for the Pueblos (consistent with this title), any other pueblo or Indian Tribe, or an allottee of any Indian Tribe;

(4) confers jurisdiction on any State court—

(A) to interpret Federal law relating to health, safety, or the environment;

(B) to determine the duties of the United States or any other party under Federal law regarding health, safety, or the environment;

(C) to conduct judicial review of any Federal agency action; or

(D) to interpret Pueblo or Tribal law; or

(5) waives any claim of a member of a Pueblo in an individual capacity that does not derive from a right of the Pueblos.

(f) **TOLLING OF CLAIMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each applicable period of limitation and time-based equitable defense relating to a claim described in this section shall be tolled for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the Enforceability Date.

(2) **EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection revives any claim or tolls any period of limitation or time-based equitable defense that expired before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section precludes the tolling of any period of limitation or any time-based equitable defense under any other applicable law.

(g) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This title shall expire in any case in which the Secretary fails to publish a statement of findings under section 207 by not later than—

(A) July 1, 2030; or
(B) such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Pueblos and the Secretary, after providing reasonable notice to the State.

(2) CONSEQUENCES.—If this title expires under paragraph (1)—

(A) the waivers and releases under subsections (a) and (b) shall—

(i) expire; and
(ii) have no further force or effect;
(B) the authorization, ratification, confirmation, and execution of the Agreement under section 203 shall no longer be effective;

(C) any action carried out by the Secretary, and any contract or agreement entered into, pursuant to this title shall be void;

(D) any unexpended Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized by this title, together with any interest earned on those funds, and any water rights or contracts to use water and title to other property acquired or constructed with Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized by this title shall be returned to the Federal Government, unless otherwise agreed to by the Pueblos and the United States and approved by Congress; and

(E) except for Federal funds used to acquire or construct property that is returned to the Federal Government under subparagraph (D), the United States shall be entitled to offset any Federal funds made available to carry out this title that were expended or withdrawn, or any funds made available to carry out this title from other Federal authorized sources, together with any interest accrued on those funds, against any claims against the United States—

(i) relating to—
(I) water rights in the State asserted by—
(aa) the Pueblos; or
(bb) any user of the Pueblo Water Rights;
or

(II) any other matter covered by subsection (b); or

(ii) in any future settlement of water rights of the Pueblos.

SEC. 209. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

The benefits provided under this title shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of any claim of the Pueblos against the United States that are waived and released by the Pueblos pursuant to section 208(b).

SEC. 210. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) NO WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY BY THE UNITED STATES.—Nothing in this title waives the sovereign immunity of the United States.

(b) OTHER TRIBES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.—Nothing in this title quantifies or diminishes any land or water right, or any claim or entitlement to land or water, of an Indian Tribe, band, or community other than the Pueblos.

(c) EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW.—Nothing in this title affects any provision of law (including regulations) in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act with respect to pre-enforcement review of any Federal environmental enforcement action.

(d) CONFLICT.—In the event of a conflict between the Agreement and this title, this title shall control.

SEC. 211. ANTIDEFICIENCY.

The United States shall not be liable for any failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this title, including any obligation or activity under the Agreement, if adequate appropriations are not provided expressly by Congress to carry out the purposes of this title.

SA 1120. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 110. The remaining unobligated balances, as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available for the “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—National Infrastructure Investments” in division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) are hereby permanently rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2027, and shall be available, without additional competition, for completing the funding of awards made pursuant to the fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments program, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SA 1121. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION D CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. (a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule shall publish in the Federal Register a list of information on which the rule is based, including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-benefit analyses, and identify how the public can access such information online, and shall submit to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

(i) a copy of the rule;
(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 104(2);

(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal

agency shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs added or lost, differentiating between public and private sector jobs;

(ii) the agency’s actions pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) the agency’s actions pursuant to sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995;

(iv) an estimate of the effect on inflation of the rule; and

(v) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(D) If requested in writing by a member of Congress—

(i) the Comptroller General shall make a determination whether an agency action qualifies as a rule for purposes of this chapter, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 60 days after the date of the request; and

(ii) the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, shall make a determination whether a rule is considered a major rule under the provisions of this act, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 90 days after the date of the request.

For purposes of this section, a determination under this subparagraph shall be deemed to be a report under subparagraph (A).

(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the agency’s compliance with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assessment of whether the major rule imposes any new limits or mandates on private-sector activity.

(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General’s report under subparagraph (A).

(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 102 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 102, whichever is later.

(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 103 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this division in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 102.

(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either

House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

(C) necessary for national security; or

(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 102.

(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this division, in the case of any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days; or

(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days,

before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 102 and 103 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session of Congress.

(2)(A) In applying sections 102 and 103 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day; or

(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day, after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

SEC. 102. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR MAJOR RULES. (a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term “joint resolution” means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 101(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

(A) bears no preamble;

(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled as appropriate): “Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.”;

(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following (with blanks filled as appropriate): “That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.”; and

(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 101(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his or her respective des-

ignee) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that

has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint resolution having the same text, then—

(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 101(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

(h) This section and section 103 are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 103. CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR NONMAJOR RULES. (a) For purposes of this section, the term “joint resolution” means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 101(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.” (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of the other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the Senate, the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date; or

(2) if the report under section 101(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 101(c)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

SEC. 104. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this division:

(1) The term “Federal agency” means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code, that receives funding under any division of this Act.

(2) The term “major rule” means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions;

(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

(D) an increase in mandatory vaccinations.

(3) The term “nonmajor rule” means any rule that is not a major rule.

(4) The term “rule” means a rule, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, except that such term has the meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, except that such term—

(A) includes interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and all other agency guidance documents; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

(ii) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

(iii) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(5) The term “submission or publication date”, except as otherwise provided in this division, means—

(A) in the case of a major rule, the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 101(a)(1); and

(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the later of—

(i) the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 101(a)(1); and

(ii) the date on which the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

SEC. 105. JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this division shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this division for a rule to take effect.

(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 102 shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

SEC. 106. EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY.

Nothing in this division shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

SEC. 107. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CERTAIN RULES. Notwithstanding section 101—

(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

(2) any rule other than a major rule which the Federal agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest,

shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency determines.

SEC. 108. REVIEW OF RULES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT. (a) Beginning on the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter for the 4 years following, each agency shall designate not less than 20 percent of eligible rules made by that agency for review, and shall submit a report including each such eligible rule in the same manner as a report under section 1(a)(1), Section 1, section 2, and section 3 shall apply to each such rule, subject to subsection (c) of this section. No eligible rule previously designated may be designated again.

(b) Beginning after the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, if Congress has not enacted a joint resolution of approval for that eligible rule, that eligible rule shall not continue in effect.

(c)(1) Unless Congress approves all eligible rules designated by executive agencies for review within 90 days of designation, they shall have no effect.

(2) A single joint resolution of approval shall apply to all eligible rules in a report designated for a year as follows: “That Congress approves the rules submitted by the _____ for the year _____.” (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(3) A member of either House may move that a separate joint resolution be required for a specified rule.

(d) In this section, the term “eligible rule” means a rule that is in effect as of the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 109. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE. Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 2 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Any rule subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 2 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.”.

SEC. 110. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER STUDY OF RULES. (a) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) how many rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect;

(2) how many major rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect; and

(3) the total estimated economic cost imposed by all such rules.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report (and publish the report on the website of the Comptroller General) to Congress that contains the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SA 1122. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount rescinded in section 745 is increased by \$3,000,000.

SA 1123. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. REPORTING REGARDING TELEWORK.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “employee”, “locality pay area”, “locality rate”, and “official worksite” have the meanings given those terms in section 531.602 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency or department funded under division A, division B, or division C of this Act shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(1) the number of employees of the agency or department who, based upon information technology login information, office swipe-ins, and other measurable and observable factors, perform the majority of their working hours in a locality pay area with a lower locality rate than the locality rate for the locality pay area in which the official worksite of the employee is located, but continue to receive the higher locality rate associated with the official worksite of the employee;

(2) the cost savings that would be achieved by adjusting the locality rate for employees described in paragraph (1) to be the locality rate for the locality pay area in which the employees perform the majority of their working hours;

(3) the actions the agency or department has taken to audit and adjust the locality rates for employees with a telework agreement to account for the location from which the employees perform the majority of their working hours;

(4) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the actions the agency or department has taken to ensure oversight and quality control of remote work;

(5) any additional steps the agency or department is considering taking to improve oversight and quality control of remote work;

(6) the typical daily onsite attendance in the office buildings of the agency or department, as a proportion of the total workforce of the agency or department;

(7) any guidance, initiatives, or other incentives in effect to entice the employees of the agency or department to return to working from the office buildings of the agency or department;

(8) a description of the instances in which the agency or department has exercised the authority under paragraph (2) of section 531.605(d) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations to waive the twice-in-a-pay-period standard under paragraph (1) of such section;

(9) the number of exceptions to the exercises of authority described in paragraph (8)

that have been revoked during each month beginning on or after July 1, 2021;

(10) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the number of employees for whom an exception described in paragraph (8) remains in effect;

(11) a discussion of the monetary and environmental cost of maintaining underutilized space for the agency or department, in terms of energy use and carbon emissions;

(12) any steps the agency or department is taking or planning to take on or before the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act to reduce underutilization of building and office space; and

(13) an analysis of the impacts of telework on the delivery of services and response times, including any increase or decrease in backlogs relative to the backlog as of March 1, 2020.

SA 1124. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Of the funds made available by this division or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program, not more than two percent may be obligated or expended.

SA 1125. Mr. VANCE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or made available by this division may be used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID-19 virus.

SA 1126. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, insert the following:

TITLE IV

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF RULE-MAKING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 401. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. (a)(1)(A) Before a rule of the Department may take effect, the Department shall publish in the Federal Register a list of information on which the rule is based, including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-benefit analyses, and identify how the public can access such information online, and shall submit to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

(i) a copy of the rule;

(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 404(2);

(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Department shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs added or lost, differentiating between public and private sector jobs;

(ii) the Department's actions pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) the Department's actions pursuant to sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995;

(iv) an estimate of the effect on inflation of the rule; and

(v) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(D) If requested in writing by a member of Congress—

(i) the Comptroller General shall make a determination whether an agency action qualifies as a rule for purposes of this chapter, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 60 days after the date of the request; and

(ii) the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, shall make a determination whether a rule is considered a major rule under the provisions of this act, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 90 days after the date of the request.

For purposes of this section, a determination under this subparagraph shall be deemed to be a report under subparagraph (A).

(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the Department's compliance with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assessment of whether the major rule imposes

any new limits or mandates on private-sector activity.

(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General's report under subparagraph (A).

(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 402 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 402, whichever is later.

(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 403 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this title in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 402.

(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

(C) necessary for national security; or

(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 402.

(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this title, in the case of any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days; or

(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days,

before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 402 and 403 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session of Congress.

(2)(A) In applying sections 402 and 403 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day; or

(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day,

after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

SEC. 402. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR MAJOR RULES. (a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term "joint resolution" means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 401(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

(A) bears no preamble;

(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled as appropriate): "Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____";

(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following (with blanks filled as appropriate): "That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____"; and

(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 401(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A mo-

tion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint resolution having the same text, then—

(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 401(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

(h) This section and section 403 are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 403. CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR NONMAJOR RULES. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "joint resolution" means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 401(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: "That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect." (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the Senate, the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date; or

(2) if the report under section 401(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 401(c)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th ses-

sion day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this title:

(1) The term "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The term "major rule" means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions;

(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

(D) an increase in mandatory vaccinations.

(3) The term "nonmajor rule" means any rule that is not a major rule.

(4) The term "rule" means a rule, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States, issued by the Department under title II of this division, except that such term—

(A) includes interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and all other agency guidance documents; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

(ii) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

(iii) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(5) The term "submission or publication date", except as otherwise provided in this title, means—

(A) in the case of a major rule, the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 401(a)(1); and

(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the later of—

(i) the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 401(a)(1); and

(ii) the date on which the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

SEC. 405. JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this title shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether the Department has completed the necessary requirements under this title for a rule to take effect.

(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 402 shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of

statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

SEC. 406. EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY. Nothing in this title shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

SEC. 407. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CERTAIN RULES. Notwithstanding section 401—

(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

(2) any rule other than a major rule which the Department for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, shall take effect at such time as the Department determines.

SEC. 408. REVIEW OF RULES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT. (a) Beginning on the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter for the 4 years following, the Department shall designate not less than 20 percent of eligible rules made by the Department for review, and shall submit a report including each such eligible rule in the same manner as a report under section 401(a)(1). Section 401, section 402, and section 403 shall apply to each such rule, subject to subsection (c) of this section. No eligible rule previously designated may be designated again.

(b) Beginning after the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, if Congress has not enacted a joint resolution of approval for that eligible rule, that eligible rule shall not continue in effect.

(c)(1) Unless Congress approves all eligible rules designated by the Department for review within 90 days of designation, they shall have no effect.

(2) A single joint resolution of approval shall apply to all eligible rules in a report designated for a year as follows: "That Congress approves the rules submitted by the _____ for the year _____." (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(3) A member of either House may move that a separate joint resolution be required for a specified rule.

(d) In this section, the term "eligible rule" means a rule that is in effect as of the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 409. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE. Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 2 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Any rule subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 2 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section."

SEC. 410. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF RULES. (a) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) how many rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect;

(2) how many major rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect; and

(3) the total estimated economic cost imposed by all such rules.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report (and publish the report on the website of the Comptroller General) to Congress that contains the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SA 1127. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 106 of the amendment, line 9, strike “40 percent” and insert “30 percent”.

SA 1128. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, insert the following:

TITLE IV

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF RULE-MAKING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 401. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. (a)(1)(A) Before a rule of the Department may take effect, the Department shall publish in the Federal Register a list of information on which the rule is based, including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-benefit analyses, and identify how the public can access such information online, and shall submit to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

(i) a copy of the rule;

(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 404(2);

(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Department shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs added or lost, differentiating between public and private sector jobs;

(ii) the Department’s actions pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) the Department’s actions pursuant to sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995;

(iv) an estimate of the effect on inflation of the rule; and

(v) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(D) If requested in writing by a member of Congress—

(i) the Comptroller General shall make a determination whether an agency action qualifies as a rule for purposes of this chapter, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 60 days after the date of the request; and

(ii) the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, shall make a determination whether a rule is considered a major rule under the provisions of this act, and shall submit to Congress this determination not later than 90 days after the date of the request.

For purposes of this section, a determination under this subparagraph shall be deemed to be a report under subparagraph (A).

(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the Department’s compliance with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assessment of whether the major rule imposes any new limits or mandates on private-sector activity.

(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General’s report under subparagraph (A).

(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 402 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 402, whichever is later.

(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 403 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this title in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 402.

(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

(C) necessary for national security; or

(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 402.

(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this title, in the case of any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days; or

(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days,

before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 402 and 403 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session of Congress.

(2)(A) In applying sections 402 and 403 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day; or

(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day,

after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

SEC. 402. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR MAJOR RULES. (a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term “joint resolution” means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 401(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

(A) bears no preamble;

(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled as appropriate): “Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.”;

(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following (with blanks filled as appropriate): “That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.”; and

(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 401(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of

Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final pas-

sage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint resolution having the same text, then—

(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 401(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

(h) This section and section 403 are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 403. CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR NONMAJOR RULES. (a) For purposes of this section, the term “joint resolution” means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 401(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.” (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amend-

ment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

(e) In the Senate, the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date; or

(2) if the report under section 401(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 401(c)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this title:

(1) The term “Department” means the Department of Defense.

(2) The term “major rule” means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions;

(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

(D) an increase in mandatory vaccinations.

(3) The term “nonmajor rule” means any rule that is not a major rule.

(4) The term “rule” means a rule, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States,

issued by the Department under title I of this division, except that such term—

(A) includes interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and all other agency guidance documents; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

(ii) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

(iii) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(5) The term “submission or publication date”, except as otherwise provided in this title, means—

(A) in the case of a major rule, the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 401(a)(1); and

(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the later of—

(i) the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 401(a)(1); and

(ii) the date on which the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

SEC. 405. JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this title shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether the Department has completed the necessary requirements under this title for a rule to take effect.

(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 402 shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

SEC. 406. EXEMPTION FOR MONETARY POLICY. Nothing in this title shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

SEC. 407. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CERTAIN RULES. Notwithstanding section 401—

(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

(2) any rule other than a major rule which the Department for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, shall take effect at such time as the Department determines.

SEC. 408. REVIEW OF RULES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT. (a) Beginning on the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter for the 4 years following, the Department shall designate not less than 20 percent of eligible rules made by the Department for review, and shall submit a report including each such eligible rule in the same manner as a report under section 401(a)(1). Section 401, section 402, and section 403 shall apply to each such rule, subject to subsection (c) of this section. No eligible rule previously designated may be designated again.

(b) Beginning after the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, if

Congress has not enacted a joint resolution of approval for that eligible rule, that eligible rule shall not continue in effect.

(c)(1) Unless Congress approves all eligible rules designated by the Department for review within 90 days of designation, they shall have no effect.

(2) A single joint resolution of approval shall apply to all eligible rules in a report designated for a year as follows: “That Congress approves the rules submitted by the _____ for the year _____.” (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

(3) A member of either House may move that a separate joint resolution be required for a specified rule.

(d) In this section, the term “eligible rule” means a rule that is in effect as of the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 409. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE. Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 2 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Any rule subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 2 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.”

SEC. 410. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF RULES. (a) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) how many rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect;

(2) how many major rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect; and

(3) the total estimated economic cost imposed by all such rules.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report (and publish the report on the website of the Comptroller General) to Congress that contains the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SA 1129. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall coordinate food benefit allotments under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)) with respect to individuals and households adversely affected by a major disaster to minimize delays in receiving temporary food assistance, improve information sharing, and prevent redundancy of assistance.

SA 1130. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed

to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II of division A, add the following:

SEC. 261. REPORT ON RIDESHARING PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the following:

(1) An analysis of available data on the impact on homeless veterans from ending the expanded use of the ridesharing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(2) An estimate of the cost to reinstate the expanded use of the program described in paragraph (1) and an identification of any logistical issues associated with doing so.

(b) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1131. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON USE OF THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS TO CONDUCT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans for purposes of obtaining compensation under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number of contractors described in subsection (a) in each State who are used as described in such subsection.

(2) The requirements for performance and quality in the contracts governing the use described in subsection (a), including qualifications contractors described in such subsection are required meet for such uses.

(3) The average mileage veterans described in subsection (a) are required to travel to attend a contract medical disability examination described in such subsection, disaggregated by state;

(4) The number of veterans described in paragraph (3) who are required to travel beyond the mileage requirement in a contract described in paragraph (2).

(5) A description of the process at the Department for handling complaints of veterans about the use of contractors as described in subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have eight 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 during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 10:45 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on The Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on The Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 298, Michael Colin Casey, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Colin Casey, of Kentucky, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Casey nomination?

The nomination was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 337, National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week; S. Res. 338, Patriot Week; and S. Res. 339, Blood Donation Drive.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 337 and S. Res. 338) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolution (S. Res. 339) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Wednesday, September 13; 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 upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, postcloture; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count against the postcloture time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4366

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MURRAY, I ask unanimous consent that the following report from the Committee on Appropriations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FURTHER REVISED ALLOCATION TO SUBCOMMITTEES OF BUDGET TOTALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report revising the allocations to its subcommittees for fiscal year 2024 set forth in Senate Report 118-45 (June 22, 2023) and revised in Senate Report 118-57 (July 12, 2023), Senate Report 118-69 (July 19, 2023), and Senate Report 118-78 (July 26, 2023).

Section 302(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, provides that at any time after a committee reports its allocations, such committee may report to its House an alteration of such allocations. This report is submitted pursuant to this section.

Under the provisions of section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, the Congress shall complete action on a concurrent resolution on the budget no later than April 15 of each year. The Congressional Budget Act requires that, as soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget is agreed to, the Committee on Appropriations shall submit to the Senate a report subdividing among its subcommittees the new budget authority and total outlays allocated to the Committee in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such a resolution.

On June 3, 2023, the President approved the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. Section 121 of that act provides for the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to file an allocation, consistent with the terms of the Fiscal

Responsibility Act, to serve as a section 302(a) allocation for purposes of budget enforcement in the Senate. The allocation was filed by the Chairman of the Budget Committee on June 21, 2023 (Congressional Record pp. S2180–S2181).

The Committee notes that, under the terms of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may increase the 302(a) allocation of the Committee on Appropriations if certain conditions relating to funding of specific pro-

grams are met. These provisions address such programs as the costs of emergencies (sec. 251(b)(2)(A)(i)), continuing disability reviews and redeterminations (sec. 251(b)(2)(B)), healthcare fraud and abuse control (sec. 251(b)(2)(C)), disaster funding (sec. 251(b)(2)(D)), reemployment services and eligibility assessments (sec. 251(b)(2)(E)), and wildfire suppression (sec. 251(b)(2)(F)).

On September 12, 2023, the Committee on the Budget filed a revised 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations reflecting permissible increases in the fiscal year

2024 discretionary allocation. These reflect an increase of \$8,000,000,000 in budget authority in the revised security category for emergencies and \$54,198,000,000 in budget authority in the revised nonsecurity category for emergencies, continuing disability reviews and redeterminations, healthcare fraud and abuse control, disaster funding, reemployment services and eligibility assessments, and wildfire suppression, as well as their associated outlays.

The revised allocations to subcommittees for fiscal year 2024 are set forth below:

FURTHER REVISED SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

(In millions of dollars)

Subcommittee	Discretionary			Outlays Total	Mandatory		Total	
	Budget authority				Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
	Security	Nonsecurity	Total					
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies		25,993	25,993	27,894	174,241	169,505	200,234	197,399
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	6,674	65,060	71,734	87,588	385	441	72,119	88,029
Defense	831,080	187	831,267	821,922	514	514	831,781	822,436
Energy and Water Development	33,422	24,670	58,092	64,020			58,092	64,020
Financial Services and General Government	43	16,907	16,950	33,018	22,334	22,326	39,284	55,344
Homeland Security	3,612	78,025	81,637	83,400	1,147	1,147	82,784	84,547
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies		42,695	42,695	48,392	64	65	42,759	48,457
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies		202,178	202,178	263,863	1,064,077	1,062,276	1,266,255	1,326,139
Legislative Branch		6,761	6,761	6,657	137	137	6,898	6,794
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	19,070	135,282	154,352	150,863	209,944	195,630	364,296	346,493
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs		61,608	61,608	67,235	159	159	61,767	67,394
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	448	98,483	98,931	182,360			98,931	182,360
Total	894,349	757,849	1,652,198	1,837,212	1,473,002	1,452,200	3,125,200	3,289,412

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 6:47 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 12, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

JEFFREY IRVINE CUMMINGS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TANYA J. BRADSHAW, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

MICHAEL COLIN CASEY, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHARON HENSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions to Rockwall County by Mrs. Sharon Sparkman Henson. Mrs. Henson currently serves as the County Chair of the Rockwall County Republican Party and the Vice President of Legislature for the Rockwall County Republican Women's (RCRW) club.

Mrs. Henson was born in Longview, Texas. She attended the University of North Texas where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations. Shortly after graduation, Mrs. Henson began her career as a Marketing Manager for the John Deere company in Louisiana before moving back to the Lone Star State to serve as the Public Information officer for the City of Farmers Branch, Texas. While working on the marketing team at a medical sales company, she met and married the love of her life, Richard. Together, they have been happily married for over 27 years and raised 2 sons, Jace and Joshua.

During college, Mrs. Henson phone banked for the Ronald Reagan campaign, which sparked her interest in politics. This interest led to her continued involvement in grassroots political campaigns. She would go on to serve as the Publicity Chair for the Rockwall County GOP before becoming County Chair in 2021. Furthermore, Mrs. Henson is a devoted woman of faith, and regularly attends Lakeshore Church with her family. She credits her strong faith to her ultimate triumph over breast cancer, in which she is almost 8 years cancer-free. Without question, her resilience and tireless efforts have greatly strengthened the conservative movement and the Republican Party of Texas. For her prominent work, Mrs. Henson has been recognized as the RCRW Woman of Influence.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol to recognize Mrs. Henson's lifetime of service to the good people of North Texas. May God bless her.

HONORING DEBORAH DORSETT

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deborah Dorsett, an outstanding civic leader serving all of Greater Miami.

Ms. Dorsett received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Florida Memorial University and earned a Master of Business Administration from St. Thomas University.

Deborah Dorsett is the Executive Director of the Greater Miami Service Corps (GMSC). She has served the GMSC in several capacities for more than 25 years and has led the program with strength and compassion. She has guided GMSC in creating vital career pathways for young adults and continues to develop meaningful partnerships with the city, local employers, and other supporters. Recognized as a mentor and a champion for today's young adults, Deborah is an advocate for resources needed to support those who face barriers during their career and education journey.

Ms. Dorsett has served in numerous leadership positions, including the former Chair of the Corps Network Board of Directors, and she currently serves as a member. She is the Assistant Treasurer of the Women Involved in Service to Humanity (WISH) Foundation; Vice Chairman of NieCat Foundation of Excellence Inc.; Vice President of the Florida Youthbuild USA Coalition; and Chair of the Risk Management Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter. In 2019, Legacy Miami Magazine named her as one of the year's top 50 influential Black business leaders and public officials.

Ms. Dorsett is the recipient of The Corps Network 2023 Legacy Achievement Award. This distinction is among the highest honors The Corps Network bestows and is awarded to those who have worked for at least 15 years in the Corps world, served in a senior leadership position at a Corps, and made significant contributions to the national movement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Dorsett for all she has achieved. She exemplifies the high quality of volunteerism and civic leadership that we aspire to instill across the country.

RECOGNIZING JAMES KINARD'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MELVINDALE AND THE NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of James Kinard, the former Mayor of Melvindale, Michigan, and grieve his passing. His dedication to his community and family is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Jim was born in 1949 in Highland Park, Michigan, to William and Clara Kinard. After graduating from Melvindale High School in 1967, he answered the call and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served valiantly until 1972.

After leaving the Navy, Jim dedicated the next four decades of his life to his father's business, Bill's Cutter Grinding. Outside of his commitment to the family business, Jim proudly served the city of Melvindale in many posi-

tions. Through the 1970s and 1980s, he was the Recreation Commissioner, working to enhance the outdoor experiences and quality of life of Melvindale's residents. That dedication to community was rewarded by being elected Mayor Pro-Tem and eventually Mayor of Melvindale from 1995 to 2003. Recognized as an exceptional leader, Jim was appointed as the chairman of the Downriver Community Council, where he fostered collaboration between the Downriver cities and worked hard to address the challenges that faced the region.

In addition to his decades of public service, Jim will be remembered for the impact he had on the lives of Melvindale's youth. For 12 years, Jim served as the Melvindale Little League Baseball Coach, imparting upon his players the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience. He also served on the board of the Melvindale Athletic Booster Association, ensuring support for young athletes no matter what field, court, or track they competed on. Jim was also an advisor for the youth group at Melvindale Methodist Church, where he shaped the futures of many young people looking for guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and service of James Kinard. A leader of his community and mentor to many, his leadership will be greatly missed but not forgotten. His memory lives on in his wife, Mary, 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. We offer them prayers of solace in this difficult time, and thank them for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with us. He made our corner of Michigan a better and more welcoming place for all.

HONORING SERGEANT PAUL R. DAW

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Paul R. Daw, a Vietnam War veteran and upstanding constituent of New York's 21st District.

Paul was raised in Long Island, New York. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Army, serving for 2 years in the Vietnam War from July 1969 to May 1971. Sergeant Daw was stationed in Vietnam as an Eleven-Bravo infantryman alongside his fellow men with the 1st Cavalry Division, Ranger Company A.

For his service, Sergeant Daw was highly decorated. Upon his honorable discharge in 1971, Sergeant Daw earned a Bronze Star with oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Accommodation Medal for Valor, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning home to Long Island from Vietnam, Sergeant Daw joined the New York Police Department, where he served for 21½

• 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.

years as an officer of the law. Off the force, Sergeant Daw also supported his community as a volunteer firefighter until his retirement from the NYPD in 2003, at which time he moved upstate to the North Country.

In his retirement, Sergeant Daw has taken time to focus on his family life. He and his wife Jean have been happily married for 16 years, in the company of his children Jason and Kelly and stepdaughter Katie.

Sergeant Paul R. Daw's life of service and bravery is truly admirable. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize the remarkable life of Sergeant Paul R. Daw.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SAINT ANNE CHURCH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Saint Anne Church.

In 1923, Father Verhalen announced that a location had been chosen for the new church's construction in the City of Santa Ana. The site featured 3 lots in a new tract named Wilshire Square, that faced South Main Street and another 3 lots that faced Sycamore Street.

On April 22, 1923, the first Mass of the new parish was celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on April 22, 1923, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Longmire.

In 1939, Reverend Christopher J. Bradley was appointed as the parish's pastor, marking a time when St. Anne Parish began to flourish. Father Bradley started making changes to the parish facilities soon after he arrived, and on November 30, 1941, a solemn Mass was conducted in the stunning new church with 400 seats, 32 stained glass windows, and a beautiful bell tower.

In September of 1945, it was through Father Bradely that the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary were invited to Santa Ana, California to assist parents in the task of educating their children, which resulted in the parish's new grammar school opening its doors to students for the first time.

In May 1949, a new \$80,000 convent was completed at the corner of Sycamore Street and Borchard Avenue. The convent includes a chapel which is a miniature of the church and contains 14 stained glass windows.

In 1950, the church was lengthened, and the church capacity was doubled. The church was enlarged again in 1962. New marble altars were installed, a mortuary chapel was provided in a nave alcove, and a new tabernacle and pipe organ were added. The total seating capacity was increased to 1,000 people.

Today, 100 years later, Saint Anne Church has over 6,000 registered families and has helped the community through many food and toy drives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional achievements of Saint Anne Church.

HONORING MICHELE GRUPE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michele Grupe, for her dedicated service at the Cope Family Center. She served as the executive director since 2017 and as part of the leadership of the organization since 2004.

Ms. Grupe received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland and is a certified fund-raising executive. Inspired to give children their best possible start in life, Ms. Grupe served as a leader and fundamental member of the organization Cope, where she has worked to empower parents, nurture children, and strengthen communities.

Cope Family Center is a Napa Valley nonprofit dedicated to preventing child abuse and support families by providing parents with the education and resources they need to raise thriving children. Throughout her time at Cope, Ms. Grupe has built coalitions between social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members. Her work has created systemic change and a more resilient community for Napa Valley's children and families.

Ms. Grupe's commitment to service and her strong work ethic goes beyond her time at Cope. Her efforts to strengthen Napa County families and build a more equitable family-support system requires hard work in the face of adversity. She has served as the co-chair for the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County, commissioner of the First 5 Napa County Commission, chair of the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council, Steering Committee Member for the Community Leaders Coalition, and member of the California Family Resource Center Policy Committee. She has also demonstrated her commitment to social justice by volunteering for campaigns and initiatives.

Ms. Grupe has been a force for good in our community. Her commitment to the well-being of her staff, her collaborative partners, and our community has been unflinching.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
ROBERT GARZA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Robert "Bob" Garza of Plano, Texas, who passed away on April 10, 2023.

Mr. Garza was born on July 5, 1940, in San Marcos, Texas, to Antonio and Hortencia Garza. After graduating from high school, he briefly attended Southwest Texas State University before joining the United States Marine Corps. During his time in the Marines, Mr. Garza trained as an electrician and served overseas in Japan. He was an expert marksman and was honorably discharged as a Lance Corporal. Mr. Garza later returned to the U.S. and completed his degree in Mathematics.

Mr. Garza later worked as a teacher and a computer programmer for the United Services

Automobile Association. He eventually settled in Plano, Texas, where he served as the Vice President and Database Administrator for Bank of America. He married his wife Sherri, and together, they have 5 children and many more grandchildren. Mr. Garza retired in 2012 after 33 years working with the bank.

Those who knew Mr. Garza can tell you that he truly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, who loved him dearly. He was very passionate about sports, traveling, music, and restoring classic cars. Moreover, Mr. Garza was a devoted man of faith and frequently attended the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Mr. Garza's life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING JANICE SPANN-GIVENS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janice Spann-Givens, an outstanding leader in higher education as she retires with 34 years of service to Florida International University (FIU).

Janice Spann-Givens better known to most students as "Mama G" is a native of Miami. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, Florida. She was a member of the first cohort of students in FIU's Master of Science in Education Leadership/Student Affairs Administration program and received her degree in 2005. Upon graduation from UF, she worked for Southern Bell/AT&T Information Systems for nine years before beginning her career at FIU in 1989 in the Office of Financial Aid as the Assistant Director for Scholarships. In 1994, she accepted the Assistant Director position in the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services (MPAS). In 2005, Janice was promoted to Associate Director. In 2021, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services was renamed the Office of Social Justice and Inclusion (OSJI). She worked part time as an Adjunct Lecturer in the FIU College of Arts and Sciences teaching the Freshmen First Year course for 14 years (1995 through 2009).

She has served on many university-wide committees including the MLK Commemorative Celebration, DEI—Attraction, Retention, Engagement subcommittee, Diversity Week, University Wide Access and Success, Student Conduct & Conflict resolution, Judicial, University Scholarship and Holiday Celebration for Children committees.

Ms. Spann-Givens served as Faculty Advisor for several FIU student clubs and organizations during her 34 years including SPEAK, Black Student Union Council (BSU), Black Female Development Circle, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated-Sigma Pi Chapter and NAACP to name a few. As a faculty member, she received the 2021 Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor of the Year award. She is also a member of the 2005 1st Place winning team

for the Fourth Annual StudentAffairs.com Virtual Case Study Competition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Janice Spann-Givens for all she has achieved. She embodies the high quality of volunteerism and leadership that is important to the success of collegiate students.

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN
BLOODWORTH'S SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Bloodworth, the Executive Director of Corporate Giving at Consumers Energy and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Consumers Energy Foundation and the CMS Energy Foundation in Jackson, Michigan on the occasion of her retirement. Her decades of service to the residents of the state of Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Carolyn began her career with Consumers Energy as a part-time junior office clerk in 1981. After finishing her bachelors degree, Carolyn's many skills had her working in Graphic Operations, Customer Service, and Communications. In 1993, Carolyn took over as Executive Director of Corporate Giving as well as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Consumers Energy Foundation and CMS Energy Foundation.

The Consumers Energy Foundation and the CMS Energy Foundation have had a significant philanthropic impact under Carolyn's leadership. Since she took the helm, the Foundations have given over \$90 million in grants. She has served on a number of local and statewide nonprofit boards throughout her career, including the Michigan Community Service Commission, Food Bank Council of Michigan, Michigan FFA Foundation and the Council of Michigan Foundations. Her awards include America's Service Commission's Outstanding Commissioner Award and March of Dimes Volunteer of the Year, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the career of Carolyn Bloodworth. For 42 years she has been serving the people of Michigan in some form, but for the last 30 years she has had a direct hand in steering funds to the most underserved in our communities. We thank her for her service, and wish her a long and relaxing retirement.

HONORING NATIONAL AEROSPACE
WEEK

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, the United States has long been a global pioneer in aviation, defense and space, and the aerospace industry and workforce have made innumerable contributions to our country and the world.

I proudly represent Wichita, Kansas—the Air Capital of the World. For more than a century,

Wichita has been a leader in aerospace innovation and manufacturing. In 1928, just 25 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight, Wichita was already home to 16 airplane manufacturers, 6 engine factories and numerous suppliers.

Today, Wichita is home to world-class research, engineering, manufacturing, and maintenance capabilities.

But aerospace is not just in Kansas—the industry supports jobs in all 50 states. Across the country, aerospace—and the people who power it—provides a critical foundation that supports our Nation's economy and national security.

That's why I relaunched the House Aerospace Caucus this year. With my co-chair Rep. SALUD CARBAJAL, we're committed to maintaining America's global leadership in aerospace by supporting the industry and working to address the legislative issues impacting it.

This National Aerospace Week, I want to recognize and celebrate the American aviation, defense and space industries and thank the hardworking men and women powering this industry.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
THE LIFE OF MR. ROBERT JUSTICE

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual, Robert Justice, whose lifetime of service and leadership left an indelible mark on our community and Nation. Mr. Justice devoted 43 years to the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Council Scout Executive and CEO for 21 years. His leadership led to the construction of a new Council Service Center and the Camp Bob Hardin Boy Scout Camp, at which he fostered strong community relationships, and promoted desegregation within Scouting units.

Earlier in his life, Mr. Justice served as the Director of Training at the National Executive Institute of the Boy Scouts of America, certifying thousands of professional candidates. In the Chief Cornstalk Council in Logan, West Virginia, Mr. Justice served as a District Executive and Field Director, ensuring Scouting programs thrived in an impoverished mining community.

In 1943, Mr. Justice enlisted in the United States Navy, serving in World War II. While in service, he continued to work with Scouts on military bases until he returned home in 1946.

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Mr. Justice was recognized for his outstanding service and dedication to local food pantries. Additionally, he chaired the Eagle Scout scholarship committee, benefiting aspiring scholars. Mr. Justice's exceptional commitment to service included a membership in Rotary, where he was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Mr. Justice was also an active Mason and Shriner, contributing to charitable endeavors and fundraising for the Children's Hospital. Additionally, he served as the President of Parents without Partners in Spartanburg, growing it to the largest chapter in South Carolina.

Mr. Justice's service extended to Southside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, where he was a dedicated member since 1974, contributing his leadership and teaching Sunday School. In honoring the life and service of Mr. Robert Justice, we celebrate a life defined by selflessness, leadership, and a profound impact on his community and country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Aerospace Week. I am proud to Co-Chair the House Aerospace Caucus and to represent the robust aerospace industry on California's Central Coast, which ranges from civilian and military to airplanes and space launches.

The American aerospace industry has moved, connected, secured, and inspired the modern world with countless technologies that play a role in our daily lives. The aerospace industry has grown tremendously over the last 120 years going from the Wright brothers' first flight to deep space exploration.

Whether you are traveling by plane or using GPS to navigate—we all rely on the aerospace industry daily. Achievements in aerospace are some of humankind's most notable, including the moon landing and the first transatlantic flight. Success stories like these inspire the next generation who will continue to innovate and propel the American aerospace industry forward.

The United States has been a leader in aerospace since the beginning of the industry and this is only possible because of the American people's public investment and willingness to participate in this critical workforce. From air traffic controllers, airline gate agents, and pilots to engineers, technicians, and everyone else in between—this diverse workforce allows the United States to maintain leadership.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF ROYCE TASKER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mr. Royce Tasker of Sherman, Texas. Mr. Tasker faithfully served the United States Army Air Corps in the Second World War and turned 100 years old on August 8, 2023.

Royce Tasker was born on August 8, 1923, in Abilene, Texas. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Army in the hopes of pursuing an aviation path. His hard work paid off, as he passed his aviation cadet exam and obtained the rank of First Lieutenant. Mr. Tasker later attended advanced flight school in San Antonio, Texas, and was assigned as a bomber pilot to perform combat duty in the Pacific Theater.

He was given orders to attack Clark Field, an American air base in the Philippines captured by enemy forces during the early stages

of the Pacific war. During his mission, 1 of his B-24 Liberator's engines was struck by enemy fire, forcing Mr. Tasker and his crew to crash land in a rice paddy. Tragically, 1 of his gunners was killed, and several more crew members were severely burned. Thankfully, a group of Filipino civilians rescued them and provided shelter and aid long enough for the United States Navy to send a boat to pick them up. For his injuries sustained in combat, First Lt. Tasker received the Purple Heart.

In recognition of his remarkable achievements, the city of Sherman has named Royce Tasker as a Texoma Hero and proclaimed July 28, 2023, as 1st Lieutenant Royce Tasker Day. I am proud to recognize Mr. Tasker's honor, courage, and steadfast patriotism here today, and I wish him good health for many more years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Mr. Tasker's amazing life and service to our Nation. May God bless Mr. Tasker on 100 years of life and joy.

HONORING REVEREND DR. CARL
JOHNSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Carl Johnson, an outstanding spiritual leader guiding South Florida.

In 1987, Pastor Johnson began his journey as a clergyman, answering the call and receiving a ministerial license at 93rd Street Community Baptist Church. He was appointed the position of youth minister and he quickly ascended to assistant to the Senior Pastor. After the passing of Rev. Alonzo Anderson, Pastor Johnson became the interim Pastor, and was shortly installed as Senior Pastor on May 16, 1993. God gave him a vision for the 93rd St. Baptist Church, "the church being faithful to become fruitful", undergirded with the mission statement, "the Church Where the Holy Spirit Leads and the Body of Christ Follows".

Under Pastor Johnson's leadership, the church has steadily grown from 100 to 7000 members. The old sanctuary was renovated in 1996, and the church expanded into numerous properties in the surrounding area. In December 2007, the church moved adjacent to a beautiful new cathedral holstering their capacity to over 1,500 parishioners and adding administrative offices, bookstore, conference room, and a chapel. Due to the rapid growth many more ministries have been added.

Pastor Johnson has served in many capacities. He serves as the President of the 93rd St. Community Development (social services) since 1999. He served as the President of the Caretaker for Christ Incorporation and served as the President of the Ministers & Deacons Union of the Seaboard Baptist Association. In 2018, he was appointed the President of the Moderators Axillary of the Florida General Baptist Convention. Presently, he serves as the Moderator of the Seaboard Baptist Association for the past 7 years. Today, he serves as a Chaplain for the Florida Highway Patrol Department and Chaplain for the Doral Police Department.

On April 6, 2023, he was elected, as the 24th President of the Florida General Baptist Convention. Beyond his endless love of community, his willingness to serve knows no bounds, and it is recognized by his peers and members of the community. On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Pastor Johnson was installed as the 24th President of the Florida General Baptist Convention.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Carl Johnson for his dedicated service to the South Florida community and all he has achieved.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County (AACHM) on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. The job they have done in preserving the deep history of Washtenaw County's African American population is worthy of commendation.

Founded in 1993, the AACHM has been crucial in helping local residents understand their shared history, from the many Underground Railroad stops in the area to the Broadway Historic District in Ann Arbor. Originally a "museum without walls", the museum currently resides in their Historic Albert Polhemus House, built in 1848 to house Albert and Leah Polhemus and their 6 children. A later resident by the name of Joseph Mills Maltby was the pastor of Ann Arbor's First Presbyterian Church from 1888 to 1909, at which the Michigan Anti-Slavery Society was founded in 1836.

The exhibits at the AACHM are in constant rotation, and each and every 1 is worthy of a visit in person. Whether it was an exhibition of the Great Migration of the 20th century or a collection of the origin stories of local black families, the AACHM are consistently collaborating with our local high schools and universities to make sure that residents of all stripes participate in our shared history. The AACHM is also well known for their "Journey to Freedom" tours that showcase the role Washtenaw County played in the Underground Railroad. Michigan was often the last stop on the way to freedom in Canada, and 2 crucial routes went through Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the AACHM. They say that "those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it", and for the last 3 decades the AACHM has been working tirelessly to ensure that the residents of Washtenaw County remember their history, both the highlights and the low points. Progress in the present requires an understanding of the past, and the AACHM is vital to that cause. We thank you and are excited to see what history you uncover over the next 30 years.

HONORING GARY SANDY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues JOHN GARAMENDI and DORIS MATSUI, to honor the life and legacy of Yolo County Supervisor Gary Sandy. Supervisor Sandy grew up in Vacaville, California and lived in Woodland, California for nearly 40 years where he devoted his life to public service.

Supervisor Sandy graduated from Sonoma State University "With Distinction" in 1985 and was later awarded the prestigious Coro Foundation Fellowship in Public Affairs. Supervisor Sandy also received a master's degree in organizational development from the University of San Francisco and completed the University of California, Davis Executive Program.

Supervisor Sandy has been active in our community for decades. He served as a member of the Woodland City Council from 1989 through 1996 and was mayor of the City of Woodland from 1994 through 1996. Between 2010 and 2018, Supervisor Sandy was a trustee for the Yuba Community College District, where he was twice elected president of the board. In 2018, he was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors for District 3; and in 2020, Mr. Sandy served as the chair to the board during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was a treasured member of our community who advocated for matters of mental health, homelessness, agricultural land preservation, economic development, and education. Supervisor Sandy was a leading voice as the chair to the Yolo County Housing Commission and assisted in the creation of Yolo County's Commission to Address Homelessness supporting countywide policy, strategy, and funding recommendations to address homelessness and housing issues. Mr. Sandy was a leader in promoting practices and technologies that aid in water conservation. He furthered these initiatives as a representative to the Yolo County Water Resources Association and the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency.

Supervisor Sandy's colleagues remembered him as a kind, wise, and personable man. His gift was not in what he had to say, but rather in the way he made you feel. Supervisor Sandy brought a sense of warmth and humor into every conversation he had. We will miss his friendship and unwavering support.

Beyond his work, Supervisor Sandy was deeply devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary, his children, Owen, Grayson, and Bayley, his grandchildren, and his sister, Shirley. Supervisor Sandy will be remembered for his love of his family and the people he served.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Sandy was a dedicated public servant and leader in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER OF BOB HUNDLEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions to the city of Paris,

Texas by Mr. Bob Hundley. For over 45 years, Mr. Hundley served in the Paris Police Department.

From a young age, Mr. Hundley had his mind set on pursuing a career in law enforcement and positively impacting his community. He first began working for the Tyler Police Department as a patrol officer in January of 1975. Shortly after, he relocated to the Paris Police Department and made it his life's mission to help his community through the best and worst of times. From assisting children in appalling situations to rescuing individuals in natural disasters, Mr. Hundley's commitment to selfless service has remained steadfast throughout the years. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the early 1990s and also served as the emergency management coordinator.

Beginning in 2004, Mr. Hundley served as the assistant police chief and was later promoted to Chief of Police in 2009. For the next 11 years, he led the charge to protect and serve North Texas during which he established a robust training program for future law enforcement officers. Moreover, Mr. Hundley created a Citizen's Police Academy to improve law enforcement outreach efforts to the public. Under his leadership, the Paris Police Department received 2 Recognized Law Enforcement Agency awards. At the time, only 66 out of Texas' 2,800 police departments had received such an award. Many people who know Mr. Hundley would agree that his humble contributions to Paris have been invaluable, and his retirement on July 3, 2023, was well deserved after a lifetime of public service.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Mr. Hundley's lifetime of public service to the good people of North Texas. I wish him good health and the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. LAMONT S.
SNYDER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lamont S. Snyder in honor of his retirement from Broward County Public Schools.

Dr. Lamont Snyder, a constituent of District 24, is a noted visionary, a well-respected mentor and father figure and a nationally recognized Music teacher and Band Director at Hallandale High School in Broward County, Florida.

Dr. Snyder's leadership and dedication turned a small fledgling high school band of amateur players into a nationally recognized and talented organization of skilled musicians and performers. The band has competed in and won numerous competitions, marched in the acclaimed Orange Bowl Parade and entertained thousands of people across the country.

Dr. Snyder's devotion and accomplishments earned him the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Award in 2004 that was presented to him at New York City's Carnegie Hall. Every year the foundation recognizes the five best band directors in the country.

Dr. Snyder is completing his 21st year as a Broward County Schools Band Director. He has used music to instill in his students self-discipline, self-confidence, self-motivation, drive and determination for excellence in everything they do.

He has built a support system, comprised of parents, students, alumni, and friends that has allowed the band to flourish and remain competitive. More importantly, it serves as a safe and positive avenue for the students, many of whom have gone on to earn music scholarships to schools like Bethune-Cookman University, Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

Dr. Snyder is a native of Miami, Florida and a graduate of Miami Carol City High School. He received a Master's degree in Music from Florida Memorial College.

Dr. Snyder is married to Connie Snyder and is the father of 5 children: Venita, Lakinya, Regina, Celisse and Lamont Jr. He is also a grandfather, son, brother and uncle.

Please join me in honoring Dr. Lamont S. Snyder for his commitment to our children, their education and musical enlightenment and for his commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 46

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion Post 46 in Ann Arbor, MI on the 100th anniversary of their founding. The support and care that they have shown to our veterans and our community over the last century is worthy of commendation.

The Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46 was issued its charter in 1923, named in honor of Erwin Prieskorn, an Ann Arbor native who died of his wounds in France during the First World War. Over the next 40 years, membership increased to over 1,000 veterans. Membership has fluctuated over the years, but Post 46 is now 1 of the faster growing American Legion posts in the country by growing over 30 percent in membership in the last year alone.

For the past 100 years, the members of Post 46 have dedicated themselves to their fellow veterans. Members are consistently volunteering at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital; visiting with patients, assisting spouses, and providing transportation for those who are not able to drive. In 2019, Post 46 gathered \$100,000 to donate for the construction of a Fisher House at the Ann Arbor VA. The American Legion Department of Michigan followed suit, urging other legionnaires to also contribute during a yearlong campaign. In total, more than \$500,000 was raised and the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House welcomed its first guests on June 1, 2020.

Over the decades, Post 46 been committed to other community-based programs in the greater Ann Arbor area working on youth education, combating domestic violence and sexual assault, food insecurity, homelessness, and public health. Post 46 regularly donates and raises funds for the following organiza-

tions; SafeHouse Center, Food Gatherers, Hope Clinic, Staples Family Center, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Youth Scouting, placing flags at veterans graves every Memorial Day, high school scholarships, Boys State, Veterans Memorial Park, Washtenaw Community College, U of M ROTC, MSP Student Trooper Program and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46. For the last century, their members have continued serving their community well after being out of uniform. We thank them for their service, both at home and abroad, and are excited to see what they can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties as we commemorate Hunger Action Month.

The Food Bank, a member of Feeding America's national network of food banks, distributes free food each week to the communities of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Through partnering with 260 local nonprofit organizations, the Food Bank provides more than two million pounds of food each month to support hunger-fighting efforts in our community. Initiatives including its mobile food pharmacy, senior food program, and drive-thru distributions, have helped reducing food insecurity in the Bay Area.

With one in four residents in our community depending on the Food Bank for emergency and supplemental food each month, the Food Bank not only provides over 3,500,000 meals monthly, but it also advocates for a hunger-free future by highlighting the hunger issues our community faces, educating people on the importance of food banks in addressing these challenges, and advocating for policy changes to advance the fight to end hunger. Further, the Food Bank works tirelessly to prevent food waste, saving perfectly edible food from being discarded. The organization partners with over 130 retailers to rescue 6,500,000 lbs. of food each year through its grocery recovery pickups.

As we celebrate Hunger Action Month, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties for its invaluable service to our community and commitment to fighting food insecurity and improving the lives of Bay Area residents.

CELEBRATING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT VANESSA JOHNSTON FOR HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Chief Master Sergeant Vanessa Johnston for her retirement

from the United States Air Force after 26 years of dedicated service.

Born in Wyoming, Chief Johnston enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from Laurel High School in Montana in 1997. Throughout her service, Chief Johnston demonstrated exceptional leadership, devotion, and work ethic. I can personally attest to this, as I had the privilege of serving as crewmates with Chief Johnston during my time on active duty. Among numerous career accomplishments, Chief Johnston excelled as a ground cryptologic language analyst and flew over 800 hours as an Airborne Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Operator—all while becoming a mother to 5 amazing children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Master Sergeant Vanessa Johnston for her devoted service to her country. Her selfless commitment and exceptional achievements have not only made our country safer but also should serve as inspiration to all. I join Chief Johnston's family, friends, and colleagues in commemorating her retirement, and I extend to her my best wishes.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF KENNETH WEBB

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Kenneth Webb of Paris, Texas, for being recognized as a Homegrown Hero by the St. Paul Baptist Church. Mr. Webb has continued to stand out as an exemplary leader for North Texas through his acts of selfless service and generosity.

Mr. Webb graduated from Paris Junior College in 1983, where he received dual honors from Phi Theta Kappa, an international 2-year college honor society. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 1988 and a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce. After graduation, he returned to Paris Junior College to serve as the Director for Student Services, a position he holds to this day. Under his tenure, thousands of students stepped foot on campus and went on to achieve remarkable academic success and fulfill their potential. In 2018, he was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Texas Hall of Honor for College Administrators and was recognized as a Distinguished College Administrator. I am privileged to commend Mr. Webb today for his unmatched dedication to student success.

A devoted man of faith, Mr. Webb also serves as a deacon at Oak Hill Baptist Church in Arthur City. Furthermore, Mr. Webb serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club, where he was admitted into the Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2018 for his passion for youth community service. In 2019, he was awarded the Clintgate Friend of the Youth Award, which is bestowed to distinguished individuals who have dedicated numerous community service hours to benefit the children of Lamar County. Without question, Mr. Webb's commitment has had tremendous impact and made a notable difference in the lives of so many individuals. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, barbecuing, baseball, and spending time with his family.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Mr. Webb's lifetime of service to the North Texas community. May God Bless him.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has recently reached a historic milestone. The district has risen from fourth to the third largest school district in the nation with a total of 319,612 students. With the enrollment of the 2022–2023 school year, Miami-Dade was able to surpass Chicago Public Schools with nearly 5,000 students.

The students, faculty, and staff of M-DCPS continue to succeed on multiple levels as the district has maintained an A-rating for the past 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miami-Dade County Public Schools as the third largest school district in the Nation.

HONORING MISHLER'S DRIVE-IN
FOR 57 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mishler's Drive-In for 57 years of excellent service in Evart, Michigan. Since opening in 1966, they have remained both a staple of their community and a must-see destination for travelers. In addition to their renowned root beer, hamburgers, and raspberry truffles, the Mishler family and staff has maintained a glimmering reputation through old-fashioned hospitality and dedication to quality. Mishler's Drive-In has truly become an irreplaceable part of the community and individuals throughout Michigan, including myself, are saddened by their closing after over half a century.

In the early 1990s, Steve Mishler gained ownership from his parents and has since continued to operate the restaurant with an increased focus on customer experience. As a favorite stop for locals and visitors alike, individuals have trekked long distances and endured intense weather conditions for a meal at Mishler's Drive-In. It is easy to see why they have been a landmark of Evart, Michigan for the last 57 years, and I'd like to extend my appreciation to all involved in their success.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mishler's Drive-In for 57 years of continuous and exemplary operation in Northern Michigan. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish the Mishler family, its staff, and the local community the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY FORD'S
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dorothy Ford, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan and the Director of Greater Faith Mission and Greater Faith Transition. Her service to the people of her community is worthy of commendation.

Dorothy started dating her husband, Pastor Robert L. Ford, when they were 15 and 16. A few years later, 55 years ago this October, they were married. Together their legacy includes 6 children, 23 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. In 1981, Dorothy founded the Greater Faith Mission, a non-profit helping with food insecurity in the region. 42 years later Greater Faith Mission is still going strong, with many partnerships in the region to help get food in the hands of families and seniors that need it the most.

After several years of running the food pantry, Dorothy and Robert had a calling to start a church of their own. They began with eight couples and their children, holding services in the Fords' home. By the end of 1988 the church moved into a small building on Ecorse Road. As the church grew and evolved, so did the charitable programs it offered, although some kind of food ministry was always central to the mission. Dorothy was ordained and became a licensed Minister in 2009. In 2014, they purchased the old Kaiser Elementary school building and moved into their current home.

Today, Greater Faith Transition Center offers Sunday school and a Sunday service, preceded by a free breakfast. A special women's group meets monthly. The church has partnered with Food Gatherers since 1989 and offers a free food distribution event the first and fourth Tuesday of each month, as well as a five-week summer dinner program. The church also utilizes its large, commercial-grade kitchen, built just a few years before the school closed, to prepare a huge, free Thanksgiving dinner for the community every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Dorothy Ford for the tremendous contributions she has made to Ypsilanti, Michigan and all of its residents. With her actions, Ypsilanti has become kinder, more welcoming, and more generous to those in need. We thank her for her service and are excited to see how she transforms the city with her future endeavors.

CURRICULUM VITAE FOR RET.
STAFF SERGEANT RONALD E.
MYERS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Ronald E. Myers, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement on October 1, 2023.

Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired) Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating from Lower Dauphin High School. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and went on to Fort Rucker, Alabama, to become qualified as a helicopter mechanic. SSG Myers specialized in the UH-1/Iroquois ("Huey") aircraft, which remains his favorite, as it was the critical aircraft for Troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capability. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers also honorably serviced in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) upon retirement. On May 1, 1991, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, in which he still serves after 32 years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to commend Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired) Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our Country. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I wish him Godspeed on his future adventures.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DANIEL INMAN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Daniel Rudolph Inman, a seventh generation Grayson County native, who passed away on August 8, 2023.

Mr. Inman was born on July 17, 1989, in Sherman, Texas, to Timothy Rudolph Inman and Cheryl Dianne Patrick Inman. Mr. Inman graduated from Sherman High School in 2008, where he was a star varsity football player and officer in Future Farmers of America. Livestock and animals were his passion, and his hand-raised heifer won first place at the Houston Livestock Show. He attended East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, on a full ride football scholarship. Mr. Inman's love for football dates back to his childhood, in which he accompanied his great uncle, Sam Johnson, to football games at Notre Dame. One of his fondest memories was seeing the Notre Dame locker room and touching the "Play Like a Champion Today" sign before walking onto the field.

Mr. Inman later worked for Emerald Custom Pools in Saginaw, Texas, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become a manager. Thanks to his hard work and effort, Emerald Custom Pools was listed as 1 of the Top 50 Builders nationwide. Those who knew Daniel will tell you that he was a kind soul that was loved by everyone, especially his nieces and nephew. Mr. Inman was a devoted man of faith and was always willing to lend a hand to assist those in need. His empathy also extended to local animals and drove him to volunteer at the Friends of Lancaster animal shelter in Fort Worth. Without question, Mr. Inman's friends and family truly cherished each moment with him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recog-

nize Mr. Inman's vibrant and uplifting life. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING THE THREAT TO
ISRAELI DEMOCRACY

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

I have returned from the torn Land of Israel where I grew up, following a visit throughout July of a shaking, even shocking experience. Israel is undergoing a trauma whose lasting impact is impossible to predict. However, the current internal crisis threatening Israeli democracy, the Middle East's sole one, is due to the most extreme coalition government in Israel's history attempting to alter its Western liberal orientation by disabling the Supreme Court's standing as an independent Judiciary. Consequently, the unprecedented mass demonstrations for months in opposition to the proposed radical agenda which I watched in disbelief and participated in, have reflected a powerful popular response determined to preserve Israel as both the Jewish and democratic state envisioned by its founders. Already adversely affected are the Israeli economy, military, public health, the woman's status, education, Pride community and society at large, while Israel's enemies, Iran and its proxies, become further emboldened. The special relationship between Israel and the United States is at risk as well as the essential bond between Israel and American Jewry.

With heartfelt, even prophetic pathos and deep grasp of the multi-layered Israeli scene since its inception and prior, veteran Israeli author Ari Shavit offers us a concise manifesto for urgent action with the goal of "Saving Israel," his recent book's alarming title (Saving Israel. Rishon LeZion: Miskal—Yedioth Ahronoth Books and Chemed Books. 2023). He begins with a statement of both profound gratitude and grave concern, "the State of Israel is a miracle. No other nation did what we have: To build anew a national home following two thousand years. No progressive democracy succeeded to flourish as we have, following a Shoah and living under a volcano. Despite all the troubles, problems, weaknesses, difficulties and blemishes—The Zionist dream has been realized. The people of Israel live, and the state of Israel lives. Our sons and daughters have in our ancestral land what our grandfathers and grandmothers did not: Sovereignty, freedom, prosperity, pride and progress. Being a technological, economic, military and political super-power, Israel of the 21st century is a strong country capable of shaping its own fate and march toward a brilliant future. But the deep 2023 crisis threatens the Israeli miracle and erasing our astonishing successes, leaving us homeless."

Shavit does not mince words. On the one hand, heaps praise upon Israel's successes though Israel is not a global, as the author claims, but a regional superpower. In light of trying beginnings and facing monumental challenges that were likely to doom the fragile creation: Attacks from a collection of superior military establishments while absorbing penniless immigrants from west and east

three times larger in size, into a war zone with meager resources. On the other hand, he bemoans the Jewish people's destructive tendencies that brought down Jewish sovereignty and led into long exile and ultimately a consuming Holocaust. "And the Jewish people has multi-talents though sorrowfully it lacks the talent to be a people. It tends toward extremism, internal strife and self-destruction . . . Israel needs to be both powerful and ethical, both national and liberal, both Jewish and democratic. Only a combination of resoluteness and openness will guarantee that not weakness nor zeal-ousness will bring us again to the pit's cusp."

The author is convinced that the goal is within reach though the hour is late and the Israelis with all their complexities and tribal tendencies ought not further delay. He thus concludes, "The good and silent great Israeli majority will not remain still. The democratic Jews will not let a wondrous national and human enterprise to go down. For all of us have a stake in this special place. And we all know that there wouldn't be a Fourth Commonwealth. The Third Commonwealth is the Jewish people's last opportunity. With determination, love and faith we'll defend Israel and rebuild the house."

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple of Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
ELAINE "MIKE" GRIFFIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and achievements of Michael Elaine "Mike" Griffin, a lifelong resident of Ripley, Mississippi. Mike passed away on Monday, September 4, 2023, at age 62.

Mike was born July 13, 1961, in Ripley, Mississippi, to the late Sylvesta Elaine and Martha Criswell Griffin. He was a 1979 graduate of Ripley High School and continued his education at Northeast Mississippi Community College, where he worked on a technical degree as an electrician.

Upon deciding to pursue a military career instead, Mike enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and proudly served his country as a Rifleman and Remote Sensor Specialist until 1986. His spirit for adventure and service to his community led to his training and responsibilities as a State Trooper in 1987. On June 2, 1990, Mike married his beloved wife, the former Edna Huddleston of Falkner, Mississippi. On June 30, 2021, after 34 years of proudly and faithfully serving the State of Mississippi, Mike retired and was assigned as a government affairs liaison. Throughout his journey, he always strived to improve himself and contribute positively to his colleagues. His exceptional friendliness and kindness left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A member of the Church of Christ, Mike served as an Elder and Deacon for many years and was also an active member of the Lion's Club. He was an Ole Miss and Dallas Cowboy football fan, enjoyed dining out with family and friends, tending to his yard, and adored his wife and daughter. Mike was a man of immense character and kindness, a

pillar of his church and community, and beloved by all who knew him. His last selfless act was a testament to the caring soul he embodied following a life of dedication and service to his family, friends, community, state, and country.

Mike is survived by multiple loved ones, and memories of him will continue to be shared by Edna, his wife of 33 years; his daughter, Olivia Griffin of Oxford, Mississippi; one brother, Ricky Griffin; two half-sisters, Diane Cost (David) and Nina Lowry (Paul); his father-in-law, Wade Huddleston; sisters-in-law, Linda Bond (Kurt), Laura Green (Scott), and Myra Simmons (Stacy); and a host of nieces, nephews, many friends.

RECOGNIZING CARSON DEVAUL,
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Carson DeVaul. Carson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Carson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Carson holds the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Ordeal Member in the Order of the Arrow. Carson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Carson, with the help of many fellow Scouts, organized the construction of 2 foot-bridges across a small ditch for the disc golf course at Bennett Park in the City of Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carson DeVaul for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF REVEREND GEORGE FISHER,
JR.

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend George Fisher, Jr. of Paris, Texas, for being recognized as a Homegrown Hero by the St. Paul Baptist Church. Reverend Fisher joins a select group of exceptional leaders who have dedicated a lifetime of service to the people of Lamar County.

Reverend Fisher attended Paris Junior College and later received an Associate of Science in Biblical Studies from the Southern Bible Institute & College in Dallas, Texas. After graduation, Reverend Fisher worked for the Kimberly Clark Corporation before being elected to serve on the Paris City Council and

as the Mayor of Paris. During this time, Reverend Fisher served both as the President of the Texas Conference of Black Mayors and as a member of the steering committee for the Boys and Girls Club. In this role, he spearheaded efforts to improve youth outreach and community service initiatives by the city of Paris.

In 2003, Reverend Fisher was elected to the Paris Independent School District board. As the School Board President, he worked diligently to improve parental involvement in the educational process. His longtime investments in Paris ISD schools have helped ensure the future success of thousands of students. Moreover, Reverend Fisher is a steadfast man of faith, and he currently serves as the Senior Pastor of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Grant, Oklahoma. His tireless efforts to inspire and empower the youth of his community have not gone unnoticed. Reverend Fisher has served as a beacon of support and enriched the lives of so many. I'm pleased to give recognition for his outstanding service to students, parents, and worshippers. In his personal time, he is fond of traveling, volunteering, spending time with his family, and visiting new restaurants.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Reverend Fisher's unparalleled commitment to benefit the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

RECOGNIZING GENE THERAPY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the transformative innovation coming out of Ohio—innovation that saves and improves lives. For families in my district, this scientific ingenuity matters. I'm proud of the evolution of biomedical science and its application to drug development.

To ensure this innovation will benefit our citizens, I encourage my colleagues to support a triad of legislative policies that will expedite market entry, identify patients, and remove barriers to patient access. In an era of government price controls, which are undermining previous congressional efforts to promote innovation, such policies are particularly essential to ensuring continued biopharmaceutical industry investment in new technologies to treat rare diseases. We can work to collectively pass legislative items to increase access to treat rare diseases, as well as enact policies that will improve newborn screening, better facilitate genetic testing, and enhance the level of care disease expertise and experience on Food and Drug Administration review teams to allow for more consistent application of benefit-risk, real world evidence, and patient experience data.

I'd like to flag that gene therapy is the next evolution in treatment for rare diseases like hemophilia, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria, hereditary angioedema, OTC deficiency, severe combined immunodeficiency disease, Pompe disease, and muscular dystrophy. It has the potential to be the first type of therapeutic intervention for hundreds of rare pediatric disorders that lack or

had lacked any treatment option, including AADC deficiency, epidermolysis bullosa, metachromach leukodystrophy, and adrenoleukodystrophy.

The biopharmaceutical industry has invested billions of dollars in gene therapy clinical trials for such conditions at institutions throughout Ohio, including Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Cleveland Clinic, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, and Dayton Children's Hospital.

Gene therapy is the focus of the nearly \$100 million in grants that the National Institutes of Health has awarded in recent years to researchers throughout Ohio. For example, Dr. Krystof Bankiewicz from Ohio State has received nearly \$15 million for researching a gene therapy to treat AADC deficiency, which is a fatal neurodevelopmental disorder with only 135 identified patients in the world. Due to an enzyme deficiency, "children lack muscle control, and are usually unable to speak, feed themselves or even hold up their head," according to Dr. Bankiewicz. By transferring a functional copy of the AADC gene to allow for endogenous AADC enzyme production, clinical trial data have demonstrated that this gene therapy prevents oculogyric crises, allows the child to develop control, sit up, and walk, and generally improves quality of life.

Our institutions and clinicians in Ohio are truly the leaders among peers in biopharmaceutical innovation for rare disorders. The development and commercialization of safe, effective, and durable gene therapy for these rare disorders is precisely what Congress intended when it enacted the 21st Century Cures Act (including the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy program), the Orphan Drug Act, the Breakthrough Therapy program, and the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program.

The American people deserve a return on the biopharmaceutical industry investment in bringing gene therapies to patients, as well as the NIH support of basic research and early-stage clinical studies. If patients have an incomplete diagnosis or if diagnosed patients are subject to step therapy or other coverage restrictions or denials, gene therapy will not benefit those who need it.

HONORING METLIFE FOUNDATION
FOR \$1 BILLION IN ALL-TIME
GIVING

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MetLife Foundation on its landmark achievement of \$1 billion in all-time giving.

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 as the charitable arm of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife), a leading financial services company founded and headquartered in New York for over 155 years. The Foundation is focused on driving economic mobility around the globe and has partnerships with nonprofit organizations globally.

Since its founding, MetLife Foundation has made significant contributions to communities in New York State. MetLife recognizes it has

an important role in communities and is committed to supporting them through the Foundation. Through this commitment and its ongoing work, MetLife Foundation has helped improve the financial health and well-being of New York State residents and provided millions in relief during challenging times, COVID-19, Hurricane Sandy and September 11 among them. MetLife Foundation has also made significant impact investments over its 47-year history to nonprofits of importance to residents of New York State.

On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I would like to commend and congratulate MetLife Foundation on its landmark achievement of \$1 billion in all-time giving. I applaud the commitment and efforts of the Foundation which has resulted in the achievement of this significant milestone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2023, which would create a commission to investigate how we can maintain our democratic traditions while actively responding to the real and substantial threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

The impetus for this commission was the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, its importance grew after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and has reached peak urgency since the insurrectionist attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The succession of tragic events endured by our Nation has led to a series of sweeping security increases that are deemed both necessary and temporary in the moment but create lasting security infrastructure that is difficult to dismantle and infringes on our open, democratic society.

We must acknowledge and accept that we have entered an era of constant internal and external threats, requiring ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces. What we thought would be a temporary infringement on our open society has turned into a permanent restriction on how our citizens interact with each other and our democratic institutions. Because emergencies typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

This bill would ensure that these long overdue discussions take place in a public forum with experts drawn from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to consider matters outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance that gives sufficient importance to our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intel-

ligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission). The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop security strategies and technologies that do not deprive our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise, medieval approaches like crude barriers or on intrusive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of our federal government, the District of Columbia's residents have suffered disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and costs. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL MATTHEW G. GLAVY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Matthew G. Glavy, who serves his country with the pride and honor befitting the highest ranks of the United States Marine Corps.

Born in 1963 at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo, New York, Lieutenant General Matthew Glavy grew up with his 3 siblings under the name "Jerry." Calling Western New York home,

Lieutenant General Glavy finds comfort in Buffalo style wings, the Buffalo Bills, and the cold winter climate of Western New York. As a child, Lieutenant General Matthew Glavy was an avid sports fan, having played youth league football in his childhood, later lettering in cross country and track in high school before graduating in 1981.

Lieutenant General Glavy exemplifies every aspect of courage, determination, and service denominated in the timeless motto of the Marine Corps, "Semper Paratus" having served in all 3 designations: the operating forces, the supporting establishment, and in the headquarters. As a member of the operating forces and supporting establishment, Lieutenant General Glavy served "at the heart of the Marine Corps" in various assignments, including as an aircraft maintenance officer, weapons and tactics officer and embark officer, and current operations officer, eventually climbing the ranks to commanding general and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and Space Command. General Glavy also supported his troops, his country, and his family, in the USMC Headquarters, where he served, among many impressive assignments, as platoon commander, White House liaison officer, and presidential command pilot. Lieutenant General Glavy currently serves as the Deputy Commandant for Information and 2nd Commander of the Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command. Lieutenant General Glavy will be returning to the Buffalo area as the keynote speaker at the reunion of the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines.

Today, I'm asking all present to join me in honoring Lieutenant General Matthew G. Glavy for his lengthy service and dedication to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE INDONESIAN COMMUNITY CONNECT FOR A DECADE OF CELEBRATING INDONESIAN CULTURE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indonesian Community Connect in New Hampshire as they celebrate a decade of promoting Indonesian culture. This also marks the sixth anniversary of ICC's initiatives as a non-profit organization and the second year of the momentum of the Little Indonesia Project. The Little Indonesia Project, the first of its kind in our Nation, embodies art, culture, and opportunity, forging connections between Indonesian culture and New Hampshire, directly contributing to the revitalization of the Downtown Somersworth business district.

ICC, a non-profit organization headquartered in New Hampshire, has dedicated itself to showcasing the rich diversity of Indonesian culture while fostering mutual understanding among various cultures and values. Operating from Somersworth, NH, the ICC team has diligently linked the Indonesian community with the Granite State and its support services. They have gone the extra mile in assisting the Indonesian community with accessing local resources, including healthcare, education, food, festivals, and much more.

This team serves as a bridge that connects Indonesian culture with neighboring communities, offering a wide array of resources. They have established a food pantry to address food insecurity within the Indonesian Community and provide support for career building, particularly for those affected by the pandemic, thereby promoting economic mobility in New Hampshire. Additionally, they offer document translation services to help community members navigate in-person, virtual, and phone interactions, enhancing English language proficiency. The ICC is not only committed to sharing its culture externally but also nurturing cultural enrichment for children and serving as a hub of resources for stakeholders, including the local government and valued collaborators in Indonesia.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District I extend my warmest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the passionate volunteers at ICC, both in New Hampshire and Indonesia for a decade of work that embodies the spirit of collaboration and teamwork that we deeply value in New Hampshire. I wholeheartedly appreciate the heartfelt work of this team in fostering the rich tapestry of Indonesian culture over the past 10 years. As the representative privileged to serve the home base of the Indonesian Community Connect in Congress, I eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued success of this celebration in the years to come.

FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT FIRE AND RESCUE
EMS AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire, rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

First responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

Eleven years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor our first responders for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award: Charge Paramedic Jacqueline Wright of Manatee County EMS. Lieutenant Derek Foss of Southern Manatee Fire Rescue. Support Specialist Christopher Underwood and Support Specialist Adam Green of Manatee County Search and Rescue.

Dedication & Professionalism Award: Fire Marshall Rodney Kwiatkowski of West Manatee Fire Department. Captain Norman Brown

of the Hillsborough County Fire Department. Assistant Chief Sean Dwyer of Manatee County EMS. Lieutenant Lionel Harrison of the City of Bradenton Fire Department.

Career Service Award: Battalion Chief David Foxall of the City of Bradenton Fire Department. Chaplin James Martin and Fire Commissioner Ed Stevens of the Parrish Fire District.

Preservation of Life Award: Chief Jared Leggett, Deputy Chief John Elwood, Captain Sheena Leggett, Captain Chris Krier, Captain Hollister Robinson, Captain Nicholas Reis, Sergeant Elizabeth Alvarez, Captain Joey Spinks, Corporal Harry White, Rescue Technician Matt Snell, Rescue Technician Nik Martinez, Rescue Technician Elson Parrish, Rescue Technician Terry Olsen, Rescue Technician Rachel Swim, Rescue Technician Joseph Hoffman, Rescue Technician Ben Watts, Rescue Technician Chiara Simeoni, Rescue Technician Evan Gibbs, Rescue Technician Christopher Rodriguez, Rescue Technician A.J. Kwiatkowski, Civilian Pilot Garrett Mitchell, K9 Kaido, K9 Taz, K9 Alpha and K9 Karma of Manatee County Search and Rescue.

Unit Citation Award: District Chief Zach Molnar, Charge Paramedic Brandon Craig, EMT Anthony Tino, Charge Paramedic Jill Kinghorn of Manatee County EMS. Firefighter Aaron Wright, Firefighter/Engineer Brandon Beals of the City of Bradenton Fire Department. Officer Jason Rhind of the Bradenton Police Department. Engineer Daniel Lane, Firefighter Michael Kish, Firefighter Ben Guth, Lieutenant Chad Gamble, Firefighter Jordan Rogers, Firefighter Brian Perdue, Lieutenant Eric Hoying, Firefighter Kyle Powers, Firefighter Bret Kanapux, and Battalion Chief Kyle Taylor of East Manatee Fire Rescue. Medical Director David Nonell, Assistant Chief Sean Dwyer, District Chief Bradley Hughes, Registered Nurse Brie Spuck, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Shannon Shanks, Social Worker Sonia Shuhart, Outreach Case Manager Angie Sciarrone, Community Health Worker Meghan Carr, Community Paramedic Aaron Fullenwider, Community Paramedic Ashley Robinson and Resource Coordinator Vanessa MargrafBrenn of Manatee County EMS.

WELLSTON 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Wellston, Ohio. Since its founding in 1873, the Village of Wellston has been an important industrial and historical center of Southeast Ohio for nearly 2 centuries.

Harvey Wells, a Civil War veteran and Ohio native, used part of his Jackson County property to establish Wellston. Wellston was officially incorporated as a Village in 1876 with the hopes of being the "New Pittsburgh of the West."

With the construction of numerous blast furnaces, the Village of Wellston solidified itself as an important industrial and mining town in Southern Ohio. Wellston also played an important role in the Underground Railroad system acting as one of the first stops in the North and became the settling point for several freed slaves.

Throughout its history, the Village of Wellston has been a beacon of prosperity and freedom for Southern Ohio, and I am honored to represent a town with such a rich history and strong sense of community.

Again, I want to congratulate the Village of Wellston on celebrating its 150th Anniversary and recognize their importance to Jackson County and all of Southern Ohio. May they continue to prosper over the centuries to come.

SCHREINER UNIVERSITY 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX. A generous donation of land and finances by Captain Charles Schreiner in 1917 made this possible. He served with distinction in the Texas Rangers.

Capt. Schreiner outlined his vision for the Institute as "facilities for high grade instruction and military training for boys and young men as preparation for college and university work."

James J. Delaney served as the first president of Schreiner Institute. From the beginning, it has been committed to the Reformed tradition of the Presbyterian Church.

The first class of female students was admitted during World War II. Formal military training ended in 1971, and the Institute became fully coeducational.

In the year 2000, Schreiner's governing board voted to change the school's name to Schreiner University. The years immediately following the name change saw various renovations and new buildings take shape on campus.

Online classes started in 2014 and have expanded since then, now including a full online master's program. Recently, Schreiner introduced their Military Academy Preparatory School to provide paths for students into military service.

In its 100th year, Schreiner University is proud to bring back a pastime from its early days, football. Other sport disciplines for students include soccer, wrestling, equestrian, shooting sports, and tennis.

Today, Schreiner University president Charlie McCormick oversees a campus that offers over 30 different degree options. I am proud that the Hill Country is home to a university the caliber of Schreiner. Congratulations on 100 years of helping students achieve more.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT JOHN
EDWARD DINGMAN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of United States Marine Corps Sergeant John Edward Dingman.

John Dingman was born on September 2, 1950, in Chatham, New York. He attended

Maple Hill High School before enlisting with the United States Marine Corps in August 1969. Sergeant Dingman served bravely in the Vietnam War as a Special Radio Operator from 1969 to 1973. Upon his honorable discharge, he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Returning to civilian life, Sergeant Dingman began a 40-year career with General Electric Plastics in Selkirk, New York. He and his wife Linda Jewett Dingman were married on October 8, 1983. The couple raised their 3 children—Beth, Jason, and Melanie—together in Rensselaer County. Family always came first for Sergeant Dingman as a father, a grandfather, and eventually a great-grandfather.

Sergeant Dingman was a lifelong and avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping in the wilderness, and shared his expertise with his community as a fish and game instructor. His ideal getaway was the Adirondack Gateway RV Resort. A member of the National Rifle Association, Sergeant Dingman also taught rifle classes and bow-hunting courses.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life of Sergeant John E. Dingman; a soldier, a mentor, and a family man.

HONORING THE PROMOTORES Y
PROMOTORAS OF LATINO
HEALTH ACCESS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Latino Health Access, an organization that works tirelessly to uplift communities, promote health equity, and create sustainable change.

Latino Health Access (LHA) has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to these ideals through its mission, which partners with communities to aid through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic participation.

Latino Health Access's mission is multifaceted, encompassing the delivery of culturally appropriate health-related services and programming to address pressing health concerns, as well as engaging individuals in low-income, low-opportunity areas to transform their environments and effect positive, concrete changes in their homes and communities.

Since its establishment in 1993, Latino Health Access has been a trailblazer in the field of public health by pioneering the Promotor de Salud/Community Health Worker (CHW) model in the United States, recognizing the potential of individuals from within communities to advocate for better health and living conditions.

The Promotores y Promotoras, who are integral to the Latino Health Access approach, are community members themselves, living within the very neighborhoods they serve, and are dedicated to promoting, connecting, and linking their communities with vital health services while also advocating at local, county, and state levels for policies that enhance overall living conditions.

Today, equity lies at the heart of the Promotor Model, which contributes to building

healthier and more resilient communities by providing systems navigation services, surmounting barriers to access, and amplifying community leadership and participation, while simultaneously advocating for policy, systems, and environmental changes that address the social determinants of health.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the profound impact of Latino Health Access and its Promoter Model.

HONORING GAYE THERESA
LEBARON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mister Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to honor Gaye Theresa LeBaron in celebration of her outstanding career as a journalist, teacher, author and historian.

Born in the town of Scotia, California, in 1935, Mrs. LeBaron moved to Boyes Hot Springs in Sonoma County when she was 14 years old. She attended Santa Rosa Junior College before transferring to the University of California, Berkeley to pursue a bachelor's degree in English and History.

Her illustrious career as an historian and human-interest columnist at the Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, California, began in 1955 when she became an intern. During her 65 years with the Press Democrat as a reporter and later columnist, she wrote 8,500 columns, married her late husband John LeBaron and had her 2 children, Suzanne and Tony. Mrs. LeBaron has since gifted her research notes, correspondence, memoirs, unpublished documents, newspaper clippings and photographs to Sonoma State University. Students and the public enjoy access to the Gaye LeBaron Collection.

Mrs. LeBaron has a deep love of Sonoma County history. She told our county's story as a lecturer at the Santa Rosa Junior College for 35 years as well as at Sonoma State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She has written 3 books on the history of Santa Rosa: Santa Rosa: A Nineteenth Century Town, Santa Rosa: A Twentieth Century Town, and The Wonder Seekers of Fountaingrove. Mrs. LeBaron also served on the Sonoma County Museum Leadership Council, further dedicating herself to the history of Sonoma County. Now her permanent exhibit at the museum, Sonoma County Stories, will ensure future generations can experience her life's work.

Widely renowned in our community, Mrs. LeBaron received the Representative Mike Thompson Sonoma County Woman of the Year Award in 2016, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Sonoma State University and a President's Medallion from the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Mrs. LeBaron has dedicated her life to the people of Sonoma County through her writing, teaching and service.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
THOMAS ROY BIRKENSTOCK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Thomas "Tom" Roy Birkenstock of Burlington, Iowa, who passed away on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Birkenstock was born on July 16, 1944, in Burlington, Iowa to Roy George and Marjorie Maude Holsteen Birkenstock. A lifelong farmer, he graduated from Iowa State University in 1966 with a degree in Animal Science. Mr. Birkenstock also served 6 years in the National Guard. He married Sue Ellen Maupin on February 26, 1966, and together, they have 3 children and many more grandchildren.

Those who knew Mr. Birkenstock will tell you that he was always generous and kind. He never knew a stranger, and happily engaged every individual he met. Mr. Birkenstock always put family first and committed much of his time to his grandchildren. In his free time, Mr. Birkenstock was passionate about golfing, woodworking, hunting, fishing, and sports; he was a loud and proud supporter of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Green Bay Packers, and the St. Louis Cardinals. A devoted man of faith, Mr. Birkenstock was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dodgeville, where he served on the church council and taught Sunday School. His generosity and contributions towards his local community were unmatched and will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mr. Birkenstock's life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING HAITIAN BOAT PEOPLE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary landing of the first boat carrying Haitian refugees to South Florida.

On December 12, 1972, the first report of Haitian refugees, often called "Haitian Boat People," fleeing to the United States, was documented. Between 1972 and 1981, over 55,000 refugees arrived in Florida and have continued to thrive thanks to community champions who supported the Haitian migrant population.

Today, the South Florida Haitian refugee population has accomplished many firsts, becoming mayors, councilmembers, and state representatives. Miami's historic Lemon City became the first neighborhood officially called Little Haiti. Central streets were named after Haitian cultural icons such as Felix Morisseau-Leroy and heroes of Haiti's independence. A statue of Toussaint Louverture stands guard on Plas Kamoken in Little Haiti. Toussaint Elementary was home to the first Haitian American principal, and Morningside Elementary

became the first international language magnet in the country to offer Haitian Creole. The Little Haiti Cultural Center has become the mecca for the global Haitian Diaspora, a destination for arts, culture, and entertainment. And the Manno Sannon Stadium is home to the championship-winning Little Haiti Supreme Football Team.

December 12, 2022, marked the 50th anniversary of the first documented arrival of Haitian refugees fleeing Haiti by sea. This anniversary marks the beginning of an incredible journey that has transformed South Florida's social, cultural, and political landscape. History-making events have since followed, impacting federal jurisprudence, local advocacy efforts for immigrant justice, and the treatment of asylum seekers in healthcare, education, employment, and housing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of the Haitian boat people.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA SWANSON JAMES' LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Victoria Swanson James, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan whose life her community is celebrating on her passing. Her lifelong dedication to her family, church, and community is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

An Ypsilanti native, Victoria earned her Bachelor's in Education from our great Eastern Michigan University. After earning a Master's in Education as well as a Certificate of School Administration, Victoria served as an educator in the Willow Run and Ann Arbor Public Schools for over a decade. In 1978, she answered the call to the ministry. She was later ordained in 1981 at the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church, also in Ypsilanti. Under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. S.L. Roberson, Victoria served as his First Assistant for over 20 years.

Outgrowing her role as an assistant, Victoria founded the Ekklesia Fellowship Ministries in Ypsilanti in 2000 and assumed the role of Pastor. In 2004, she founded the "Women of The Word, Too" an organization that provides mentoring and an outlet for women clergy throughout Washtenaw County and the surrounding area. Active in a range of organizations, Pastor James's service areas were quite extensive: member of the Love Ypsi Pastors

Network, Washtenaw County Sheriff Council of Clergy, Hope Clinic Board of Directors, Pastoral Advisory Council for the Hope Clinic, former President of the Ypsilanti Gateway Economic Development Board, and former 1st Vice-President of the Ypsilanti Willow Run branch of the NAACP. Victoria's son, DeV Vaughn, who has been preaching in her stead, had this to say: "She loved her city. Mom believed in the village mindset. There's a proverb in our community that says 'it takes a village to raise a child.' Mom was confident in the strength and richness of the Ypsilanti village. That's why she committed her life to uplifting this village."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life service of Pastor Victoria Swanson James. Despite being the mother of 8 and Nana of 15, Victoria always had love to spare for her congregation and her community. We remember her fondly, and her presence will continue to be felt in the Ypsilanti community for years to come.

JERUSALEM'S GOLDEN SILENCE

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

RABBI ZOBERMAN'S POEM—JERUSALEM'S GOLDEN SILENCE

These days there is a golden silence
Overcoming the shouts of the prophets
Of old and new, "peace, peace"
And there is no peace
But the silence of sealed echoes
Of hope in holy crevices where
Shalom's doves find shelter at the
Wall where wailing has not abated,
The silence of the cloud of glory
Encircling God's city like an embracing
Wedding canopy.
The voice of the groom
And the voice of the bride
Whose rejoicing is Jerusalem's signature,
Are ever preserved under the heavy silence
Of immovable rocks hiding millennial
Prayers refusing to concede victory to
A spirit bespeaking not the contrition
Of sacrifice brought here from near
And afar to placate the One
Who only pardons those seeking
The promising power of peace.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah, and Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern

Shore Chapel Episcopal, both in Virginia Beach. He is a member of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARK GROZIO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Legislator Mark Grozio and his remarkable career in public service. As a lifelong resident, graduate of LaSalle High School, and graduate of Niagara County Community College, Mark has always been equipped with a deep-seated familiarity and knowledge of his community.

His career as a county legislator was preceded by over 3 decades as a wireman and IBEW member. He graduated from apprenticeship school, and naturally, his predilection for leadership roles made him a good fit for serving as assistant business manager for over 10 years at IBEW Local 237. Mark served on the contract negotiation committee, executive board, and labor management committee. Needless to say, Legislator Grozio has long understood the value of labor unions and apprenticeship training. This experience served him well in the legislature while dealing with issues of economic development, infrastructure, and facilities. Through the years, Mark sought additional ways to enhance his community. He served on the Niagara Falls planning board, the Niagara Falls electrical board, and volunteers for the festival of lights and Veterans Memorial at Hyde Park in Niagara Falls. He has worked with United Way, coached Little League baseball, and assisted with several ice hockey organizations. Every hour that Mark devotes to one of these causes shows his true character—one that is service-oriented and generous.

Some of the hallmarks of a great career in public service are competence and a keen awareness of the issues facing your constituency. Legislator Mark Grozio exemplified these 2 characteristics for 10 years in the county legislature, and all the residents of Niagara County owe him a debt of gratitude. After countless hearings, meetings, and events, it is time that we wish Mark a very happy retirement. He will surely enjoy more time with his wife of 40 years, Lynda, and his entire family. In the meantime, his community will continue to reap the benefits of his career of hard work.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4359–S4419

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2762–2774, and S. Res. 335–339. **Pages S4388–89**

Measures Reported:

S. 447, to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1303, to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1669, to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4388**

Measures Passed:

National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 337, designating the week beginning September 10, 2023, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”. **Page S4418**

Patriot Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 338, expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”. **Page S4418**

Senate blood drive: Senate agreed to S. Res. 339, authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct a blood donation drive on September 28, 2023. **Page S4418**

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the

Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

Pages S4365–80

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 85 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. EX. 227), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S4365**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, September 13, 2023; that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count against the post-cloture time. **Page S4418**

Committee Report—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that a report from the Committee on Appropriations be printed in the Record. **Pages S4418–19**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 224), Tanya J. Bradsher, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S4359–63**

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 226), Jeffrey Irvine Cummings, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Pages S4363–64**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 225), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S4363–64**

Michael Colin Casey, of Kentucky, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. **Page S4418**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4383–86**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S4386–88**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4388**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4389–90**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S4390–92****Additional Statements:****Pages S4382–83****Amendments Submitted:****Pages S4392–S4418****Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S4418****Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—227)**Pages S4363-65****Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:47 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4418.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of General David W. Allvin, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

SEC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission, including S. 638, to amend the Securities Act of 1934 to require country-by-country reporting, after receiving testimony from Gary Gensler, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission.

HOUSING SUPPLY AND INNOVATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine housing supply and innovation, after receiving testimony from Jenny Schuetz, Brookings Metro, Washington, D.C.; Janne Flisrand, Neighbors for More Neighbors, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Gregory Good, Invest Newark, Newark, New Jersey; and Eric Schaefer, Fading West Development, Buena Vista, Colorado.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety,

and Data Security concluded a hearing to examine the need for transparency in Artificial Intelligence, after receiving testimony from Victoria Espinel, BSA The Software Alliance, and Rob Strayer, Information Technology Industry Council, both of Washington, D.C.; Ramayya Krishnan, Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Sam Gregory, WITNESS, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Robert G. Taub, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, Danny Lam Hoan Nguyen, and Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

BOOK BANS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine book bans, focusing on how censorship limits liberty and literature, after receiving testimony from Alexi Giannoulis, Illinois Secretary of State, Chicago; Max Eden, American Enterprise Institute, and Nicole Neily, Parents Defending Education, both of Arlington, Virginia; Emily J.M. Knox, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences, Bloomington; and Cameron J. Samuels, Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, Katy.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law concluded an oversight hearing to examine A.I., focusing on legislating on artificial intelligence, after receiving testimony from Woodrow Hartzog, Boston University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts; Bill Dally, NVIDIA, Santa Clara, California; and Brad Smith, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 5384–5422; 1 private bill, H.R. 5423; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 675–679, were introduced. **Pages H4262–64**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4265–67**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3784, to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–191); and

H.R. 3667, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–192). **Pages H4261–62**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller-Meeks to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4233**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:41 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4237**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4:02 p.m. **Page H4239**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4256**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act: H.R. 3152, amended, to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 403 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 383; **Pages H4239–42, H4256**

Mabsa Amini Human rights and Security Accountability Act: H.R. 589, amended, to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 410 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 384; **Pages H4242–47, H4257**

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. 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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 413 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 385; and **Pages H4247–49, H4257–58**

Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2023: H.R. 3389, amended, to require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an evaluation with respect to the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS). **Pages H4253–55**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act: H.R. 1567, amended, to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities; **Pages H4249–51**

Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act: H.R. 1450, amended, to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements; and **Pages H4251–53**

Extending the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029: H.R. 3324, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029. **Pages H4255–56**

Discharge Petition: Representative DeLauro presented to the Clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 611) entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 660) to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes (Discharge Petition No. 7).

Senate Referrals: S. 294 was held at the desk. S. 2747 was held at the desk. **Page H4239**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H4239.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4256, H4257, and H4257–58.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PRESERVING CHOICE IN VEHICLE PURCHASES ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024”; and H.R. 1435, the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–5, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1435, the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”, and H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1435, the “Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in 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 Energy and Commerce Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 4365, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024”, 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 Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 4 and pro forma amendments described in section 5. Each amendment shall be considered 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 except as provided by section 5 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 4 of the resolution are waived. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking mi-

nority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 5 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rodgers of Washington, and Representatives Calvert, McCollum, Tonko, Griffith, Moylan, Rosendale, McCormick, and Spartz.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine how immigration fuels economic growth and our competitive advantage, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the effects of extreme heat and weather on transportation, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine the PGA Tour-LIV deal, focusing on the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund’s investments in the United States, 11 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Implementation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Initiative, 9:30 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “The Impact of Biden’s Open Border on the American Workforce”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “Keeping the Lights On: Enhancing Reliability and Efficiency to Power American Homes”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Making the Grade?: Audit of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean School Bus Program”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Lights, Camera, Subscriptions: State of the Video Marketplace”, 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and Other Efforts to Strengthen National Security in the United States”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “An Unbearable Price: The Devastating Human Costs of the Biden-Mayorkas Border Crisis”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Children are Not for Sale: Examining the Threat of Exploitation of Children in the U.S. and Abroad”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Examining the Methodology and Structure of the U.S. Geological Sur-

vey’s Critical Minerals List”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unsuitable Litigation: Oversight of Third-Party Litigation Funding”, 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “A Dangerous Strategy: Examining the Biden Administration’s Failures on Iran”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled “Enabling Success: Examining the Competitive Landscape for Small Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “The Future of Automated Commercial Motor Vehicles: Impacts on Society, the Supply Chain, and U.S. Economic Leadership”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Wednesday, September 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, post-cloture.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 4365—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

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