



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

No. 88

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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.

INFLATION UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, the price of gasoline has risen 55 percent, the price of electricity is up close to 30 percent, the price of groceries is up more than 20 percent, and the price of baby food is up 30 percent.

Across Pennsylvania, families are feeling the effects of this inflation. On

average, they are paying an additional \$70 a month for housing and an additional \$240 a month for transportation. Since 2021, Pennsylvania households have spent over \$20,000 more than they would have because of inflation.

Recently, President Biden has attempted to claim that inflation was already at 9 percent annually when he took office, when, in fact, it was only at 1.4 percent.

What we are seeing is a President who has failed in his duty to protect American families. In central Pennsylvania, more than 100,000 families make less than \$50,000 a year. Mothers shouldn't have to make a decision on whether to buy gasoline or to buy school lunches. Parents should not have to worry at the kitchen table about paying their credit card bill or their rent.

This is the reality that President Biden's radical spending spree has created over the past 4 years. It is time to return to fiscal sanity, and it is time to once again be responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

No matter what President Biden says in his campaign speeches, inflation is the fault of his administration, and it is time to put a stop to the President's failed policies.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Memorial Day, we remember and honor the over 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. These men and women are heroes. The American story is not told without recognizing the price that they have paid to ensure our continued freedom.

In Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, we understand the terrible price that freedom costs. It was in Gettysburg, following the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, that President Lincoln said we must: "take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

In the western part of our district, Cambria County was home to both United States Marine Corps Sergeant Michael Strank and U.S. Army Captain Harry Cramer.

Sergeant Strank was one of the marines who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima. He was killed several days later during heavy fighting on that island.

Captain Cramer was a Green Beret, one of the Army's most highly trained warriors who, in 1957, would become the first American casualty during the war in Vietnam.

These stories are very representative of the men and women across our country who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This weekend, amid graduation parties and summer barbecues, please take a moment to recognize these brave men and women who swore an oath to defend our Nation and gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our freedoms.

ENDING HUNGER IN CUBA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights expressed concern over the worsening of food insecurity in Cuba.

They noted how this situation disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, including older people, pregnant women, children, and those with chronic illnesses. This is not a problem just in Havana. Most of Cuba's provinces are experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

In March, the BBC reported that, for the first time, the Cuban Government has asked the World Food Programme for help amid food shortages. The WFP

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3359

said it had received Cuba's request for help to provide powdered milk to children under age 7.

According to the Inter-American Commission, the Cuban Government approached WFP for help to continue the monthly delivery of milk for children throughout the country and to help with the delivery of flour for subsidized bread in the basic food basket.

The Commission went on to describe how hunger is increasing on the island due to a combination of low economic growth, high inflation, reduced food production and distribution, and infrastructure problems, especially interruptions in electricity.

It also cited recent economic measures adopted by the Cuban Government, including higher prices for fuel and electricity, the elimination of subsidies for the basic food basket, and the devaluation of the country's currency.

The Inter-American Commission and the Special Rapporteur then underscored that U.S. policies and sanctions are intensifying and worsening the social and economic condition throughout Cuba and especially affecting the Cuban people's access to food, medicines, and basic necessities.

In brief, Mr. Speaker, the United States is increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. This is being done deliberately and knowingly. It is a human rights violation. It also appears it is being done with a degree of indifference and callousness that I find shocking. It makes me ashamed.

During all my time as a Member of Congress, I have fought to end hunger and food insecurity here at home and around the world. I do not believe that food and medicine should ever be used as weapons against innocent civilians, not in Sudan, not in Ukraine, not in Gaza, not anywhere.

I have coordinated hearings that highlight how governments and armed actors use food as a weapon against civilian populations they view as adversaries.

To see our own government deliberately imposing and maintaining sanctions that we know make hunger worse in Cuba is unconscionable to me.

It is also unconscionable, Mr. Speaker, that some Members of Congress, who cling to Cold War policies, appear eager to support actions that punish and increase the suffering of ordinary people on the island. They actually raise money off the Cuban people's suffering. They say they care about human rights but contribute to making the human rights situation worse. They deliberately create chaos because they can, with absolutely no regard to how it hurts the Cuban people.

Sadly, President Biden has adopted and maintained Donald Trump's policies against Cuba, policies that he rightly denounced as a candidate and when he was Vice President, policies that hurt the very people he says he most wants to help, like independent entrepreneurs, young people, Afro-Cubans, women, and the poor.

President Biden knows that keeping Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list means no one in Cuba has access to the international financial system. Our European and Latin American friends and allies are unable to provide help to the Cuban people out of fear of being punished by U.S. sanctions. Then we wonder why hundreds of thousands of Cubans are leaving the island and migrating to our borders.

I am puzzled and deeply disappointed by the President's inaction. The situation has become desperate, with little hope for a better future. U.S. stubbornness sends a clear signal to the Cuban people that there is no reason to believe that change will happen.

President Biden, your policies are hurting not the Cuban Government but the Cuban people. Your policies are helping to drive mass migration from the island. Mr. President, stop increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. Remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, and let's move toward normalizing relations between our two countries. It is in the interest of both our peoples. Take action and please do it now.

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

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARENCE E. "BUD" ANDERSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Brigadier General Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson, probably known best, at least by me and some others in the neighborhood, as Colonel Bud.

In recent years, Representative TOM MCCLINTOCK and I petitioned the Air Force to upgrade him to brigadier general, which he certainly deserved and he earned, but I think most folks kind of know him as Colonel Bud.

What you see there in his countenance and smile goes even beyond his exploits as a triple ace in World War II to the kind, nice, and decent man that he was.

You could sit down with Colonel Bud and just chat about anything. He was willing to talk about his time serving in World War II, especially as a fighter ace, a triple ace. "Ace" means five kills of enemy aircraft. He did that over three times.

He was known as everybody's friend in the Auburn area of northern California. It was certainly a pleasure for me to know him since somewhere around 2011 when I first got to meet him at a special event there.

He was always out participating in the community when he could. Health issues more recently made that tougher. He was out there sharing and just being an inspiration to so many, especially young people. He would take the time to sit with and chat and talk

about his experiences. That is very special because his service was an incredible experience in helping keep our Nation safe and helping free Europe in World War II. Not a lot of veterans want to talk about that publicly. It is difficult for them. He was the guy who could do that.

You see him here with his aircraft. He flew three different types of aircraft in World War II, but the one most known was his P-51 Mustang named the "Old Crow," of which there are replicas that you can see at certain air shows. I am very proud of that, and it is well known because of his amazing exploits.

We are very saddened by his passing, but our hearts are filled with what a great man and a nice man he was.

He would talk with us about engines and airplanes and the dogfighting in World War II that got him to that point of being a triple ace, and he would even talk about NASCAR racing.

Interestingly, there is a special edition Ford Mustang done up like his aircraft that he got to see, which was pretty cool as well. It was done, I think, by Roush Racing.

He was a northern California native. He grew up on a rural farm in Newcastle, and he loved to watch the airplanes back then.

He graduated from Placer High School in 1939 and earned his private pilot license in 1941 through the Civilian Pilot Training Program. In January of 1942, when duty called, he entered the U.S. Army aviation cadet program, receiving his wings that September of 1942.

In Europe, Bud served two combat tours, escorting heavy bombers in the P-51 from 1943 to 1945, which was some severe duty.

If you have ever watched any documentaries, the duty they had in those daylight raids to try to bomb Germany out of the war is incredible. Those "Little Friends," as these Mustangs were known, escorting those bombers in that difficult mission were indeed valuable and loved by them.

He flew 116 combat missions, 480 hours' worth, destroyed 16¼ enemy aircraft, as they divided them up amongst a couple other pilots as well.

□ 1215

Bud flew in the 357th fighter group known as the Yoxford Boys and was the highest scoring ace in the 363rd fighter squadron. Bud came home from Europe and married Eleanor Cosby in 1945. They had two children, James Edward and Kathryn.

After the war, he became a fighter test pilot and later chief of fighter operations. He flew many models of early jet fighters and was involved in some very unusual flight test programs, including down at Edwards Air Force Base where much of that came from. He has flown over 130 types of aircraft and logged over 7,500 flying hours in his career.

He was also assigned in postwar Korea as a commander of a F-86 jet

fighter squadron there as well, commander in the F-105 wing in Okinawa, and two assignments at the Pentagon, as well.

Bud was decorated 25 times. His awards include 2 Legions of Merit, 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 Air Medals, the French Legion of Honor, and the French Croix de Guerre, as well as many other campaign service ribbons.

When Bud retired from the Air Force, he joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company and served for 12 years as the manager of the company's flight test facility there.

After his full retirement in 1984, Bud and Ellie moved back to Auburn where he continued to travel, hunt, fish, and speak at air shows and just be the great man we knew him as. God bless him. I am going to miss him personally. What a great friend he was. He was a great human being, and I am glad to have known him.

May God bless you, Bud, and hold you in His hands.

Fly high, my friend.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, the month of May was designated National Military Appreciation Month by an act of Congress introduced by the late Senator John McCain, a war hero from the State of Arizona.

Since then, throughout every May, our Nation observes a series of military events: On May 8, Victory in Europe Day, the date Nazi Germany surrendered in World War II; May 10, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, to recognize the exacting service of military spouses; and, May 18, Armed Forces Day, to honor the roughly 1.4 million people who serve as Active-Duty troops in all six branches and the 760,000 National Guard and Reserves, every one of them volunteers.

Lastly, on May 27, our Nation will observe its most solemn national holiday, Memorial Day, when across the country events will be held at military gravesites and veteran gathering places to remember and pray for those who gave their lives in defense of our Nation's freedoms and security.

Mr. Speaker, the definition of appreciation is to express gratitude. Gratitude can come in many forms, verbal, which certainly counts, but the most meaningful is tangible support for the disruption and sacrifice that the hard work of military service entails.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent eastern Connecticut, home to the largest military installation in New England, with 9,000 sailors, officers, and DOD support personal, the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut, and the highest

concentration of veterans in the State of Connecticut.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a Veterans' Coffeehouse nearby the submarine base, a monthly event hosted at Filomena's, a restaurant owned and operated by Michael Buscetto, whose amazing staff and volunteers donate a piping hot breakfast to 50 or so local vets to share war stories, have a few laughs, and catch up on new developments for the veteran community. I was asked to provide a legislative update on a variety of those issues.

The most prominent was a progress report on the milestone PACT Act signed into law by President Biden in 2022 that finally knocked down barriers to healthcare and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to toxins during the Vietnam war, the Gulf war, radiation cleanup, and Camp Lejeune, the most significant expansion of benefits and services to toxic-exposed veterans ever.

Since the bill was signed, implementation has moved fast, as this chart shows. As of a few days ago, the VA reported that over 1 million PACT Act-related claims have now been granted, delivering more than \$5.7 billion of benefits to veterans and their survivors. Over 145,000 new veterans have enrolled in VA healthcare, and over 5.4 million free toxic exposure screenings were given to all veterans whether they are enrolled in the VA or not. The law was further expanded a few months ago, to include veterans who not only served overseas, but also those who only served in the continental U.S. and are suffering from the cancers and heart disease caused by toxic exposure.

I also briefed the coffeehouse on a new measure, which the House Armed Services Committee, on which I sit, will take up tomorrow, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act. This bill, thanks to the bipartisan efforts of the Quality of Life Panel, will provide additional resources and new authorities for servicemembers and their families. This effort could not come too soon.

Last year, for the first time in over 20 years, the Air Force missed its Active Duty enlisted recruiting goal. The Army fell short of 10,000 enlisted recruits, and the Navy fell short over 7,000 enlisted sailors and 2,000 officers.

Included in this bill for tomorrow are authorities to alleviate pay discrepancies for junior enlisted servicemembers, combat food insecurity, support childcare, and spousal employment opportunities. Importantly, the bill authorizes a 19.5 percent increase in military pay for junior enlisted servicemembers.

The bill will also cover 100 percent of basic allowance for housing to ensure that servicemembers can cover the cost of housing no matter where they are stationed. It will also make the basic needs allowance available to all servicemembers with dependents whose in-

come is less than 200 percent of the poverty guidelines, making more servicemembers eligible for the program.

Incredibly, the panel documented that 25 percent of junior enlisted servicemembers today are forced to enroll in food stamps in order to put food on the table for their families.

Lastly, the DOD will be given the authority to transfer professional licenses between States for military spouses, and fully fund childcare fee assistance programs to eliminate wait lists for eligible families.

This is the sort of meaningful gratitude that truly adheres to the goals of Military Appreciation Month. As John McCain often quoted George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive how the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

These powerful and wise words are true today more than ever with an all-volunteer force, and we should finish the job for successful implementation of the PACT Act and pass this year's quality of life bill as soon as possible.

THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE HAS SOLUTIONS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, employers across all industries are looking for qualified workers to fill in-demand jobs. Job creators are consistently finding that skills-based credentials can successfully, oftentimes more effectively, prepare workers for success on the job.

It is not just employers who are recognizing the value of upskilling. A recent poll found that 82 percent of American voters are in favor of bolstering the Nation's workplace development programs.

The Education and Workforce Committee is proud to spearhead this effort with legislation like the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which makes critical updates to the Nation's workforce development system.

Additionally, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act will help connect low-income students and workers with the experiences and programs they need to gain relevant skills for in-demand jobs.

In conjunction, these pieces of legislation will be transformative for America's workforce and prepare more Americans for success in the 21st century economy.

DIGITAL ASSETS MARKET

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Financial Innovation

and Technology for the 21st Century Act, or FIT21.

I am proud to have played a critical role in crafting this bipartisan legislation. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I worked with my fellow North Carolinian and Chairman PATRICK McHENRY and Digital Assets Subcommittee Chairman FRENCH HILL, to ensure this bill brings regulatory clarity to the digital assets market while protecting consumers, promoting innovation, and advancing U.S. national security.

The FIT for the 21st Century Act represents a bipartisan effort to regulate centralized intermediaries in the digital assets markets, prevent the next FTX, safeguard consumers, cement the U.S. as a global leader in finance and technology and promote a secure, innovative, and inclusive financial future.

This commonsense legislation is designed to stop another FTX from happening by giving regulators increased power over bad actors, filling regulatory gaps between the SEC Commission and CFTC, creating accountability through registration and disclosures, requiring companies to mitigate conflicts of interest, and requiring firms to segregate customer funds from their own.

This legislation provides the CFTC with the resources they requested to undertake the new rulemaking required by FIT21 and authorizes the CFTC to charge fees to intermediaries seeking to register.

This would be a big deal for the United States. Congress has never voted on a regulatory structure for crypto. In fact, we are operating under a 100-year-old securities law. We are the global leader in financial services and technology today. If we want to be the global leader in 50 years, then we need to pass the FIT for the 21st Century Act.

The legislation will allow the digital asset ecosystem to thrive in the United States, cementing American leadership of the global financial system and the next generation of the internet. Without this, the SEC's regulation by enforcement will push the industry overseas where Americans are not protected.

Additionally, I am proud to have secured an amendment to this legislation during the markup, supported by leaders in both parties on the Financial Services Committee, expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. should seek to foster advances in this exciting new era of the internet to improve our financial system and create more fair and equitable access to Financial Services for everyday Americans.

Much like the dawn of the internet, this new blockchain technology sometimes feels like uncharted territory with immense possibilities. We are responsible for ushering in this new era in a way that harnesses innovation and ensures consumers are at the forefront.

Digital assets and blockchain technology have the potential to revolu-

tionize our society. They can grow the economy, foster collaboration, enhance transparency, increase efficiency, and reduce transaction costs for working families.

Given the rapid pace of digital innovation, we must ensure these advancements are not at the cost of consumer safety.

FIT21 will address these challenges by establishing stricter regulatory requirements for emerging financial technologies and ensuring that these innovations are secure and transparent before they reach consumers.

Here is the reality: roughly 20 percent of Americans have invested, traded, or used crypto, so it is not going anywhere.

Unfortunately, the SEC's open hostility toward the digital assets industry is not serving President Biden's best interests. The SEC is turning cryptocurrency regulation into a political football and forcing President Biden to choose sides on an issue that matters to many Americans.

As a result, the U.S. is falling behind jurisdictions like the EU, U.K., Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and the UAE. We can't afford to lose our status as the economic and technological powerhouse of the globe.

Whether you love crypto or you hate it, you should support regulation. The status quo just isn't working, and we can't wait until the next crisis to take action.

It is past time for Congress to act, and we have the opportunity to do this, this week, with the FIT for the 21st Century Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to send a clear message that our priority lies in protecting consumers, cementing the U.S. as a global leader in finance and technology, and promoting an innovative and inclusive financial future.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address a pertinent issue for all Americans, that being Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, it has been more than 50-plus years since Congress, the only body that can, has taken action to enhance Social Security.

What becomes even more confounding, Mr. Speaker, is that with 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, Congress has not acted to enhance this program.

I was talking to my good friend, JOBEY ARRINGTON, the other day, and reminded him that in his district in Texas, for example, he has 128,000 Social Security recipients, and 90,000 retirees, 9,000 children, almost 10,000 widows, 4,679 spouses, and 14,000-plus dis-

abled workers. They haven't received a benefit enhancement in more than 50 years.

Moreover, Social Security has nothing to do with the debt or deficit. It is an earned benefit. It is fully paid for, and the increases that we are calling for, well, the President said it best, we are going to pay for those by lifting the cap on \$400,000.

You could have people in the audience, for example, raise their hand if they are making more than \$400,000. I doubt that you would find anybody. It is about six-tenths of 1 percent, but most people are astounded to learn that there is a cap, and they haven't paid anything into the system, a system that all Americans pay into.

□ 1230

For example, Mr. Speaker, in Tennessee's Eighth District, 189,000 of your citizens receive Social Security benefits, and 136,000 of them are retirees, 25,000 disabled people, 4,000 spouses, and the list goes on.

Here is the most important thing: Your district gets \$330 million monthly. That goes into your district.

I say this to my colleagues and good friends on the other side of the aisle who are always talking about economic development: What better economic development tool is there than for your citizens to get payments?

Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. They haven't had an increase in more than 50 years.

This money would go right back into my colleagues' districts and be spent at the local grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the dry cleaners, to pay for rent or a mortgage, or to put gas in an automobile. The money all comes back, but Congress hasn't acted in over 50 years.

Mr. ARRINGTON at least says this about Social Security 2100, the bill that we have put forward: It enhances benefits across the board by 2 percent and repeals WEP and GPO.

Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, that there are more than 23 million Americans who pay taxes on their Social Security? My colleagues are quick to make sure that there is tax relief for billionaires. How about for people who are actually working for a living and then have to pay double taxation on their Social Security? Twenty-three million Americans.

There are 5 million Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the Federal Government, from Social Security, even though they have paid in all their quarters. Why? Because Congress hasn't taken action, the only body that can. The President can't do this through executive order. The Supreme Court isn't going to act. We need to act on a bill.

As Representative ARRINGTON says: Well, I don't agree with LARSON.

I said: What don't you agree with? If you have a better idea, put it forward.

At least he is honest enough to say they don't have a plan, that they

haven't written anything down on paper.

The American people not only need a plan, but what they need is help and relief. In this time of global inflation, in this time that is coming, it is long overdue for Congress to act.

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 33 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:

Holy God, we pause to consider Your gracious invitation to enter into this day, and to live it understanding that we are Your beloved children.

Help us to see that this is not merely an invitation but a privilege, an honor, to discover that this is a day You have made for us to enjoy and employ. For with that privilege comes responsibility, the ability to respond to Your grace by responding with grace as we are able to the needs of others.

As Your children we are favored to have a relationship with You, established in Your righteousness and compassion. From that relationship, may we learn to bring the justice and mercy You have shown us, into all that we do.

Guide us then in the way You would have us go and grant us wisdom and discernment in our work, that the direction we take and the decisions we make would lead us ever closer to the peace and freedom You desire for all Your people.

In the strength of Your word 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING APPLEWOLD, PENNSYLVANIA

(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 Applewold, Pennsylvania, a tiny borough located along the Allegheny River across from Kittanning in Armstrong County.

Applewold is celebrating 125 years of being incorporated on Saturday, June 1.

While Applewold has officially been a borough for 125 years, it has had a front row seat for American history: playing a pivotal role in the Battle of Kittanning during the French and Indian War, witnessing the Pennsylvania Canal Kittanning Extension, and welcoming the railroad years later.

To celebrate this momentous anniversary, Applewold is celebrating in style with a parade and various speakers to mark the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Applewold is a small but mighty municipality. In fact, based upon the last Census, the population is 344 people residing in 219 houses. It is our small boroughs like Applewold that make our district, our Commonwealth, and our country so great. Their enthusiasm to share their history allows us to keep telling stories of our past.

Congratulations to Applewold Borough on this anniversary.

BUFFALO BANDITS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the National Lacrosse League's Buffalo Bandits who just won their second league championship in a row over the weekend, in a 15-13 win over the Albany FireWolves, completing a sweep of the playoffs and winning their ninth game in a row.

On the bench, they were led by their head coach, Bandits legend John Tavares, among the greatest players to ever take the field in the NLL.

On the field, Josh Byrne, league MVP, led the way with 9 points in the championship game and 135 points throughout the season.

Other standouts this season include Dhane Smith, with 134 points, Chris Cloutier with 68 points, and Chase Fraser with 57 points.

This back-to-back championship is the Bandits' sixth in franchise history, putting them in a first place league-wide tie for the most titles, and hopefully setting an example for our other beloved teams, the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Sabres.

We congratulate the Bandits and thank them for, once again, making Buffalo and western New York proud.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, our forests are in crisis, and we must act with urgency on managing them and making them more fireproof.

In the past few years, for example, my district in northern California has seen the devastating effects of wildfires, from the Camp fire in 2018 where 85 people lost their lives, and the Dixie fire which consumed 1 million acres.

They are not just statistics. They represent real people, homes lost, and entire towns disappeared.

Yet funding alone is not going to be enough. We need more tools, we need more authorities, and we need categorical exclusions that will help move us into the forest more quickly, more broadly, and more effectively.

Pace and scale need to be dramatically increased, especially on Federal forest lands.

The 2024 farm bill promotes active forest management; yes, the farm bill, because USDA has the Forest Service aspect in that bill, as well. We need to do much acceleration of the process. We don't want to continue to see the West burn year after year. We need to put the jobs back in the forests where we used to have them 40 and 50 years ago.

The 2024 farm bill will enhance our ability to manage forests proactively, reduce fuel loads, and put people back to work in the West.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC, May 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON, 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 May 20, 2024, at 1:55 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 109.

Appointment: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER, Acting Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 20, 2024, at 3:07 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-143)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, and Executive Order 13668 of May 27, 2014—is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2024.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to S. Con. Res. 34, 118th Congress, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

Mr. JOHNSON, Louisiana
Mr. SCALISE, Louisiana
Mr. JEFFRIES, New York

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.

□ 1534

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia) at 3 o'clock and 34 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.

MODERNIZING GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY REFORM ACT

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5527) to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5527

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 "Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act".

SEC. 2. REALIGNING USE OF FUNDS WITH ORIGINAL CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.

Section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 40 U.S.C. 11301 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations

from the Board, use amounts in the Fund for the following:

“(i) To transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the acquisition, procurement, and operation of information technology, or the development of information technology when more efficient and cost effective, to—

“(I) modernize, retire, or replace legacy information technology systems used by the agency;

“(II) enhance cybersecurity and privacy at the agency;

“(III) improve long-term efficiency and effectiveness of agency information technology; or

“(IV) improve the ability of the agency to perform the mission of the agency and deliver services to the public.

“(ii) To provide services or work performed in support of—

“(I) the activities described in clause (i); and

“(II) the Board and the Director in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (c)(2).

“(iii) To fund only programs, projects, or activities, or to fund increases for any programs, projects, or activities that have not been denied or restricted by Congress.

“(iv) To transfer such amounts only for programs, projects, or activities that will be reimbursed to the Fund to the extent necessary to ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1).

“(B) TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations from the Board, suspend or terminate funding for any project with respect to which the head of an agency provided fraudulent or misleading statements about such project (including fraudulent statements about technical design, the business case, or program management with respect to the project) in the application or proposal for amounts from the Fund for such project.”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “or (B)”; and

(bb) by striking “(3)(C)” and inserting “(3)(A)(ii)”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “, consistent with any applicable reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by striking “paragraph (3)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (3)(A)(ii)”; and

(II) by striking “the solvency of the Fund, including operating expenses” and inserting the following: “total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1)”;;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter before clause (i), by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)” and inserting the following: “paragraph (3)(A)(i) and before any services or work are provided under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I)”;;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “unless approved by the Director”; and

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(III) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clauses:

“(ii) which shall include terms of repayment that require the head of the agency to reimburse the Fund for funds transferred

under paragraph (3)(A)(i) at a level that ensures total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1);

“(iii) which shall include terms of repayment that require the head of the agency to fully reimburse the Fund for any services or work provided under paragraph (3)(A)(ii) in direct support of the project; and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

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

“(i) for any funds transferred to an agency under paragraph (3)(A)(i), in the absence of compelling circumstances documented by the Administrator at the time of transfer, that such funds shall be transferred only—

“(I) on an incremental basis, tied to metric-based development milestones achieved by the agency through the use of rapid, iterative, development processes; and

“(II) after the head of the agency has provided the Director any information the Director is required to report pursuant to paragraph (7)(A)(i); and”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (3)(A)(i)”; and

(bb) by striking “paragraph (6)” and inserting “this paragraph”;

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(I) by inserting “the written agreement entered into under paragraph (6),” after “description of the project.”; and

(II) by inserting “(including documented market research into commercial products and services)” after “used”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “establishing”; and

(bb) by striking “the cost savings associated with the projects funded both annually and over the life of the acquired products and services by the Fund.”; and inserting the following: “the amount repaid to the Fund in accordance with the terms established in the written agreements described in paragraph (6).”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “reliability of the cost savings” and inserting “total cost savings”; and

(bb) by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (iv);

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “the greatest Governmentwide impact; and” and inserting the following: “the greatest impact on modernizing, retiring, or replacing Federal legacy information technology systems; and”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following new clause:

“(i) the ability for the head of the agency to ensure repayment of funds transferred from the Fund to the head of the agency, in accordance with subsection (b).”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “to improve or replace multiple information technology systems” and inserting the following: “to modernize, retire, or replace legacy information technology systems under subsection (b)(3)(A)(i).”;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by inserting after “subsection (b)(6)” the following: “or the identification of fraudulent or misleading statements about the project (including fraudulent statements about technical design, the business case, or program manage-

ment with respect to the project) in the application or proposal for amounts from the Fund for the project”;

(D) in subparagraph (G), by inserting after “operating costs of the Fund” the following: “to ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1).”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

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

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) a senior official from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, appointed by the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”;

(B) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(i) by striking “shall be—” and inserting “shall be 4 employees of the Federal Government primarily having technical expertise in information technology development, financial management, cybersecurity and privacy, and acquisition, appointed by the Director.”; and

(ii) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

(4) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(3)(A) and for products, services, and acquisition vehicles funded under subsection (b)(3)(B)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3).”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting after “and reduce waste” the following: “and ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1).”;

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(6) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER; AGENCY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS.—

“(1) AGENCY INVENTORY.—An agency Chief Information Officer, in coordination with stakeholders and other agency officials, shall provide to the Federal Chief Information Officer—

“(A) on or before the first September 30 that occurs after the date of the enactment of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act of 2023, a list of high-risk legacy information technology systems used, operated, or maintained by the agency, in accordance with the guidance issued under paragraph (4); and

“(B) on or before September 30 of each year after the first year in which the list is provided under subparagraph (A), any updates to such list.

“(2) LEGACY FEDERAL IT INVENTORY.—The Federal Chief Information Officer shall—

“(A) on or before the first December 30 that occurs after the date of the enactment of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act of 2023, compile a Legacy Federal IT Inventory on the basis of the each list provided by an agency Chief Information Officer under paragraph (1)(A) that includes information about each high-risk legacy information technology system used, operated, or maintained by an agency; and

“(B) on or before December 30 each year after the year in which the Legacy Federal IT Inventory is compiled, update such Inventory on the basis of each update to the list provided by an agency Chief Information Officer under paragraph (1)(B).

“(3) PRIORITIZATION LIST.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Federal Chief Information Officer shall—

“(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer receives the list required by paragraph (1)(A) from each agency Chief Information Officer, compile, on the basis of each such list, a list of 10 legacy information technology systems that present the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks to the Federal Government; and

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer receives updates under paragraph (1)(B) from each agency Chief Information Officer, update the list required by subparagraph (A) on the basis of each update to the list provided by agency Chief Information Officers under paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer compiles the list required by subparagraph (A), or updates such list, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Comptroller General of the United States, a report (which may include a classified annex) containing—

“(i) such list (including any update made to such list under subparagraph (A)(ii)); and

“(ii) each list provided by an agency Chief Information Officer under paragraph (1)(A) (including any update made to any such list under paragraph (1)(B)).

“(4) GUIDANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance on implementing the requirements of this subsection that shall, at a minimum—

“(i) prescribe an appropriate format for list to be provided under paragraph (1)(A);

“(ii) prescribe the information to be included in the Legacy Federal IT Inventory required by paragraph (2);

“(iii) provide guidance on how an agency Chief Information Officer should identify high-risk legacy information technology systems that, at least, requires agency Chief Information Officers, in coordination with other agency stakeholders, to identify as a high risk legacy information technology system any outdated or obsolete system of information technology that is critical to the agency such that the loss or degradation of the system would create a security, operational, or privacy risk to the agency or would otherwise impact the ability of the agency to perform the mission of the agency, effectively deliver programs, or conduct business; and

“(iv) provide guidance on how existing reporting structures can be used to submit the Legacy Federal IT inventory required by paragraph (2).

“(B) UPDATES.—The Director may update the guidance issued under subparagraph (A) as the Director determines necessary.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) AGENCY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—The term ‘agency Chief Information Officer’ means a Chief Information Officer designated under section 3506(a)(2) of title 44, United States Code.

“(B) FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—The term ‘Federal Chief Information Officer’ means the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.”;

(7) in subsection (g)(1), as so redesignated, by striking “On and after the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the third report required under subsection (b)(7)(B),” and inserting “After December 31, 2031.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5527.

The Technology Modernization Fund, or the TMF, was established by the bipartisan, Republican-led Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017.

The TMF was established because it can be difficult to plan and budget for Federal legacy IT upgrades through the annual appropriations cycle.

The TMF addresses this problem by acting as a self-sustaining funding mechanism to assist agencies with legacy IT modernization projects that span multiple fiscal years.

The Federal Government depends on IT systems for everything from national defense to the administration of benefits programs.

Over the course of this Congress, the House Oversight Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation has heard from current and former government officials about the risks and costs associated with Federal legacy IT systems.

These risks include cyberattacks targeted toward highly vulnerable legacy systems that house sensitive public data. These half-century-old IT systems are prime targets for malicious actors and enemy nation-states.

My bill, the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act, enhances the Technology Modernization Fund by ensuring a sustainable financing tool for fixing costly and risky legacy IT systems.

The TMF has strayed from the original congressional intent established by the bipartisan law Congress passed. It does not consistently require agencies to repay their awards, an operational policy decision made by the administration which has put a strain on TMF's resources and hindered the fund's ability to help address future legacy IT modernization projects.

With this legislation, we will refocus the TMF on the longstanding need to replace legacy IT systems and address our cybersecurity risks.

The reforms made to the TMF by H.R. 5527 also prioritize fiscal responsibility and are common sense. Let's run through some of them quickly in the bill:

This will require TMF awards to be reimbursed at a rate sufficient to keep the fund operational through 2031.

It requires the TMF to recover all administrative costs that projects incur.

It requires the TMF to suspend or terminate project funding if fraudulent or misleading statements were used to obtain funds.

It provides agencies more flexibility to repay the TMF.

It increases the visibility into TMF awards by requiring written agreements governing each award to be made publicly available.

This legislation also requires each agency to conduct an inventory of its legacy IT systems, creating a new oversight tool to ensure the Federal Government is addressing the problem of legacy IT systems.

Reforming the TMF is necessary to ensure it remains a sustainable, revolving fund that can be used to address the costly challenge of modernizing legacy IT into the future.

This is smart and timely reform. This is a fair and balanced reauthorization.

I am grateful to my colleagues Representatives CONNOLLY and KHANNA for their support and collaboration on this effort. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from South Carolina for her great leadership on this as well as Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia for his very hard work on it, too.

In this century, public confidence in the Federal Government depends on ensuring that our Federal information technology systems and websites are secure, safe, and effective. We invest more than \$100 billion every year in Federal IT needs. Outdated legacy IT systems and infrastructure are costly to maintain and very challenging to secure against the onslaught of cyberattacks by adversaries and criminal organizations. The constantly changing landscape of information technology requires resources if Federal agencies are going to be able to protect data privacy, complete their missions, and effectively serve our people.

The Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act would ensure this important work continues smoothly by extending the Technology Modernization Fund's sunset from December 2025 to December 2031. It would also clarify the use of funds and maintain the repayment flexibility adopted by the Technology Modernization Fund, known as the TMF, in recent years while ensuring its solvency by setting minimum reimbursement requirements.

Additionally, the bill sets requirements for regularly updated inventories and lists of legacy Federal IT systems and high-risk Federal IT systems, as well as of the legacy systems that present the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks.

This timely and comprehensive picture of the Federal Government's most

serious IT modernization needs will inform the ability of the TMF, the administration, and Congress to make the best investments.

The TMF provides a self-sustaining funding model that has become an essential tool for Federal agencies to address these challenges. It supplies upfront funding for IT projects in exchange for future reimbursement once a project's cost savings are realized, allowing agencies the flexibility they need to address modernization needs outside of the traditional budget cycle.

The TMF also instills accountability safeguards to ensure that taxpayers are getting strong returns on our investments. Projects are selected for funding after rigorous review by the TMF board of technology experts, and written funding agreements outline specific requirements and milestones that have to be met. Funds are distributed incrementally based on performance as assessed by quarterly reviews by the board, and technical experts provide hands-on support toward successful execution of the projects.

Committee Democrats have supported robust oversight and funding for the TMF, including a historic \$1 billion investment through the American Rescue Plan. With this infusion, high-priority projects were also allowed reduced repayment requirements, if warranted. Since the infusion of these moneys, the TMF has received more than 220 agency proposals requesting more than \$3.5 billion, far outpacing our funding availability.

To date, the TMF has provided over \$900 million to 57 IT modernization projects across 32 agencies, and the Biden-Harris administration has embraced it as an indispensable tool to better serve the American people.

For example, TMF funding is helping to digitize veterans' records, ensuring that more than 1 million people and their family members who reach out to the National Archives and Records Administration every year get timely access to the documents they need to verify their qualification for important lifesaving benefits.

TMF funding is also expediting the speed and safety of food inspection at the USDA, leading to better meals for school kids and servicemembers alike. TMF funding also better secures all of our personal data at the Social Security Administration and the Department of Education.

I thank Representatives Mace and Connolly for their great work on this important project. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina for the time.

I rise today in support of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act. It is no secret that America's cyber infrastructure is under constant

attack by our adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

FBI Director Christopher Wray recently warned Americans of the cyber threat that China poses, declaring that China's hackers are preparing to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities.

□ 1545

Yet, despite warning after warning of the rising threats to our Nation's cyber infrastructure, our Federal agencies remain dangerously vulnerable to future, potentially devastating cyberattacks.

Every year, the Federal Government spends over \$100 billion on IT and cybersecurity. Nonetheless, 80 percent of this spending goes to operating and maintaining outdated, obsolete legacy systems. These aging systems not only waste taxpayer money but also leave us exposed to our enemies.

These IT systems also require specific technical knowledge to operate and update, which creates enormous procurement and hiring challenges, leaving agencies scrambling to find vendors and employees with the necessary skills. In addition to the upfront costs associated with updating legacy IT, many of these systems continue to run with known security vulnerabilities and unsupported hardware or software. This is a ticking time bomb.

In an effort to bring the Federal Government up to speed with the challenges of modern-day cyber threats, Congress established the technology modernization fund to help eliminate these vulnerabilities and provide funding to improve, retire, or replace antiquated Federal IT systems and strengthen our agencies' cyber defenses, all without additional expense to the American taxpayer.

That is why reauthorizing and reforming the technology modernization fund is essential to our future success. Under this legislation, Federal agencies can continue the modernization process and adopt newer, safer technology in a rapidly advancing and increasingly dangerous world, all with greater congressional oversight to keep these efforts on track.

As my colleagues have already mentioned, this bill also establishes a Federal legacy IT inventory, a new oversight tool that will enable Congress to evaluate agency and government-wide efforts to modernize legacy IT technology and ensure that such critical modernization efforts are being done the right way.

Madam Speaker, our national security is at stake. We can't afford to become complacent while our adversaries plot against us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take our cybersecurity seriously and support H.R. 5527.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, I urge everybody to support this fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5527 helps ensure the TMF can continue to address the legacy IT modernization efforts reducing Federal cyber risk and inefficiencies in Government operations.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, again, across the aisle for their support. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this very necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act (H.R. 5527) and thank Chairwoman Mace for partnering with me on this very important piece of legislation.

In 2017, Republican Representative Will Hurd and I coauthored the original MGT Act, which did two fundamental things.

First, it authorized all CFO Act agencies to establish IT Working Capital Funds (WCF), which the Subcommittee has historically tracked through the FITARA Scorecard.

Second, the bill established a centralized Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) and a governing board for the TMF.

While we have never been able to get sufficient support for the TMF from our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the Biden Administration saw the value of the Fund when it requested \$9 billion for the TMF as part of its COVID recovery plan.

We were ultimately able to secure \$1 billion in the American Rescue Plan Act (117-2).

The TMF has used that funding to help bring agencies into the 21st century.

Examples include digitizing the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) customer support and Better Veterans Benefits Management systems, modernizing the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) website, and implementing a zero-trust architecture at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Building off the original MGT Act's success, the MGT Reform Act will extend the authorization for the TMF through 2031 and sustain this critical IT investment tool for federal agencies.

The bill also directs agencies to create legacy federal IT inventories that includes information about each high-risk legacy information technology system used, operated, or maintained by an agency.

This legacy federal IT inventory provision could be critical to finally retiring all unsupported and costly legacy systems from government use.

We cannot afford to wait until we are in the midst of the next global disaster to modernize federal IT.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes on the passage of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5527, 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.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5887) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5887

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 "Government Service Delivery Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

"§ 321. Definitions

"In this subchapter:

"(1) AGENCY.—The term 'agency' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44.

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(3) GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.—The term 'Government service delivery' means any action by an agency related to providing a benefit or service to an individual, business, or organization (such as a grantee or State, local, or Tribal entity), including any such action of a contractor or nonprofit organization acting on behalf of the agency or administering a federally-funded program.

"(4) GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY CHANNEL.—The term 'Government service delivery channel' means the format or medium of an interaction or transaction with the Federal Government, including in-person, through the mail, through a digital service, by telephone, through a contact center, on a website, through outreach and communication, and through collaboration with a third party, or through other ways in which an individual or entity significantly interacts with the Federal Government.

"(5) HIGH IMPACT SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'high impact service provider' means an agency program identified by the Director due to the scale and impact of the public-facing services of the program.

"§ 322. Federal Government service delivery

"(a) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD.—The Director shall designate or appoint a senior official as the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead within the Office of Management and Budget whose responsibility is to coordinate governmentwide efforts to improve Government service delivery by agencies. The individual shall have the following duties and authorities:

"(1) Facilitate and coordinate governmentwide efforts to improve Government service delivery provided by agencies, particularly with respect to high impact service providers.

"(2) Carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Director.

"(3) Serve as the lead, governmentwide official responsible for supporting Government service delivery.

"(4) Advise the Director concerning the improvement of Government service delivery provided by agencies.

“(5) In consultation with each lead agency service delivery official and any other agency stakeholder as appropriate, develop and oversee the implementation of government-wide Government service delivery standards, policies, and guidelines for services and programs provided by agencies, including standards, policies, and guidelines to—

“(A) understand the needs of an individual, business, or organization interacting with an agency;

“(B) solicit and consider voluntary feedback on the Government service delivery by the agency;

“(C) assess Government service delivery processes;

“(D) consider the factors of ease, efficiency, transparency, accessibility, fairness, burden (as defined in section 3502 of title 44), and duration, including wait and processing times, with respect to Government service delivery; and

“(E) encourage the adoption of commercial products and services in accordance with section 3307 of title 41.

“(6) Collect and report qualitative and quantitative information or data on Government service delivery through existing reporting mechanisms.

“(7) Evaluate the quality of Government service delivery, including through the establishment of performance metrics developed using the standards, policies, and guidelines developed pursuant to paragraph (5) and the information or data collected and reported pursuant to paragraph (6).

“(8) Engage with stakeholders to identify leading practices in service design and delivery that would improve Government service delivery across and within agencies.

“(9) Ensure agency service delivery initiatives, including those related to the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (15 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336), are identified in agency congressional budget justifications.

“(10) Coordinate with Office of Management and Budget stakeholders and other agency stakeholders on Government service delivery.

“(11) In collaboration with relevant agency officials as appropriate, and in coordination with relevant Office of Management and Budget stakeholders, ensure that websites of agencies, including those associated with high impact service providers, are consistent with the objectives of this subchapter, the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act, and any other applicable law.

“§ 323. Lead agency officials for Government service delivery

“(a) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.**—The head of each agency shall be responsible for the Government service delivery of the agency which shall, at a minimum, include improving and enhancing Government services to better achieve the mission of the agency and build and maintain trust, transparency, and accountability.

“(b) **LEAD AGENCY SERVICE DELIVERY OFFICIALS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subchapter, the head of each agency shall designate or appoint a senior official of the agency (who may be the deputy head of the agency) to implement this subchapter who shall have the following duties and authorities:

“(1) Report directly to the head or deputy head of the agency.

“(2) Possess sufficient operational authority to effectuate implementation of Government service delivery improvements within the agency, particularly with respect to high impact service providers.

“(3) Coordinate and execute, as appropriate, under the direction of the head of the agency, and in collaboration with relevant

agency officials as appropriate, efforts to improve and enhance the Government service delivery and Government service delivery channels of the agency.

“(4) At the direction of the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, submit an implementation plan for improving agency Government service delivery.

“(5) Coordinate the collection and reporting of the data and information required pursuant to section 322 and use such data and information to improve Government service delivery.

“(6) Facilitate collaboration among and between offices, and components within the agency and with other agencies as appropriate, in coordination with the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, to improve and enhance Government service delivery.

“(7) Assist with the implementation by the agency of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (15 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336).

“(8) Assist in the incorporation of the Government service delivery requirements established under this subchapter in agency plans (such as strategic plans or annual performance plans).

“§ 324. Rule of construction

“Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to diminish or reduce the authority of agency Chief Information Officers for information resources management provided in section 11315 of title 40 or those authorities to manage information resources to accomplish agency missions as established in section 3502 of title 44.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

“321. Definitions.

“322. Federal Government service delivery.

“323. Lead agency officials for Government service delivery.

“324. Rule of construction”.

(c) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) Specific recommendations to further the implementation and effectiveness of such subchapter.

(d) **AGENCY REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment on the implementation and effectiveness of subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) Specific recommendations to further the implementation and effectiveness of such subchapter.

(3) A summary and assessment of the usefulness of the metrics such subchapter requires the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead to establish and report for the purpose of assessing the quality of Government service delivery provided by agencies, including metrics to assess the efforts of high impact service providers in improving services.

(e) **NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No new funds are authorized to be appropriated by this Act or any amendment made by this Act

and the head of each agency shall comply with this Act and any amendment made by this Act using existing funds.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” means each agency listed in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) **GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY; HIGH IMPACT SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The terms “Government service delivery” and “high impact service provider” have the meaning given those terms in section 321 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(3) **RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “relevant congressional committees” means the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5887.

Outdated bureaucratic government processes make it challenging and costly to deliver government services. This wastes taxpayer dollars and creates opportunities for fraud and abuse.

These processes do not change because Federal agencies lack a single, designated official that Congress can hold accountable for program service delivery, including agency-wide backlogs, unprocessed applications, or improperly delivered benefits.

Many agency officials, program managers, policymakers, and human resource managers, are responsible for specific parts of the problem, but developing solutions to poor government service delivery will require someone to be responsible for agency-wide coordination.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act addresses this problem by requiring the Office of Management and Budget and Federal agencies to designate a senior official accountable for improving government service delivery and facilitating process reforms.

The government-wide official will develop standards, policies, and performance metrics to ensure agency progress.

Also under the bill, senior agency officials designated to be responsible for improving government service delivery will also be required to coordinate with other existing agency officials, such as

the chief information officer, chief procurement officer, and program managers as they work to improve agency operations and implement policy reforms.

H.R. 5887's expansion of the Bipartisan 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act of 2018 will improve congressional oversight over the administration's government service delivery reform efforts.

I am thankful for the work of my colleagues, Representatives KHANNA and TIMMONS, for their work on this important legislation. Of course, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman, again, from South Carolina, and I thank my wonderful colleague from California, Mr. RO KHANNA, for his leadership on H.R. 5887, the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act. I am really proud to declare our support for this bipartisan legislation.

Federal Government services should be accessible and responsive to the American people. This means ensuring agencies have the resources and staffing they need to fulfill their missions, as well as the infrastructure and technology they need to have effective interactions with the public. Committee Democrats have fought for adequate funding so that the government makes the necessary Federal IT modernization investments that our agencies need to deliver for the people. It also means strengthening and standardizing Federal agencies' efforts to improve the delivery of government services.

Mr. KHANNA's bill would create a Federal Government service delivery lead position in the Office of Management and Budget to coordinate government-wide efforts to improve the delivery of services. Working with lead service delivery officials designated at each Federal agency, the service delivery lead at OMB would develop and oversee the implementation of government-wide standards, policies, and guidelines to improve government service delivery, and would evaluate agency progress, including by collecting and reporting information, data, and metrics.

This bipartisan bill will help ensure the Federal government is providing the best service possible to the people and that it is acting in transparent, methodical, and accountable ways to improve our delivery of government services.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 5887.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act, H.R. 5887. I did want to say a word

about our ranking member. I appreciate his support, but I have also come to appreciate at these times his erudition from the House floor. Every time he speaks about history, I learn something, and I have really appreciated his leadership and statements recently.

I appreciate Representative MACE, Representative TIMMONS, Representatives DONALDS, LOUDERMILK, and, of course, our Ranking Members RASKIN and CONNOLLY for truly making this a bipartisan effort, and Selene Ceja on our team and the Oversight and Accountability Committee staff who have been incredible on both sides.

I am proud to say that this bipartisan legislation passed unanimously in the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability with a vote of 44-0.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act builds upon the progress made by the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience, or 21st Century IDEA. While the IDEA Act primarily focused on digital services, this bill takes the next step by addressing all service channels, including online, in-person, and by phone.

What sets this bill apart is its whole-of-government approach. It recognizes that improving service delivery requires collaboration. The bill directs the head of Federal agencies to each designate a senior official responsible for improving services, and it requires the Office of Management and Budget to select a senior official to coordinate efforts across Federal agencies.

We really appreciated working with the OMB and with both the Democratic and Republican oversight staffs who have been excellent. These officials will help agencies implement best practices, measure progress, and enhance coordination.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act prioritizes constituents' experience by mandating agencies to incorporate service delivery into their strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act represents a significant step forward in creating a more responsive, efficient, and service-delivery oriented Federal Government. It is a commonsense approach to improving government services.

I thank, again, Representative MACE, who has always been a pleasure to work with, and our lead, Ranking Member RASKIN.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 5887.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS).

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, RO KHANNA, for his leadership on this bill.

Over the past year and a half, the Oversight and Accountability Committee has investigated numerous instances of our government failing to provide adequate service to the American people. From passport backlogs to

delays for veterans requesting personnel records, we simply need to do better.

As Members of Congress, some of our most rewarding work is helping our constituents who are caught up in the web of government red tape. Whether they are a small business trying to get records from the IRS, someone in need of an emergency passport, or a senior requiring a long overdue answer from Social Security, our assistance is often how we make our most immediate impact on our communities. However, frankly, many of these issues we deal with most shouldn't require our assistance at all. They are a failure of agencies to prioritize innovation and customer service.

In order to fix this failure, this Government Service Delivery Improvement Act tasks OMB with designating a senior official to coordinate agency efforts to work more efficiently and deliver services in a timely and un wasteful manner. This bill will also require the designation of a senior official for every Federal agency that will be responsible for improving the service delivery of that particular agency.

This bill allows Congress to further hold agency heads accountable to drive necessary changes, enhance services, and ultimately foster greater trust with the people they serve.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act isn't just about streamlining processes, it is about rebuilding trust between the government and its people. It is about ensuring that when Americans turn to their government for assistance, they are met with efficiency, reliability, and, above all, respect.

With that, Madam Speaker, I, again, thank my friend, Mr. KHANNA, for his leadership on this bill and Chairman MACE for her assistance in bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members of this House to support the bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I urge everyone to support the legislation, and I yield the back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. In closing, Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill which will improve Federal Government programs service delivery for the American people, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5887, 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.

FEDERAL PRISON OVERSIGHT ACT

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 3019) to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3019

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 “Federal Prison Oversight Act”.

SEC. 2. CREATION OF AN INSPECTIONS REGIME FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INSPECTIONS REGIME.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

“(B) BUREAU.—The term ‘Bureau’ means the Bureau of Prisons.

“(C) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘covered facility’—

“(i) means a correctional facility operated by the Bureau; and

“(ii) does not include a post-incarceration residential re-entry center.

“(D) FAMILY ADVOCATE.—The term ‘family advocate’ includes—

“(i) a grandparent, parent, sibling, spouse or domestic partner, child, aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, grandchild, or any other person related to an individual by blood, adoption, marriage, civil union, a romantic or fostering relationship; or

“(ii) a friend of—

“(I) the incarcerated person; or

“(II) the family of the incarcerated person.

“(E) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector General of the Department of Justice.

“(F) OMBUDSMAN.—The term ‘Ombudsman’ means the Ombudsman established under paragraph (3)(A).

“(G) REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INCARCERATED PERSON.—The term ‘representative of an incarcerated person’ includes paid or unpaid legal counsel or any other person or entity chosen by an incarcerated person to represent the interests of the incarcerated person.

“(H) SEXUAL ABUSE.—The term ‘sexual abuse’ has the meaning given that term in section 115.6 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto).

“(I) STAFF.—The term ‘staff’ means employees and contractors of the Bureau.

“(2) INSPECTIONS OF COVERED FACILITIES BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTIONS REGIME.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall conduct periodic inspections of covered facilities pursuant to the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) ACCESS TO COVERED FACILITIES.—The Attorney General shall ensure that the Inspector General has access to—

“(I) any covered facility (including the incarcerated people, detainees, staff, bargaining unit representative organization) in accordance with paragraph (4); and

“(II) any other information that the Inspector General determines is necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

“(iii) NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection may be announced or unannounced.

“(iv) COMMUNITY INPUT.—In developing the inspections regime under this subsection, the Inspector General is encouraged to consult formerly incarcerated people, family or representatives of incarcerated people, and community advocates.

“(B) INSPECTION CRITERIA.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection may include an assessment of the following:

“(i) The policies, procedures, and administrative guidance of the facility.

“(ii) The conditions of confinement.

“(iii) Working conditions for staff.

“(iv) The availability of evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities, as such terms are defined in section 3635 of title 18, and the application of earned time credits pursuant to section 3632 of title 18.

“(v) The policies and procedures relating to visitation.

“(vi) The policies and practices relating to classification and housing.

“(vii) The policies and practices relating to the use of single-cell confinement, administrative segregation, and other forms of restrictive housing.

“(viii) The medical facilities and medical and mental health care, programs, procedures, and policies, including the number and qualifications of medical and mental health staff and the availability of sex-specific and trauma-responsive care for incarcerated people.

“(ix) Medical services and mental health resources for staff.

“(x) Lockdowns at the facility.

“(xi) Credible allegations of incidents involving excessive use of force, completed, attempted, or threatened violence, including sexual abuse, or misconduct committed against incarcerated people.

“(xii) Credible allegations of incidents involving completed, attempted, or threatened violence, including sexual violence or sexual abuse, committed against staff.

“(xiii) Adequacy of staffing at the covered facility, including the number and job assignments of staff, the ratio of staff to inmates at the facility, the staff position vacancy rate at the facility, and the use of overtime, mandatory overtime, and augmentation.

“(xiv) Deaths or serious injuries of incarcerated people or staff that occurred at the facility.

“(xv) The existence of contraband that jeopardizes the health or safety of incarcerated people or staff, including incident reports, referrals for criminal prosecution, and confirmed prosecutions.

“(xvi) Access of incarcerated people to—

“(I) legal counsel, including confidential meetings and communications;

“(II) discovery and other case-related legal materials; and

“(III) the law library at the covered facility.

“(xvii) Any aspect of the operation of the covered facility that the Inspector General determines to be necessary over the course of an inspection.

“(C) INSPECTION SCHEDULE.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection shall be conducted on a schedule based on the combined risk score of the covered facility as described in subparagraph (E) and the following considerations:

“(i) Higher risk facilities shall receive more frequent inspections.

“(ii) The Inspector General shall reevaluate the combined risk score methodology and inspection schedule periodically and may alter 1 or both to ensure that higher risk facilities are identified and receiving the appropriate frequency of inspection.

“(iii) A determination by the Inspector General that 1 or more of the criteria listed

in subparagraph (B) should be inspected, with regard to a covered facility or group of covered facilities.

“(D) REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the completion of an inspection of a covered facility under this subsection, or a group of inspections that assess the same or similar issues at more than 1 facility, the Inspector General shall submit a final copy of the report to the Attorney General, the appropriate congressional committees, employee representative organizations, and the public, that addresses 1 or more of the following topics:

“(I) A characterization of the conditions of confinement and working conditions, including a summary of the inspection criteria reviewed under clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

“(II) Recommendations made to the covered facility to improve safety and conditions within the facility, including recommendations regarding staffing.

“(III) A recommended timeline for the next inspection and assessment, which shall not limit the authority of the Inspector General to perform additional inspections and assessments, announced or unannounced.

“(IV) Any other issues or matters identified during the inspection of the facility or facilities.

“(ii) CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—In developing the recommendations described in clause (i), the Inspector General may consult with stakeholders, including employee representative organizations.

“(E) RISK SCORE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, the Inspector General shall establish methodology and protocols for determining the combined risk score of a covered facility, which—

“(i) shall be delivered to the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(ii) may be based on—

“(I) frequency and duration of lockdowns;

“(II) availability of programming;

“(III) staffing levels;

“(IV) access to adequate physical and mental health resources;

“(V) incidences of physical assault, neglect, or sexual abuse;

“(VI) opportunity to maintain family ties through phone calls, video calls, mail, email, and visitation;

“(VII) adequacy of the nutrition provided;

“(VIII) amount or frequency of staff discipline cases;

“(IX) amount or frequency of misconduct by people incarcerated at the covered facility;

“(X) access of incarcerated people to—

“(aa) legal counsel, including confidential meetings and communications;

“(bb) discovery and other case-related legal materials; and

“(cc) the law library at the covered facility; and

“(XI) other factors as determined by the Inspector General.

“(F) BUREAU RESPONSE TO REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Inspector General issues a report under subparagraph (D), the Bureau shall respond in writing to the inspection report, which shall include a corrective action plan.

“(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each response and action plan described in clause (i) shall be made available to the public on the website of the Inspector General.

“(iii) COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.—The Inspector General may conduct additional inspections or investigations, announced or unannounced, to monitor the compliance of the Bureau with a corrective action plan described in clause (i).

“(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority in this paragraph is consistent with and does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the authority provided to the Inspector General under section 406.

“(3) OMBUDSMAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, the Attorney General shall establish in the Department of Justice an Ombudsman who may—

“(i) receive a complaint from an incarcerated person, a family advocate, a representative of an incarcerated person, staff, a representative of staff, a Member of Congress, or a member of the judicial branch of the Federal Government regarding issues that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of incarcerated people or staff, including—

“(I) abuse or neglect;

“(II) the conditions of confinement, including the availability of health care;

“(III) working conditions of staff;

“(IV) decisions, administrative actions, or guidance of the Bureau, including those relating to prison staffing;

“(V) inaction or omissions by the Bureau, including failure to consider or respond to complaints or grievances by incarcerated people or staff promptly or appropriately;

“(VI) policies, rules, or procedures of the Bureau, including gross mismanagement; and

“(VII) alleged violations of non-criminal law by staff or incarcerated people that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of any person;

“(ii) refer a complainant and others to appropriate resources or Federal agencies;

“(iii) make inquiries and recommend actions to appropriate entities on behalf of a complainant, the Ombudsman, or others; and

“(iv) decline to investigate or take any action with respect to any complaint and, in any case in which the Ombudsman declines to investigate or take any action, shall notify the complainant in writing of the decision not to investigate or take any action and the reasons for the decision.

“(B) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The Ombudsman—

“(i) may not investigate—

“(I) any complaints relating to the underlying criminal conviction of an incarcerated person;

“(II) a complaint from staff that relates to the employment or contractual relationship of the staff member with the Bureau, unless the complaint is related to the health, safety, welfare, working conditions, gross mismanagement of a covered facility, or rehabilitation of incarcerated people; or

“(III) any allegation of criminal or administrative misconduct, as described in subsection (b)(2), and shall refer any matter covered by subsection (b)(2) to the Inspector General, who may, at the discretion of Inspector General, refer such allegations back to the Ombudsman or the internal affairs office of the appropriate component of the Department of Justice; and

“(ii) may not levy any fees for the submission or investigation of complaints.

“(C) DECISION ON THE MERITS OF A COMPLAINT.—At the conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, the Ombudsman shall—

“(i) render a decision on the merits of each complaint;

“(ii) communicate the decision to the complainant, if any, and to the Bureau; and

“(iii) state the recommendations and reasoning of the Ombudsman if, in the opinion of the Ombudsman, the Bureau or any employee thereof should—

“(I) consider the matter further;

“(II) modify or cancel any action;

“(III) alter a rule, practice, or ruling;

“(IV) explain in detail the administrative action in question; or

“(V) rectify an omission.

“(D) ACTIONS FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE OMBUDSMAN.—

“(i) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIONS TAKEN.—If the Ombudsman so requests, the Bureau shall, within the time specified, respond to any inquiry or request for information from the Ombudsman and inform the Ombudsman about any action taken on the recommendations provided by the Ombudsman or the reasons for not complying with any request for information or recommendations.

“(ii) REPORTING OF CONTINUING ISSUES.—If the Ombudsman believes, based on an investigation conducted by the Ombudsman, that there has been or continues to be a significant health, safety, welfare, working conditions, or rehabilitation issue, the Ombudsman shall report the finding to the Attorney General and the appropriate congressional committees.

“(iii) MONITORING OF INTERNAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS OF THE BUREAU.—In the event that the Bureau conducts an internal disciplinary investigation or review of 1 or more staff members of the Bureau as a result of an investigation by the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman may monitor the internal disciplinary action to ensure a fair and objective process.

“(4) INSPECTOR GENERAL AND OMBUDSMAN ACCESS TO BUREAU OF PRISONS FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) ACCESS TO BUREAU FACILITIES.—Except as provided in clause (ii), upon demand, in person or in writing and with or without prior notice, the Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall be granted access to all Bureau facilities, which shall include—

“(I) all areas that are used by incarcerated people, all areas that are accessible to incarcerated people, and access to programs for incarcerated people at any time of day; and

“(II) the opportunity to—

“(aa) conduct private and confidential interviews with any incarcerated person, staff, employee representative organization, or other person; and

“(bb) communicate privately and confidentially, both formally and informally, with incarcerated people or staff by telephone, mail, electronic communication, and in person, which shall not be monitored or recorded by or conducted in the presence of staff.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply in situations where the head of the covered facility provides evidence to the Inspector General or the Ombudsman that there is risk of serious and immediate physical harm to visitors due to an ongoing event that requires restricting access to the facility.

“(B) PURPOSE OF VISITS.—Access to Bureau facilities under subparagraph (A) is for the purposes of—

“(i) conducting announced or unannounced inspections by the Inspector General as described in paragraph (2), including inspections to monitor the compliance of the Bureau with a corrective action plan described in paragraph (2)(F)(i);

“(ii) conducting an investigation or other activity by the Ombudsman as described in paragraph (3); and

“(iii) inspecting, viewing, photographing, and video recording all areas of the facility that are used by incarcerated people or are accessible to incarcerated people.

“(C) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman have the right to access, inspect, and copy all relevant information, records, or documents in the possession or control of the Bureau that either the Inspector General or the Ombudsman considers necessary in an inspection, investigation, or

other activity, and the Bureau shall assist the Inspector General and the Ombudsman in obtaining the necessary releases for those documents that are specifically restricted or privileged for use by the Bureau.

“(ii) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS.—Following notification from the Inspector General or the Ombudsman with a written demand for access to Bureau records, the Bureau shall provide access to the requested documentation in a manner consistent with section 552a (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’)—

“(I) not later than 30 business days after receipt of the written request; or

“(II) in the case of records pertaining to the death of an incarcerated person or staff, threats of bodily harm including sexual or physical assaults, or the denial or delay of necessary medical treatment, not later than 10 business days after receipt of the written request, unless the Inspector General or the Ombudsman consents to an extension of that time frame.

“(D) MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF OPERATIONS.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall—

“(i) develop procedures—

“(I) to ensure that the Inspector General has access to, and the right to review and investigate, any allegations received by the Ombudsman to ensure that the Inspector General may carry out the authorities provided to the Inspector General under this chapter; and

“(II) that may provide that the Inspector General and the Ombudsman will determine certain categories of allegations that are not necessary for the Inspector General to review prior to the Ombudsman proceeding;

“(ii) work with the Bureau to minimize disruption to the operations of the Bureau due to inspections, investigations, or other activity;

“(iii) comply with the security clearance processes of the Bureau, provided these processes do not impede the activities described in this subsection; and

“(iv) limit the public release of any photographs or video recordings that would jeopardize—

“(I) the safety, security, or good order of a covered facility or the Bureau; or

“(II) public safety.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority in this paragraph is consistent with and does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the authority provided to the Inspector General under section 406.

“(5) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Correspondence and communication with the Inspector General and the Ombudsman, including communication regarding an issue described in section 4051 of title 18 is confidential and shall be protected as privileged correspondence in the same manner as legal correspondence or communications.

“(B) PROCEDURES.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall establish confidentiality procedures for all information maintained by the respective office to ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, before, during, or after an investigation—

“(i) staff are not aware of the identity of a complainant; and

“(ii) other incarcerated people are not aware of the identity of a complainant.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman may disclose identifying information for the sole purpose of carrying out an investigation and as otherwise authorized under section 407(b).

“(6) FILING COMPLAINTS.—

“(A) FILING COMPLAINTS ON BEHALF OF AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

“(i) ONLINE FORM.—The Ombudsman shall create a secure online form to be made available on the website of the Ombudsman where the family advocates and representatives of incarcerated people can submit complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on behalf of an individual incarcerated at a covered facility.

“(ii) TELEPHONE HOTLINE.—The Ombudsman shall create a telephone hotline through which family advocates and representatives of incarcerated people can call to file complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on behalf of an individual incarcerated at a covered facility.

“(B) FILING COMPLAINTS BY AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

“(i) INTERNAL PRIVATE SUBMISSION.—The Bureau shall provide multiple internal ways for incarcerated individuals in covered facilities to privately submit to the Ombudsman complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i).

“(ii) SUBMISSION VIA INDEPENDENT ENTITY.—The Bureau shall also provide not less than 1 process for incarcerated individuals in covered facilities to submit complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the Bureau and that is able to receive and immediately forward complaints and inquiries to the Ombudsman, allowing the incarcerated individual to remain anonymous upon request.

“(C) DETERMINATION.—

“(i) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.—Not later than 5 business days after submission of a complaint or inquiry under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Ombudsman shall confirm receipt.

“(ii) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 15 business days after issuing the confirmation under clause (i), the Ombudsman shall make a determination as to whether any action is warranted and notify the complainant of the determination.

“(iii) STATEMENT REGARDING DECISION.—If the Ombudsman has determined action is unwarranted under clause (ii), the Ombudsman shall provide a written statement explaining the decision to the complainant.

“(D) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Ombudsman shall coordinate with the Bureau to educate incarcerated people, representatives of incarcerated people, and the public about the existence and functions of the Ombudsman.

“(E) ADMINISTRATIVE EXHAUSTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as a necessary administrative remedy required for exhaustion under section 7(a) of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997e(a)).

“(7) PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau and staff of the Bureau shall not discharge, retaliate against, or in any manner discriminate against any complainant or any person or entity that has instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding, investigation, or inspection under or related to this subsection.

“(B) INVESTIGATION.—Any alleged discharge of, retaliation against, or discrimination against a complainant, entity, or person because of a complaint, investigation, or inspection may be considered by the Ombudsman as an appropriate subject of an investigation or other activity.

“(8) DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the Inspector General shall ensure that implementation of this subsection is consistent with section 552a (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’) and all other applicable laws, and respects appropriate due process protections for staff.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify, supersede, or otherwise affect the authority of the Inspector General to access all

records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials, as authorized by section 406(a).

“(9) PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount allocated to the Inspector General and the Ombudsman to carry out the activities described in this subsection should equal an amount between 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent of the annual appropriation for the Bureau.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date on which appropriations are made available to the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Department of Justice for the specific purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) AUGMENTATION.—On and after the effective date of this Act, the Bureau of Prisons shall implement the directive in the second sentence on the topic “Augmentation” in the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117-328.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3019.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons operates 122 facilities nationwide. Conducting meaningful oversight with an organization of this size can be challenging. The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General handles criminal complaints on behalf of incarcerated people and bureau staff.

However, this office is overwhelmed with noncriminal incarcerated people, their friends and family, and the Bureau of Prison staff. Examples of common complaints include poor prison conditions and civil rights violations.

While these complaints often do not rise to the level of criminal misconduct, they are still very important and warrant investigation to determine if reforms are actually necessary.

The Federal Prison Oversight Act addresses this issue by ensuring that incarcerated people, their families, and bureau staff have a reliable mechanism to file their complaints.

First, the bill requires the Office of the Inspector General to conduct inspections of Bureau of Prisons facilities and provide recommendations to address each facilities’ shortcomings.

□ 1600

The Office of the Inspector General will assign each facility a risk score. Higher risk facilities will receive more frequent inspections.

Additionally, the bill creates an independent ombudsman within the Department of Justice to investigate issues that impact the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and staff. The ombudsman can initiate an investigation after receiving a complaint from an incarcerated person, their family, Bureau of Prisons staff, or others. If the investigation of these complaints finds significant harm, the ombudsman must report their findings to the Attorney General and Congress.

This bill will ensure that both the inspector general and the ombudsman will have access to all the Bureau-operated facilities and are authorized to conduct unannounced inspection visits. The bill encourages the Bureau to fund these investigations with between 0.2 and 0.5 percent of their annual appropriations.

The bill is endorsed by the Council of Prison Locals, representing nearly 30,000 correctional officers, along with public safety and civil rights organizations.

I thank Senators JON OSSOFF, MIKE BRAUN, and RICHARD DURBIN for their work drafting this bill. I thank Representatives LUCY MCBATH and KELLY ARMSTRONG for introducing this bill in the House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in favor of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, which would strengthen oversight of our prisons and improve conditions for the people who work and live inside them.

I thank the bill’s House leaders, my friends and colleagues Representatives LUCY MCBATH and KELLY ARMSTRONG, as well as Senators JON OSSOFF and MIKE BRAUN and Senate Majority Whip RICHARD DURBIN, for their strong bipartisan work on this legislation.

The bill has the support of a wide array of groups across the spectrum, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Prosperity, the Conservative Political Action Committee, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Justice Action Network, Right on Crime, the Due Process Institute, and the Council of Prison Locals, which represents 30,000 correctional officers.

Federal prisons have long experienced systemic problems that threaten the health, safety, and civil rights of incarcerated people and also the staff who work there. For example, last year, NPR reported that more than 4,950 incarcerated people had died in facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in the last 10 years. Many of the incarcerated either experienced delayed care or postponed care for serious medical problems.

This February, the DOJ inspector general issued a scathing report on

BOP prisons, which found that systemic policy violations and operational failures contributed significantly to the problem of inmate suicide.

Bureau of Prisons facilities are responsible for more than 158,000 incarcerated people and more than 34,000 correctional officers and staff. As documented by GAO in our hearings, BOP has consistently struggled with the problem of staffing shortages. According to the Council of Prison Locals, BOP has lost 20 percent of its employees since 2016 and only employs around 13,000 correctional staff officers today, despite receiving appropriations to fund more than 20,000.

As of 2023, staffing levels for healthcare workers at BOP facilities were only 69 percent, and nearly 20 percent of the facilities do not have a healthcare program onsite to provide even routine and preventative healthcare. Staffing shortages have contributed to often disturbing and, at times, fatal delays in rendering healthcare services for the incarcerated.

GAO has also reported on BOP challenges in upholding its responsibilities to help inmates prepare for a successful release and reintegration, including implementation of important requirements of the First Step Act of 2018 to lower the risk of recidivism.

Additionally, BOP has systemically struggled to make prudent use of resources due to a failure to effectively monitor and evaluate its programs. Taken together, these challenges led GAO to add the management of the prison system to its 2023 high-risk list, indicating the severity and magnitude of these problems.

H.R. 3019 would take important steps to address these concerns by requiring the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General to periodically inspect, evaluate, and report on policies, procedures, and activities at BOP prisons, with higher risk facilities required to undergo even more frequent inspection.

Such inspections may include reviews of inmate confinement conditions; working conditions and staffing capabilities; policies and procedures related to housing, confinement, and other restrictive housing; healthcare programs and services; and complaints of violence and abuse made against incarcerated people and staff.

The bill would also establish an ombudsman within DOJ that would be charged with receiving such complaints that go to problems threatening the health, safety, welfare, and rights of incarcerated people and staff.

Institutionalized misconduct, mismanagement, abuse, and negligence have no place in the Federal Government, especially in operations dealing with vulnerable people who are most in need of a pathway back to personal health and responsibility and to society.

To make our communities safer, uphold our values, and reduce recidivism, it is imperative that we bring increased

transparency, accountability, and humanity to our prisons. The Federal Prison Oversight Act is an important step forward on these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), the author of the legislation and a real leader on criminal justice reform.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be the lead sponsor of H.R. 3019, the Federal Prison Oversight Act. I am proud to rise in support of this bipartisan legislation today.

My son, Jordan Davis, was killed when he was 17 years old by a man who is now serving a life sentence in prison. Through my family's pain, I have found the strength, believe it or not, to actually forgive my son's killer.

I introduced this bill after I heard from families and advocates about alarming corruption, misconduct, and a lack of oversight in this country's prison systems that has led to tragedy and loss for far too many families across this Nation.

As legislators here in Congress, we have the power to lead policies that help to restore trust and transparency within these systems. I introduced the Federal Prison Oversight Act out of the belief that everyone deserves to be treated humanely and with respect. My bill will establish a Federal framework for comprehensive risk-based inspections of Federal prisons to identify areas of improvement.

High-risk work is not something to be taken lightly. For the brave men and women working within our prison system, this is their daily routine. They protect and care for others while risking their lives because they believe in the power of rehabilitation.

As their elected officials, we have the duty to make sure the roofs over their heads will not cave in on them. We have a duty to make sure that their systems are updated and that there are medical services and mental health resources necessary to protect themselves, incarcerated individuals, and everyone who may live near these facilities.

Our prison system should be one that rehabilitates Americans whenever possible, providing for long and healthy lives. The steps outlined in our bill will help to improve recidivism rates and make sure that our prisons are held accountable while implementing evidence-based programs.

I have had the opportunity to speak with the new Federal Director for the Bureau of Prisons. She has been in my office. I have had good, healthy conversations with her.

Passing this bill, I truly believe, is a first step in the right direction to protecting the rights of the administrators, the staff, and those who are actually serving their time.

I thank Representative ARMSTRONG here in the House, as well as Senator OSSOFF in the Senate. I thank Chair COMER and Ranking Member RASKIN for moving this bill through committee, and I thank all the committee members who saw the importance and the value of this bill and the value of trying to rehabilitate individuals who can be rehabilitated and reintroduced again into society to be successful human beings.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MCBATH for her magnificent leadership on this and her commitment to creating decent conditions in our prisons. I thank her for the beautiful example of her commitment based on her love of Jordan and her whole family and community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MCBATH and Congressman ARMSTRONG for this bill.

I thank my colleague, Congressman RASKIN, for bringing up how we should be reducing the rate of recidivism in this country with different policies and that we can work together.

He mentioned the First Step Act, also. I was glad that he mentioned it. It was a bill that inspired me a couple of years ago. When I was a State lawmaker, Donald Trump signed the First Step Act into law in December 2018.

This was a bipartisan bill. It was done in such a significant way, but when I learned about President Trump signing the First Step Act into law in December 2018, I was sifting through the bill, and this is where I got my start in criminal justice reform. There was a provision in there that would ban the shackling of women during birth. This was actually a thing that was going on in our prison system.

I saw this because I am a woman and very passionate, like my colleague across the aisle, about women's issues. I looked at the State of South Carolina and learned that we didn't have this codified into law, that women in our State penitentiary system, our State system, could still be, and in some cases were, shackled while they were actually giving birth.

That inspired me to do a bill that was signed into law by my Governor, Henry McMaster, in May 2020. It banned the shackling of women in our system in South Carolina and allowed these infants, these babies, to have skin-to-skin contact with their mothers after they were born. It allowed women to have their children visit them once a week in prison. It allowed them to have feminine hygiene products accessible to them.

I really applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together because we know that when we

give people opportunities after prison—jobs, therapy, intense therapy, job training, and careers afterward—they don't want to go back to prison. They don't want to go back to jail.

This body, this Chamber, has a long history of working together to reduce the rate of recidivism. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to increase transparency in the Federal prison system and provide much-needed recourse for incarcerated persons experiencing abuse. Nobody wants that to happen.

Madam Speaker, I encourage colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3019, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. MACE. Madam 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

WORKING DOG COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 807) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 807

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 "Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Dogs going back thousands of years have been tied to humans whether for protection, companionship, or assisting in daily activities.

(2) The United States had an unofficial canine military presence assisting soldiers in the Civil War and World War I, but military K-9s did not become officially recognized until March 13, 1942. During the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq it is estimated that the United States military employed near 2,500 K-9s.

(3) Military K-9s have seen service in every major United States combat since World War I and have been praised by military leadership as an indispensable asset for military, police, government, and private security teams around the world.

(4) In 2000, Congress passed "Robby's Law" which allowed for the adoption of military K-9s by law enforcement agencies, former handlers, and other care groups.

(5) Since 2000, military K-9s have left service and gone onto work explosive detection for police forces, and work as service dogs for veterans and families.

(6) Beyond their military working capacity, working dogs provide enhanced mobility assist and renewed independence for the injured and disabled. Service dogs are able to support veterans struggling after war, hear for those who are deaf, see for those who are blind, and even sense changes in a person's body before a seizure. Working dogs play a vital role in improving the lives of many.

(7) The service dog programs of America's VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to United States veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities.

(8) America's VetDogs provides—

(A) guide dogs for individuals who are blind or have low vision;

(B) hearing dogs for those who have lost their hearing later in life by alerting to alarms, door bells, sirens, and more;

(C) service dogs for those with other physical disabilities that are specially trained to provide balance, retrieve dropped items, open and close doors, turn on and off lights, carry a backpack, and more;

(D) facility dogs which are specially trained to spend time working with wounded veterans recovering at military hospitals and veterans medical centers;

(E) dogs that work with physical and occupational therapists as they treat soldiers and become an essential part of the healing process; and

(F) PTSD service dogs that are trained to help mitigate the symptoms of PTSD by providing the emotional and physical support a veteran may need.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) be struck on a planchet having a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the vast contributions that working dogs serve in society to include the range of services that these dogs provide in detection, military service, therapy and assistance.

(2) DESIGNS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2027"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

(A) America's VetDogs; and

(B) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2027.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

(3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to America's VetDogs for application to general expenses associated with the fulfillment of the mission of America's VetDogs, including for costs associated with—

(1) personnel related to training, dog care, and consumer needs;

(2) consultants to facilitate the training of America's VetDogs Certified Service Dog Instructors; and

(3) travel, room and board for clients served by America's VetDogs.

(c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of each of the organizations referred to in subsection (b) as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under that subsection.

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 9. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, a bill which I am honored to have introduced along with the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

My good friend and I introduced this bill this Congress, H.R. 807, better known as the dog coin bill in the Halls of Congress. It has been a project that both I and my staff have been passionate about since I introduced this bill last Congress.

This legislation not only honors those service dogs, but the working dogs who protect Americans at home and abroad. Most of us passed a working dog when we came through security today here in Congress. They are so embedded in our daily lives here on Capitol Hill that we often pass them without notice.

Since I introduced this bill last Congress, I think we have been noticing these working dogs everywhere we go. I am grateful to have gained this new appreciation myself. However, this newfound awareness did not come from merely introducing a piece of legislation. It came from spending time with

extraordinary people that benefit from the work of America's VetDogs, and I would like to briefly highlight a few of them.

U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Christopher Sunday was medically retired in 2011 due to injuries sustained in combat after leading missions during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned home and struggled, like many veterans, with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Fortunately, in 2021, Chris was matched with his PTSD-trained service canine named Eddie. Chris said about his new companion: Eddie helped me find my independence again. I was able to finish my doctorate and become a mental health director to help incarcerated individuals because of my service dog.

Navy Corpsman Joe Worley is a familiar face on Capitol Hill, traveling from office to office with his service dog, Galaxie. In 2004, as his medical convoy was headed back to his base in Fallujah, Iraq, the first vehicle in the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. Worley jumped out to help his wounded comrades, ran a few yards and was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. It did not explode, but it took off his left leg. He was then shot six times. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

Since these injuries, Joe has been paired with two separate service dogs. He has also joined America's VetDogs full-time as its veteran liaison, and what a great job he does.

Finally, Corpsman Paul Sullivan sat down in my office and told me about his work as a first responder in Anne Arundel County. He explained how his service dog, Sal, helped him escape the night terrors triggered by PTSD. He described Sal as his dream catcher, allowing him to sleep again and go about his daily life.

I thank America's VetDogs team for their relentless work to get this bill to the floor today; Deana Stone, who herself spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force; John Miller; Bonnie Singer; Trey Matchin; and the countless volunteers and puppy handlers who knocked on every single door on the House and Senate sides of the Capitol. Their impact is evident today because of the cosponsors we have on this bill and the support we have for this bill.

For a commemorative coin or a Congressional Gold Medal to come to the floor, it must receive 290 cosponsors. Gaining that many signatures is no easy task, but those individuals worked so hard to spread the word that this is more than just a coin bill. This is a bill that will improve the quality of life for our wounded veterans and first responders, something we can all get behind.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member MCGOVERN for his partnership. His work on H.R. 807, as well as his previous work to permanently authorize the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Pro-

gram, is the perfect example of bipartisan collaboration to prioritize the treatment and care of wounded veterans, and this bill will help enable the treatment and care of our wounded veterans and to honor the service dogs who are among us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 807, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Representative MCHENRY.

This bill, introduced by Representative MCHENRY and Representative MCGOVERN, will require the U.S. Treasury and Mint to develop a coin series honoring the critical role that working dogs play in our society.

For decades, working service dogs have provided a range of services, from detection, military service, therapy, assistance, and mobility to Active-Duty servicemembers and first responders with disabilities. Their work and companionship have brought immeasurable growth and healing for veterans and others with disabilities.

As the number of service dogs given to veterans with disabilities and PTSD continues to increase, this bill is an important step in giving these loyal and hardworking service dogs the love and the recognition that they deserve.

I thank Representative MCHENRY and Representative MCGOVERN, two ideological comrades if there ever were such, for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am personally proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), my friend.

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act.

This bill honors the important role that working and service dogs play in the lives of Americans, one of whom is a constituent of mine, Special Operator Jason Morgan.

Jason's story is absolutely incredible. He was found face down in a swamp in Central America after a mission went wrong. He had a shattered spine, collapsed lungs, and numerous broken bones. It was a miracle he even survived.

After waking up from a coma that lasted for months, doctors told him he would never walk again. He then went through many painful surgeries, with his life hanging by a thread many times.

When he finally left the hospital, he was in a wheelchair and had memory loss. His life seemed to be falling apart. He was left to care for his three young sons on his own. Everything changed when Jason met Napal, a black Labrador Retriever.

With Napal by his side, Jason's life and his family's life changed completely. Napal helped Jason overcome his paralysis. Jason completed a marathon and won awards and medals in the Wounded Warrior Games. More than that, this amazing service dog helped heal Jason's family and taught him how to be the father his kids needed.

I have personally seen Napal many times steal the show with his personality and his love of life and his dedication to service. Napal's tour of duty has now been completed, and Yago has taken up his duties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Madam Speaker, as we thank our veterans and Active-Duty military servicemembers, we must not forget the crucial role that service dogs play on and off the battlefield. As a scientist, I note that in a recent study conducted on veterans with service dogs, veterans with service dog companions had stress hormones more like those in healthy adults without PTSD than veterans without service dogs.

Promoting the health and mental well-being of our veterans is both a collective and an individual endeavor. This legislation furthers those efforts and ensures that we recognize the important role that service dogs play in protecting our Nation, its Active-Duty servicemembers, and our veterans.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I reiterate how important this bill is. Congress can direct the Mint to strike a coin, and the proceeds of the sale of that coin can benefit society in a large-scale fashion. We have a threshold in Congress that says there has to be 290 cosponsors for a bill to do that. It has to have wide bipartisan support, and it has to be in the greater interests of the country if we are going to do this because it is a constitutional function where Congress steps in and directs the Mint to create a coin. Then we can direct the proceeds to actually help important nonprofits in this country.

When we have a group like America's VetDogs, they do such important work, and they have shown the societal benefit of what they have done. For us to act today to acknowledge the role of service dogs and then get the benefit back into this community to help veterans suffering with PTSD and for us to have service dogs available across the country is a very special thing.

As I said, it took a lot of work, and Members of Congress are people, too. Madam Speaker, we often don't acknowledge that, but we are people, too. We are emotional, too. Things get really emotional here on Capitol Hill, and the way to bring down emotion just a

little bit is to have a little, good boy come by and wag their tail at you and ask to have just a little pet. Those are the dogs, the service animals, that are around on Capitol Hill.

Madam Speaker, we have some service dogs that are in the gallery today watching what is happening here. I think because they are here it has been a little less emotional. We have actually been a little more balanced in how we have debated, and so, even if they are just wagging their tails in the gallery, it brings a sense of calm to us as policymakers.

It has been a welcome thing to have those service dogs around the Capitol complex driving up cosponsorship, but it couldn't be done without the good work of staff.

From my staff, I thank my good friend, Phil Poe, who has worked with me for nearly a decade here in D.C. It has been the work of Phil to direct this whole process and to get the cosponsors and work with other offices to show interest. Without that definitive work, we would not be here today with the cosponsorship we have here.

I finish by acknowledging the important work of Phil Poe in bringing this bill to the House floor. I thank my colleagues for that indulgence to thank staff because the staff are what make this operation actually work. We can never thank them enough for the input that they make into law, the dedication they have to our constitutional republic, and to the American people.

Phil is one of the finest in the business, and I thank Phil for his good work.

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

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 807, 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.

EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1097) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1097

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 "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Commander (CDR) Everett Alvarez, Jr., served with distinction in the Vietnam war and made historic sacrifices for the United States as the first United States pilot to be shot down and captured during the Vietnam war and the second-longest prisoner of war in United States history, surviving over eight and half years in captivity.

(2) CDR Alvarez was born in Salinas, California, in 1937, and was the grandchild of Mexican immigrants.

(3) CDR Alvarez attended Salinas Union High School and Hartnell College and received a bachelor of science degree from Santa Clara University.

(4) In 1960, CDR Alvarez joined the United States Navy and was commissioned as Ensign.

(5) After receiving his commission, CDR Alvarez attended flight training at the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

(6) In June 1961, CDR Alvarez was transferred to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, where he trained until December 1961.

(7) CDR Alvarez was promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) in April 1962.

(8) In June 1962, CDR Alvarez joined Attack Squadron 144, nicknamed the "Roadrunners", which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin prior to the United States entrance in the Vietnam war in August 1964.

(9) On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation Pierce Arrow from the USS Constellation near the Vietnam-China border, CDR Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk was shot down and he was captured by a Vietnamese fishing vessel.

(10) Upon capture, CDR Alvarez was taken to the Hòa Lô Prison in Hanoi, known to many former prisoners as the "Hanoi Hilton".

(11) CDR Alvarez spent his first thirteen months, eight days, and five hours in isolation.

(12) While at Hòa Lô, CDR Alvarez was repeatedly beaten and tortured and was fed inedible meals and suffered malnourishment.

(13) In September 1965, CDR Alvarez was moved to the "Briarpatch", a prison camp west of Hanoi, with no electricity or running water.

(14) Despite torture and interrogation, CDR Alvarez remained loyal to the United States and assisted other American prisoners of war.

(15) CDR Alvarez, with his own actions, encouraged and inspired fellow prisoners of war to "Return with Honor", which meant keeping their integrity in the face of torture and not cooperating with or divulging information to the enemy, so they could return home having remained loyal to the United States.

(16) At great risk, CDR Alvarez helped spread the means of communication, including the tap code and the mute hand code, to keep up spirits and stay organized.

(17) On July 6, 1966, CDR Alvarez and 51 other American prisoners of war were forced to march in the "Hanoi Parade" where he was abused and attacked by mobs.

(18) CDR Alvarez was released February 12, 1973, after spending 3,113 days in captivity, or eight years and six months.

(19) Following his release and hospitalization, CDR Alvarez resumed his Naval service, returning to Naval Air Station Kingsville for refresher flight training.

(20) CDR Alvarez attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and received a master's degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis in 1976.

(21) CDR Alvarez was inducted into the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Alumni Hall of Fame on March 27, 2015.

(22) CDR Alvarez served in Program Management at the Naval Air Systems command in Washington, DC, from October 1976 until his retirement.

(23) CDR Alvarez retired from the Navy on June 30, 1980, completing a 20-year Naval career.

(24) In 1983, CDR Alvarez earned his juris doctor from the George Washington School of Law and has been admitted to the District of Columbia bar.

(25) In April 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed CDR Alvarez as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, where he served until 1982.

(26) In July 1982, President Reagan nominated CDR Alvarez to be Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration, now known as the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving until 1986.

(27) In February 1987, President Reagan appointed CDR Alvarez to the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he served for nearly 21 years.

(28) For his service, CDR Alvarez was awarded the Silver Star Medal, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

(29) On September 18, 2012, the United States Navy Memorial awarded CDR Alvarez the "Lone Sailor Award".

(30) The people of the United States honor the sacrifices of CDR Alvarez and his service to our Nation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name of, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

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

North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1097, a bill that will award the Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal is considered the highest civilian honor awarded in the United States. In the 248 years since the Continental Congress issued the first one to George Washington in 1776, only 184 have been awarded. That is fewer than one per year. Hence, the distinction of awarding such an honor should not be lost on this 118th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of someone more deserving of such recognition than retired United States Navy Commander Alvarez, Jr.

As a boy growing up in Salinas, California, Alvarez marveled at the naval planes flying overhead in and out of Moffett Field in nearby Santa Clara County.

In 1960, at the age of 22, ignoring his parents' protests, he followed his boyhood dream of joining the Navy and was selected for pilot training.

On August 5, 1964, that dream turned into a nightmare when his A-4 Skyhawk was shot down near the Vietnam-China border during Operation Pierce Arrow. The then-lieutenant junior grade pilot was subsequently captured and imprisoned by the North Vietnamese forces.

Commander Alvarez spent the next 3,113 days, more than 8 years and 7 months, in some of the most horrific conditions imaginable. Despite being beaten and tortured for information about U.S. military operations, Commander Alvarez refused to comply, saying he wanted to be able to look in the mirror and not feel ashamed.

Even when his north Vietnamese captors no longer felt Alvarez held military intelligence value, they continued to brutalize him in attempts to extract propaganda messages. He did not cave.

When he was finally released on February 12, 1973, he held the undesirable distinction of being the second longest-held U.S. prisoner of war in our Nation's history. Commander Alvarez left prison knowing he owed nothing more to his country, but remarkably, he would go on to serve another 7 years in the United States Navy.

Today, at age 86, I believe that when Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., looks

in the mirror, he sees only honor in his reflection and that is what the American people see.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. PANETTA, for introducing this bill, along with the multitude of sponsors. It is a massive amount of work to get a legislative product like this, especially in a divided Congress and a divided time for America, but this is a source of unity and pride that Americans are willing to sacrifice for their American Dream and their ideals in this free Nation of ours. Because of the willingness of folks like Commander Alvarez, we do have this free Nation and we do have a sense of pride in being an American.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same, but, again, I will close by thanking Mr. PANETTA for his thoughtful approach in building bipartisan consensus, not just on this, but overall, in his policy-making skills.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1097, the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023, sponsored by Representative JIMMY PANETTA.

H.R. 1097 bestows a Gold Medal of Honor to Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., a retired United States Navy officer who maintained the military code of conduct, loyalty, and honor to the United States under torture, abuse, and interrogation for 8 years and 6 months of imprisonment. He is the second longest-held prisoner of war in the United States history.

Our Nation's fallen soldiers, our veterans, our active military servicemembers are those who demonstrate tremendous courage, resiliency, honor, and selflessness. Their contributions cannot be overstated and should never be neglected. I applaud my colleague, Representative PANETTA, who is also a veteran of the war in Afghanistan for his efforts and advocacy on this important bill to ensure that Commander Alvarez, Jr., is recognized and praised for his unfaltering commitment and sacrifice to our country.

Representative PANETTA has long worked to help active military members and our Nation's veterans. His deeply appreciated service to our Nation has resulted in significant strides and legislation to help ensure that we are treating our veterans with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

Today is just one example of his work making a real difference, and I am very pleased to support this bill to honor Commander Alvarez, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), our loquacious, thoughtful, and patriotic colleague.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, obviously, I thank Representative FOSTER for yielding me this time. I also thank Chairman MCHENRY for that very comprehensive and exact description of

this piece of legislation and his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today, as well, to support the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act. This legislation would award the Congressional Gold Medal to retired United States Naval Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., who was the first aviator captured in the Vietnam war, but also the second longest-serving prisoner of war in the history of our Nation.

A native son of Salinas, California, in Monterey County, Everett Alvarez has made immense contributions to our country.

While growing up, he always wanted to be in the U.S. Navy. As a kid in an immigrant family, surrounded by other immigrant families in his neighborhood, he was instilled with that sense of service, that attitude that he should always give back to the country that gave he and his family so much opportunity.

He attended Santa Clara University where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and remains a lifetime member of the board of fellows.

While he was at SCU, Alvarez would stare at the naval jets flying over campus that were going in and out of the nearby Navy base at Moffett Airfield in Mountain View.

Right before he graduated in 1960, he took, and he passed the exams to join the Navy and train as a pilot. While in the Navy, Alvarez was assigned and trained to fly the A-4 Skyhawk fighter-bomber jets. In May 1964, Lieutenant JG Alvarez was assigned to the USS *Constellation*, which was off the coast of Vietnam, otherwise known as Yankee Station.

For the first few months, Alvarez carried out numerous missions over Laos, Cambodia, and parts of northern Vietnam; however, his first combat mission was the day after the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which also turned out to be his last mission.

On August 5, 1964, during Operation Pierce Arrow, Lieutenant JG Alvarez was sent on a mission to target and take out torpedo boat bases in north Vietnam. However, right as he got to the coast of north Vietnam, his A-4 Skyhawk was hit by enemy fire. He immediately tried to gain altitude, but quickly realized he couldn't.

Everett worked hard to get his plane out to the ocean and made one final radio transmission to his wingmen just before he bailed out into Ha Long Bay in which he said: I will see you guys later.

Unbeknownst to all, Everett wouldn't see freedom for the next 8 years and 6 months, or the next 3,113 days.

Now, for the first part of his captivity, Everett was in solitary confinement for 13 months, mainly because the U.S. hadn't started the formal bombing campaign against the north Vietnamese, but, at that time, the north Vietnamese were unprepared for prisoners of war, so for his first 6

months in captivity, the enemy didn't know what to do with him. They kept him in a local jail, treating him like a local criminal.

As time went on, though, the enemy constantly interrogated him, demanding he tell them about U.S. intentions and operations. Everett refused and subsequently was put into a 7-by-7-foot cell.

As tough as that period was, Everett will tell you that his toughest time was from 1965 to 1969, 4 years, when he and other POWs were constantly pressured and used as propaganda, including being beaten and marched through the streets. His torture included a rifle butt to the left side of Alvarez's face that dislocated his jaw and still causes him difficulty today.

He suffered numerous other injuries at the hands of his captors, including ones that required surgeries later in his life to both his arms and his back. Much of Everett Alvarez's captivity was spent at the Hoa Lo Prison, otherwise known as the Hanoi Hilton, where conditions were absolutely horrific.

During those years, Everett was confined to a room that was about 10 feet by 12 feet and was given nothing but a straw mat and a bag filled with straw that was supposed to be a pillow.

They starved him so much that Everett's weight fell to just over 100 pounds, even though his normal weight was 170 pounds. Although, he was physically weak, Mr. Speaker, having endured starvation, isolation, and torture, Everett Alvarez remained strong.

He said that the POWs took care of one another by communicating with each other and tapping on prison walls. Everett personally and regularly inspired and encouraged his fellow POWs to return with honor by not cooperating with the enemy and staying loyal to the United States of America.

On January 12, 1973, we know that U.S.' involvement with the Vietnam war ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords and soon after, on February 12, Everett Alvarez was released from captivity.

Upon arrival at the U.S. airbase in the Philippines, he greeted the Navy Admiral awaiting him with: Lieutenant JG Alvarez reporting back, sir.

After his release and hospitalization, Alvarez resumed his naval service. He even graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, with a degree in operations research and systems analysis.

On June 30, 1980, Commander Alvarez retired from the Navy, completing a 20-year naval career. During his service, Commander Alvarez earned the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

After leaving the Navy, Alvarez continued to give back by serving his country. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as a Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

In an article with Stars and Stripes, Everett Alvarez was asked, despite the nightmare of being a POW for the second longest amount of time in our Nation's history, what allowed him to realize that he is the American Dream?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 4 minutes to the gentleman from California.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, his response was that I am nothing special. I am just one of the guys that had to do what we had to do, and that is how we did it. We just took one day at a time.

Mr. Speaker, he may think that he is nothing special, but what he did in captivity as the second longest-serving POW in our Nation's history and what he has done for our country is not just special; it is unfathomable, and it is absolutely amazing. His service to our Nation, his sacrifice as a POW, his strength, and his symbol as an American for Americans deserves the highest honor that Congress can bestow, a Congressional Gold Medal.

I am honored to be the author of this bill, and I am also proud that 300 Members of this Chamber cosponsored this legislation, demonstrating how deserving Commander Alvarez is of this recognition. I am also honored that Senator PADILLA is the sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him and his Senate colleagues in order to obtain the appropriate amount of support so that this bill passes out of the U.S. Senate and makes it to the President's desk for signature into law.

For now, I urge all of my congressional colleagues to support the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act to honor Everett Alvarez, an American and an example of what we stand for as Americans.

□ 1645

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, my draft number was 321. Being born in 1955, I never was called to serve, and I always wondered what my service would be like had I been called. I am so humbled by this story of Everett Alvarez, Jr.

There are many lessons that we try to draw from the war in Vietnam, but one of the lessons that we did not get right was the duty that we have to respect the service to those who served under very difficult circumstances. That is part of the reason that I extend my support, again, for H.R. 1097, the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023.

This legislation is necessary to ensure that Congress recognizes and honors the tremendous sacrifices that he made to protect our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Representative PANETTA for his work to bring this legislation to the floor today.

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

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

I thank my Democratic colleagues for their work. We have two coin bills here on the floor today, and they speak to different parts of our United States history and the best among us. That gift that continues with us retelling important stories of our history is really important for us to know today.

I thank Mr. PANETTA for the work that he put into bringing this Congressional Gold Medal Act before us and the story of Everett Alvarez, Jr.'s contribution to the United States and the example he gives us. For this to be done in his lifetime is a very special and rare honor, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important resolution, and I thank my colleagues for the form of debate here and the storytelling. It is important for us to tell the stories of the best of American history, and, let's be honest, it is important to tell the whole story of American history. These stories of heroic acts are really important for us to know.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1097.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5863

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 "Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RULES FOR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.

For purposes of applying section 304(b) of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, section 301 of such Act shall be applied by substituting "the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023" for "this Act" each place it appears.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CERTAIN WILDFIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include any amount received by an individual as a qualified wildfire relief payment.

(b) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE RELIEF PAYMENT.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualified wildfire relief payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for losses, expenses, or damages (including compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages (other than compensation for lost wages paid by the employer which would have otherwise paid such wages), personal injury, death, or emotional distress) incurred as a result of a qualified wildfire disaster, but only to the extent the losses, expenses, or damages compensated by such payment are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

(2) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE DISASTER.—The term "qualified wildfire disaster" means any federally declared disaster (as defined in section 165(i)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) declared, after December 31, 2014, as a result of any forest or range fire.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) no deduction or credit shall be allowed (to the person for whose benefit a qualified wildfire relief payment is made) for, or by reason of, any expenditure to the extent of the amount excluded under this section with respect to such expenditure, and

(2) no increase in the basis or adjusted basis of any property shall result from any amount excluded under this subsection with respect to such property.

(d) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply to qualified wildfire relief payments received by the individual during taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014, and before January 1, 2026.

(e) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATION.—In the case of a claim for credit or refund which is properly allocable to the exclusion which is described in subsection (a)—

(1) the period of limitation prescribed in section 6511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the filing of such claim shall be treated as not expiring earlier than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) any limitation described in section 6511(b)(2) of such Code shall not apply.

SEC. 4. EAST PALESTINE DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS.

(a) DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS OF EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT.—East Palestine train derailment payments shall be treated as qualified disaster relief payments for purposes of section 139(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for loss, damages, expenses, loss in real property value, closing costs with respect to real property (including realtor commissions), or inconvenience (including access to real property) resulting from the East Palestine train derailment if such amount was provided by—

(1) a Federal, State, or local government agency,

(2) Norfolk Southern Railway, or

(3) any subsidiary, insurer, or agent of Norfolk Southern Railway or any related person.

(c) TRAIN DERAILMENT.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment" means the derailment of a train in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to amounts received on or after February 3, 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), my Ways and Means Committee colleague.

This legislation was approved last year by the Ways and Means Committee 38-0 because families and communities across the country who suffered disasters need support. In fact, bipartisan support for this legislation was so strong that it was approved a second time by the Ways and Means Committee as part of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

This legislation not only helps victims of disasters but also provides broad and immediate tax relief for American workers, farmers, families, and small businesses, which is why the House of Representatives passed it with 84 percent support earlier this year. I encourage my Senate colleagues to take up that legislation to support disaster victims and help the millions of Americans treading water in today's economy.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act provides assistance to communities across the country, bringing relief to those recovering and rebuilding after tragic floods and tornadoes, like those that affected communities in my home State of Missouri in the winter of 2021 and the summer of 2023, hurricanes like Hurricane Ian that claimed countless lives in Florida, wildfires like those that devastated communities in California and Hawaii, and the train derailment and toxic chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio.

I commend Representative STEUBE for his leadership on this issue. His passion started with his desire to provide help to the families he represents who were devastated by the hurricane. In the interest of getting this done, he broadened his relief effort to include over 300 storms in 45 States.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill so that we are standing with and supporting our fellow neighbors when they are most in need. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, and I thank Chairman SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee for all the good work

he has done to ensure that we are able to help our constituents who are suffering as a result of natural disasters. I also thank my colleague and friend, Mr. STEUBE, without whose leadership on the Ways and Means Committee we wouldn't be here today. I also thank Mr. LAMALFA, my colleague to the north of my district, who has worked with me over the years to address one component that is covered by this piece of legislation.

This has been a long time coming for my constituents—too long, way too long. This is now the second time in 5 months that this House has come together to state plainly and in a bipartisan fashion that Americans should help one another when disaster strikes, while the Senate continues to play politics with what ought to be a bipartisan victory. They have been sitting on the tax bill for 5 months. I join Chairman SMITH in calling for them to move the entire bill because there is so much in it for so many of our constituents across the country.

I want to briefly reiterate how we got here today. In my district, wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018 devastated entire communities across my district and across the State of California. Entire towns were destroyed. Thousands of people lost homes, and dozens of people lost their lives.

In the aftermath, the courts found that Pacific Gas and Electric was liable for causing some of these fires. As part of its subsequent bankruptcy proceedings, the utility established a trust from which fire survivors are generally eligible for compensation for losses sustained during these fires.

Let me pause here to say one thing. No disaster survivor is ever made whole. No one is ever made whole. People lost their homes and everything in their homes—family pictures, family heirlooms, family records. They lost businesses. As I said earlier, sadly, they lost family members.

While the courts eventually created a path to compensation, it took years to get there, years my constituents didn't have. They couldn't wait around for 3, 4, 6 years to get a payment from that trust. Then, because the trust was structured in the form of stock shares and because stock shares need to be monetized carefully and slowly in order to maximize return to survivors, the payments to survivors came in batches. Nobody is getting—repeat, nobody is getting—100 percent of what they lost.

To add insult to injury, right as our constituents started to get a little bit of compensation, our constituents were told they may actually owe taxes on these payments because, depending on the taxpayer, the payments may qualify as income. In 4 years of working on this issue, I have yet to encounter a single person on either side of the aisle who believes this is fair. That is why we have been so successful in passing this legislation numerous times out of the Ways and Means Committee and off the floor of this House.

This bill has been stalled, advanced, and then held up. It has been marked up, passed the House, and stalled again. The Senate ought to quit dithering on what is an objectively good bill for our country and just pass it, but because they are unwilling to do so, we are here again tonight to take this matter up.

As I said, I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Mr. NEAL, our ranking member on Ways and Means, has been a great colleague and a great champion for this. I also thank the chairman, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. STEUBE, one of our colleagues on the committee.

I wish such an unusual strategy to get here wasn't necessary, but I am committed—and I think my colleagues here are committed—to pulling every lever at our disposal to get this bill passed. This is a fundamental question of fairness, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman THOMPSON for his advocacy as well on this legislation and helping move it through our committee in a very bipartisan effort.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the author of this legislation.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

In a historic act, last week, a majority of the House of Representatives made clear that the House should act to provide tax relief to victims of natural disasters all across America. I thank every Member who stood with me in this fight, and I am thankful that this bill is finally being debated on the floor.

On September 28, 2022, southwest Florida was ravaged by Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating hurricanes to ever hit our Nation. NOAA ranks Hurricane Ian as the third most costly hurricane in United States history, killing nearly 150 people and causing billions of dollars in damages. For Floridians, we know that the recovery from Hurricane Ian is far from over.

Despite experiencing numerous hurricanes yearly, Floridians are resilient. I have been working tirelessly on disaster relief legislation for Floridians to recover from various storms that have decimated so many communities around our State. The most recurring and pressing issue I hear in my district is that the sun coast is still waiting for Congress to do its job to provide much-needed relief.

More than a year-and-a-half after landfall of Hurricane Ian, Congress has yet to provide disaster relief for those impacted financially by Ian. I have received thousands of letters, calls, and pleas for help from people in my district who have incurred tens of thousands of dollars in recovery expenses and are having a hard time getting ahead.

□ 1700

On eight separate occasions since 2002, Congress has provided tax relief to victims of natural disasters. Since 2021, over 300 disasters across 47 States have been declared without Congress taking action.

Additionally, wildfires across the Western United States and Maui have greatly impacted many Americans who have not received any relief from this body. Similarly, the victims of the East Palestine train derailment are facing the same situation.

This bill helps everyday Americans and provides them the ability to deduct their expenses from a natural disaster from their taxes.

This bill will not just aid Hurricane Ian victims. It will provide relief to the millions of Americans around the country who are victims of federally declared disasters. It will help victims of flooding in the Midwest. In the Pacific Northwest, victims of wildfires will get the relief they deserve. Those affected by severe winter storms in the Northeast will benefit from this tax deduction, as will our friends in Texas who have experienced damage from a wide variety of disasters, including winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, and fires.

In short, this is not a problem that just affects Florida or California. This impacts millions of American families, and Congress must act to provide them relief.

I am grateful to be supported by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lead the fight for Americans all across the country to get disaster relief. Disaster relief is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. It is something that all of us face.

I give sincere thanks to Members and staff who have worked tirelessly on this bill. I give special thanks to California Congressmen MIKE THOMPSON, JIMMY PANETTA, and DOUG LAMALFA, as well as Congresswoman JILL TOKUDA of Hawaii, for their leadership on this effort.

I also thank former Congressman BILL JOHNSON, who represented East Palestine, Ohio, and played an important role with this bill.

I give special thanks to Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH for passing this bill out of the committee.

The constituents of my district and the districts each of these colleagues represents are in need of help. Today, I urge swift passage of this bill on the House floor and urge expeditious consideration in the Senate so that Americans all across America can get much-needed relief.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), who knows firsthand the tragedy of wildfire.

Her constituents experienced a horrific disaster in her district, in her home State, and she has been there with them every step of the way. She is

here on their behalf again tonight. I thank her for her support.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

It will keep survivors' hard-earned money in their pockets and help them get their lives back to normal as soon as possible, whatever that normal might look like.

Seeing the overwhelming challenges faced by the survivors of the Maui wildfires, our "family," "ohana," I introduced H.R. 5873, the Natural Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023, last October to lessen the tax burden faced by disaster survivors and ensure they have the financial resources to support their "family," "ohana."

Since then, far too many people continue to struggle with recovery costs that no one could ever budget for. Across our country, through all disasters current, those to come, and so far in the past, they have reached deep into their savings. They have gone into debt to feed their "children," "keiki," to cover their mortgages, to pay for education and healthcare costs, and to rebuild their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.

I thank my friends and colleagues, Congressmen GREG STEUBE and DOUG LAMALFA, for incorporating elements of my legislation into this bill as we continue to fight for its critical passage.

Like me, they know all too well that there will never be enough to replace all that people lost. As the good Congressman from California mentioned, no one will be made whole, but that being said, anything we can do to lighten the tax burden and the financial struggles they face will go a long way to rebuilding lives and rebuilding communities.

I am proud to join Congressmen STEUBE, LAMALFA, and THOMPSON on the floor today to pass this bill out of the House. I implore the Senate to embrace their "responsibility," "kuleana," and pass this bill.

Disaster does not discriminate. It doesn't care if you are Democratic, Independent, or Republican. When it hits, people need help. We must pass this critical bipartisan piece of legislation now.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for helping us with our legislation all this time here, and I am very grateful also to Mr. STEUBE for allowing our bill to be piggybacked with his in this effort here, as well as H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, which is still waiting over in the Senate. I hope we can get that one passed, but I am grateful for everybody to join this effort here today in a strong, bipartisan effort to move this narrower, very important disaster relief package to help people all across the country, as has been said.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. THOMPSON of California, so much for our partnership on this. It has taken some time, but we are getting there. I am glad to see it.

With the losses we have suffered along with our constituents—especially our constituents, of course—it is very painful to see and not be able to go back to them and say we have gotten a result.

My own constituents, I commend them. I am grateful for them. They have been very patient, the victims of the Camp fire where 85 lives were lost, the victims of the Zogg fire, my neighbors down there in the Santa Rosa area, and of course, my good friend, Ms. TOKUDA. Lahaina suffered an even greater loss of life than what we had in Paradise, which was a record. We don't want to set records. We want to get results.

It has been a great partnership on top of disaster and heartache.

Just picture this, though, as I talk about Paradise: You wake up in the morning, and you hear there is a fire. All of a sudden, there is an evacuation. People are crowding the narrow roadways, trying to get up the hill or down the hill out of town, barely making it in some cases, scorched vehicles, tires on fire, all of that.

They are seeing in their rearview mirrors their neighborhood engulfed in flames and their houses burning down with all their mementos, as was mentioned, in them.

They are wondering: Did their neighbor get out? Did the elderly lady up the street get out? Thank goodness there was a firefighter or neighbor that maybe helped that lady get out just in time, so there was not even a bigger loss of life.

The resilience of these folks in the fires that I have had in my district and my neighbors in our neighboring States is just amazing as they have stuck with us on this.

A settlement happened with the utility to somehow partly compensate them, and indeed, they will never be made whole.

My colleagues have pointed that out well. They can never be made whole, even with a lot of money. That settlement should not be a taxable event.

Think about it. Just break that down for a minute. You are in your home, and you have been paying off your mortgage. Maybe it is already paid off. You have your equity in your home. This disaster happens, and you lose your home. All of a sudden, you have to rearrange your life. You have to rebuild your life. That portion of that equity that now is going to be compensated for partly by the settlement with the utility, that portion of your home, is now a newly taxable event because of the IRS' interpretation of that.

How is that right? How is that fair at all? Someone is ripped out of their life, home, family, whatever may have happened to them personally, and now

they have a taxable event on top of that piece of equity that was in their home because of a bad interpretation here.

That is why this legislation is necessary. That is why it has been so strongly supported on both sides of the aisle all through the process here. That is why we need to overcome these hurdles we have, whether it is over in the Senate or what have you, to get this done.

People deserve to have that predictability, that sustainability of their lives, to be able to put themselves back in a good way again.

To the fire victims of the Camp fire in my area, the Zogg fire, our other neighbors out there, relief is on the way.

This has been a tremendous effort, a little out of the ordinary, to get this legislation back to this floor here tonight, and I think it will pass resoundingly. I hope so. I ask for everybody's "aye" vote.

Again, I appreciate all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for stepping forward and doing right by the fire victims, by the hurricane victims, by those folks in East Palestine, and by others who are going to be added to this.

This is how legislation should look. This is how a country pulls together, and I am glad to be part of it.

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

Again, I thank Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, Chairman SMITH, and all of our colleagues on Ways and Means who worked so hard to bring this bill to fruition not once, not twice, but now three times.

I know how difficult it is for our friend from Hawaii, in her area. What a devastating fire that was, and I know how hard she is working for her constituents. I thank her for being on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oregon, New York, California, and over a dozen other States have been devastated by disasters. There is not a single colleague in this House who should have to go through a disaster to know how bad it is. It devastates communities. It devastates people's lives. It disrupts communities. It disrupts people's lives. People are killed. Businesses are lost. Homes and heirlooms are lost and destroyed.

The least that we can do is to come to the aid of our constituents, our fellow Americans, in time of disaster and in time of great need. That is what we are doing today.

This is commendable work by the Ways and Means Committee, and every Member of this House should be proud to come to the floor and vote to support their friends, their neighbors, and their constituents in these very dark times.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I once again commend the great work and advocacy of Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON. I can tell you they have been advocating since I have been chairman that this is an important piece of legislation to get across the finish line, and let's hope that the United States Senate does the same thing.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5863, 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. SMITH of Missouri. 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.

ROLLING STOCK PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3317) to amend title 49, United States Code, to remove the lifetime exemption from the prohibition on procurement of rolling stock from certain vehicle manufacturers for parties to executed contracts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3317

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 "Rolling Stock Protection Act".

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF LIFETIME EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT OF ROLLING STOCK FOR PARTIES TO EXECUTED CONTRACTS.

Section 5323(u)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by striking "Except as provided in subparagraph (C) and for a contract or subcontract that is not described in subparagraph (A)" and inserting "Except as provided in subparagraph (B)";

(2) in subparagraph (C) by striking "Subparagraph (B)" and inserting "Subparagraph (A)";

(3) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

clude extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3317.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman Rick Crawford, was reported favorably out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in May 2023.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation. The bill will prevent Federal tax dollars from being sent to foreign State-owned enterprises and State-connected businesses for the purchase of rolling stock such as railcars and buses.

□ 1715

Moreover, this bill will block Federal dollars flowing from the Federal Transit Administration to rolling stock manufacturers connected to the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2019, Congress enacted the Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act as a provision of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. TIVSA prohibited public transportation agencies that receive Federal assistance from using funds to procure vehicles from State-owned enterprises.

Passage of TIVSA was a direct response to alarming national and economic security concerns related to China's state-owned enterprise rolling stock manufacturers, primarily the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation and Build Your Dreams, whose presence in the bus and railcar market had grown significantly.

That legislation included a loophole that allowed the FTA to grant lifetime exemptions to four of the Nation's largest transit agencies, allowing them to continue buying rolling stock manufactured by companies connected to and dependent on the CCP. This bill we are considering today will close that loophole.

In doing so, H.R. 3317 will enhance American manufacturing opportunity in the rolling stock industry. It will help American workers and strengthen our domestic supply chain. H.R. 3317 will take us another step forward in safeguarding America's national security and economic interests.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this legislation which would prohibit all U.S. transit agencies from using Federal dollars on rail rolling stock from State-owned enterprises, or SOEs.

As of today, the U.S. doesn't have any domestic transit railcar manufac-

turers. Federal transit policies have been designed over the years to reflect that reality while still encouraging domestic manufacturing wherever possible.

While the U.S. remains, at least for now, dependent on global transit car manufacturers, we need to ensure fair competition among all manufacturers, including SOEs.

When one entity receives government support for artificially low bids, if that is left unchecked over time, other manufacturers will be driven out of business. This would make transit cars more expensive in the long run and leave systems across the country reliant upon just one manufacturer.

Congress recognized this concern after four U.S. transit agencies awarded rolling stock contracts to an SOE that submitted artificially low bids.

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act first prohibited most U.S. transit agencies from using Federal transit funds to purchase rolling stock from SOEs. Transit car manufacturers that do not receive government subsidies, including manufacturers in South Korea, Japan, Spain, and other places, were not affected by this ban. Congress exempted the four transit agencies with the initial SOE contracts from the ban so as not to disrupt ongoing procurement.

The legislation that we are considering here today doesn't affect those initial contracts or any current options on those contracts, but it does prevent future contracts from being executed using Federal funds. The bill ensures that all U.S. transit agencies will operate under the same rules.

I would also note that nothing in this legislation impacts what transit agencies do with their local funding. It only affects funding from the Federal Government for transit railcars.

As transit agencies continue to receive the record funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is critical we ensure the market for rolling stock is fair and competitive.

Ultimately, that will yield the best outcome for transit agencies and will help them provide more reliable and effective service for their riders.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the sponsor of H.R. 3317.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of my bill H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this simple and direct bill.

In May of last year, this bipartisan legislation was favorably reported out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

My bill will close a loophole in Federal law that currently allows some of the country's largest transit agencies that receive Federal Transit Administration dollars to purchase rolling

stock, such as railcars, from State-owned enterprises and State-connected businesses, including those linked to the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I will be honest with you. I thought Congress had fixed this problem back in 2019 with the passage of the Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act, or TIVSA. That measure, which was included in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, prohibited the purchase of rolling stock from State-owned enterprises by transit agencies receiving Federal funds.

Why are we back today? We are here today to make it crystal clear to the FTA that CCP-connected companies are never allowed to receive taxpayer dollars.

While TIVSA should have eliminated any future payments of American taxpayer dollars to CCP-connected companies, like the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation, the FTA's execution of the law provided lifetime exemptions to four transit agencies from the prohibitions on contracting with CCP-connected companies.

I mentioned that the FTA granted lifetime exemptions to four transit agencies from the law's prohibitions, and I think it is important that we know who we are talking about. The four agencies receiving this exemption from the FTA were the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, or SEPTA; the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, MBTA; the Chicago Transit Authority; and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority.

I am pleased to report that one of those transit agencies, SEPTA, just announced in April that after significant production delays and cost overruns, it was exercising the right to terminate its contract with CRRC for cause. That is a positive step.

Alternatively, another agency that received the lifetime exemption, the MBTA, recently announced that it is re-upping the contract with CRRC and adding another \$148 million in rolling stock purchases.

The enactment of TIVSA should have eliminated any possibility that transit agencies that receive Federal funding could continue using those dollars to pay for contracts with companies connected to the CCP, but 5 years after TIVSA was made law, a major public transit agency is expanding just such a contract.

That is all the more reason we are taking action to pass H.R. 3317 today. This bill will end, once and for all, the practice of sending Federal dollars to CCP-controlled rolling stock companies by eliminating these lifetime exemptions.

Chinese companies that are controlled by the CCP have nearly limitless financial resources they can use to undercut domestic rolling stock manufacturers. It is an unfair, uncompetitive playing field, and I am proud to put an end to it today.

Let's be clear. The CCP isn't just investing in these State-owned enterprises to help them better compete in the market. The CCP is trying to take control of the market. The CCP wants to dominate this industry and drive American manufacturers out completely. We can't let that happen.

H.R. 3317 is supported by a broad range of organizations, including the Transport Workers Union, the Alliance for American Manufacturing, the Teamsters, the Railway Supply Institute, and the Rail Security Alliance. I thank them for their support of my legislation, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in approving the passage of this bill today.

My bill will prevent the CCP from using the rolling stock manufacturing market as another tool to undermine our national security and our economic interests.

This is simple legislation that will solve an important concern. H.R. 3317 is good for American workers and will ensure responsible stewardship of American taxpayer dollars.

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to say I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act, is a bipartisan bill that protects American workers, our domestic economic interests, and our national security. H.R. 3317 will stop Federal dollars from going to rolling stock manufacturers backed and controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

The bill is a responsive and responsible step that will prohibit further erosion of our domestic manufacturing sector by the CCP.

H.R. 3317 will enhance domestic manufacturing opportunities and ensure that United States tax dollars can no longer be paid to companies linked to foreign adversarial nations for procurement of rolling stock.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3317.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FELICITAS AND GONZALO MENDEZ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5754) to designate the United

States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5754

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, shall be known and designated as the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 5754.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5754, a bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez are remembered for their leadership in the 1946 Federal court case Mendez v. Westminster which desegregated public schools in California, which established the legal precedent for the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case. It is fitting that we acknowledge the late couple by naming this courthouse in Los Angeles after them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 5754, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5754, which designates the Federal courthouse in Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

The Mendezes were activists whose efforts culminated in the 1946 Federal court case Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County. This helped to end segregation in California schools and helped pave the way for desegregation efforts nationwide.

Mrs. Mendez was born in Puerto Rico and moved with her family to California at the age of 12. She and her

family encountered discrimination and racism in California because of their Puerto Rican heritage. She married Gonzalo Mendez, a Mexican immigrant who had become a naturalized U.S. citizen. They had several children and operated a successful agriculture business in southern California.

The Mendezes attempted to enroll their children in a local school but were rejected because of their Mexican names and appearance. In response, the Mendezes bravely organized and filed a lawsuit against the local school district to end the district's practice of segregating Mexican schoolchildren.

After they won the case in 1946 and won a subsequent appeal in 1947, the State of California took the further action of enacting a law officially desegregating California public schools, making it the first State in the country to do so.

The law was signed by then-Governor Earl Warren. Seven years later, Mr. Warren, then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, wrote the opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education* in which the Court ruled that segregation of any kind in public schools is unconstitutional.

If H.R. 5754 is enacted, the Los Angeles Federal courthouse would be the first courthouse in the Nation named after a Latina.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), who we are going to miss terribly when she retires from her role in the leadership on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5754 to designate the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

I thank Representative JIMMY GOMEZ for introducing this important legislation. I am proud to support this courthouse renaming bill as it recognizes the critical role that Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez served in the fight for civil rights in the United States.

Their resolve to fight for equality in the landmark case *Mendez v. Westminster*, along with four other families from Orange County, California, would not only end segregation in California schools but also lay the groundwork for *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

In September of last year, I stood alongside Sylvia Mendez, daughter of Felicitas and Gonzalo, as Representative GOMEZ marked the introduction of his bill.

□ 1730

Sylvia, a dedicated civil rights activist, travels the country to ensure the legacies of her parents and the four other families are not forgotten.

I am proud to have worked with my L.A. area colleagues in 2011, especially

former Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, in advocating for the construction of this much-needed courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez U.S. Courthouse will serve as a reminder of the contributions of Latino Americans to this country, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5754.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), who is the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TITUS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill to name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse in my district after two individuals whose courage bent the arc of history toward justice, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez.

The Mendez family, alongside the Ramirez, Estrada, Guzman, and Palomino families, challenged segregationist policies that prevented their children from getting the same quality education as their White peers, and they won.

Their efforts resulted in the landmark 1946 case of *Mendez v. Westminster School District*, which led to the desegregation of California schools and set the stage for *Brown v. Board of Education*, the monumental Supreme Court decision that stated: separate but equal is inherently unequal.

I introduced this bill alongside Sylvia Mendez, the daughter of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, who, as a child, set in motion this desegregation case.

Sylvia was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 by President Obama and is the subject of this children's book, "Separate is Never Equal," which I brought as a reminder of what this means for our children.

This courthouse will be a reminder that history and law are not just shaped by judges, they are molded by people who have the courage to challenge unjust laws and make our country better.

The NAACP, ACLU, and Japanese American Citizens League sent amicus briefs in this case, showing that our struggles are distinct, but our battle to form a more perfect union is one and the same.

In fact, Thurgood Marshall wrote the NAACP's brief, and just years later used similar reasoning before the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the NAACP, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and 21 Latino civil rights organizations and advocacy groups in favor of this legislation.

NAACP,
November 3, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.
Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.
Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: I am writing to express strong support for H.R. 5754, introduced by Congressman JIMMY GOMEZ, which would name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. Their activism, along with four other families, culminated in the landmark 1946 case *Mendez et al v. Westminster et al* that led to the end of segregation in California schools and paved the way for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The NAACP's connection to this case and the Mendez, Guzman, Palomino, Estrada, and Ramirez families dates back to 1946. During the original case, the NAACP sent an amicus curiae brief in support of the families and argued that school segregation was inherently unjust and unconstitutional. As Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, and Loren Miller wrote in that brief:

"Our Democracy . . . can only function when all of its citizens, whether of a dominant or of a minority group, are allowed to enjoy the privileges and benefits inherent in our Constitution. Moreover, they must enjoy these benefits together as free people without regard to race or color. It is clear, therefore, that segregation in our public schools must be invalidated as violative of the Constitution and laws of the United States."

The NAACP takes pride in our contribution to this historic case, which directly influenced Governor Earl Warren to sign a 1947 law repealing public school segregation statutes in California. Just seven years later, Warren, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, authored the unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This landmark decision, influenced by Thurgood Marshall's compelling oral arguments as NAACP chief counsel, ended school segregation across the country.

Nearly 80 years later, we stand by our words and advocacy in the *Mendez v. Westminster* case and the advocacy of the families who fought for equal protection under the law for all children. Today, we honor their legacy in supporting this bill. We strongly believe the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse will be an enduring testament to the movement for civil rights for all.

We urge you to pass this bill swiftly to ensure the lasting and historic impacts of the *Mendez v. Westminster* case—and the families who fought for equal rights—are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire all Americans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

DERRICK JOHNSON,
President and CEO.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES,
December 14, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: I write to express support for H.R. 5754, introduced by Representative Jimmy Gomez, which would name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. Their activism, along with four other families, culminated in the landmark 1946 case Mendez et al v. Westminster et al that led to the end of segregation in California schools and paved the way for Brown v. Board of Education.

The powerful story of the Mendez, Guzman, Palomino, Estrada, and Ramirez families, which culminated in a successful suit against discriminatory school segregation practices in California, holds significance for the state of civil rights and freedom in our Los Angeles region today. This historic case directly influenced Governor Earl Warren to sign a 1947 law repealing public school segregation statutes in California. Just seven years later, Warren, by then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, authored the unanimous opinion in Brown v. Board of Education. This landmark decision was influenced by Thurgood Marshall's compelling oral arguments as NAACP chief counsel and ultimately ended school segregation across the country.

As a longtime public servant deeply committed to the progress of our city, our state, and our country, I understand just how important it is for every student to have equitable access to education and other public resources. Honoring the legacy of the Mendez family would be an enduring testament to the maxim "separate is never equal" and the movement for civil rights for all.

I urge you to pass this bill swiftly to ensure the lasting and historic impacts of the Mendez v. Westminster case—and the families who fought for equal rights—are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire all Americans for generations to come. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS,
Mayor.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: We, the below signed Latino civil rights and advocacy organizations, write to express our strong support of Congressman Jimmy Gomez's legislation that would designate the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. The Mendez's advocacy led to the landmark 1946 case that ended segregation in California schools and paved the way for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Fittingly, the courthouse sits just blocks from where the historic Mendez case was originally decided. The Mendez family, including Felicitas and Gonzalo's children, Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr., and Jerome, also strongly support the renaming of the courthouse to the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez advanced civil rights for all by mobilizing parents in

their community to push for an end to segregation in California schools after their daughter Sylvia and her brothers were rejected from attending a whites-only school because of their Mexican appearance and ancestry. In 1946, the Mendez family's efforts led to the landmark decision in Mendez, et al vs. Westminster School District of Orange County, et al, steering California to enact legislation that made it the first state to officially desegregate its public schools. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), led by Thurgood Marshall at the time, had been developing a legal strategy to end school segregation and wrote an amicus brief in support of Mendez. Some of the arguments LDF made in Mendez were similar to those that were later made in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education decision seven years later ending school segregation nationwide.

Our public institutions should reflect the rich diversity that represents the history and strength of our nation. However, of the 200+ named United States courthouses across the country, only 20 are named for people of color and 6 are named in honor of a woman. The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse would be the first federal building to be named for a Latina and only the eighth commemorating Hispanic Americans. Given its location in the county with the largest Latino population in the United States, the commemoration of the advocacy of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez—who were of Puerto Rican and Mexican heritage, respectively—by renaming the courthouse honors both the diversity of its population and the critical progress for civil rights.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we highlight and celebrate the centuries of Latino contributions to the United States. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge and lift up Latinos' stories to who we are as a people and nation. The history of the desegregation of schools in California and throughout the Southwest is a significant part of the mostly unsung history of our community in this nation and needs to be better known among our fellow Americans. In short, Latino stories are American stories, and they need to be told.

We urge you to pass this bill expeditiously so that the lasting and historic impacts of the Mendez family and the Mendez v. Westminster case are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire Angelenos and all Americans for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network), GreenLatinos, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Hispanic Federation, Hispanic National Bar Association, IDRA, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Latinos for Education.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), MANA, A National Latina Organization, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Migrant Legal Action Program, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Latinx Psychological Association, National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association, SER National, The National HEP/CAMP Association, UnidosUS.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, for all Americans to feel part of our American story, they need to see themselves reflected in the buildings and monuments that commemorate our history.

The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Courthouse will be the first courthouse named after a Latina out of over 200 named Federal courthouses.

I thank the over 60 cosponsors, including Members from both sides of the aisle, along with the overwhelming support of the California delegation and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to pass this legislation swiftly to send a clear sign about what we stand for as a Nation.

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this historic legislation, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I join in supporting this bill recognizing the legacy of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez by naming a United States courthouse in Los Angeles after them. This is an historic and appropriate recognition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5754, 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.

THINK DIFFERENTLY TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6248) to require Amtrak to report to Congress information on Amtrak compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to trains and stations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6248

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 "Think Differently Transportation Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON AMTRAK ADA COMPLIANCE.

Section 24315(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) shall include an action plan for bringing Amtrak rail cars and Amtrak-served stations that are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) into compliance with such Act as required by the settlement agreement entered into in 2020 between Amtrak and the Department of Justice; and

"(E) shall include a status report on—

"(i) Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak is solely responsible for compliance with such Act based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak, including a timeline for any required compliance with such Act, as required by the settlement agreement;

“(ii) Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak has a shared responsibility for compliance with such Act based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak, including a timeline for any required compliance with such Act for the portions of the station for which Amtrak is the responsible party consistent with the terms of the settlement agreement, identifying who is responsible for compliance (and the status of the compliance of each responsible party with such Act) for such portions and the timeline for compliance in cases in which Amtrak is not the responsible party; and

“(iii) the status of compliance with such Act for all Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak is not the responsible party, nor is responsible for a portion of the station, and the entity or entities that have responsibility for compliance with such Act, based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak or the party responsible under such Act.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘station assessment’ means a review of all components of a station including the building, platform, path to train, and parking areas, as required by the Access Board on the date of enactment of the Think Differently Transportation Act.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 6248.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see my bill, the Think Differently Transportation Act, come to the House floor.

This is yet another item to pass the House that builds off the work that we began when I was county executive in New York State, in Dutchess County, New York, the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative.

ThinkDIFFERENTLY is a call to action to break down barriers and create opportunities for those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

The Think Differently Transportation Act does just that. The bill requires that Amtrak submit to Congress and the President an annual report with an expected timeline for bringing Amtrak trains and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Amtrak stations and trains should be fully accessible for all Americans of every ability and fully compliant with Federal law.

The ADA was passed in 1990 and established a 20-year timeframe for intercity rail stations to be accessible to those with disabilities. As of July 2023, sadly, Amtrak has only brought 30 percent of the 385 stations it is responsible for into ADA compliance. This is sim-

ply unacceptable and creates far too many barriers for every person of every ability, making this bill necessary.

The Think Differently Transportation Act is a strong bipartisan bill that allows Congress to have appropriate oversight of Amtrak to ensure it complies with its obligations under the law.

The bill is an important step forward that Congress can take to address accessibility barriers to travel by rail.

I also wish to take this time to acknowledge the original co-lead of this bill, the late Congressman Don Payne, Jr., who, as we know, passed away last month. It was an immense pleasure to work with him, and I would like to think that the passage of this bill would act as some small honor to him and his legacy to helping individuals with disabilities.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the Think Differently Transportation Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will advance accessibility on Amtrak services. I am sure my words will not be as eloquent as those of Mr. Payne had he been here to speak on this bill himself.

Amtrak received \$22 billion in the bipartisan infrastructure law to buy new equipment, invest in station accessibility, and make improvements in the backlog of capital projects and operating needs.

Congress set specific directions for how Amtrak can use its BIL funds.

With regard to station accessibility, the BIL states that Amtrak funds are to be used to make all the stations Amtrak serves accessible.

The bill we are considering today would require Amtrak to report annually to Congress on accessibility status, improvements, and plans at the more than 500 stations Amtrak serves, not just the ones where it has the responsibility to make accessibility a priority under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thanks to the BIL, Amtrak is investing in new equipment and new stations. We need assurances that these investments will take into account people with disabilities, as required by the ADA. This bill helps to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Think Differently Transportation Act and to think differently about transportation so it is more accessible.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say, again, that I support this bill, and I thank the sponsors of it. I wish Mr. Payne were here to see it pass, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague across the aisle for her leadership. I too wish Representative Payne, for many reasons, would

still be here to at least celebrate this important next step.

There are far too many barriers in the lives of those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities. They shoulder a 70 percent unemployment rate. Access to transportation and the ability to move around, as every American would hope to, creates such enormous barriers to opportunities.

This Think Differently Transportation Act will help to ensure that Amtrak follows the basic expectation that the ADA sets into law, through regular reporting to both Congress and the President on Amtrak’s progress, or lack thereof, toward ADA compliance for its trains and stations and all those they serve.

This bill represents an important step toward improving Amtrak’s service for customers of every ability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support 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 New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6248, 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.

JAMES R. DOMINGUEZ MEMORIAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5799) to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the “James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5799

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 “James R. Dominguez Memorial Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A native of San Antonio, Texas, Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez—

(A) proudly and honorably served his country as an agent of the U.S. Border Patrol for more than 12 years;

(B) began his service with the U.S. Border Patrol in 2000; and

(C) graduated as part of the 434th session of the Border Patrol Academy.

(2) Agent Dominguez served at the Uvalde Station in the Del Rio Sector.

(3) On July 19, 2012, Agent Dominguez stopped to clear debris from the roadway that posed risks to road and community safety along Highway 90 near Cline, Texas. While on scene, Agent Dominguez was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

(4) Agent Dominguez is survived by his wife and 4 children.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.

The checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint".

SEC. 4. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the checkpoint described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 5799.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5799, a bill that honors the service and sacrifice of Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez by naming the United States Border Patrol checkpoint in Uvalde County, Texas, after him.

Border Patrol Agent Dominguez served our country for more than 12 years. On July 19, 2012, Agent Dominguez stopped to clear debris out of the roadway when he was tragically struck and killed by a passing car.

It is fitting that we honor Agent Dominguez by naming this Border Patrol checkpoint after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 5799, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5799, a bill to designate the checkpoint of the U.S. Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, naming it the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint, and I thank Mr. GONZALES for bringing the bill.

In 2012, 41-year-old United States Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez was struck and killed by a vehicle while assisting a disabled motorist on U.S. 90 near Cline, Texas.

Agent Dominguez had served with the U.S. Border Patrol for 12 years. He is survived by his wife and four children. Agent Dominguez' brother and father were also members of the Border Patrol.

I support this legislation to rename the Border Patrol checkpoint located on U.S. Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5799, the James R. Dominguez Memorial Act. I thank this Chamber for bringing this bill to the floor for a vote today.

I have the privilege of serving Texas 23 and the people of Uvalde. I was in Uvalde yesterday. It has been a tough couple of years for us in the district.

Just outside of Uvalde is a checkpoint called the Uvalde Checkpoint Station. Very soon that checkpoint will be known as the James R. Dominguez Checkpoint.

When I met with Border Patrol agents that day, it was nothing but smiles, whether they had been in for 2 years or they had been in for 30 years, like Agent Moreno, it was all smiles. They were smiling because they knew that they weren't going to be forgotten, whether they passed away during service over 12 years ago, they were not going to be forgotten. Their families weren't going to be forgotten.

In 2012, Border Patrol Agent James Dominguez tragically passed away in the line of duty when he was struck by a vehicle along Highway 90 in Texas.

Agent Dominguez was a loving father, a husband, a friend to all that knew him, and a strong man of faith. He dedicated 12 years of his life as a Border Patrol agent, the last serving in the Uvalde station in the Del Rio sector.

Today is a special day for this Chamber. We will move forward tonight on legislation that will honor the memory of Border Patrol Agent James Dominguez by renaming the checkpoint in Uvalde in his honor.

I am proud to work very closely with Chief Owens and his wife, Cassy Garcia, as well as the family members of Agent Dominguez, his brothers and sisters, his widow, to rename this Uvalde station and make this memorial possible.

Agent James Dominguez' legacy will live on for generations to come, and his service will never be forgotten.

□ 1745

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation, as I said, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez by designating the United States Border Patrol checkpoint in Uvalde County, Texas, as the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative GONZALES, for his advocacy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5799.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 45 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. CISCOMANI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

- H.R. 5863; and
- H.R. 3019.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, 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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 7, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 219]

YEAS—382

Adams	Baird	Bice
Aderholt	Balderson	Bilirakis
Aguilar	Balint	Bishop (GA)
Alford	Banks	Blunt Rochester
Allen	Barr	Boehert
Allred	Barragán	Bonamici
Amo	Bean (FL)	Bost
Amodei	Beatty	Bowman
Arrington	Bentz	Boyle (PA)
Auchincloss	Bera	Brown
Babin	Bergman	Brownley
Bacon	Beyer	Buchon

Budzinski	Jimenez	McClintock	Steel	Tlaib	Wasserman	Banks	Fallon	Lawler
Burchett	Golden (ME)	McCollum	Stefanik	Tokuda	Schultz	Barr	Feenstra	Lee (CA)
Burgess	Goldman (NY)	McCormick	Stell	Tonko	Waters	Barragan	Ferguson	Lee (FL)
Burlison	Gomez	McGarvey	Steube	Torres (CA)	Watson Coleman	Bean (FL)	Finstad	Lee (PA)
Bush	Gonzales, Tony	McGovern	Stevens	Torres (NY)	Weber (TX)	Beatty	Fischbach	Leger Fernandez
Calvert	Gonzalez,	Meeks	Strickland	Trahan	Webster (FL)	Bentz	Fitzgerald	Lesko
Cammack	Vicente	Menendez	Suozzi	Turner	Wenstrup	Bera	Fitzpatrick	Letlow
Caraveo	Gooden (TX)	Meuser	Swalwell	Underwood	Westerman	Bergman	Fleischmann	Levin
Carbajal	Gosar	Mfume	Sykes	Valadao	Wexton	Beyer	Fletcher	Lieu
Cárdenas	Gottheimer	Miller (IL)	Takano	Van Duyn	Wild	Bice	Flood	Lofgren
Carey	Graves (LA)	Miller (OH)	Tenney	Van Orden	Williams (GA)	Biggs	Foster	Lucas
Carl	Graves (MO)	Miller (WV)	Thanedar	Vargas	Williams (NY)	Bilirakis	Foushee	Luetkemeyer
Carson	Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (CA)	Vasquez	Williams (TX)	Bishop (GA)	Fox	Luna
Carter (GA)	Green, Al (TX)	Mills	Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Williams (TX)	Bishop (NC)	Frankel, Lois	Luttrell
Carter (LA)	Greene (GA)	Molinaro	Thompson (PA)	Wagner	Womack	Blunt Rochester	Franklin, Scott	Lynch
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Moolenaar	Tiffany	Walberg	Yakym	Boebert	Frost	Mace
Cartwright	Guest	Moore (AL)	Timmons	Waltz	Zinke	Bonamici	Fry	Malliotakis
Casar	Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Titus			Bost	Fulcher	Maloy
Case	Hageman	Moran				Bowman	Gaetz	Mann
Casten	Harder (CA)	Morelle				Boyle (PA)	Garamendi	Manning
Castor (FL)	Harris	Moskowitz	Biggs	Good (VA)	Rosendale	Brecheen	Garbarino	Mast
Castro (TX)	Harshbarger	Moulton	Brecheen	Lesko		Brown	Garcia (IL)	Matsui
Chavez-DeRemer	Hayes	Mrvan	Fox	Perry		Brownley	Garcia (TX)	McBath
Cherfilus-	Hern	Mullin				Bucshon	Garcia, Mike	McCauley
McCormick	Higgins (LA)	Nadler				Budzinski	Garcia, Robert	McClain
Chu	Hill	Napolitano	Armstrong	Jackson Lee	Quigley	Burchett	Jimenez	McClellan
Ciscomani	Himes	Neal	Bishop (NC)	Jayapal	Roy	Burgess	Golden (ME)	McClintock
Clark (MA)	Hinson	Neguse	Blumenauer	Kiggans (VA)	Ruppersberger	Burlison	Goldman (NY)	McCollum
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	Nehls	Buchanan	Kuster	Smith (NJ)	Bush	Gomez	McCormick
Cleaver	Houchin	Newhouse	Crenshaw	Lee (NV)	Smucker	Calvert	Gonzales, Tony	McGarvey
Cline	Houlihan	Nickel	Curtis	Loudermilk	Stansbury	Cammack	Gonzalez,	McGovern
Cloud	Hoyer	Norcross	Donalds	Magaziner	Strong	Caraveo	Vicente	Meeks
Clyburn	Hoyle (OR)	Norman	Evans	Massie	Trone	Carbajal	Good (VA)	Menendez
Clyde	Hudson	Nunn (IA)	Gallego	McHenry	Van Drew	Cárdenas	Gooden (TX)	Meuser
Cohen	Huffman	Oberholte	Granger	Meng	Velazquez	Carey	Gottheimer	Mfume
Cole	Issa	Ocasio-Cortez	Griffith	Mooney	Wilson (FL)	Carl	Graves (LA)	Miller (IL)
Collins	Ivey	Ogles	Grijalva	Moore (WI)	Wittman	Carson	Graves (MO)	Miller (OH)
Comer	Jackson (IL)	Omar	Huizenga	Murphy		Carter (GA)	Green (TN)	Miller (WV)
Connolly	Jackson (NC)	Owens	Hunt	Pelosi		Carter (LA)	Green, Al (TX)	Miller-Meeks
Correa	Jackson (TX)	Pallone				Carter (TX)	Greene (GA)	Mills
Costa	Jacobs	Palmer				Cartwright	Grothman	Molinaro
Courtney	James	Panetta				Casar	Moolenaar	Guest
Craig	Jeffries	Pappas				Case	Guthrie	Moore (AL)
Crane	Johnson (GA)	Pascarell				Casten	Hageman	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Johnson (SD)	Peltola				Castor (FL)	Harder (CA)	Moran
Crockett	Jordan	Pence				Castro (TX)	Harris	Morelle
Crow	Joyce (OH)	Perez				Chavez-DeRemer	Harshbarger	Moskowitz
Cuellar	Joyce (PA)	Peters				Cherfilus-	Hayes	Moulton
D'Esposito	Kamlager-Dove	Pettersen				McCormick	Hern	Mrvan
David (KS)	Kaptur	Pfluger				Chu	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Davidson	Kean (NJ)	Phillips				Ciscomani	Hill	Nadler
Davis (IL)	Keating	Pingree				Clark (MA)	Himes	Napolitano
Davis (NC)	Kelly (IL)	Pocan				Clarke (NY)	Hinson	Neal
De La Cruz	Kelly (MS)	Porter				Cleaver	Horsford	Neguse
Dean (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Posey				Cline	Houchin	Nehls
DeGette	Kennedy	Pressley				Cloud	Houlihan	Newhouse
DeLauro	Khanna	Ramirez				Clyburn	Hoyer	Nickel
DelBene	Kildee	Raskin				Clyde	Hoyle (OR)	Norcross
Deluzio	Kiley	Reschenthaler				Cohen	Hudson	Norman
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Rodgers (WA)				Cole	Huffman	Nunn (IA)
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Rogers (AL)				Collins	Issa	Oberholte
Diaz-Balart	Kim (NJ)	Rogers (KY)				Comer	Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez
Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Rose				Connolly	Jackson (IL)	Ogles
Doggett	Kustoff	Ross				Correa	Jackson (NC)	Omar
Duarte	LaHood	Rouzer				Costa	Jackson (TX)	Owens
Duncan	LaLota	Ruiz				Craig	Jacobs	Pallone
Dunn (FL)	LaMalfa	Rutherford				Crane	James	Palmer
Edwards	Lamborn	Ryan				Crawford	Jeffries	Panetta
Ellzey	Landsman	Salazar				Crockett	Johnson (GA)	Pappas
Emmer	Langworthy	Salinas				Crow	Johnson (SD)	Pascarell
Escobar	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez				Cuellar	Jordan	Peltola
Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes				D'Esposito	Joyce (OH)	Pence
Espallat	Latta	Scanlon				David (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Perez
Estes	LaTurner	Scanlon				Davidson	Kamlager-Dove	Perry
Ezell	Lawler	Schakowsky				Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Peters
Fallon	Lee (CA)	Schiff				Davis (NC)	Kean (NJ)	Pettersen
Feenstra	Lee (FL)	Schneider				De La Cruz	Keating	Pfluger
Ferguson	Lee (PA)	Scholten				Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Phillips
Finstad	Leger Fernandez	Schrier				DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Pingree
Fischbach	Letlow	Schweikert				DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Pocan
Fitzgerald	Levin	Scott (VA)				DelBene	Kennedy	Porter
Fitzpatrick	Lieu	Scott, Austin				Deluzio	Khanna	Posey
Fleischmann	Lofgren	Scott, David				DeSaulnier	Kildee	Pressley
Fletcher	Lucas	Self				DesJarlais	Kiley	Ramirez
Flood	Luetkemeyer	Sessions				Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Raskin
Foster	Luna	Sewell				Dingell	Kim (CA)	Reschenthaler
Foushee	Luttrell	Sherman				Doggett	Kim (NJ)	Rogers (WA)
Frankel, Lois	Lynch	Sherrill				Donalds	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (AL)
Franklin, Scott	Mace	Simpson				Duarte	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)
Frost	Malliotakis	Slotkin				Duncan	LaHood	Rose
Fry	Maloy	Smith (MO)				Dunn (FL)	LaLota	Ross
Fulcher	Mann	Smith (NE)				Edwards	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Gaetz	Manning	Smith (WA)				Ellzey	Lamborn	Roy
Garamendi	Mast	Sorensen				Emmer	Landsman	Ruiz
Garbarino	Matsui	Soto	Adams	Allred	Babin	Escobar	Langworthy	Ruppersberger
Garcia (IL)	McBath	Spanberger	Aderholt	Amo	Bacon	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Rutherford
Garcia (TX)	McCauley	Spartz	Aguilar	Amodei	Baird	Espallat	Larson (CT)	Ryan
Garcia, Mike	McClain	Stanton	Alford	Arrington	Balderson	Estes	Latta	Salinas
Garcia, Robert	McClellan	Stauber	Allen	Auchincloss	Balint	Ezell	LaTurner	Sánchez

NAYS—7

NOT VOTING—40

□ 1857

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, H.R. 5863.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

FEDERAL PRISON OVERSIGHT 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. 3019) to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) 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 392, nays 2, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—392

Adams	Allred	Babin
Aderholt	Amo	Bacon
Aguilar	Amodei	Baird
Alford	Arrington	Balderson
Allen	Auchincloss	Balint

Sarbanes	Steel	Valadao
Scalise	Stefanik	Van Drew
Scanlon	Stell	Van Duyne
Schakowsky	Steube	Van Orden
Schiff	Stevens	Vargas
Schneider	Strickland	Vasquez
Scholten	Strong	Veasey
Schrier	Suozzi	Wagner
Schweikert	Swalwell	Walberg
Scott (VA)	Sykes	Waltz
Scott, Austin	Takano	Wasserman
Scott, David	Tenney	Schultz
Self	Thanedar	Waters
Sessions	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman
Sewell	Thompson (MS)	Weber (TX)
Sherman	Thompson (PA)	Webster (FL)
Sherrill	Tiffany	Wenstrup
Simpson	Timmons	Westerman
Slotkin	Titus	Wexton
Smith (MO)	Tlaib	Wild
Smith (NE)	Tokuda	Williams (GA)
Smith (WA)	Tonko	Williams (NY)
Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Williams (TX)
Soto	Torres (NY)	Wilson (SC)
Spanberger	Trahan	Womack
Spartz	Trone	Yakym
Stanton	Turner	Zinke
Stauber	Underwood	

NAYS—2

Gosar Rosendale

NOT VOTING—35

Armstrong	Hunt	Moore (WI)
Blumenauer	Jackson Lee	Murphy
Buchanan	Jayapal	Pelosi
Courtney	Kiggans (VA)	Quigley
Crenshaw	Kuster	Salazar
Curtis	Lee (NV)	Smith (NJ)
Evans	Loudermilk	Smucker
Gallego	Magaziner	Stansbury
Granger	Massie	Velázquez
Griffith	McHenry	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Meng	Wittman
Huizenga	Mooney	

□ 1905

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today on H.R. 5863, I would have voted “yea.” Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 3019, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my votes were not recorded today. Had they been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219 and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO USE MEDICAL ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XVII, during the 118th Congress, Representative WEXTON of Virginia be permitted to use a medical assistive communication device on the floor of the House.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 16, 2024, for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAYING ON THE TABLE HOUSE RESOLUTION 961

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that H. Res. 961 be laid on the table.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT ANTHONY’S HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE TEAM

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

Mr. D’ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, as a Chaminade High School graduate, I extend congratulations to our rivals, Saint Anthony’s High School, for their recent 12–6 lacrosse victory over Chaminade.

Despite the outcome not favoring my alma mater, I commend the Friars for their skill, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In the spirit of fair play, I gracefully accept defeat in my wager with fellow Long Islander Congressman NICK LALOTA, a Saint Anthony’s alumnus.

The Friars’ undeniable prowess on the field reflects their hard work and commitment, both in athletics and beyond.

Long Islanders are well acquainted with the intense rivalry between Chaminade and Saint Anthony’s, particularly in lacrosse, where both teams consistently rank among the Nation’s best.

Congratulations again to Saint Anthony’s Friars, their coaches, and supporters on their impressive win. May this victory inspire future competitions filled with sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Go Friars.

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in anguish on behalf of George Floyd and his family, on behalf of Minneapolis, and on behalf of everyone who has been impacted by police brutality.

It has been 4 years since George was brutally murdered in front of the whole world. We have been fighting every day since then to pass meaningful criminal justice reform.

What we are fighting for is a dignified life. What we are fighting for is equal access to exist as ourselves. What we are fighting for is to undo 400 years of being brutalized, victimized, surveilled, enslaved, imprisoned, and having the life choked out of us in the cities we call home.

We will continue to fight for change until we achieve a better future, the future that George deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

HONORING COLONEL RICHARD JULIAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my dear friend Colonel Richard Julian. Colonel Julian enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard in 1965 and attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, before moving to Keesler Air Force Base to complete technical training.

Once he completed his initial training, he returned to the 134th Air Refueling Unit. He served as a traditional guardsman and was offered a chance to become full time. He eventually moved up the enlisted ranks to become a senior master sergeant, and in 1981, he was offered the chance for direct appointment as a captain in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He was named director of personnel for the 134th Air Refueling Wing. Later, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and was assigned as the Support Group Commander when he retired in 2004. He served over 38 years in the Air National Guard and deployed in

support of countless operations and exercises.

After he retired from the Air National Guard, Colonel Julian worked for Knox County as director of human resources and then the Blount County Highway Department until the day he passed away on May 1, 2024.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our armed services and Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker. It is my honor to recognize my dear friend, who I miss very much, Colonel Richard Clapp Julian, as Tennessee's Second Congressional District's May 2024 Veteran of the Month.

We will miss him dearly, and I thank him for always being my friend.

DOMESTIC ENERGY INDEPENDENCE BEGINS IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud a convening that took place yesterday at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in northwestern Ohio.

We gathered community leaders from across our region with representatives from the Departments of Energy and Treasury, local organizations, businesses, and municipalities and focused on ways our enterprising region can think big.

The Inflation Reduction Act, which passed Congress in 2022, is paying huge dividends. IRA tax incentives and related infrastructure support, especially the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, are helping to achieve private and public sector cooperation and investment to fix our roads, produce more affordable energy, and improve old water and wastewater systems across our vast region.

Domestic energy independence begins right here in northwestern Ohio. When we think big, together we can transform our local economy, attract major investments from industry and agriculture, and create good-paying, union jobs.

I thank all those who visited our region. We are prepared for a modernized future. We want to use all the tools this Congress passed to help to make America sustainable. We begin that right in northwestern Ohio. Congratulations and onward to all.

□ 1915

BIDENFLATION COSTS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Joint Economic Committee reported that since Biden, the average family has seen a 21 percent increase in prices, resulting in \$22,000 in costs: \$2,500 more in food,

\$4,500 more on housing, \$3,400 more in energy, and \$7,500 more on transportation.

Corrupt Judge Merchan continues his shameful unprofessionalism to reveal all Americans can be targets of judicial abuse while his blatant bigotry is reelecting Trump.

Yesterday, my son, the South Carolina Attorney General, hand-delivered to the judge an invitation for the judge to be my guest at the Trump inauguration.

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. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens the borders for more dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

We are grateful for the life of Gayle Averyt.

GASTON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the town of Gaston, North Carolina, celebrating its 75th anniversary.

As the song "Celebration" played in the background, I joined Mayor Deborah Lee James, members of the town council, and residents from across the town to celebrate this amazing milestone.

There was a parade, maypole wrapping, a drum line, and many fun activities. Town officials also cut the ribbon on the Dwight Hall Ballpark, demonstrating their commitment to its future.

Celebrating Gaston's rich history and seeing the beauty of eastern North Carolina was wonderful.

I am looking forward to celebrating many, many, many more years of this great town.

Happy 75th anniversary, Gaston, G-75.

HONORING MACKENZIE CONNELL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mackenzie Connell for being recognized as one of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's top 15 high school girl golfers in the State of Georgia.

Mackenzie joins a very elite class of young women golfers. This selection process is highly competitive and includes every young woman in the Georgia High School Association.

Since joining the Pierce County High School girls' golf team, Mackenzie has won many prestigious honors. A few of

these include being named the 2023 GHSA AA Player of the Year, the 2024 GHSA AA Area 1 Low Medalist, and a two-time 912 Sports Magazine Player of the Year.

In both 2022 and 2023, the Pierce County girls' golf team won back-to-back State championships. Mackenzie was an integral player on both teams. During the 2023 State Championship Golf Tournament, she was named the GHSA State Low Medalist where she shot a tournament low of 73.

Outside of golf, Mackenzie is recognized as one of the top performing students in her class. She boasts a stellar GPA and is involved in a whole host of extracurricular activities.

Congratulations to Mackenzie. I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future as she continues to make our district proud.

SAFE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of the Ensuring Safe and Ethical AI Development Through SAFE AI Research Grants Act. This is bipartisan legislation that I have introduced.

Just recently, the company OpenAI unveiled the latest chat bot model which had some truly amazing new features. Yet shortly after that, there was an exodus of employees from the company devoted to safety with one of them even saying that this part of the company is not receiving the compute that it needs to.

Now, I don't know if that is true, and I don't know the particulars of what is going on in that company, but it does underscore the fact that we cannot rely or assume that companies are devoting the attention to safety issues that they should.

I do think there is a role for the Federal Government to catalyze cutting-edge AI safety research. That is what my legislation does, and I think it is of the highest urgency that Congress assure that as we look ahead to the limitless potential benefits of AI, that we do whatever we can to understand the risks and take the steps that we need to mitigate them.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House and talk about four issues that, per usual, I think have not been adequately covered by our mainstream press corps.

The first issue I would like to deal with is their treatment in their public statements by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which is the second

biggest university in the State of Wisconsin, towards what is going on in Israel.

They, I think in part because of some Palestinian sympathizers who set up tents on their campus, felt compelled to make an issue on what American foreign policy or at least UWM's foreign policy is.

To my great concern and great embarrassment, they have decided to, in their statement, condemn Israel. Also, in addition, to condemning Israel, they called on Israel to begin a cease-fire in the Middle East.

If you read their statement, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that there is some equivalence between Israel and what could be called Palestine, or even treating Palestine in a superior position there. This is completely unacceptable, and it is, sadly, something that is seen too much on university campuses.

The thing that makes this uniquely horrible is it is coming from the administration. It is bad enough if run-of-the-mill faculty members of universities around the country can't figure out the obvious difference between right and wrong here. It is particularly disturbing that the administration itself has a problem distinguishing that.

Israel was attacked, and over 1,000 people were killed in the most bloodthirsty and callous way possible. Israel responded to this declaration of war by trying to, as carefully as possible, get rid of the Hamas fighters who had tried to destroy them and recapture hostages that at least are claimed to be hidden probably in tunnels beneath the Gaza community.

There is a huge difference between the countries. Israel is a modern Western, humane country. It is a country with lots of mosques that has a very diverse population. Mr. Speaker, you will notice when the over 1,000 people were murdered and taken hostage, people from Thailand and the Phillipines were in Israel. They are trying to get people from Ecuador in Israel. People are coming from all around the globe for an opportunity to work in Israel.

Meanwhile, Gaza, like too many, sadly, Third World countries, is a corrupt state in which, despite receiving billions of dollars from foreign countries, primarily in Europe, is still stuck in the muck. It is a country that has no synagogues in it. There is not the appreciation for freedom of religion in Gaza like there is in Israel.

The people who run Gaza have been corrupt. The leaders have sometimes been in Qatar and sometimes been in Turkiye. The ancestors of Yasser Arafat, who ran Palestine during much of my life, wound up in Paris. The people who get the money here don't even stay in Gaza. It is a country, by the way, that would be well-run and would be prosperous. It is located on the Mediterranean Sea. It was formerly a place where people came to recreate and was a tourist spot. It was a place that used

to have greenhouses that were left behind by the Jews when they had to go back to Israel and were destroyed by the people in Palestine.

In any event, we have to weigh in as a country and wake up as far as what is going on in our universities.

Why do we have universities?

Some of the American public will overwhelmingly figure out whom they should have sympathy for. Nonetheless, in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the administration clearly had more sympathy with Hamas than they did with Israel, which is something of great concern.

Another thing of great concern is when they had to deal with the apparent crisis of having tents in their university, they felt compelled to negotiate with the squeaky people who sympathized with the barbaric Hamas military and didn't even talk to people who have had a vested interest and apparently didn't talk to people who had a vested interest in looking out for Israel, which, after all, is fighting for its existence.

If Israel would immediately pull out of Gaza, what would happen?

It would allow the Hamas group to replenish their arms and to regroup and to someday attack Israel again 5 years, 10 years, 15 years down the line.

So, in any event, I realize the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is not as well-known academically as Harvard or MIT or Northwestern or some of these other universities that embarrass themselves, but I hope the public is paying attention to what is going on in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

I hope the taxpayers are paying attention, and I hope the chancellor who has made some admission that what he did was maybe not right, would take a bolder stance and say that his university is not going to weigh in or give any sympathy towards Hamas, particularly so soon after they so barbarically killed over 1,000 Israelis.

My second issue today is that within the last few weeks, we received, one more time, the monthly totals on the number of migrants who came across our southern border. One more time, it is true almost as far back as you can find, the numbers for April were a substantial increase over last April and a huge increase over the final April under Donald Trump.

During the final April under Donald Trump, April 2020, about 6,000 people crossed the border. Last April about 178,000 people crossed the border. We are now at 204,000. So it has been a huge increase, from 178,000 to 204,000 people. This is obviously unacceptable.

That increase is understated because what President Biden has done to hold down the numbers is he gives parole to people who are coming here from Cuba and Haiti, which probably would add another 30,000 people to this list, except for it is not included on the numbers released. So the American public and the American press should keep

paying attention to what is going on at the border.

The biggest problem in our country, if our country goes under, our great country, I think is we anticipate a free press, but to have a free press and have it count for something, it has to be a competent press. When the numbers were released a couple weeks ago, I think it was within the last week, on the number of people who crossed the border from April, it should have been a banner headline in every newspaper in this country.

□ 1930

Every 10 o'clock news station around the country should have led with the story that we had another all-time record for an April as far as people coming across the southern border—instead, nothing. They should have pointed out that, one more time, we have just shy of 6,000 unaccompanied minors.

There was a time when the press corps cared a little bit about breaking apart families.

Now, when a 16- or 15-year-old shows up at the southern border, what does our administration do? Nothing. For all we know, that child is never going to see his parents again. Who knows what his motive is for showing up at the border, but nothing is done. Our administration is settling in where we expect if a young person crosses the border without their parents, we will find them a sponsor, and they will stay here.

Quite frankly, what our administration ought to be doing is, even if a child shows up at the border with one parent—in this country, in a divorce case, we will frequently try to keep both parents in touch with the child. So, at the southern border, even if a child shows up with one parent, they ought to be turned around unless we can document where the other parent is and that they are signing off on this situation.

Again, I strongly encourage the press corps to pay more attention to the border.

By the way, I want to make one more statement with regard to the situation with Israel. There are people who are horrified—and it is horrific—when people die in this war. The war could be ended by Hamas at any time. At any time, they could say they surrender, here are their arms, here are where you are going to find the tunnels, here are where the hostages are held. The war would be over tomorrow.

People do die in the explosions and bombings that take place there. I think that there should be a little more attention paid by the protesters before they condemn Israel to see how this country reacted when we felt it was necessary to bomb population centers when war was declared on the United States during World War II.

I suggest sympathizers with Hamas look a little bit at the Dresden firebombings and the bombings in

Tokyo. That was before we got to the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even with traditional bombs in Dresden and Tokyo, you will find, I think, more horrific things happened than anything that is happening near Hamas. Not to mention, the Israelis had been incredibly careful—much more careful than we were in Tokyo and Dresden—about warning civilians and trying to keep them out of harm's way.

If anybody in this body wants more sympathy or wants to condemn Israel, I suggest they look at how we handled the situation when we were bombing Japan and Germany toward the end of World War II—by the way, at a time when the conclusion of the war was, to a certain extent, already determined.

The third issue that I believe has not been adequately addressed in the paper—and when I get back on the weekends, I try to talk to people about it; they have no clue—is the fact that we have recently begun collecting information regarding Middle Eastern people and people from North Africa for a variety of purposes.

I think people believe that by keeping track of these people, we will eventually give them the benefits of affirmative action-type programs or diversity sort of programs. Prior to this, which was only approved in the last few weeks, we gave potential preferences to Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asians—quite frankly, we give preferences whether you are American or not, just Asians who are here—and Pacific Islanders.

The Biden administration, the most divisive administration in this country's history, felt that wasn't enough. I think even without showing a need, they have decided to add Middle Eastern and North African people to the mix.

If you look at a map of the world, right now, Pakistanis already have potential preference, but that ends at the Pakistan-Iran border.

What they have done is taken anybody who lives between the Pakistan-Iran border over to the Atlantic Ocean, over to Morocco, and said they have the potential for preferences.

My guess is it would mean that, right now, if you come here and open a business, and your ancestry is from these countries, you would, therefore, for example, get preferences in government contracting. You may get preferences for the purpose of government hiring. You may get preferences for government bidding.

In any event, I think there should have been a lot of discussion in the news media before we added another huge bloc of people who, as a practical matter, were going to get preferences over the native-born.

Making this decision even more bizarre, I think the two rationales for affirmative action—neither of which I agree with, by the way—were either because something bad happened to people in this country maybe 100 years ago

or that this group maybe statistically was not doing as well when measured by economic metrics.

Here, people from the Middle East and North Africa largely have not immigrated to this country until the last 30 or 40 years, so you couldn't say that there has been historical discrimination here. Not only that, at least with regard to people from Iran, they are doing much better than the native-born.

If people from Iran who are doing a great job in this country and adding a lot to the United States are making more money than the native-born, why would the government go out of its way to say they are going to get preferences for government contracting?

Even more bizarre, like all preferences under these programs, is they don't care how wealthy you are. I can be here. We will say I am from Morocco. If I inherited \$10 million from my parents, I still would be helped or given a preference because of my ethnicity, despite the fact that I am wildly wealthy. It doesn't really make any sense.

You self-identify, so you could have somebody who is three quarters Irish and one quarter Moroccan, and they would be able to identify as North African and get preferences.

The biggest problem is that it continues the Biden policy of trying to create division in Americans. They want people to view themselves forever as not just an American, as we did when I was a child, but for forever as: I am Hispanic American. I am an Asian American. I am picked on.

This is a way to, I believe, destroy America. I think that is why the Biden administration is going down this path.

I do think, coming back to the mainstream media, we should ask ourselves why I have a hard time finding anybody back in my district who is aware that we have recently given preferences to this whole new body of people, which is a significant policy change. If we had a competent press corps in this country, it is something everybody would be aware of, and we would have had a public discussion about.

The final topic, which I don't think has been discussed enough, is the goal to have two-thirds of our vehicles be electric vehicles by 2032.

I recently bought a car, a Ford Escape, and it occurs to me now that it is not impossible that this will be the final normal car I will ever own.

There are a lot of things that can be said about electric cars, but almost all of them are bad. My major concern—though there are others, as well—is that they are more expensive. When I talk to my insurance agent, he tells me the cost of auto insurance with an electric car could easily be up more than 50 percent. There are other sources who don't say it will be that high, but I think everybody would agree it will be at least a 20 or 30 percent increase in the cost of auto insurance.

This, at a time, where due to the excessive spending of the Biden administration, the cost of housing is through the roof and the cost of food is through the roof. Well, guess what? The cost of a car is about to go up. I am told the cost of a new pickup could go up \$20,000 as we switch to electric cars. The cost of insurance is going up.

In addition to that, we have the problems that our infrastructure is not even remotely ready for electric vehicles and the problems you are going to have in which you are not able to drive as many miles. I happen to be from Wisconsin, where the huge problem will be trying to get these things charged when it is 10 degrees below outside.

In any event, it is something for this body to pay attention to and to warn our constituents about so they are aware that as they set aside money for a new car—I think it is a smart thing to set aside money so you don't go into debt—you are going to have to set aside extra money if you plan on buying a new car more than 8 years from now. It is just one more cost that is going to make it more difficult for young Americans to join the middle class and prepare for the American Dream.

In summary, I mentioned the four issues I wish the press would pay attention to.

In the Wisconsin area, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee came out with a ridiculous press release, which they have tried to modify, but nowhere near enough, in which they imply that Israel has to do something as far as ending the war in the Middle East, not, apparently, Hamas, the brutal people who killed many Israelis a little over half a year ago now.

The second issue to look at is that, one more time, we have a record number of people coming here for a month, a record number of people coming across the border in April, at a time, by the way, when we are hitting in 4-year increments records of people being sworn in as immigrants legally. It is not like nobody is coming in here, but I think the American public ought to be appalled that, one more time, in April 2024, we hit an all-time record for people coming here in April.

The third issue almost entirely unreported in the mainstream media is the fact that we apparently are going to give preferences to people from North Africa, Libya, Algeria, whatever, over to the Middle East, Syria, Iran, as far as government contracting and probably government employment. I don't know if it is something we can undo if we get a different President, but it is certainly very divisive.

With it comes the bureaucracy that will forever tell people from North Africa and the Middle East that they should identify not just as American but a Middle Eastern American or a North African American.

Finally, I hope the press, as the clock winds down to 2032, warns Americans what they are going to have to expect as far as driving a new electric vehicle.

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to address you.

In the play "Julius Caesar," Mark Antony proclaims: "What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?"

I rise tonight because this is our question today. By what measure and according to what standard might we allow this week to slip between our fingers and not remember what happened on a street in Minneapolis on May 25? What in all creation would justify our forgetting a collective unconsciousness?

We are summoned into this Chamber tonight because George Floyd should be alive today. He should be enjoying the matriculation of his daughter from one grade to the next. He should be living out his days under the protections afforded to every American citizen, such as the presumption of innocence, equal protection under the law, and all the Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

□ 1945

Tragically, none of what ought to be is true in the case of Mr. George Floyd. George Floyd is not alive, George Floyd was not protected, and George Floyd was not a victim of just bigotry and neglect. He was killed by the very institution employed to ensure his safety.

This is what happens when people don't see you as being someone and something worthy of protection. This is what happens when you are viewed as a threat and Blackness is seen as a problem and not as a gift to the world. Indeed, what happened to Mr. George Floyd over a \$20 alleged bill—they said there was a \$20 bill that was counterfeited—that had the assistance of five officers dressed in uniform, in broad daylight, to suffocate him. No one would ever know what happened to the alleged \$20 fraudulent bill.

What happened to George Floyd is a predictable outcome when the country you live in would rather build prisons

than reimagine schools, would rather blame poverty on the poor but never question the gluttony of the rich, and would rather ignore the persistent evil of racism as if the record of our inability to honor each other's humanity had not already resulted in tragedy and death.

The beaches of American history are cluttered with the bleached bones of the innocent, needlessly slaughtered on the battlefield of this Nation's preoccupation with subjugation and hatred. I remind Members that Mr. George Floyd died in the new millennium. This isn't some type of tragedy I am talking about from a century ago. This was the new millennium, and George Floyd deserves to be alive today.

What happened to Mr. George Floyd is the rhyme that makes history, it makes whatever we fail to be honest about: racism, militarism, and, indeed, a destructive system.

We have gathered here today to answer Mark Antony's question. There is no cause, and there are no foreseeable circumstances that would compel us to forget what happened to Mr. George Floyd.

George Floyd was murdered by a police officer who refused to see the humanity of the helpless, who refused to see the humanity of a handcuffed man, who refused to see a man gasping for his last breath with a knee wedged on his back while suffocating him and imperiled. I say to Members: Anyone born of a woman should have been able to identify with the pleading of George Floyd not to lose his life.

Mr. Floyd asked for his mother as he gasped his last breath. One does not need a graduate degree in ethics, morality, or philosophy to have been moved by the elegy of George Floyd. Not only does this event say something about the totalitarian impulses of policing in America, but it also says something about the kind of Nation we have allowed ourselves to become.

We have also allowed certain political influences to compel us to see each other as enemies and not merely as adversaries. We have allowed resentment to determine how we respond to one another and not what is required of us if we are to survive.

This week also presents us with a golden opportunity that we cannot ignore. The painful anniversary of the murder of George Floyd presents us with a chance to not only recommit ourselves to the eradication of racism and police-sponsored violence in America, but it also reminds us that there is a piece of legislation pending in the Senate that needs to be passed right away.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act deserves to be taken under consideration by every United States Senator immediately because not reforming how Black people are policed in this country will render the murder of George Floyd a tragedy, but nothing more. I say to my colleagues today:

Why settle for a tragedy when we can pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and we can make a new beginning. We have it within our power to make sure that what happened on May 25, 2020, just 4 years ago, never happens again.

We have it within our reach to lift America from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. Every Member of the United States Senate has a moral obligation to reconsider and, indeed, pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and not hide behind the politics of our respective parties.

The question before us is a simple one: Do my colleagues want our beloved and great country to be a place that is safe and fit for our children to forge a future without fear and the prospect of indiscriminate hate and violence?

If the answer is yes, then let us work toward getting together to ensure that we will never again be driven into this Chamber to remember the death of innocence.

If the answer is yes, then let us choose a more excellent way.

If the answer is yes, then let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap what we have sown if we faint not.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that, today, we remember those from Central Park, the innocent young men who were tortured into a false confession. They received no mercy 35 years ago. They received no recognition by a former President 35 years later. Those young men had their lives turned upside down when they were accused of a hateful, vengeful attack and rape—indeed, it was done by a person who had been convicted of such. Yet, this man asked for these men to be given the death penalty, and these were teenagers who had been found innocent.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my wonderful colleague from Illinois, who continues to speak truth to power, especially around police violence.

Mr. Speaker, George Floyd's life mattered. We all know and keep chanting, Black lives matter, but we have to show it in action.

Today, I am thinking of George Floyd's daughter, Gianna, who will grow up without him. I can still hear George Floyd crying out for his mama, yelling: "I can't breathe," more than 20 times while he was murdered by police, pleading for his life for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. His murder and the countless others in the hands of police sparked outrage, mobilization, and movements for change.

I saw with my own eyes, right here on this House floor, watching Republicans and Democrats come together and passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act while it went to the Senate to die.

His murder and the countless others in the hands of police require us all to

understand the truth about what is going on in our neighborhoods and our communities. We demand that this body take immediate action to dismantle systemic racism in our country and systems designed to oppress Black and Brown lives in every corner of our country. It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, to honor George Floyd's life with words. We must honor his life with action.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has still not been signed into law 4 years later. Last year was the deadliest year of police violence on record. That should shock us all.

Just this month, Mr. Speaker, Roger Fortson, a Black senior airman, was shot six times by police and killed at his home in Florida. This is his family. Just watching his mother kneel down at his open casket, that should be enough for us to act.

How many more mothers have to experience the loss of their child?

When will Congress finally act?

We must ensure true accountability, justice, and reparations for the generations of harm that policing in our Nation has inflicted on our Black neighbors.

This is the justice they deserve: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Roger Fortson, and so many others who have lost their lives to police violence. That is the least they deserve. This is justice for our communities, and they deserve to be fully seen, heard, and protected.

I will continue, along with my good colleague from Illinois, to continue to push for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I know, in Detroit, where I grew up, the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, for all those who continue to demand justice in our communities, know this: The President of the United States didn't wake up one day and say the Civil Rights Act was a good thing. People marched, did sit-ins, and did boycotts until they moved this institution and the White House. We will continue to march. We will continue to demand that Black lives matter in our country.

Again, with my good colleague, we will continue to demand that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act pass this Chamber, through the Senate, and to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman from the great State of Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for her outspokenness.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from my distinguished colleagues today about policing in our communities and about the loss of innocence, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a somber anniversary in our Nation's history. Four years ago, our Nation

watched in outrage, as yet another Black man was brutally killed by a police officer who betrayed his oath of service to his community.

George Floyd's murder sparked an ongoing national conversation that shone a bright light on the racism that exists in every corner of our society. As a Nation, we have a moral imperative to root out these injustices and build a better society.

In memory of George Floyd, I urge my colleagues to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which will deliver meaningful reform for our communities, hold rogue officers accountable, and save lives. Congress' inaction is unacceptable when we all recognize there is a problem and there are concrete steps we can be taking to save lives. I urge the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE and the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership to make our communities safer.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I want to thank my colleagues for hosting this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order to discuss the families of police violence, their experiences, and the CBC's commitment to enhancing public safety in this nation.

The horrifying killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, by a Minneapolis police officer shocked and awakened the moral consciousness of the nation.

The world witnessed the brutal and traumatizing nine minutes where George Floyd begged for his life—uttering his last words “I can't breathe”—as an officer, ignoring the pleas of George and all those witnessing his death, refused to lift his knee off the neck of George suffocating him and ending his life.

“I can't breathe” continues to echo around the world alongside our cries for justice, change, and protection from and under the law.

We are horrified by the continued massacre of Black bodies in this country for merely existing.

Our homes, our cars, and our neighborhoods continue to be invaded with violence at the hands of racist ideologies that breed fear into our institutions and threaten our lives.

There have been countless murders of Black Americans by the state.

Just last week, Roger Fortson, a 23-year-old Black U.S. airman was shot and killed in his own home by a Florida deputy.

This vicious cycle must end.

There are countless young Black men and women who have had their lives tragically cut short by law enforcement officers who took their lives in their hands.

This year also marks one year since Tyre Nichols was brutally beaten by five Memphis police officers to the point of being unrecognizable.

The nation was shocked but not surprised by his murder, comparing it to the police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles 32 years prior.

And of course, this isn't a new phenomenon of racist abuses of power.

Indeed, the history goes back much further, past Amadou Diallo in New York City, past the Central Park Five, past Emmitt Till, past the racist abuse of law enforcement power during the struggle for civil rights and equal treatment.

But we also must remember that are countless lives and stories that did not make headlines. Stories of victims who never received justice and family members who never received closure.

Just this year alone, police have killed 93 Black people in the U.S.—93 in less than 5 months.

These are not isolated killings, as they are occurring all across the United States, in 28 states documented this year by Mapping Police Violence.

According to a recent ABC poll, 39 percent of Americans are confident that the police in this country are adequately trained to avoid the use of excessive force.

For the first time in the nine-year history of this question, just under half of white Americans say they are confident about police avoiding excessive force or racial bias. About two-thirds of Hispanic Americans lack confidence in police on both excessive force and racial bias.

Americans are 41 percent confident in police treating Black and white people equally.

Despite an uptick in legislation and police reform since June 2020, there has been a steady increase in police killings.

In 2020, 1,152 people were killed at the hands of the police, in a year where much of the population was stuck at home during a pandemic. In 2021, police killed 1,145 people.

In 2022, murders by the U.S. police force reached a record high. At least 1,176 people were killed, an average of 3 murders per day, making 2022 one of the deadliest years on record.

The murders are never ending.

Bianca Austin, Breonna Taylor's aunt said that “there was a movement and uproar across the globe, and we're still having more killings? What are we doing wrong? It's so disheartening”.

It is so true. It seems like the United States is sliding backwards. We had a grandiose movement, where people from all over came together to say this is wrong, yet it does not seem like we have progressed.

How can we make America better for Black men and women? For American Natives? For the LGBT community? For immigrants? For each other?

We are all deserving of better, but we must work together to do better.

The death of Tyre Nichols and Roger Fortson has created serious urgency for the re-introduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The legislation was the product of intense bipartisan negotiations with civil rights advocates, law enforcement stakeholders and the Department of Justice.

The legislation is truly an omnibus product and reflects contributions from across the Congressional Black Caucus, including bills like the PRIDE Act; the PEACE Act; the End Racial Profiling Act; and the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act.

The House has twice passed the George Floyd Act, with the support of 219 Democrats in 117th Congress. It is critical that we introduce the legislation with overwhelming support this Congress. Last Congress, the bill gained 199 cosponsors.

Last Congress the Senate failed to introduce the George Floyd Act, largely because Senate Republicans failed to engage in good faith negotiations. The current high watermark for Senate cosponsorship is 37 Democrats in

the 116th Congress. It is important that Senate Democrats timely introduce the George Floyd bill with significant cosponsorship and not repeat efforts that stymied action on the legislation.

Two years after the murder of George Floyd, in May 2022, the Biden administration released a police reform executive order. Key reforms in President Joe Biden's executive order include:

Improving data collection. All federal law enforcement agencies will contribute to a National Law Enforcement Accountability Database regarding instances of police misconduct as well as submit information to the FBI related to use-of-force incidents. The U.S. attorney general will review the status of and compliance with federal reporting requirements. This also includes the issuance of guidance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies on best practices for contributing their data to federal systems.

Revising use-of-force standards. All federal law enforcement agencies will revise their use-of-force policies to ensure they meet or exceed the standards included in the recently revised policy for the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice's policy provides that use of force is permitted only when "no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist." All federal law enforcement use-of-force policies will also include de-escalation provisions as well as an affirmative duty to intervene to stop excessive use of force and render medical aid.

Limiting the use of no-knock entries. Building upon the U.S. Department of Justice's September 2021 policy, all federal law enforcement agencies will be prohibited from the use of no-knock entries unless an agent has reasonable grounds to believe that knocking and announcing the agent's presence would create an imminent threat of physical violence to the officer and/or another person.

Limiting the militarization of law enforcement. Federal agencies are restricted from transferring and selling additional types of military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, expanding the Obama-era restriction on this practice.

Credentialing of police agencies. The attorney general will develop and implement a process by which state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies will seek accreditation by an independent entity.

Leveraging federal grants. Federal discretionary grants will be awarded to state, local, and tribal governments to encourage compliance with the executive order. This will include an assessment of what discretionary grants will be limited to the law enforcement agencies that achieve accreditation.

Improving crisis response to include alternatives. Guidance will be issued and resources identified to support state, local, tribal, and territorial officials as they implement a range of alternative first-responder models to meet the needs of people experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis or persons who have disabilities. This includes civilian community responder models being developed in jurisdictions across the country that do not include police officers.

The executive order also contains important provisions that improve investigations into deaths in police custody; strengthen the effectiveness of pattern-of-practice investigations; ban choke holds and carotid restraints except

in certain circumstances where use of deadly force is authorized; enhance recruitment, training, and retention practices; ensure the use of body-worn cameras by federal law enforcement officers; and advance key criminal justice reform and reentry measures.

Advocated have also urged that Congress do its part by passing comprehensive police reform legislation that creates meaningful accountability and restores trust between police and the communities they serve by eliminating qualified immunity and strengthening civil rights protections.

Legislative reforms will follow the pattern of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act: amending 18 U.S.C. Section 242, which defines the circumstance when a government official can be criminally responsible for violating someone's civil rights. (Section 242 does not specifically define prohibited conduct and has historically been interpreted too narrowly, failing to hold police officers accountable for a wide range of misconduct.)

Legislative action is also needed to reform/eliminate the judicial doctrine of qualified immunity that drastically reduces the legal liability of police officers. Qualified immunity limits the circumstances in which an individual can sue a police officer for violating their civil rights only to situations where the behavior violates "clearly established law." This strict legal standard curtails accountability in policing to such a degree that officers face few repercussions—even when their conduct violates the Constitution.

While it is broadly recognized within the police reform movement that changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity and Section 242 are needed, Congress will need to pass legislation for these changes to become law.

As I have stated many times, direct action is vitally important but to be effective it must be accompanied by political, legislative, and governmental action, which is necessary because the strength and foundation of democratic government rests upon the consent and confidence of the governed.

Effective enforcement of the law and administration of justice requires the confidence of the community that the law will be enforced impartially and that all persons are treated equally without regard to race or ethnicity or religion or national origin.

As the great jurist Judge Learned Hand said: "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: thou shalt not ration justice."

Equal justice is the proud promise America makes to all persons; the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act will help make that promise a lived reality for African Americans, who have not ever known it to be true in the area of community-police relations.

And when Black Lives Matter, then and only then can it truthfully be said that all lives matter.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana) for today on account of family matters.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on May 16,

2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 3935. To amend the title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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-4248. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's funding announcement on grants.gov — Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities-Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agriculture Communities [USDA-NRCS-COMM-22-NOFO0001139] received May 3, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4249. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's notice of final determination — Final Determination: Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing [Docket No.: FR-6271-N-03] (RIN: 2506-AC55) received May 6, 2024, 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-4250. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Rural Development-Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — 30-Day Notification of Nonpayment of Rent in Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan Programs [Docket No.: RHS-22-MPH-0022] (RIN: 0575-AD25) received May 8, 2024, 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-4251. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants [EPA-R-OAR-CHDV-24-06] received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4252. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's submission of EPA action for Congressional review — Fiscal Year 2024 Lead Service Line Allotments for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4253. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's submission of EPA action for Congressional review — Implementing Lead Service Line Replacement Projects Funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4254. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Program Office, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Statutory Updates to the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program (RIN: 1901-AB60) received May 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4255. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Mandatory Transmissions and Distribution Planning Support Activities (RIN: 1930-AA01) received May 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4256. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Temporary Staff Guidance — Safety Impact Characterization Guidance for Implementing the Risk-Informed Process for Evaluations, Revision 3, received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4257. A letter from the Chief Diversity Officer and Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4258. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Federal Prison Industries, Inc., Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting a report titled, "Correction of Misstatements in Previously Issued FPI Financial Statements"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4259. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4260. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a notification of a nomination, action on nomination, and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4261. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2023 management report and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4262. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston 2023 management report and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4263. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4264. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the 71st Semiannual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority Inspector General for the period October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4265. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's FY 2023 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4266. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report on Website and Digital Services, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336, Sec. 3(b)(2); (132 Stat. 5026); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4267. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4268. A letter from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting the 2023 Family Court Annual Report of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, pursuant to Public Law 107-114, Sec. 4(a); (115 Stat. 2111); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4269. A letter from the Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report titled, "Federal Entity Inspector General Report FY 2023", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 415(h)(2); Added by Public Law 117-263, Sec. 3(b); (136 Stat. 4242) and 5 U.S.C. 4103 note; Public Law 117-348, Sec. 122(e); (136 Stat. 6218); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4270. A letter from the Director, United States Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4271. A letter from the Administrative Specialist for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting [DOI-2019-0012; 212D0102DM DS62500000 DLSN00000.000000 DX62501] (RIN: 1090-AB21) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4272. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's FY 2023 FAST-41 Permitting Best Practices Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-7(a)(3); Public Law 114-94, div. D, title XLI, Sec. 41008 (as amended by Public Law 117-58 div. G, title VIII, Sec. 70801(f)); (135 Stat. 1293); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4273. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary, together with the reasons for amendment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 100-690, Sec. 7109); (102 Stat. 4419); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4274. A letter from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs [Docket No.: FHWA-2018-0039] (RIN: 2125-AF79) received May 6, 2024, 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-4275. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 62nd Annual Report for FY 2023, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 46106(a); Public Law 109-304, Sec. 4; (120 Stat. 1489); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4276. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Yucaipa Valley Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0008; T.D. TTB-193; Ref: Notice No. 214] (RIN: 1513-AC85) received May 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 6160. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program; with an amendment (Rept. 118-513). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7153. A bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-514). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7218. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-515). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. HOUGHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1243. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4763) to provide for a system of regulation of digital assets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5403) 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; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 192) to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia (Rept. 118-516). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8467. A bill to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 8468. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to terminate the eligibility of certain individuals for student loan forgiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 8469. A bill to establish in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security a program to promote the cybersecurity field to disadvantaged communities, including older individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, geographically diverse communities, socioeconomically diverse communities, women, individuals from nontraditional educational paths, individuals who are veterans, and individuals who were formerly incarcerated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 8470. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 8471. A bill to support United States investment opportunities, strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 8472. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 8473. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a report in the event that the assessment of the Army force structure using the process known as "Total Army Analysis" does not include certain missions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 8474. A bill to make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8475. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on the correlation between service in the Armed Forces conducting explosive ordnance disposal and post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 8476. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as principal official responsible for explosive ordnance disposal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself and Mr. LALOTA):

H.R. 8477. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a curriculum to train State, local, Tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and report acts of organized retail crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 8478. A bill to amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 8479. A bill to establish an Inter-agency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MACÉ (for herself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 8480. A bill to require agencies to update mortgage underwriting programs, guidelines, standards, and systems to require

lenders to consider, in the mortgage credit evaluation process, any amounts a borrower has in any brokerage account associated with a cryptocurrency exchange; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. BILL-RAKIS, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 8481. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an extended deadline for the submission of applications regarding emergency treatment furnished in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 8482. A bill to deter conflict in the Taiwan Strait by establishing conditions for suspending normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8483. A bill to amend the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024, to make a technical correction to the Federal payment made in such Act to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 8484. A bill to amend the Buy Indian Act to include the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BUSH, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. FROST, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 8485. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and other senior Executive branch personnel from accepting any foreign emoluments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8486. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to establish a thriving communities grant program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 8487. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exempt widows and widowers of police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers from the government pension offset; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 8488. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the provision of farmer-led technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr.

BALDERSON, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. LATTA):

H.J. Res. 151. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BALINT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 1244. A resolution censuring Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., for knowingly violating the Federal recusal statute and binding ethics standards; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 1245. A resolution recognizing "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 1246. A resolution condemning the Department of State's statement expressing condolences for the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, and other members of their delegation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FRY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1247. A resolution recognizing the importance of "National Safe Boating Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 1248. A resolution recognizing the impact the stigmatization of menstruation has on the lives of women, girls, and people who menstruate, and expressing support for the designation of the month of May as "National Menstrual Health Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 1249. A resolution recognizing on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024, the denial of full participation in their Government through statehood by active duty servicemembers, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-107. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Ari-

zona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1004, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation establishing a Space National Guard; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

ML-108. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2008, urging the United States Congress and President to repeal or amend the Antiquities Act of 1906; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-109. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2007, urging the President of the United States to rescind or revoke the designation of the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and opposing any such future designation in the state of Arizona; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-110. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to Substitute House Concurrent Resolution Number 6, urging the Congress of the United States to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8467.

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

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign Nations pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 includes the power to regulate commodity prices, practices affecting them and the trading or donation of the commodities to impoverished nations. In addition, the Congress has the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 which includes the power to promote the development of Rural America through research and extension of credit.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and related Agencies.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 8468.

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:

This legislation would prohibit students and faculty from receiving federal student loan forgiveness if they are expelled or terminated for a hate crime, disorderly conduct, trespassing, creating a public disturbance, or violating titles IV or VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 8469.

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

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a program to promote the cybersecurity field to disadvantaged communities.

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 8470.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8471.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S.C.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill aims to counter organized criminal and drug trafficking groups who are devastating communities in and around the Brazilian Amazon, upending rule of law, and accelerating environmental degradation and deforestation.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 8472.

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:

To support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8473.

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:

To direct the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a report in the event that the assessment of the Army force structure using the process known as "Total Army Analysis" does not include certain missions.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8474.

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:

To make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8475.

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:

To direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on the correlation between service in the Armed Forces conducting explosive ordnance disposal and post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8476.

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:

To direct the Secretary of the Army to designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as principal official responsible for explosive ordnance disposal.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 8477.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a curriculum to train State, local, Tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and report acts of organized retail crime, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 8478.

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

Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 8479.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, as well as related actions.

By Ms. MACE:
H.R. 8480.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require agencies to update mortgage underwriting programs, guidelines, standards, and systems to require lenders to consider, in the mortgage credit evaluation process, any amounts a borrower has in any brokerage account associated with a cryptocurrency exchange.

By Mr. MAST:
H.R. 8481.
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 would extend the Department of Veterans Affairs emergency community care notification deadline from 72-hours after emergency care starts, to 72-hours after discharge of receiving such care.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:
H.R. 8482.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 7, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill will seek to deter conflict in the Taiwan Strait by establishing a policy to revoke Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") with the People's Republic of China ("PRC") if the PRC government invades Taiwan.

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 8483.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill would fix a drafting error in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 relating to the appropriation for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:
H.R. 8484.
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:
To amend the Buy Indian Act to include the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RASKIN:
H.R. 8485.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 9, Clause 8: No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States. And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.
The single subject of this legislation is.

This legislation enforces the Constitution's Foreign Emoluments Clause.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:
H.R. 8486.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
According to Article 1. Section 8 Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: 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 single subject of this legislation is: transportation grant
By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 8487.

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:
To amend title II of the Social Security Act to exempt widows and widowers of police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers from the government pension offset.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:
H.R. 8488.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture
By Mr. COLLINS:
H.J. Res. 151.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Environmental

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 11: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 12: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 20: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 45: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 431: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 472: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 549: Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 594: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 595: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 625: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 631: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 660: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 694: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUIZ, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 709: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. AMO.
H.R. 716: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 723: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 770: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 798: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 827: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 865: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 866: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 894: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 977: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 984: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1088: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1092: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1097: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1111: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 1179: Ms. STEFANK.
H.R. 1199: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 1359: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1385: Mr. FLOOD and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1415: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 1425: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 1447: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1477: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1572: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1610: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1637: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1691: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1831: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2390: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 2400: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 2412: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2439: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2584: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2598: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 2630: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 2639: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 2662: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2663: Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 2711: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2720: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2722: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 2726: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2748: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2808: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2880: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 2891: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2923: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2933: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 2940: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2998: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3002: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 3003: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3018: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3019: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3165: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3184: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3199: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 3213: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 3312: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3347: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 3409: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3481: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. HOYER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3499: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3501: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CASTEN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 3503: Mr. CROW and Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 3537: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3619: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3620: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3621: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3622: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3639: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 3652: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3730: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 3768: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3855: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3882: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 3933: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 3940: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4048: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4122: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 4137: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4154: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4184: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4285: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 4289: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4326: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 4340: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 4384: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4391: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 4605: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4646: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 4663: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4757: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4817: Mr. MENENDEZ.

- H.R. 4818: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4838: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 4895: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4995: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 5003: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 5030: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 5199: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 5248: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 5357: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5400: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 5437: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5488: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 5577: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 5744: Mr. HIMES, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 5778: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 5813: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 5837: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 5887: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 5909: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LAWLER, and Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 5970: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 5973: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5976: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5995: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 6031: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 6111: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 6257: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 6286: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 6435: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 6498: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6516: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 6600: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 6634: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6640: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6652: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 6664: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 6672: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 6727: Ms. LETLOW, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 6815: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 6829: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 6881: Mr. ESPALLAT.
H.R. 6889: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 6892: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6944: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 6951: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6969: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CASTEN, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 7000: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 7007: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 7039: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 7099: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 7191: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 7198: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 7218: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 7227: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 7248: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 7258: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 7273: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 7354: Mr. DELUZZO.
H.R. 7378: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 7384: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 7409: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 7438: Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 7442: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 7479: Mr. CRANE and Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.
H.R. 7490: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7494: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 7515: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 7516: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 7613: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 7629: Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. BALINT, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 7636: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 7675: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7681: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 7698: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 7743: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 7747: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 7749: Mr. DELUZZO.
H.R. 7752: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 7770: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. IVEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 7771: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 7784: Mr. GOOD of Virginia and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 7790: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 7808: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7825: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 7829: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7841: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 7859: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 7862: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7866: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 7882: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 7900: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 7906: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 7909: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 7925: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 7939: Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.
H.R. 7959: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 7999: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 8003: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 8011: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 8018: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 8046: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 8054: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 8060: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 8061: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 8076: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 8107: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 8127: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 8164: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 8179: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 8206: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 8221: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 8282: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MILLS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 8290: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 8295: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 8315: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MAST, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 8319: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 8323: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 8331: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 8333: Mrs. BICE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8336: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 8349: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 8368: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 8370: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 8371: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 8373: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 8375: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 8376: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 8377: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 8384: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 8385: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 8391: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 8399: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 8410: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 8419: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8426: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8430: Mr. CRANE and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 8432: Mr. BIGGS and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8433: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 8434: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.
H.R. 8437: Ms. FOXX, Mr. BAIRD, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 8459: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8466: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.J. Res. 76: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.J. Res. 82: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.J. Res. 97: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.J. Res. 123: Mr. NORMAN.
H.J. Res. 131: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.J. Res. 134: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.J. Res. 135: Mr. BAIRD.
H.J. Res. 136: Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.
H.J. Res. 138: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.J. Res. 139: Mr. ESTES, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.J. Res. 140: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 141: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 142: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 143: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 144: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.
H. Res. 269: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H. Res. 376: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 413: Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Res. 616: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE of Florida, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. BERA.
H. Res. 837: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 988: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H. Res. 1063: Mr. HIMES.
H. Res. 1072: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 1148: Mr. CAREY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H. Res. 1180: Mr. HORSFORD.
H. Res. 1187: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H. Res. 1198: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 1206: Mr. CASTEN, Mr. AMO, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 1214: Mr. KEATING.
H. Res. 1222: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H. Res. 1229: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. PORTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 1233: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 1242: Ms. WILD and Mr. TRONE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative CASAR or a designee to H.R. 4763, the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

May 21, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H3401

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-11. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, relative to House Resolution No. 23-15, to recognize and call for an immediate de-

escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

No. 88

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.

Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Today, give special energy, insight, and patience to the Members of this body. Strengthen them against relentless pressures from constituents, lobbyists, and special interests, as You give them wisdom to resolve their differences without rancor or bitterness. Lead them in the way of compromise that doesn't sacrifice principle or self-respect and that preserves timeless values, which serve the common good. May their consistent communion with You radiate on their faces, be expressed in their character, and be exuded in positive joy.

Lord, fill this Chamber with Your spirit and our Senators with Your strength, courage, and peace. We pray in Your gracious 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, May 21, 2024.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BORDER ACT OF 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. 4361.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. 4361, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 397, S. 4361, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, John W. Hickenlooper, Jack Reed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 8369

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8369) to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

BORDER ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for years, our Republican colleagues have insisted that the only real long-term solution to fixing the southern border was for Congress to pass legislation. We Democrats agree: Congress must

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S3783

act. We need to fix the border and reform immigration to make it fairer and more humane.

This week, Republicans will have an opportunity to join us in taking action. A few moments ago, I filed cloture on the motion to proceed to the bipartisan Border Act, the same bill negotiated 3 months ago by the bipartisan group of Senators MURPHY, SINEMA, and LANKFORD.

The Senate will vote on this bipartisan border bill on Thursday. Last night, the President called both Leader MCCONNELL and Speaker JOHNSON and urged them to go forward with our bill. All those who say we need to act on the border will get a chance this week to show they are serious about fixing the problem.

Unlike H.R. 2, the bipartisan Border Act was written explicitly to win support from both parties with input—significant input—from both sides. The Border Act is an exercise in legislating; H.R. 2 is not.

When Republicans pushed H.R. 2, it couldn't even get a single Democratic vote here in the Senate, much less all Senate Republicans, for that matter. That was not a serious bill. What we are voting on this week is serious.

It is the same bipartisan bill both sides negotiated for months last winter. It is the same bill endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, a very conservative group; by the Chamber of Commerce; and by the very conservative Wall Street Journal editorial page.

By any objective measure, it is strong and realistic, and, most importantly, a bipartisan proposal. If our bipartisan bill was good enough to win the support of the union that represents border agents, why isn't it good enough for Senate Republicans? Are Senate Republicans saying they know better than our agents patrolling the border? I hope that is not true. I hope our Republican colleagues are ready to join us.

I will be clear: We don't expect every Democrat or every Republican to come out in favor of this bill. That is why, as I have said before, the only way to pass this bill or any border bill is with broad bipartisan support.

If you go by what Republicans said over the last few months, you would think they would leap at an opportunity like the one we have right now. In the words of Speaker JOHNSON, "The time to act on [the border] is yesterday." In the words of my colleague from Texas, "It makes no sense to me for us to do nothing when we might be able to make things better." And in the words of my colleague from South Carolina, "To those who think that if President Trump wins . . . that we can get a better deal—you won't." And he added, "This moment will pass. Do not let it pass."

Well, I wholeheartedly agree. We should not let this moment pass. Border legislation is just about the hardest thing Congress ever wrestles with. Bi-

partisan border bills are rare opportunities here in Congress. That is precisely why we have it in front of us this week. I urge everyone not to let the politics get in the way.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on abortion, shortly, I will join Senators MURRAY, BALDWIN, KELLY, and some of the Nation's leading reproductive rights activists to highlight the terrible consequences of repealing the protections of *Roe v. Wade*.

The MAGA Supreme Court repealed *Roe* nearly 2 years ago. It will go down as one of the worst—if not the worst—Supreme Court decisions of modern American history. In one fell swoop, MAGA radicals on the Court made it so that our children and grandchildren will sadly grow up with fewer civil liberties than those who came before them.

Repealing *Roe* was tragic. It was alarming. It was outrageous, but it didn't happen in a vacuum. It happened because Senate Republicans packed our courts with hard-right judges, plucked right out of the Federalist Society checklist. It happened because Donald Trump appointed not one, not two, but three MAGA Justices, all who voted to overturn *Roe*. Remember what Donald Trump said a few weeks ago? He was "proud" to be the person who paved the way to overturn *Roe*.

And after *Roe* was eradicated, MAGA radicals opened the floodgates for draconian and cruel bans for women's choice across America. And we know this is just the beginning.

Does anyone seriously doubt that should Trump become President again, he won't try to add even more extreme jurists to the bench so he can continue his assault on women's reproductive freedoms? Of course, he will. And the Republican Senators, if past is prologue, are likely, unfortunately, to go along. If Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans get into power, the hard right will not rest until a national abortion ban becomes the law of the land. Mark my words, that is the direction that they will take America in.

House Republicans already included the national abortion ban in their recent Republican Study Committee budget. Remember, the Republican Study Committee includes a majority of House Republicans and their leadership.

Roe may be gone, but, sadly, the hard right's obsession with eliminating reproductive rights is not. Make no mistake, Republicans will have to answer for their anti-abortion records today, tomorrow, and at the ballot box in November.

GUN SAFETY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on guns, 2 years ago, serious-minded Democrats and serious-minded Republicans came together to pass the most

significant bipartisan gun safety bill in 30 years. We passed several new, commonsense rules in our gun safety bill, including rules closing dangerous loopholes on background checks. And I salute so many of my colleagues—led by CHRIS MURPHY and KYRSTEN SINEMA—who helped make this happen.

Yesterday, those rules on background checks were supposed to go into effect, but, sadly, MAGA extremists had other plans. Instead, MAGA extremists exploited our justice system and put our background check reforms on ice. How did they do it? By taking their case to their favorite judge in the country, in the Northern District of Texas, to rubberstamp a nationwide injunction.

The decision out of Texas is terrible for America for two reasons: First, the decision out of Texas is another consequence of judge shopping, a deeply unfair practice which jaundices the whole fairness and support a judicial system has where radicals—rightwing MAGA radicals—all but guarantee a favorable outcome by going to a judge of their choice, often in jurisdictions where there is only one sitting judge in that local division, guaranteeing a favorable audience and guaranteeing a favorable outcome.

No one had any doubt when these rightwing anti-gun safety groups went to this one judge—the very same judge who knocked out mifepristone—no one had any doubt what decision they would receive.

Judge shopping jaundices our legal system like few other abuses do. I have introduced a bill to rein in judge shopping, and I hope both sides can work together on this legislation to restore fairness to the judicial system.

If not, we are going to see injustice after injustice, a slanted judicial system, leaning in favor of hard-right radicals imposing its will on the rest of the Nation. And the courts will have less and less respect because of it.

I urge the Judicial Conference—they agree judge shopping is bad, forum shopping is bad, but they are doing nothing to implement it. They should.

But second, maybe even worse, the decision out of Texas means MAGA radicals have temporarily succeeded in blocking commonsense gun safety measures and making our communities less safe. There were outrages in Uvalde, in Buffalo.

And, finally, the Congress, in a bipartisan way, enacted the strongest gun safety laws in decades, ever since probably I passed the Brady Law and assault weapons ban—those were my bills in the House—in 1994.

And now people are less safe—less safe—because people who shouldn't have guns, young people, are getting them. Closing loopholes on background checks help keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them.

Keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people should be something both sides can agree on. But, sadly, MAGA Republicans and the rightwing gun lobby thinks the opposite. And with forum shopping, they

can almost automatically get their way at least in the district courts.

PACT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on the PACT Act, this is some good news. Today, President Biden will announce some very good news. It is very good news for our Nation's veterans. The Biden administration has now approved over 1 million claims from over 880,000 veterans still suffering from burn pit exposure thanks to our PACT Act.

When we passed the PACT Act 2 years ago, it was the most significant expansion of veterans' healthcare benefits in generations. It sent a message to our veterans suffering from cancer, lung disease, and other ailments from burn pits that we are here for you. I am glad to see the PACT Act is delivering on its promise and helping our veterans to get the care and benefits they deserve.

And like the gun bill I mentioned before and like the IRA and like the Chips and Science bill, it reminds us, when Democrats led in the House, led in the Senate, and had the Presidency, we got so much done for the American people.

FARM BILL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the farm bill, later this week, House Republicans on the House Committee on Agriculture intend to mark up their version of the farm bill that I believe falls terribly short.

The farm bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress works on, with consequences that affect tens of millions of Americans and a broad range of interests, from farmers, both big and small, to nutrition advocates, to climate champions and rural development advocates who rebuild local economies and create jobs—lots of jobs—in rural America. Some of these agriculture programs have helped rural parts of Upstate New York over and over again.

A good farm bill represents all of the interests I just mentioned. So passing a farm bill has always been—and must be—bipartisan, but, once again, the path MAGA-right House Republicans are taking with their farm bill breaks with the bipartisan tradition, which has always enshrined the ag bill. A purely partisan bill that departs from the longstanding spirit of bipartisan cooperation, unfortunately, will not have a future in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FDIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, FDIC Chairman Mark Gruenberg announced he was prepared to step down from his position and expressed pride in maintaining public confidence in the Nation's banking system. Unfortunately, there is little such confidence in his ability to foster a safe working environment for the Agency's employees.

But despite alarming reports about rampant sexual harassment, abuse, and retaliation at the FDIC, Senate Democrats in positions to insist on change have actually pulled their punches. Instead of calls for Mr. Gruenberg's prompt resignation, we have heard everything from confidence in his ability to lead change at the Agency to delicate suggestions that the President nominate a new Chair.

The senior-most members of the Banking Committee apparently can't bring themselves to call a spade a spade. Surely, their reluctance has nothing to do with the FDIC's line of succession, which would fill a vacancy with the Agency's distinguished Vice Chair, who happens to be a Republican.

Surely, our colleagues won't play politics in the face of such glaring failures of leadership at a major regulatory authority. The Senate's oversight responsibility is serious business. I hope our colleagues in the majority are up to the task.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, yesterday, the Democratic leader once again tipped his cap to President Biden for what he describes as "many actions" in "recent weeks" to secure the southern border, which leads me with a couple of questions: First, what took the President so long? And, second, why isn't he taking the actions we know would actually begin to address the crisis that he actually invited?

The reason I ask is because time matters here. The cost of an average day of avoidable crisis at the border is measured in thousands of apprehensions of illegal arrivals and the interdiction of lethal drugs like fentanyl.

And if that is not alarming enough, consider the story reported earlier this month of the catch-and-release of a military-age male who spent 2 years free in the interior of the country before he was detained for alleged affiliations with ISIS-K.

Of course, everything I have mentioned so far we only know because the Border Patrol was able to stop it. But think about what border officials know they are not catching—the known "got-aways."

For 10 years before President Biden took office, under administrations of both parties, an average of about 125,000 people per year successfully crossed the southern border and escaped into the interior. On the Biden administration's watch, in fiscal years 2021 through 2023, the average tally of known "got-aways" is 550,000—from 125,000 to more than half a million.

President Biden's Press Secretary says this administration has "done more . . . than anybody else" to secure the border. But if you wanted to make that claim true, you would say this President has done more than anyone else to make the tough jobs of CBP and other law enforcement personnel even tougher.

In fact, one sobering new report suggests that contending for years with a historic humanitarian and security crisis without effective enforcement authorities is taking a heavy toll on the men and women of the Border Patrol. The rate of suicide among CBP personnel is three times higher than it was a decade ago. As one agent told reporters, "when it turned out that the job became nothing more than processing and releasing these people, that was very hard to take."

Going soft on border security may have started as just a shortsighted campaign strategy. A reckless debate-stage promise to "surge" asylum seekers to the border might have been just a cynical play to court leftwing voters, but after 3 years on the job, President Biden's failure to perform one of the most basic functions of his office isn't endearing. It is not some impressive sign of leftwing bona fides.

It is a glaring, avoidable failure, a profound moral embarrassment, and even Washington Democrats are beginning to recognize it as a tremendous political liability. The American people are telling poll after poll that they are alarmed by the border crisis and want to see real solutions.

Fortunately, the quickest way for the President to start undoing the damage he invented is to restore and use the authorities he already has at his disposal, like "Remain in Mexico" and border wall construction. Any of our Democratic colleagues who recognize that the President must act ought to start telling him so.

It is time for the Biden administration to start exercising its immense authority to restore sanity and start cleaning up the mess at our southern border. The time for distractions is long, long past.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, speaking of the failure to discharge basic responsibilities—the Biden administration's Department of Education.

Around the country, high school seniors and their parents are still reeling from delays and processing errors in a botched rollout of the Free Application

for Federal Student Aid. Families have had to make tough decisions ahead of enrollment deadlines with incomplete information.

One such parent described the frustration she and her daughter were facing back in April:

She's supposed to decide by the end of this month and pay her housing deposit, but we can't commit to anything until we know what the financials look like.

It certainly makes one wonder: What are all those bureaucrats at the Education Department up to if they can't complete a fundamental part of their job? Unfortunately but unsurprisingly, the answer seems to be spending time and taxpayer dollars on activities that run contrary to the Department's mandate.

The first of these activities, as I have discussed before, is student loan socialism. Of course, the Supreme Court made it clear that this scheme is illegal, and basic common sense tells us it is profoundly unfair both to folks who opted not to pursue a 4-year degree and to those who worked through college and paid their own bills. But President Biden has continued undeterred. Last month, his administration proposed a new rule to allow the Secretary of Education to cancel additional student debt for certain borrowers. It is estimated this will cost taxpayers nearly \$150 billion.

But the Department's illegal nonsense doesn't stop there. Unelected bureaucrats are also trying to rewrite title IX of the Civil Rights Act. The Biden administration apparently wants to take a law that was designed to promote equal opportunities for women in education and make it do the exact opposite. This rule would require States and educational institutions to abandon biological sex as the determinant in program decisions and use so-called gender identity instead, and institutions that refuse to comply would lose access to Federal funding. More than 25 States have already sued to overturn this absurd rule, but the damage to the Department of Education's reputation is already done.

High school seniors and parents have already had to make college choices without crucial financial aid information. Working taxpayers are already footing the bill for the highest earning segments of the Washington Democrats' base. Laws that enacted protections for women are already being used to violate those same protections. It is shaping up to be a banner year for the Biden administration bureaucrats.

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 Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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.

BORDER ACT OF 2024

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, April border numbers came out last week, bringing us up to more than 1½ million migrant encounters at the southern border so far in fiscal year 2024—1½ million in just 7 months.

Between official U.S. Customs and Border Protection encounters and known "got-aways"—which are individuals the Border Patrol saw but were unable to apprehend—we are closing in on a staggering 10 million migrant encounters at our southern border under President Biden. That is substantially more than the population of New York City. In fact, it is more than the population of all but the largest U.S. States, if you can believe that. And there are still 8 more months in the President's term.

After 3 years of half measures, deflections, and outright ignoring the raging crisis at our Nation's border, the President and Democrats appear to have finally woken up to the fact that their border crisis might be a major political liability for them in the upcoming election.

Fear for their election prospects is doing what 3 years of chaos at the southern border could not, and that is get them focused on illegal immigration—sort of, because the vote on border legislation the Democrat leaders announced for this week isn't really about addressing illegal immigration; it is about giving the American people the impression that Democrats care about illegal immigration.

If the Democrat leader were serious about addressing the crisis at our southern border, he would be bringing up legislation that actually stood a chance of making it out of both Houses of Congress and to the President's desk, but he is not. Instead he is bringing up a vote that he knows will fail in the hope of giving political cover to vulnerable Democrats and with the side benefit, he hopes, of putting Republicans in a difficult spot—political theater at its finest.

If the Democrat leader goes through with this vote this week, he should expect some difficult conversations. Perhaps he would like to explain why, if Democrats are so concerned about illegal immigration and securing the border, they have repeatedly banded together this year to oppose—to oppose—

commonsense amendments that came to the floor.

You would think that if Democrats were really worried about addressing the illegal immigration crisis, they might have supported Senator BLACKBURN's motion to allow State and local law enforcement to detain criminal illegal aliens for ICE to deport them. Or Senator LANKFORD's amendment to prohibit funding from being used to release special-interest aliens—those are individuals who may pose a threat to the United States—during legal proceedings. Or Senator HAGERTY's amendments to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to fly illegal immigrants into the United States or to have them count in the census. The list goes on.

It is hard to understand why anyone would oppose such commonsense measures, and yet all Democrats did. So it is just a little hard to swallow their newfound enthusiasm for border security.

Needless to say, it is not just Democrats in Congress scrambling for political cover. The President is also desperately trying to make himself appear serious on the border. Two weeks ago, the Department of Homeland Security proposed a rule to expedite the deportation of criminals and terrorists. But if the President thought this would make him look serious on border security, he was wrong because the President's new order is a reversal of his own policy, which was established earlier in his administration. That is right. The only reason the President had to finally allow for the immediate deportation of criminals and terrorists is because his administration had created a situation that allowed these individuals to stay in the country in the first place.

Look, I am glad President Biden is making a small attempt to clear up part of the mess he has made, but I am afraid the "Vote for me; I am cleaning up the historic disaster I have created" may not be the most convincing election slogan.

Let's be very clear. We are here today with 3 successive years of record-breaking illegal immigration at our southern border because of President Biden. On the day he took office, the President began dismantling the border security policies of his predecessor that, I might add, had been working. Illegal immigration began surging in response, and it has never stopped.

So while I appreciate that my Democratic colleagues would like to make it seem like this is a congressional matter in order to take the President off the hook and put Republicans on it, the truth is, we don't need congressional action to fix the crisis at our southern border. President Biden created this border crisis, and he can end it today using the very same authority he used to dismantle so many border security policies when he became President.

We have 5 more months until election day, and I suspect this won't be

the last attempt by Democrats to try to convince people that they want to address illegal immigration. But after 3-plus years of a Democrat-created border crisis, will the American people really believe—really believe—that the arsonists who started the fire are really serious about putting it out?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak to the same topic that my distinguished colleague from South Dakota was talking about. He called what was going to happen over the next couple of days here political theater. That is pretty accurate. A political stunt. Political cover. A charade. Instead of actually securing the border, that is what Democrats in Congress, that is what President Biden—that is all they are interested in, because, as my colleague mentioned, President Biden has all the authority he needs to secure the border.

But I want to spend a little bit of time here talking about the bipartisan bill that has been reintroduced that we will be voting on again on Thursday, although it failed very quickly because it literally was worse than doing nothing.

But I think the first point to be made is—so the American public understands—when President Biden and Democrats in Congress talk about securing the border, they are not talking about securing the border the way most Americans think about it, like actually securing the border. What they are talking about is: How do we make it more efficient to encounter, process, and disperse illegal immigrants who are coming to this country with invalid asylum claims? How can we encounter them, process them, and disperse them as efficiently as possible? That is what they are talking about. So don't be fooled when they talk about securing the border.

Proof positive of that is, one of the lead Democrat negotiators in this bipartisan bill—let me give the exact quote. He said the bill requires the President to funnel asylum claims to the land ports of entry when more than 5,000 people cross a day. That is not called securing the border; that is just sending the flow someplace else. Then the Senator went on and said: The border never closes.

So, again, when Democrats talk about securing the border, they are talking about more efficiently encountering, processing, and dispersing people; they are not talking about securing the border.

I want to start—to prove my point that they were never serious in these negotiations other than looking for political cover—with this quote that the majority leader gave to POLITICO a day or two after that border bill failed. The majority leader said:

We were playing chess, they were playing checkers, and we ended up with a Ukraine bill.

He also went on to say:

We also end up in much better shape on the border than we were three months ago.

I will come back to this, but let me hit the points now. If you were really negotiating in good faith, if those negotiations failed, would you literally rub your negotiating partner's nose in the failure by claiming: We were playing chess, those knuckleheads were playing checkers, and we got exactly what we wanted? I would argue that is not the sign of a good-faith negotiation.

Then, if you were really interested in securing the border, you would never make that statement: "We . . . end[ed] up in . . . better shape on the border than we were three months ago." Better shape on the border would have been actually passed enhanced authority for the President to actually secure the border.

The majority leader thinks he is in better shape on the border because he got the political cover he sought, which was his only goal in those negotiations.

Let me spend just a little bit of time describing why that bill was far worse—and I mean far worse—than doing nothing.

This is the border chart I have been producing since I became chairman of Homeland Security in 2015. This shows monthly totals of encounters on the southwest border.

You can see, back here in 2014—I have recreated that right here—that President Obama, when he hit 2,000 people a day, declared that a humanitarian crisis. And President Obama was correct; it was a humanitarian crisis.

Now, the solution back then was we started detaining people. We started clamping down. We built a new detention facility. President Obama actually had success in reducing the flow until a court reinterpreted the Flores settlement agreement and said that that applied to not only unaccompanied children, forcing their release in 20 days; it also applied to children accompanied by their parents.

That was the one court decision that did weaken a Presidential authority. But the fact of the matter is, even with that weakened Presidential authority, because of DACA, which sparked all this, when President Trump faced his border crisis—almost 5,000 people a day in 1 month—he used the Presidential authority that the Supreme Court, in its 2018 decision talking about the Immigration and Nationality Act, said that current law exudes deference to the President in every clause. It entrusts to the President decisions whether and when to suspend entry, whose entry to suspend, for how long, and on what conditions. It thus vests the President with ample power to impose entry restrictions in addition to those elsewhere enumerated in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

So obviously President Trump was able to use existing authority. He closed the border in 12 months—12

months—not through any help by Congress passing a law; by using that authority where the Supreme Court said the law exudes deference to the Executive.

Well, when President Biden came into office, he blew the border wide open. How? He did it by using that exact same Executive authority that exuded deference to the President. He used that deference, he used that authority, and he blew open the border, and we see the catastrophe that has resulted.

Now, the problem with this bill is it codifies most of President Biden's open border policy. It sets thresholds at 5,000, at 4,000, and I will talk about those in greater detail. But thresholds to do what? Supposedly to secure the border. No, it doesn't really secure the border. Again, it sends those individuals to the ports of entry to have their asylum claims adjudicated in a Rube Goldberg-type situation. It spends almost \$20 billion, this bill—\$20 billion—primarily, again, to accomplish the Democrats' definition of securing the border, which is to more efficiently encounter, process, and disperse illegal migrants who do not have valid asylum claims. That is what this bill does. It builds more detention facilities. It hires a small number of Border Patrol agents—425—but it hires over 4,000 asylum officers to, again, adjudicate these claims.

And they use a new standard now. It goes from a significant possibility that these claims are valid to a reasonable. I am sorry; I don't see much distinction there. So, again, these asylum officers are going to be given all kinds of discretion. These adjudications are now going to be done by asylum officers, not by immigration judges.

So I see nothing in this bill that in any way, shape, or form forces a higher standard. It is all subjective. And under this administration, the subjectiveness of that I can pretty well guarantee you will continue the catastrophe.

It pays for more detention beds. It pays for alternates to detention, which has never worked effectively. But, again, \$20 billion of money we don't have.

Now, when President Trump secured the border, he didn't have additional funding for that. He didn't have additional Customs and Border Protection agents. He used his policies. He used his Executive authority—"Remain in Mexico." You can't come to this country and claim asylum; you have to do it from your home country or stay in Mexico to do it. That was a huge deterrent, and the flow stopped with safe third country agreements. There were other things. Again, using that Executive authority, he secured the border. We didn't need an immigration bill—certainly not this Rube Goldberg bill that spends \$20 billion that we don't have.

Rather than spending all that money to encourage more illegal immigrants

to come to this country, we ought to stop the flow, and then we wouldn't have to spend the money. Doesn't that make a whole lot more sense? Do what President Trump did: Actually stop the flow. But, again, that is not what this bill does.

I think the worst aspect of this bill—and this is why I always talk about it is worse than doing nothing—is not the 5,000 average migrants a day, which was—I mean, that is what this would look like if we just normalized 5,000 or 4,000. You are just codifying the open border. The 5,000 threshold makes it mandatory that the President supposedly secure the border. Again, it doesn't really define that. I would argue that doesn't even secure the border. But it is the 4,000 discretionary threshold—that, when average migration, I think, over 7 days reaches 4,000 a day—a massive number—now the President, it says, has discretion to stop processing asylum claims and supposedly secure the border.

Well, why is that problematic? Well, again, the Supreme Court said the current law exudes deference. President Trump had the authority. By Congress passing a law basically implying the President doesn't have the authority to stop processing asylum claims, you are weakening that authority. And even worse, that discretionary authority ends after 3 years. So that bipartisan bill would actually dramatically weaken the authority of a President who is actually serious about securing the border.

That is why that bill had to be defeated and must be defeated now. It is not a serious attempt. It is a bill that was negotiated in bad faith, with the Democrats supposedly playing chess and, unfortunately, our side playing checkers.

Again, it doesn't have to be this complex. Use current authority. Take a look at what Trump did. Do that. Don't spend additional money. Stop the flow. That ought to be our goal.

So, again, most Republicans in the Senate conference, we weren't looking for an immigration bill. We certainly weren't looking for one that weakened the President's authority. We would have been happy to strengthen the President's authority. We would have been happy to clarify—by the way, Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, completely disagreed with the court decision on the Flores settlement. We would be happy to clarify that, no, Flores only applies to unaccompanied children. We have that deference. We could follow the law to detain people who came to this country illegally. We would be happy to strengthen authority.

What we were looking for in a border bill was to have an enforcement mechanism that would force President Biden to use the authority he has to actually secure the border based on our definition of securing the border, the way most Americans view securing the border. Stop the flow of illegal migrants

that has caused a clear and present danger to this Nation. I could go through the list of horrors—the drug traffickers, the human traffickers, the sex traffickers, the members of some of the most brutal gangs in Mexico, South and Central America, the military-age men coming into this country. We are going to be dealing with this catastrophe for decades—for decades; the rapes, the murders that are being committed by people in this country who shouldn't be here that have been facilitated by this open border policy.

Again, Republicans would be happy to strengthen the President's authority to actually secure the border. What we are not happy to do is engage in this charade.

Let me end on this note again: Is this the quote of someone who has entered into good faith negotiations to develop a bill to actually secure the border? This is the majority leader of the Senate, the one who is going to engage in political theater again this week, bringing up the exact same bill that has already failed. It failed in the eyes of the public within 24 hours after the introduction, it was so bad. It was worse than doing nothing. But the majority leader seemed to be pretty happy with that failed bill:

We were playing chess, they were playing checkers, and we ended up with a Ukraine bill.

That is what they wanted. Their primary focus, their priority, was providing \$60 billion to a bloody stalemate, which, by the way, a couple of days after that thing passed, the administration was already indicating, well, that is probably not going to be enough. Even though the majority leader came out of the White House and said: This is simple. Ukraine gets \$60 billion, they win. If they don't get \$60 billion, they lose.

This is a disingenuous quote of a bad-faith negotiating partner. But it is also the quote—if you look at the last sentence there—of somebody who is not looking to secure the border but was looking for political cover. That is all he wanted. That is all the Democrats wanted. That is all President Biden wants: political cover.

We also end up in much better shape on the border than we were 3 months ago.

Again, the bill didn't pass. I am glad it didn't. It would have been worse than doing nothing. But they didn't get a bill to supposedly secure the border. And he is happy about it? He has a big old Cheshire Cat grin on his face: We were playing chess, they were playing checkers, we got exactly what we wanted. And \$60 billion to secure another country's border, and we can keep our border wide open. We can allow this flood of illegal migrants coming to this country. We don't care. We want an open border. We know it causes problems. All we want is political cover, and we got it.

We are in a lot better shape passing nothing; not strengthening the President's authority to close the border;

not having enforcement mechanisms to force President Biden, who wants an open border, to use the authority to secure the border. No. They got a bill that they are going to bring up again. It will fail. They are going to play political theater. They are going to use political cover. And they are just happy as a lark. They think they have political cover.

I am hoping that the American public is paying attention to this charade, to this political theater, and recognizes that President Biden and his colleagues in the Democratic Congress want an open border. They caused this problem, and they will do nothing to secure it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent the Senate start the scheduled vote early.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 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. 599, Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Laphonza R. Butler, Brian Schatz, 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 nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Table listing names of Senators voting YEAS for Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.

NAYS—27

Table listing names of Senators voting NAYS for Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.

NOT VOTING—7

Table listing names of Senators who did not vote for Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF KRISSA M. LANHAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Krissa Lanham to the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Ms. Lanham received her B.A., summa cum laude, from Yale University and her J.D. from Yale Law School. She then served as a law clerk, first for Judge Robert N. Chatigny on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut and then for Judge Barry G. Silverman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Phoenix.

In 2009, Ms. Lanham began working as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona. She has served as appellate division chief since 2020, after previously serving as deputy appellate chief, human trafficking coordinator, and medical marijuana coordinator. She also serves as the Ninth Circuit representative to the Department of Justice's Appellate Chiefs Working Group.

Ms. Lanham has represented the United States in more than 500 Federal

prosecutions, and she has represented the United States and its Agencies in more than 50 civil cases. She has tried nine Federal criminal cases to verdict, including six jury trials.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Lanham as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Arizona. She has deep ties to Arizona, and she enjoys the strong support of both of her home State Senators, Ms. SINEMA and Mr. KELLY.

At Ms. Lanham's confirmation hearing, Senator SINEMA highlighted Ms. Lanham's commitment to public service and noted how she looked forward to Ms. Lanham's continued service to the Nation as a district judge. I also look forward to Ms. Lanham's continued service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

VOTE ON LANHAM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lanham nomination?

Mr. PETERS. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Table listing names of Senators voting YEAS for Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.

NAYS—26

Table listing names of Senators voting NAYS for Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.

Table listing names of Senators who did not vote for Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.

NOT VOTING—8

Table listing names of Senators who did not vote for Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.

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 actions.

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 executive 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. 600, Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Laphonza R. Butler, Brian Schatz, 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 nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 175 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Table listing names of Senators voting YEAS for Rollcall Vote No. 175 Ex.

Moran	Romney	Warner
Mullin	Rosen	Warnock
Murkowski	Sanders	Warren
Murphy	Schatz	Welch
Murray	Schumer	Whitehouse
Ossoff	Sinema	Wicker
Padilla	Smith	Wyden
Peters	Stabenow	Young
Reed	Tillis	
Risch	Van Hollen	

NAYS—29

Barrasso	Ernst	Rounds
Blackburn	Fischer	Rubio
Boozman	Grassley	Schmitt
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Britt	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Budd	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	Vance
Daines	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Hawley	Tester
Hagerty	Menendez	
Hassan	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Martinez nomination occur at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, and that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen upon disposition of the Martinez nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 58 is made, the motion to proceed be agreed to and that at 6 p.m., the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

RURAL PROSPERITY AND FOOD SECURITY ACT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act, which is the strong, bipartisan farm bill proposal that has been put

forward by our colleague from Michigan, Senator STABENOW, chair of the Agriculture Committee.

Chair STABENOW's framework reflects more than 2 years of work and outreach and contains more than 100 bipartisan bills, and it puts the 2024 farm bill back on track for being signed into law this year. As Chair STABENOW says, this farm bill is designed to keep farmers farming, families fed, and rural communities strong.

The farm bill touches nearly every aspect of life, and it touches the life of nearly every American. It is a big, complicated piece of legislation, but at its core, it does three things.

The first is that it governs how nutrition assistance, like SNAP, works for 42 million Americans, including 2.5 million rural residents.

The second thing is that it sets the rules for how farm and forestry programs work, including conservation and risk management tools like crop insurance, animal health, research and education, and forestry and timber.

Third, it drives rural development by supporting rural broadband, housing, childcare, and rural energy so that rural America can be strong, prosperous, and competitive.

For many years, the farm bill has bucked the tide of partisanship in Congress by finding common ground, providing stability and predictability to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities, and by sustaining nearly 23 million jobs across the country.

And why does it pass with such broad bipartisan support? Because we have all agreed in Congress to support what I think of as the three pillars of the farm bill: nutrition assistance, farm and conservation programs, and rural development.

This has been the grand bargain of Congress—that we agree together to keep each of these pillars strong, and then you can pass the bill. If you weaken any of these pillars, then a bipartisan farm bill just doesn't stand.

Colleagues, this grand bargain will be the recipe for success for the 2024 farm bill as well. So I want to spend a few minutes talking about where we have agreement and what more we need to do to pass a strong bipartisan bill.

Chair STABENOW released her proposal in early May, and, just this week, the House Agriculture Committee will mark up Chair THOMPSON's farm bill proposal. While Chair THOMPSON should be commended for including many proposals with broad bipartisan support, his bill significantly weakens nutrition and conservation programs. This undermines the grand bargain that is necessary to pass a bipartisan bill.

Here is what I am talking about when it comes to nutrition programs: Almost 45 million Americans live in homes that don't have regular access to affordable food. Almost all of these households are working families or seniors or people who are living with disabilities. This is interestingly and especially a rural issue. Households in

rural areas are even more affected. Of the top 10 counties facing the greatest food insecurity in this country, 9 are primarily in rural areas.

So Chair STABENOW's proposal, which I support, strengthens nutrition assistance. It makes certain that nutrition assistance now and into the future is going to meet the needs of Americans by making sure that monthly stipends are enough so that families can afford the food that they need.

I want to just note that it is not as if people are getting lots and lots of money here. I think the average cost for a family—the average benefit of a family—is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6 a day. So we are not talking about a lot of money per person.

In contrast, the House Republicans' proposal prevents nutrition assistance from keeping pace with food costs. What does that mean for a family that is relying on SNAP benefits, for example? The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the House Republicans' farm bill could result in a \$30 billion cut to SNAP over the next decade. This is going to hurt people. It is not going to help them. It won't work, and it won't pass with bipartisan support.

Simply put, any farm bill proposal that weakens nutrition assistance now or in the future can't pass Congress.

The foundational farm bill risk management, research, and conservation programs—those foundational programs—are also incredibly important. They should be strengthened and not weakened in the next farm bill.

To that end, Chair STABENOW's farm bill includes many bipartisan provisions that I have fought for, along with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It updates and improves crop insurance and other USDA programs so that they work better, especially for small and beginning farmers and farmers from more diverse backgrounds. I am thinking, in Minnesota, of Native farmers, of Black, Hmong, and Latino farmers, and of farmers who are recent African immigrants.

It is interesting that, across the country and in Minnesota, the average age of farmers and ranchers in America is 58 to 60 years old. So it is essential for the future of our food system and for agriculture and farming that crop insurance is going to work for the next generation of farmers taking over, and that is what Chair STABENOW's bill does.

I want to also note that Senator STABENOW's farm bill maintains the sugar program, which is so important to Minnesota's sugar beet farmers. The U.S. sugar policy runs at zero cost to taxpayers. What it does is to just simply make sure that American farmers can compete on a fair playing field against subsidized foreign sugar.

Senator STABENOW's farm bill also includes updates to the Dairy Margin Coverage Program that we established in the 2018 bill. I expect this is important to the Vermont dairy farmers, as it is important to Minnesota's dairy

farmers. It basically provides them with an additional tool to help them manage the inevitable ups and downs in the sector in which they are competing.

When it comes to what we need to do around conservation, Senator STABENOW's farm bill also protects the transformational conservation and climate-smart laws that we passed in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Now, you don't need to tell Minnesota farmers that climate change is real. They see it every day in the growing intensity of the storms and droughts and fires and floods that they contend with. They also appreciate that better support for conservation programs for working farm and ranch land is good for their bottom line and improves their resilience. American family farmers are good stewards of their land, and Federal conservation programs need to support them.

Climate-smart conservation means healthier soil and less need for expensive inputs. It is a win for farmers, for rural communities, and it is a win for the fight against climate change. It is also true that we need to get a better understanding of and be able to measure better how farming and ranching practices are working to sequester carbon and improve soil health.

So I appreciate Chair STABENOW's work to include ideas from my bipartisan bill with Senator YOUNG of Indiana to work on this and to help farmers identify best practices to make their farms more resilient and to combat climate change at the same time.

Now is not the time to dismantle or weaken conservation and climate-smart agriculture efforts. This is why proposals in Chair THOMPSON's bill in the House to strip out the climate-smart guardrails within our conservation programs—I mean, that just won't work, and it will not get the bipartisan support that the farm bill needs.

Both Republicans and Democrats, I know, appreciate the importance of a strong rural development title in the farm bill. I want to touch on that for a minute as well.

Small towns and rural places are creative. They are entrepreneurial. They are diverse, wonderful places to live and to raise a family. They produce our food and our energy. They are hubs of manufacturing, small business, education, healthcare, the arts, and culture. The farm bill needs to support them, and that is what Chair STABENOW's framework accomplishes.

This farm bill has a strong energy title, including reauthorizing REAP. That is the Rural Energy for America Program, which helps ag producers and small businesses design and build projects to improve energy efficiency and to build out new renewable energy sources. This is good, of course. It creates jobs, it reduces energy bills, and it cuts greenhouse gas emissions.

So I am glad that improvements and updates I pushed for are included in the chair's framework. I am also glad to

see included proposals that I support and have worked on to increase childcare options and to improve broadband. People living in rural areas and in Tribal communities should not be stuck with slow internet speeds that folks in the cities would never put up with. This farm bill mandates faster minimum speeds for USDA broadband programs. That is what I pushed for in the work that I have done as well.

Over the last several years, many individuals and groups have done excellent work to develop a strong farm bill, so as I conclude, I want to particularly note the excellent work and advocacy of the Native Farm Bill Coalition. This is over 170 Tribes and Native groups that have worked together to improve how USDA and farm programs work with Tribal governments and Native producers, from farming and ranching to nutrition programs, rural development, and forestry.

This is incredibly important work, especially because, too often, Native voices have not been heard in this policy development. In 2018, the farm bill changed that. Under Chair STABENOW's leadership, the 2018 farm bill included over 60 provisions that benefited Indian Country. This was a huge success, and we learned a lot from that. This next farm bill has to continue that progress.

Members of the Native Farm Bill Coalition are visiting Washington just this week to testify to our responsibility in Congress, as defined in our treaty and trust obligations, to include Native farmers and Tribal governments in decisions about agriculture and forestry. We need to listen to them. It is actually our obligation to listen to them and to right the wrongs that have been perpetrated since the beginning of Federal farm and nutrition policy and long before.

Tribal self-governance is an essential step here. Self-governance—what it does is it recognizes that Tribal nations' authority to administer Federal programs—they have that authority within their own communities, and it recognizes that. This is not a new idea; it has worked successfully for over 30 years and is widely seen as one of the most successful Federal Indian policies that we have moved forward. It works because it recognizes that Tribal governments are in the best position to know what their communities need, and they know best how to deliver for them.

This is called 638 authority. Folks may have seen this on the buttons of people walking around the hallway talking about 638 authority. What it comes from is the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. It says that Tribes can have the authority to plan and conduct and administer Federal programs.

The 2018 farm bill created several self-governance pilot projects in forestry and in nutrition programs. These were very successful, and they should be made permanent. Chair STABENOW's bill does this, along with also including

many other provisions to recognize and respect the role of Tribal governments and Native producers.

We can do more, and we should. With expanded self-governance authority, Tribal nations will be able to build food systems that address food insecurity. They will be able to increase access to indigenous foods and to use indigenous knowledge for forest management and to support strong Tribal economies. Tribal leaders often say "Nothing about us without us." This value must guide us as we pass a 2024 farm bill.

I will continue to stand with Native leaders so that we can continue to make progress and pass the very best farm bill possible—one that respects our responsibilities to Tribes and to Native people; one that keeps farmers farming, families fed, and rural and Tribal communities strong.

We have a lot more work to do, but we have made progress, and I am ready to keep up the work with my Democratic and Republican colleagues to pass a farm bill that delivers on this promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, this week, Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER is bringing up the failed border bill that the Senate already rejected in February, all on a political ploy to give vulnerable Democrat Senators up for reelection camouflage to hide their real views on the border.

That failed border bill is nothing but a fig leaf that pretends to do something about border security but wouldn't actually secure the border. In fact, if it became law, it would make the problem worse.

This Democrat bill would codify catch-and-release. It would put into Federal law Joe Biden's policy of releasing illegal aliens into this country. That is the cause of the open border crisis we have right now. It would normalize 5,000 illegal immigrants a day. That works out to 1.8 million illegal immigrants a year every year, year after year, forever. It would provide immediate work permits to illegal aliens when they cross the border illegally, and it would provide many of them with taxpayer-funded lawyers.

Not only is the bill by design utterly ineffective at securing the border, it is designed to fail. In fact, we can quantify mathematically the chances this bill has of passing the House of Representatives, and those chances are 0.00 percent.

There is, however, a bill that we know would actually secure the border and would do so right now. It would put real penalties in place to end catch-and-release and to defund the NGOs that are a critical part of the human trafficking network. That bill is H.R. 2. H.R. 2 has already passed the House of Representatives. I am proud to lead H.R. 2 here in the Senate.

If the Democrats want to do the responsible thing that would actually secure the border, we would pass H.R. 2, but instead the Democrats deliberately want this border crisis to continue—every single Democrat Member of this body. We know this because every one of them has voted over and over and over again against policies to actually secure the border.

When Joe Biden came into office, he inherited the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. All President Biden had to do was nothing—just don't screw it up—but instead he deliberately broke the system.

He made three decisions his first week in office that caused this crisis:

No. 1, he immediately halted construction of the border wall.

No. 2, he reinstated the disastrous policy of catch-and-release—the policy the Democrats now want to put into Federal law.

No. 3, he pulled out of the incredibly successful “Remain in Mexico” agreement. The “Remain in Mexico” agreement is what had produced the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years.

And what happened? We went from incredible success of securing the border to immediately the worst illegal immigration in our Nation's history. Over 11 million illegal immigrants have come into this country under Joe Biden and the Democrats. It is an invasion. It is larger than the population of more than half of our States.

Now, why on Earth would the Democrats turn a blind eye to the people who are suffering and dying? Why would they turn a blind eye to the body bags, to the 853 migrants who died last year crossing illegally? Why would they turn a blind eye to the children being brutalized by human traffickers? Why would they turn a blind eye to the women being sexually assaulted by human traffickers? Why would they turn a blind eye to the more than 100,000 Americans who died last year of drug overdoses? Why would the Democrats turn a blind eye to the families, to the children being murdered by illegal immigrants whom Joe Biden is releasing? The answer, sadly, is that they see every one of these 11 million illegal immigrants as future Democrat voters. It is a cynical decision that in order to stay in power, it is fine for people to suffer and die.

In just a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request to take up and pass H.R. 2. When I do so, we will have a moment of decision. All the Democrats have to do for this to pass is nothing—just like Joe Biden. All Joe Biden had to do at the beginning of his Presidency to not break the border was nothing, just keep in place the policies that were working.

When I ask for unanimous consent to pass this bill, if the Democrats do nothing, it will pass the Senate and go immediately to President Biden's desk, and he can sign it into law.

I am going to predict right now we are going to hear two magic words

from the Democrats. We are going to hear the words “I object” because they object to securing the border. They object to stopping this invasion. They object to standing up to the cartels. They object to protecting the American people.

But before I do that, I want to yield to my colleague from Kansas, Senator MARSHALL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Texas for leading the charge up here to secure our border.

Since day one, Joe Biden has allowed the cartels to have operational control of our Nation's border, exploiting every weakness and pushing deadly fentanyl into our communities, killing over 300 Americans every day.

I rise today to join my colleague in calling for unanimous consent for H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which the House passed over a year ago and has sat languishing here on this side of the Capitol, waiting for a hearing, waiting for a vote.

Time after time, the President and his administration have shown us that our national security is an afterthought. We are facing unprecedented times.

Under this President's watch, over 11 million illegal aliens are here now on U.S. soil, and instead of taking any real measures to address the crisis, he is doubling down.

With just 6 months until the election now, the left wants you to believe they have suddenly stumbled upon a solution to the border crisis they created. In the news this week, we will see the Democrats' bait-and-switch tactics. And I want to remind the American people to watch what the majority leader and this administration do, not what they say. They have no serious solution. They know it. That is why it is painfully obvious that the stunts being pulled here this week are politically motivated.

Americans across the heartland are feeling unsafe due to Joe Biden's worsening border crisis. Even a State like Kansas is now a border State. Fentanyl is flooding into our communities across the State, claiming a life most every day and now is the leading cause of death among young adults in America.

Joe Biden's border crisis has resulted in over 300 known terrorists being apprehended in the past year for attempting to cross the southern border. Additionally, over 35,000 Chinese nationals and thousands of individuals from countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Syria have crossed through our southern border.

We are in a sad state of affairs when our foreign adversaries are paying closer attention to our vulnerabilities at our borders than the President of the United States. Even our own FBI is sounding the alarm, now warning that because of this invasion, we are on high alert for a terrorist attack in the coming months.

I stand today with a clear message for this Chamber: It is time to do what is right for the American people, not politically motivated messaging stunts that aren't serious or sincere to the people who have been victims of the Biden administration's lawlessness.

We have a solution to secure our borders, a proposal that could go to the President's desk today. Let's pass the Secure the Border Act, H.R. 2. This legislation tightens asylum standards. It builds a wall. It increases Border Patrol agents. And it ends catch-and-release. It passed over in the House over a year ago, but the majority leader refuses us to take a vote in the Senate.

If Senate Democrats were truly serious about securing our borders, enforcing the rule of law, and protecting our Nation's sovereignty, they would stop wasting time and take up H.R. 2 today.

Without secure borders, we cannot ensure our Nation's safety. This national security crisis is unprecedented, and we have thoughtful, real solutions to address it immediately. Americans deserve to feel safe in their own homes. This half-baked, so-called border bill is an insult to Laken Riley and her family and every other American citizen who has been victimized by crimes committed by someone who should not be in this country.

Even the lead Democrat architect of the so-called border bill has said flat out this legislation does not close the border. You can quote him. It does not close the border. That is all the American people need to hear to see how fast and loose the Democrat Party is willing to play with our national security.

This is a campaign stunt for the candidates you have in battleground States who are on political life support, and no grandstanding in Washington this week will change that fact.

I would like to yield back to the Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, now is the moment when we will discover whether or not the Senate will pass real and strong legislation to secure the border. Again, all the Democrats have to do to send H.R. 2 to the President's desk to be able to be signed today is nothing. And so let's listen for those magic words. The two magic words that would kill this bill are “I object.” Let's hear if that is what the Democrats have to say.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 71, H.R. 2; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—now, for the rest of the story.

Last October, President Biden had a major piece of legislation that provided

assistance to Ukraine in its battle against Vladimir Putin. It provided assistance to Israel, assistance to Taiwan, and a massive amount of humanitarian aid. It was bipartisan, we thought.

Then the Republicans, particularly in the Senate, stepped up and said: We are not going to consider any bill like that unless you attach something to deal with our border, border security.

Well, we said: How are we going to achieve that? They gave us a formula that they wanted. They wanted to have their lead negotiator, the Senate Republicans did, one of our colleagues, Senator JAMES LANKFORD of Oklahoma. JAMES LANKFORD is a certified conservative—I am sure he would be happy to be called that—and a person I respect a great deal. He is a man of principle, and he was in charge of negotiating on the Republican side.

So they asked us: Whom do you want—the Democrats—to negotiate? We said: CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut and KYRSTEN SINEMA, an Independent Democrat from Arizona. The three of them went to work in October of last year, and they worked on this for weeks, months. It went back and forth, and it looked many times like it was hopeless; we couldn't reach an agreement.

Lo and behold, they did. They came up with a bill, a bill that massively changed the way we manage the border. They brought it to the White House, this bipartisan bill, and they said to Joe Biden: This bipartisan bill, will you support it? He said: I will.

So we had a perfect formula: a bipartisan bill and a Congress with a Democratic Senate and a Republican House and a President of the United States who says: I will sign it.

So what happened next? That is the best part. Many of the Republicans didn't take yes for an answer because we had this bipartisan bill, the architect being the Republican Senator of their choice. They decided to ask one man whether they should go forward. Want to guess who it was? Donald Trump.

Donald Trump said: No. I am sorry. I don't want to see this issue go away. I want to be able to work on this issue as part of my Presidential campaign in the year 2024. So I am telling you right now, stop that bill; stop that bipartisan bill. Don't vote for it. And he said: If you want to know, you can blame me. Go ahead and blame me for stopping the bill.

That is what he said. That is a quote. It is on the record. I saw him say it. And in fact, most of the Republicans, except for a handful on the other side of the aisle, then decided that the Lankford bipartisan bill was no longer acceptable because Trump said it was unacceptable.

And that is what happened. And so that bill died and didn't go forward. And, unfortunately, we know the reality, as I mentioned earlier, is that any immigration bill that has a ghost of a chance needs to be bipartisan.

This bill would prohibit funding for processing individuals who arrive at our border between ports of entry. Think about that. The bill would prohibit funding for processing individuals who arrive at our border between ports of entry. This would prevent Border Patrol agents from executing their duties and essentially create an open border in between ports of entry.

This bill would also dramatically limit the use of parole programs that the Biden administration and prior administrations—Republicans and Democrats—have relied on for emergencies.

I am proud to represent the city of Chicago. There is a section of that city called Ukrainian Village. It is in the Near North. I have been there many times. I have been to their churches. I have been to their schools. I have been to their bakeries, as you can tell. I really like that section of Chicago, and a lot of Ukrainian Americans live there.

When we decided to help the refugees from the Ukrainian war, under President Biden and others, we said that we would give them an opportunity to come to the safety of the United States while the war was pending. In the city of Chicago, we estimate that 36,000 Ukrainians came to Chicago. We basically said to them: If you can find a family to sponsor you, we will give you a work permit, and you can stay here while the conflict continues in your country.

They were absorbed into the Chicago and Illinois and the Midwest economy without a ripple. They are hard-working people, good people. They were accepted in the churches and the schools—their kids went to school there—and they really contributed to the Chicago scene. They have done a great job.

Well, the authority of a President like Biden to make that decision for Ukrainian refugees is removed by this bill. This authority has been relied on by the executive branch for decades in emergency situations. The evacuation of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese allies in the 1970s and the evacuation of thousands of Iraqi Kurds in the 1990s would be eliminated by this bill.

This partisan legislation only received Republican votes—not a single Democratic vote. This partisan legislation also includes many provisions that are completely unrelated to border security; for example—listen to this one. How about this. Want to put this in a comprehensive border bill? It would prohibit funds from being used by the Department of Homeland Security to purchase electric vehicles for the Agency's law enforcement agents. What in the heck is that all about?

This bill would also impose mandatory electronic employment verification, known as E-Verify, on every sector of the American economy.

I left a meeting in my office with a person representing farmworkers in the State of North Carolina. Do you know

what percentage of farmworkers in America working today, going out and harvesting the crops and fruits and vegetables, are undocumented? Fifty percent. Fifty percent are undocumented today. So this bill would impose mandatory E-Verify and would include the agriculture industry and these undocumented workers. Fifty percent of agriculture workers would be unable to work.

What would that do to our food supply chain? I can tell you, it would come to a grinding halt, and it would dramatically increase food prices. Hear that, America? This provision by the junior Senator from Texas would raise food prices on its own. Massive consequences for American families.

This bill is so extreme, there was a bipartisan opposition to it in the House of Representatives. Under close scrutiny, this bill is simply not a serious effort to secure our border. It would harm our economy and make our country less safe and less secure.

The bipartisan bill which Donald Trump and many of the Senate Republicans killed would have worked to move us in the right direction. We earlier had an opportunity to vote on this legislation that would have actually helped us on the border. Though I had some concerns about it, I thought it was a genuine bipartisan effort I could support.

I was disappointed but hardly surprised that the vast majority of my Republican colleagues, including the junior Senator from Texas, who is making this motion today, voted against it—this bipartisan bill, with JAMES LANKFORD's leadership on the Republican side, rejected out of hand by Republicans in the Senate.

It is no surprise to me the junior Senator did that. The only time we brought a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration bill to the floor, he voted against that too. It is no surprise.

This bill, written by the Senate Republicans' designated negotiator, Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma, endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, the union that represents Border Patrol agents—the Speaker of the House declared it dead on arrival in the House before the text was even released.

We can only fix our broken immigration system if we do it on a bipartisan basis. Nobody gets their way around here. You have to work for compromise. It is clear that the House Republicans are unwilling to help secure the border under those terms. Instead, they want to maintain the crisis at the border to help score political points for their favorite candidate for President.

Instead of a symbolic and failed effort to pass bipartisan bills that won't actually address challenges, let's work together on a bipartisan basis. Let's start with the Lankford bill. That is where the opportunity will be on the floor. If you want to change it, let's amend it. For goodness' sake, let's start with a bill that we agreed was going to be the starting point not too

long ago, before Donald Trump made his pronouncement, one that supports our frontline law enforcement officials, addresses the needs of the economy, provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers and immigrant farmworkers, and lives up to our Nation's legacy of providing safe harbor to refugees fleeing for their lives.

The American people are tired of partisan bickering over immigration. They want us to work together to secure our border, support our economy, and stand by America's fundamental principles.

Proudly, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, well, I would like to say I am surprised, but I am not. It is worth, though, pausing to reflect both on what the Senator from Illinois said and what he didn't say.

What he didn't say: He didn't dispute the point I made about this Democrat bill they are having a show vote on later this week. He didn't dispute that this bill codifies catch-and-release; that it puts into Federal statute Joe Biden's lawless practice of releasing illegal immigrants when they are apprehended. He didn't dispute that.

He didn't dispute that this bill would normalize 5,000 illegal immigrants a day, 1.8 million illegal immigrants a year, every year, forever. He didn't dispute that either.

He didn't dispute that this bill would give illegal immigrants who are apprehended immediate work permits. He didn't dispute that. He didn't dispute that this bill would give many of them taxpayer-funded lawyers. And he also didn't dispute a point I have made many other times, though I didn't just make it, that it would give billions of dollars to the NGOs that are part of the human trafficking network; that it would fund the people trafficking millions into this country.

He didn't dispute any of that. Instead, he said the standard Democrat line, which is: Trump, Trump, Trump. Trump is the bad guy. It is all Trump's fault.

And I get that, in Democrat circles, Trump is the bogeyman. But there is a simple fact. When Donald Trump was in the White House and when he was actually working to secure the border, we had the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. When Joe Biden and the Democrats are in charge, we have the highest rate of illegal immigration in American history. That is a fact. And all the political smoke and mirrors from the Democrats can't hide that fact.

But it is also interesting what he did say. He gave these epic words about Chicago welcoming immigrants. And he is right. Our country was built by legal immigrants, by people following the law, coming here the right way. My father came as an immigrant from Cuba. There is a right way to come following the rules.

I found it striking, though, that when he was saying how much Chicago loves illegal immigrants, that he somehow omitted that the mayor of Chicago has declared an emergency because of the crisis of illegal immigrants flooding into the city of Chicago; illegal immigrants taking resources from the residents of Chicago; being housed in Chicago O'Hare Airport.

We are seeing illegal immigrants in places like New York City being put in public schools and throwing Americans out of their facilities. The mayor of New York City—again, a liberal Democrat like the mayor of Chicago—has said illegal immigration is a crisis that is destroying New York City. And yet Senator DURBIN told us, in essence, the Democrats are the party of open borders.

He said farmworkers—we can't get anyone to work on the farm unless we have those open borders. Apparently, in the Democrats' view, Americans are lazy and don't want to work and the only way to grow our food is to open our borders to a full-on invasion. Listen, if some people have to die, if people have to get murdered by criminals and gangbangers released by Democrats day after day after day, that is an acceptable price to the Democrats.

Because, if you listen to his criticism of H.R. 2, you know what he said? Well, the people who are here illegally, they wouldn't be able to work. My God, it would stop illegal immigration. That is his objection. That is the Democrats' objection. They object to this bill because it would do what they say they want to do. And the truth is, they don't want to do that.

Joe Biden could secure the border today. He broke the border by unilateral action. Nothing prevents him from reversing those three decisions, from ending catch-and-release today. He won't do it. He doesn't want to do it. And every Democrat in this Chamber supports those open border policies.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

I am going to close by observing the very real victims of the Democrats' open border policies. There are some Democrat policies that are victimless. This is not one of them.

We have heard a lot about Laken Riley, but it is worth reflecting on what exactly happened to her, because the murderer who murdered her came from Venezuela illegally, and we caught him. We had him. He was apprehended in El Paso, TX. All Joe Biden had to do was follow the law. If he followed the law, what would he have done with an illegal immigrant from Venezuela? He would have put him on a plane and flown him back. But he didn't do that because Joe Biden and the Democrats have decided they want open borders. Instead, they released this illegal immigrant. They let him go. Now, what did he do? He went to New York City, and we caught him again. He committed another crime. This time, he endangered the safety of a child. New York City caught him.

They arrested him. And what did New York have to do? All they had to do was follow the law and put him in jail. You know what, if they had done that, Laken Riley would still be alive. By the way, if Joe Biden and the Democrats had followed the law, Laken Riley would still be alive. But New York City is a sanctuary city, so they let him go again.

The murderer came down to Georgia, and Laken Riley—a beautiful 22-year-old woman, a nursing student—she went out jogging for what she thought was going to be a beautiful day and this murderer, this illegal immigrant the Democrats had released over and over again, picked up a brick and beat her to death. Mr. President, that is happening every week.

Another name you don't hear Democrats say is Jeremy Caceres. Jeremy Caceres is a beautiful 2-year-old boy. He was murdered in Prince George's County, MD, just a few miles from where we are now, by another illegal immigrant who Joe Biden and the Democrats released.

Mr. President, I want to finally point to a 15-year-old girl in your home State, in Boston, MA. Not only is the Biden administration allowing a completely open border and releasing illegal immigrants that are apprehended, but they are flying hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants directly from their home countries into America.

In this case, the Biden administration flew an illegal immigrant from Haiti to Boston, MA. He didn't try to cross illegally. The Biden administration said: Come on, get on an airplane. We will bring you to Boston. You know what he did in Boston? He has been arrested now for violently raping a 15-year-old girl with severe mental disabilities.

This is sick. This is grotesque. And this is happening day after day after day. And we have a bill right now we could pass that would stop it. And the Democrats' answer is "I object." And another American is going to be killed next week and the week after and the week after and the Democrats—all in the name of power—are perfectly fine with this.

The good news is, an election is coming. In January 2025, with a new administration, we will solve this problem. We will secure the border. We will stop this invasion. And we will protect the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 685

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, if my Democratic colleagues were really serious about addressing the crisis unfolding on our border, they would demand Senator SCHUMER immediately take up H.R. 2 instead of this counterproductive and excessively, at best, weak bill that would, if anything, only make matters worse along the border.

Sadly, they are not. We know that by their actions—their actions today—actions we have seen just moments ago. We are still encountering close to 180,000 illegal immigrants at our southern border each and every month. Since President Biden took office, there have been over 9.5 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide. Those are just the ones we know about. The actual estimates put it 12 to 13 million that may have crossed illegally. Over 350 individuals on the terrorist watchlist have been stopped while trying to cross the southern border. Over 27,583 citizens of communist China have been encountered at the southwest border in the last year alone.

By any metric, this administration has no interest in securing our border. In fact, quite to the contrary. The data suggests this administration wants as many illegal immigrants to enter the country as possible. My Democratic colleagues want us to pretend Republicans are somehow responsible for creating or prolonging the crisis. Why? Because we were unwilling to pass a bad immigration bill masquerading as a border security bill; a bill that would have normalized thousands of illegal entries at our border each month.

I continue to believe that H.R. 2 would solve most of our most vexing problems at our southern border. It is not that you have to have new legislation to fix it, but this would fix it. It would fix it because it would cabin President Biden's authority to allow this to continue to happen. He doesn't need legislation. He could do this all on his own.

But back to the point. If the Democrats were serious here, that is what Democrats would allow us to do is to take up and pass H.R. 2. Sadly, that offer was rejected moments ago. And so trying to find something that will work, I am offering a smaller, narrower bill; a bill that doesn't contain all the same provisions, but that would help alleviate the crisis by closing some of the most gaping loopholes in the law that are allowing this thing to continue. Again, cabining the President's discretion, forcing his hand so as to make it more difficult for him to perpetuate this cycle of illegal border crossings.

To be clear, this isn't the entire answer. But if my Democratic colleagues can't agree to those commonsense reforms found in H.R. 2, then if they can't agree to consider these reforms that are narrower than I am offering, how, honestly, can we take their concern about the border crisis seriously?

The Stopping Border Surges Act would address loopholes in our immigration laws which create some of the perverse incentives for illegal immigration. It would clarify that an adult cannot bring a child into this country expecting that child to be his or her ticket to avoid detention. This bill would help eliminate the disturbing recycling of children and babies by

coyotes and by international drug cartels. It would allow all unaccompanied children to be returned to their home countries, thus ending the incentive for parents to send their young children here alone.

Sadly, we see what is happening to those children under the supervision of the Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas. They are trafficked either into child slavery, sex slavery, as drug mules, or some combination of the above.

My bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the Department of Homeland Security with biographical information about the persons to whom children are released. It would require asylum seekers to apply for and be denied asylum in at least one safe country on their route to the United States. It would combat the Biden administration's obliteration of the credible fear standard by tightening that standard back to where it should be. The correct application of this standard is pivotal to operation of our asylum system; for it to be there for those who need it and are entitled to it while protecting it from being abused as it has been. It has been corrupted over the last 3½ years. More recently, it has gotten much, much worse. In fact, the Biden administration has, you might say, destroyed it entirely. We must fix it. We have an obligation to do so.

This Stopping Border Surges Act would also close loopholes and restrict asylum to aliens who present themselves at an official port of entry. We must eliminate the loopholes, not allow this administration to continue to expand them and, indeed, to make more of them.

Congress must take back the authority to establish law. We can start that today with the Stopping Borders Surges Act. Ending the ambiguities in our current law will help mitigate the situation at the border and prevent unaccountable bureaucrats from acting with impunity as the despots in miniature that they have become to enforce their own policy preferences at their own will and whim.

So I urge my colleagues to support what I am about to do here, which is to ask that we consider this bill. Keep in mind, just a moment ago, I had colleagues offer up to pass by unanimous consent H.R. 2. I am offering a narrower, more targeted fix and I am asking unanimous consent, not that it be passed right now, but just we be allowed to consider it. We bring it up, we debate it and discuss it, and dispose of it with votes.

To that end, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 685 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Recapping, we have a bipartisan bill. Republicans in the Senate said: We have a negotiator here. Don't bring anybody new to the table. His name is JAMES LANKFORD. He is a conservative Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

I respect him and I like him, and he headed up there to negotiate.

On our side, we had CHRIS MURPHY, Senator from Connecticut, and KYRSTEN SINEMA, Senator from Arizona, Independent Democratic. The three worked, not for weeks, but months to put together a bipartisan bill.

The bill that they put together was endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council. When I heard the stories said by the junior Senator from Texas about the terrible things that would occur if that bill would pass, I wondered: Did he consider stopping to talk to the Border Patrol agents who endorsed the bill and thought from a law enforcement perspective at the border that it made sense?

We were ready to go. We were getting a bipartisan bill and it was the beginning of negotiations to do something about the border. We need to do something about the border.

Then what happened? And this is a matter of record. Everyone has seen it, all the clips on television. They went to the punitive—I guess that is the word—Republican candidate for President of the United States, Donald Trump, and said: We have a bill, a bipartisan bill to consider in the Senate. He said: Kill it. Stop the bill. Don't vote for it. I would rather have the issue, and I don't want to give Joe Biden any credit for anything. Even though we endorsed this bipartisan bill, we are going to be against it, and everybody who is loyal to me needs to vote no. Guess what? Virtually all the Republican Senators voted no.

That was the end of the bipartisan conversation about the border.

Take a look at what is being proposed by my colleague and friend Senator LEE from Utah. This bill targets the most vulnerable people seeking safety and protection in the United States: children traveling to the United States without a parent or guardian, families with minor children, and asylum seekers fleeing persecution.

This bill would strip away protections for unaccompanied children. It would deport many of these kids back into the hands of smugglers who exploit them, keep others in detention up to 1 month. Do you know what detention on the border is for a child? It is a cage. I have seen them. That is exactly what would happen. They would sit in these cages for a month, keep them separated from adults who would care for them.

This bill would require families to be detained—"detained" is a nice word for "incarcerated"—a failed policy that

has disastrous effects on kids and doesn't make the border more secure.

This bill would impose multiple new restrictions on asylum, undermining our longstanding, bipartisan commitment to refugees seeking safety.

The Biden administration is doing what it can do now to secure the border under our outdated immigration laws. The Biden administration endorsed the bipartisan bill, which these Republican Senators all voted against. The administration has dramatically increased deportations of those who are not eligible, made tough changes to our asylum system, and improved access to lawful pathways to deter illegal immigration.

But, ultimately, do you know whose responsibility it is to write this bill? Congress's. Do you know what the best starting point is? The bipartisan Lankford bill that came to the floor of the Senate. That is what we are going to offer on the floor. If you want to negotiate from there, if you want to offer amendments to that, be my guest. That is what the Senate is all about. But the notion by the Senator from Utah that this ought to be the starting point I think is a bad idea.

Recently, a bipartisan group of Senators and the White House negotiated a good starting point. It was written by their negotiator. I respect him, and I think all Members of the Senate should. Yet, when it came to a vote, the vast majority of Republicans wouldn't support it.

I just want to close by saying this: This is an issue I have worked on for my entire career in the Senate. I introduced the DREAM Act over 20 years ago. I really believe this is a challenge which we can only solve on a bipartisan basis. I think that the Lankford bill is a good starting point.

Let's come together and work together on a bipartisan starting point, ignore Donald Trump, who says he doesn't want this to move forward, and let's do something the American people really want. To aspire to that goal, I object to this approach to it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this is unfortunate. Keep in mind what just happened here. I asked not that we pass this bill but that we move to its consideration, that we be allowed to debate it, discuss it, and ultimately dispose of it through votes after having an opportunity to review its merits and to consider amendments. That, too, drew an objection even though this would allow the body to work its will through amendments, and we could get to a point where perhaps we could agree on something.

Instead, we see absolute fealty pledged to this bill, what is being referred to as the bipartisan bill. Now, with all due respect to those who negotiated it, keep in mind, Senators in the room were two Members of the Democratic caucus and one Republican, and then you add to that the White House—

a significant player even if you don't weight the White House as more than just one Senator equivalent. Putting it generously, this is a 3-to-1 negotiation. Yet this negotiation went on for many months. During most of that time, most of us were unaware of what was being discussed. As soon as the details started to leak out, as soon as we started to become aware of them, many of us started publicly and privately expressing our concerns, first in private and then in public.

Look, separate and apart from what the 45th President of the United States had to say about it, many—I would say most of us in the Senate Republican conference had already formed our opinions and decided to oppose the bill based on its own terms long before the 45th President of the United States weighed in on it. Long before Donald Trump said a word about this, we were concerned. We always would have been concerned even had he not weighed in, based on the merits of the bill.

Look, the bill itself didn't do what it was supposed to do, and it kept referring to one of my colleagues as the designated authorized representative. Well, when you are authorized and designated as a representative of one or more individuals—in this case, 49 individuals—that still presupposes that you are negotiating something consistent with their express desires and subject to their approval.

When at last we became aware of the details of it, we decided this is not nearly what we talked about, not what we ordered, and so we rejected it. Again, this was underway long before President Trump ever said a word about it. So it isn't accurate to describe this bipartisan bill—which, by the way, at the end of the day, received only 4 out of 49 Senate Republicans supporting it on the Senate floor. I believe it would probably receive less than that even today. It is minimally bipartisan at best.

Now, as to the suggestion that my bill, the Stopping Border Surges Act, and bare consideration of it—not just that it be passed into law but that we be allowed to even consider it—he says that it somehow targets vulnerable people, including children, for inhumane treatment. Do you know what is inhumane? What is inhumane is perpetuating a system that incentivizes the kidnapping, the renting, the borrowing, the leasing, the recycling of children for the purpose of creating a ruse by which adults can avoid detention, sometimes sending the same kids back through the system over and over and over again as if they were poker chips or something like that. Look, children are not props. Children certainly are not there as currency to facilitate illegal immigration.

Are there human rights violations? Yes. Constantly, incessantly, directly as a result of this. Somewhere between, I don't know, 35 percent at the low end and 65 percent at the high end of the women and girls who are trafficked

into this country by the drug cartels—which are making tens of billions of dollars a year under the Biden administration's deliberately lax policy—are subjected to rape, to sexual assault, in many cases, to sex slavery.

In many instances, people can't afford the many thousands of dollars they have to pay to the cartels in order to be trafficked, so what do they do? Well, they work it off. How do they work it off? They do what they can, what they are told to. In many circumstances, we know exactly what that means.

So don't talk to me about this being an inhumane bill. This is a bill that would stop the inhumanity. This is a bill that would tighten the restrictions so that this doesn't happen anymore, so that kids aren't recycled, so that they are not kidnapped, sold, borrowed, rented, and recycled as props to facilitate illegal immigration.

Anyone who suggests this is humane isn't looking at the reality of the circumstances and at the lives lost even before you get to the Americans whose lives have been ended or have ended in tragedy or met with tragedy unnecessarily by people who should never have been in this country to begin with and then carry out crimes—some too heinous to describe on the Senate floor. Even before you get to those Americans who have met tragically with fate in those ways, just look at the inhumane treatment received by those who are being trafficked.

The humane thing to do here is not to perpetuate this cycle. There is nothing humane about allowing human beings to be trafficked on this scale, enriching international drug cartels whose object is lucre and whose means inevitably involve violence. Shame on all of us if we don't do this. Shame on the Senate for not being willing. Shame on the Senate Democrats not being willing today even to consider a bill that would bring that to an end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4225

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to ask this body to immediately consider the Demanding Citizenship in D.C. Elections Act. Right now, we have over 11 million illegal immigrants here on U.S. soil. That is enough to replace the entire population of 36 States, including the population of Kansas, almost 4 times over.

When I am back home, I often get asked: Why does Joe Biden allow 5- to 10,000 people to cross our border illegally every day? Why would the Democrats rush millions of people—many unvetted—into our country over the past 3½ years? Why is our national security an afterthought? How can the President hear Laken Riley's story and the story of so many others who have died or been assaulted by the impacts of this border crisis and not do anything? How does he sleep at night?

When I think about his reaction to these questions, it becomes very clear

what is happening. The President is worried about the next election, not the next generation and not our national security.

Look, this White House has created the worst border crisis in our Nation's history and has incentivized the unlawful crossings at our southern border in hopes that these migrants will be future Democrat voters, with the expectation that the census, which is based upon population, will bring in more Democrat seats in Congress, with hopes of cooking the books for elections to come.

This is election interference by design, with the ultimate goal being the unravelling of our free and fair elections by engineering the largest scale invasion of our country and turning those people out at the ballot box. The Democrats are courting these 11 million people, including terrorists, dangerous drug cartels, and Chinese nationalists, as future voters. They are giving them free healthcare, pricey hotel stays, flights, cell phones, and more, and reminding them to pay it back. Where? At the ballot box.

If you don't believe me, look no further than what is happening right here in our Nation's Capital, in Washington, DC. Illegal aliens are now voting in local elections. Let me say that again. You can't make this up. Illegal aliens are now voting in local elections in our Nation's Capital.

Folks, this is just the beginning for the DNC and serves as the roadmap that they are building to tip the balance and dismantle the integrity of our electoral process across the entire country, and that is why I am asking this body to consider the Demanding Citizenship in D.C. Elections Act immediately.

Washington, DC, as we all know, falls under the jurisdiction of Congress. The intent of our Founding Fathers was to prevent any single State from gaining undue power by hosting the Federal Government. With the oversight powers bestowed on us here in Congress, it is our obligation and duty to stop this election interference.

The American people want free and fair elections. They want to trust that their vote won't be superseded by the millions of illegal aliens that have been transported across the United States. So I rise today to give my colleagues across the aisle the opportunity to show the American people that the Democratic Party believes in election integrity and our democratic electoral process. If they do, then they should have no problem supporting our legislation that explicitly states that illegal aliens cannot vote in DC elections.

Now, some of my colleagues across the aisle continue to deny that illegal aliens are voting in our elections. For the sake of this argument, let's take them at our word. If they say illegals are not voting in our elections, then what is the harm in passing legislation to ensure that it never happens? Let's

assure the American people that we have the same goal of citizen-only representation in our electoral process. Now, unfortunately, the left won't do this because they know it is factually incorrect, and they need those votes.

This is election interference by design, with the ultimate goal being the unravelling of our free and fair elections by engineering the largest scale invasion of our country and turning them out at the ballot box.

Unfortunately, when my colleagues across the aisle block this legislation today, they are showing their cards—that, for Democrats, the border crisis is not a crisis at all; it is their campaign trail to victory. This is the Democrats' playbook. If this call for unanimous consent fails, the American people will know the Democrats' true motivation for this border crisis.

We the people must fight back. Too much is at stake. Our democracy as we know it is under attack by this administration. This legislation is a good start on ensuring the integrity of our elections.

Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4225 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Reserving the right to object, the question here is about the control by Congress over the District of Columbia governance and the right to self-govern.

There has been a tendency in this Congress, and there is debate in this Congress, about whether there should be home rule for Washington. I believe there should be. Many of my colleagues don't. And this Congress does have authority.

But what is really at stake here is the question of whether a law passed by the city council of the District of Columbia should be allowed to go into effect or overwritten by action here. My view is that the elected representatives have the right and the responsibility to pass laws that go with being a self-governing city council.

The question of the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act—that is what we are talking about—was passed by the city council. It is the will of the representatives of the people of this city, through their representatives, to allow this to happen.

This initiative has been something that has been taken up by other local governments in other States, where the prerogative is to make their own laws with respect to voting. And I believe that the District of Columbia should have that ability to pass these laws without interference from Congress.

Now, this was challenged in court. In March, the U.S. District Court for DC dismissed a constitutional challenge to the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

Also, as a practical matter, voting has already begun in DC's 2024 primary elections. Senator MARSHALL's bill would absolutely cause chaos in the on-going election.

So while folks can disagree on the policy, at the end of the day, this is settled local policy matter.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's comments on this issue. I will point out a couple of important facts.

The Constitution clearly gives the U.S. Congress the power to govern Washington, DC. Washington, DC is not a State. It is a Federal district. Our Founding Fathers wanted it that way. They didn't want one State to have more control over the Federal Government than another.

And we think about the issues going on in Washington, DC, right now. This Federal district has turned into a war zone. It is no longer safe for our staff to walk to and from their jobs. Almost every week, we are seeing somebody physically assaulted, carjackings, stabbings. It is to the point where I am afraid for folks from back home to come visit us, and our folks from back home deserve the right to safely petition their government.

Look, the city council, the Mayor of Washington, DC, have blown it. They have not taken their responsibilities seriously, and that is why we need to usurp that power back. We need to do what the Constitution says. And we certainly don't want illegal aliens promoting this cashless bail, defund-the-police program. We need more security in Washington, DC, not less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

S.J. RES. 58

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I would like to speak in support of the Biden-Harris administration's finalized furnace efficiency standards and against S.J. Res. 58.

The Department of Energy's finalized rule has been a long time coming, and we have not meaningfully updated the standards since the 1990s. Technology has advanced, but our regulations haven't kept up.

Now, let me just talk, first of all, about the importance of efficiency in the role that regulations can play in allowing efficiency to benefit consumers and our environment. When we have standards, it means that the manufacturers compete with the production of products that meet those standards. It is not a race to the bottom. It is a level playing field for those in the manufacturing industry that want to sell their products to consumers.

Having standards that are reasonable—and these are very reasonable—then allows these better products to be sold, and the competition is a restraint on the price that is charged.

So efficiency has always been something that can help us do the following:

No. 1, reduce carbon emissions. The less energy that is used, the less carbon emissions are created.

No. 2, it saves money. At the end of the day, you have a more efficient appliance. It is going to use less energy by whatever means that energy has been produced.

No. 3, it tends to create jobs. The folks who manufacture these have workers. They have good jobs, and it is really important.

In Vermont, we face very high heating bills, and one of the reasons we want and fully support more efficient furnaces is to get those bills down. With a furnace that isn't up to the new standard, a family can face \$600 in additional heating bills annually, and that is a lot of money for a lot of Vermonters.

The efficiency rule here has the potential to reduce the average household energy cost by \$50 a year and \$350 over the lifetime.

Many of the policies that we have worked on to pass through the Inflation Reduction Act will also help mitigate the costs. When you are doing an upgrade for some of your home appliances under the HOMES Act, you can get a taxpayer rebate, reducing the cost of what this will be.

These standards can also be especially helpful for lower income folks who rent their homes and, also, often face very high energy bills, largely because there is not an incentive for the landlord to provide a more efficient furnace.

By the way, the standards will make a major impact in our carbon emissions, cutting 332 metric tons over the next 30 years. And that is equivalent to the annual emissions from 34 percent of U.S. households.

So, for over a decade, Canada has had very similar furnace efficiency standards and has seen that there have not been significant issues with implementation. We should follow suit and implement the Department of Energy's standards to realize all of the important benefits I just mentioned.

I urge my colleagues to vote against S.J. Res. 58 and show strong support for the efficiency policy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Congressional Review Act resolution, which would overturn the Department of Energy's furnace efficiency standard. A vote for this resolution is a vote for higher costs for American families, a vote for higher temperatures for future generations, and a vote for scare-mongering over science.

What you have just said on the Senate floor, Senator WELCH, is a complete reflection of my own views about this issue.

Families face high energy bills. They are afraid of climate chaos. But instead of tackling those problems head-on, we

are instead burying our heads in the sand. By attacking a commonsense upgrade to energy efficiency standards, this resolution seems to have come straight from the American Gas Association's playbook: Use more natural gas. That is their plan: Send greenhouse gases up into the atmosphere to dangerously warm our planet. That is the plan of the American Gas Association.

I am the House author of the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act, which was passed in 1987 and authorized the Department of Energy to set binding standards for appliance energy efficiency. And so that set the minimum standard of energy efficiency for 13 types of appliances: air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, gas furnaces.

And that law has been updated many times over the years and now covers about 60 products. And it is estimated that my appliance efficiency act, which became law over 3½ decades ago, has done more to save energy than any other Federal policy in buildings in our country's history.

And what is the central premise? It is just working smarter, not harder; using less electricity, using less energy—working smarter, not harder.

My mother always said to me: EDDIE, you have to learn how to work that way—that was before she would say that she was going to donate my brain to Harvard Medical School as a completely unused human organ—because if you don't work smarter, you are going to work harder.

That is what the American Gas Association wants. It wants to "drill, baby, drill." But it is drilling into the pockets of consumers. It is the result in greenhouse gases going up into the atmosphere, which, ultimately, are going to cause incredible storms, incredible climate consequences, when we could just reduce the amount of energy which we are consuming. How hard is that?

During the Trump era, the Department of Energy missed its 28 deadlines to update the appliance standards, as they are supposed to do by law every single 6-year period, and they left the backlog to President Biden. And the Biden administration has been making up for lost time, already completing 24 rules with about a dozen left in front of them this year, which, when finalized, will save consumers nearly \$1 trillion and 2.5 billion metric tons of carbon emissions over 30 years.

That is working smarter, not harder. You save money, and you reduce greenhouse gases.

Gas furnaces, as the Senator from Vermont was mentioning, have an oversized impact on household bills, as residential heating is the largest source of energy consumption for most families. And when a furnace is installed in a household, it lasts a very long time.

This resolution is directly at odds with the welfare of working-class families and renters, who often spend a dis-

proportionate amount of their income on energy bills. And renters don't even get to pick their furnace, just pay the bills for it.

Winter heating bills are a huge burden for families, with some forced to make impossible choices, nearly every month, between paying for food, medicine, and basic necessities like heat.

Before this new rule that the gas lobby—the natural gas lobby—would so desperately like to go up in smoke, we haven't seen any meaningful update on gas furnace efficiency standards since Congress first set them in my bill in 1987. That is the American Gas Association at work.

As much as it might be helpful for climate change, public health, and national security, the Department of Energy's standards do not phase out gas furnaces. The rule getting targeted by this resolution doesn't even address existing gas furnaces, nor is the rule effective immediately. Instead, this rule we are debating today will ensure that all new gas furnaces meet a 95-percent fuel efficiency threshold starting in 2028—plenty of running room for the industry, plenty of notice, but plenty of benefits, ultimately, for consumers in their home heating bills and a reduction in greenhouse gases for the next generation of Americans who are afraid that they are going to be left paying the bill for all of the consequences of out-of-control climate change, which these furnaces contribute to in a major way.

This provides for a slow phaseout of older, less efficient furnaces while leaving more efficient furnaces on the market that already make up nearly half of all current models. The furnace efficiency standards alone will cut 332 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from furnaces over 30 years as well as other pollutants like methane and nitrous oxides. That is equal to taking 79 million gas-powered cars off the roads or cutting the annual emissions of 85 coal-fired powerplants. They won't be needed. The 85 coal-burning plants won't be needed because the electricity won't be needed because the furnaces will be so much more efficient.

Furnace manufacturers like this rule because it spurs innovation. Customers like this rule because it will save them money. Families like this rule because it would reduce the amount of toxic gas they are inhaling on a daily basis, reducing risks of asthma, heart disease, and premature deaths. The more you inhale, the more dangerous it is for the children in the house and for pregnant women in the house. Scientists like this rule because it will cut how much climate change-causing pollution we are sending up into the atmosphere.

The American Gas Association, which filed a legal challenge that is oddly similar to my colleague's CRA language, does not like this rule because it will cut how many customers are dependent on their product. It will eat into their already astronomical

profits. It is the wealthiest industry in the history of the world, but they want more even if consumers could save. They want the hot and toxic status quo to remain in place. They are afraid that our country will become ever more efficient or even decarbonized and continue on without them, so they are acting out of corporate fear to destroy our chance at a livable future. Repealing the standards would saddle millions of Americans with unnecessarily high heating bills for decades to come.

Let me be clear. Energy poverty is a racial justice issue. It is an economic justice issue. It is an environmental justice issue. We must take steps today to remedy this injustice.

Even though an efficient furnace may cost slightly more on the market today, costs will continue to fall, and households will be more than paid back in lower energy bills year after year after year. They will have much lower emissions that are being sent out. They will have more innovation. They will have more healthcare benefits. All of that will flow to ordinary Americans unless the American Gas Association has its way with this U.S. Senate.

So my colleagues will rant and rave about the need to constantly drill, baby, drill to get enough fossil fuels to keep our grid running. They love to fearmonger about reliability issues and how we can keep the lights on. But the cleanest, cheapest, and most reliable megawatt of energy is the one we never have to use. That is why everyone who supports a reliable grid should support energy efficiency standards—working smarter and not harder.

We shouldn't sacrifice savings, our grid, our health, and our climate on the altar of the American Gas Association. A moderate increase in energy efficiency for furnaces just makes sense. This radical proposal to reverse this energy efficiency standard should be rejected, and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

This today will be a vote for the future. It will be a vote for future generations. It will be a vote to say that finally the Senate is serious about dealing with this crisis that is affecting our planet and the next generation of children in our country.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his leadership on this issue, and I urge a rejection of this proposal coming from the American Gas Association.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my resolution to disapprove of the Biden Department of Energy's final rule targeting gas furnaces.

In October of last year, the Biden Department of Energy announced a final rule on energy efficiency standards for gas furnaces, and in December, the Agency published the final rule mandating that gas furnaces achieve an efficiency standard of 95 percent when right now, residential gas furnaces

only require an efficiency standard of 80 percent.

This rule would remove up to 60 percent of current residential furnaces from the market and would impact 55 percent of American households. It would have a terrible, negative effect on families who are already struggling with historic inflation numbers under the Biden administration, and it would force consumers to spend thousands of dollars they don't have on renovations to accommodate a new gas furnace or to switch to an electric appliance, which could mean higher monthly utility bills for families.

In Texas, 25 percent of households have a natural gas furnace, and of those, over 45 percent would be negatively impacted, meaning they would spend more to retrofit their homes and to purchase and install a furnace than they would save over the life of the appliance.

Now, in every State and in the State of Texas, some Texans may choose to move to an electric appliance for a variety of reasons, and some may decide they would like to stick with a gas furnace, but with this Biden rule in effect, Texans won't have a choice, and neither will the residents of the other 49 States. The Biden administration will have made the decision for them.

Texans aren't alone in this. Other States are in a similar situation. For example, 39 percent of Arizonans with a natural gas furnace would lose money from this rule. Let me give you some percentages from some other States picked almost at random. These are the percentages of households with natural gas furnaces that would be negatively impacted in the following States: in Pennsylvania, 33 percent; in West Virginia, 47 percent; in Montana, 36 percent; in Wisconsin, 16 percent; in Michigan, 35 percent; in Nevada, a staggering 63 percent negatively impacted; in Maryland, 57 percent; and in the State of Ohio, 47 percent of those households would be negatively impacted.

This rule is a continuation of the Biden administration's capitulation to environmental radicals, who value following climate dogma more than helping families actually provide for their kids and save for the future.

Joe Biden, when he campaigned in 2020, told voters that if they elected him, he would halt drilling onshore and offshore in the United States. In his first week in office, he shut down the Keystone Pipeline and destroyed 11,000 jobs with a stroke of a pen, including 8,000 union jobs.

Joe Biden shut down all new leases on Federal land, onshore and offshore.

He shut down development in ANWR, putting in place banking regulators and SEC regulators to cut off debt financing and to cut off equity financing for energy exploration and development.

He put a tax—yes, a tax—on natural gas production despite the cost-of-living crisis many Americans are facing because of failed Democrat policies.

That is why I introduced this Congressional Review Act—to help alleviate the unending assault on American families from President Biden and the Democrats' radical energy agenda.

The average household in Texas has spent \$5,113 more on energy due to inflation since January 2021, and \$5,113 is a lot of money for a lot of families. This administration's answer to those struggling is that it is more important to appease the environmental radicals than to allow you to pay your rent or pay your mortgage or to save for your family or to put money away for your kids in a college fund.

What is maddening is that this is done, they say, to reduce carbon emissions and to help the environment, but why would Americans take them at their word on this? This is the same administration that has no problem burdening U.S. oil and gas producers, who maintain the highest environmental standards in the world, but refused to crack down on Iran for shipping 2 million barrels of oil a day all around the world. It is the same administration that in one breath wants to reduce emissions globally but will then ban new U.S. permits to ship liquid natural gas overseas, leaving our allies to fend for themselves and driving them to burn dirtier coal, emit more carbon, and pollute the environment even more.

So if you care about reducing emissions, this administration has been an abject failure. Instead of delivering actual solutions, it is their belief that putting a de facto ban on your gas furnace is more important than addressing record coal consumption in China—the biggest polluter on the face of the planet.

According to the Department of Energy's own estimate, 91 to 95 percent of furnace replacements will be at an annual fuel utilization efficiency rate of 92 percent or higher by 2028. So according to the Department of Energy's own estimate, this rule is unnecessary.

The folks who can already afford the higher cost of a new gas furnace can buy one, but Americans who can least afford another price shock after suffering under Bidenflation for years will be hurt the most.

I want the Presiding Officer to listen to these data. According to some estimates, the Department of Energy rule will lead to higher prices for 30 percent of senior citizen households, for 27 percent of small businesses, and for 26 percent of low-income households.

This rule represents the fundamental transformation of the Democratic Party. There was a time the Democratic Party called itself the party of the working class. That is no longer the case. Today's Democratic Party cares more about the money from California environmentalist billionaires than they do about the jobs or the monthly budgets of hard-working families in America.

Today, the blue-collar family in America is the Republican Party because the Democratic Party looked at

their union brethren and said: We don't care about you anymore. We are chasing the money.

That is why groups like the National Federation of Independent Business, which represents 300,000 small businesses across the country, strongly support this CRA.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that the Biden administration is being sued for this illegal rule. The law that empowers the Department of Energy to set efficiency standards was passed during the energy scarcity of the 1970s, but the law also contains a prohibition against weaponizing efficiency standards to eliminate entire product categories like this rule seeks to do.

The American people are required to comply with Joe Biden's rule effectively banning affordable gas furnaces on December 18, 2028. Congress should come together and vote for the resolution to stop this rule. Doing so would save American families and American seniors thousands and thousands of dollars as well as save American jobs. We should do this without delay.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CONSUMER FURNACES"

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 399, S.J. Res. 58.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Under the previous order, the motion to proceed is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 58) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces".

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 58

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the joint resolution is considered read the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. CRUZ. 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 New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 176 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Braun	Grassley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Casey	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Sinema
Collins	Lummis	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Vance
Crapo	Moran	Wicker
Cruz	Mullin	Young
Daines	Murkowski	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Hagerty	Menendez	Tillis
Hawley	Tester	

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 58) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 58

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces" (88 Fed. Reg. 87502 (December 18, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

APPOINTMENT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 34 (118th Congress), appoints the following Senators to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER of New York; the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota; and the Honorable DEB FISCHER of Nebraska.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4381

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4381) to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Martinez nomination, postcloture; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Coggins nomination, all time be considered expired at 3:15 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators LANKFORD and SANDERS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, so far this year, 1,624,790 people have illegally crossed our southwest border—1,624,790 so far. We have at least 1.6

million people who have also been designated “got-aways” in the last 3 years; that is, they crossed our southwest border, and the Border Patrol could see them, but they couldn’t get to them.

Let me give you some context on that. As this body knows well, because we have talked about it over and over and over again, in the first 3 years of this administration, we have had more illegal crossings on our southwest border than in the previous 12 years combined—more in the last 3 years than we had in the previous 12 years combined.

If you want to just drill down, 1 year under President Biden has as many illegal crossings as we had under 4 years of President Trump. Yesterday, we had more than 5,000 people illegally cross our southwest border—yesterday. That has been true every day, I believe, but 3, in the last 3 months, that we have had more than 5,000 people a day.

Now, the national news media has looked away from the southwest border, but those who live on the southwest border can’t look away. They are still facing it every single day. And in cities and communities across the entire country, it is still happening every single day, day after day, as this President has looked away from what is happening on our southern border.

As I have said to this Department of Homeland Security multiple times, if they would enforce the border the same as President Obama enforced the border, we would be in a very different place. But they don’t enforce the border like President Trump did, and they don’t enforce it like President Obama did. They just fail to enforce it.

The same law—the same law—existed under President Obama, when we had less than half a million people cross illegally in a year, that exists under President Biden, where we have had 1.6 million people so far this year, with still quite a few months to go—the same law, the same capacity to be able to enforce the border. But this President has said over and over again that he has nothing that he can do until something is passed.

I have been very clear with this body, and I have been very honest with my own party and with my friends on the other side of the aisle: Congress has a job to do. We need to clarify what asylum means. We need to add the funds that are needed. We need to speed up the process. We need to take away the forever appeals that are built into it that incentivize people coming and gaming the system. That is Congress’s job. We should do that.

And I have worked with everyone who is willing to work on that to get us to a place where we can get to 60 votes in this body to pass something to do our job. One party cannot resolve this issue. This has to be both parties sitting down and working on it together. That is the rule of 60 in this body.

But the President also has things that he could do that he has chosen not to do. In fact, this President has taken

94 Executive orders to weaken border security. He has created new parole authorities no President has ever used before to facilitate faster movement into the country. So instead of actually slowing the process down, he has actually sped it up. And they have done so intentionally.

In the past few weeks, the Department of Homeland Security has released a new memo and a new regulatory action that they are getting feedback for that they have admitted to me that will increase screening for, in their words, a handful of additional people—a handful when, yesterday, we had 5,000 people illegally cross.

But, currently, as right now Homeland Security is saying that they don’t have enough money to hire more agents, they are spending millions of dollars rebranding Homeland Security Investigation, or HSI. They are rebranding them and changing some of their focus on it. Now, we have yet to be able to find out how much they are spending on it, but we do understand it is in the millions. At the same time, they are saying they don’t have enough money to be able to handle greater enforcement.

This administration is focused on the things that don’t make a difference when we need them to focus on the things that do. This body is also focused on the things that are not making a difference on this.

Several of us sat down for months to be able to hash out in a bipartisan way: How do we solve this? We felt we had a solution that could pass. We did not.

Now, that same option that everyone in this whole body knows won’t pass is now coming back to this body again, exactly as it was. And many of us—including myself, who actually worked on the original language—are saying: Why? This is not about trying to pass something. This is about a show vote in this body to show: Look, we tried to vote on something, and those mean Republicans blocked it.

Well, I hate to tell you, this vote, when it comes up on Thursday—because that is when I understand it is coming—I will be interested in how many Democrats vote for this as well because I have already heard quite a few Democrats say: I am not sure I really want to vote for it if it doesn’t have Ukraine, if it doesn’t have Israel funding in it—because, originally, it was border security, Ukraine-Israel funding. And so some of my Democratic colleagues were voting for it. But now that it has none of those things, several have said to me: I am not sure I want to vote for that without the other portions of it in there.

Several Republicans are saying the same thing they said before: Hey, I wanted even more in that bill. I know there were a lot of good things in it, but I wanted even more in it.

So they are not willing to vote for it until it has even more.

So what would be the logical thing that should be done in this body? The

logical thing would be to say: That vote failed; so what would pass?

You see, we can play the same game because Democrats have blocked the bill from Senator SCOTT that would fund border security and enforcement of immigration laws at a different level. Democrats blocked that vote.

When MARCO RUBIO and Senator GRHAM brought bills to enforce the “Remain in Mexico” program that President Biden walked away from, Democrats blocked that vote.

When Senator COTTON brought up a vote to stop aid for sanctuary cities that incentivize more people coming into the country and disappearing, Democrats blocked that vote.

When Senator GRASSLEY brought up a bill to deport criminal illegal aliens, Democrats blocked that bill.

When Senator HAGERTY brought up a bill to deal with increasing funding for ICE and to deport more criminal aliens that have already been designated criminal aliens in the United States, Democrats blocked that bill.

When I brought up a bill to be able to implement and fund the title 42 authority and to extend that, Democrats blocked that bill.

When Senator MARSHALL brought a bill to bring up H.R. 2 and Senator CRUZ brought up the bill for H.R. 2—the House bill that has a broad spectrum for border enforcement—Democrats blocked that bill.

When Senator HAGERTY again brought up a bill to ban Federal funds from being used to fly illegal aliens from other countries to be able to give them parole authority into our country, Democrats blocked that bill.

When Republicans—Senator BUDD—bring up the Laken Riley Act, Democrats blocked that bill.

When I brought up a bill dealing with special interest aliens, those the Department of Homeland Security designated as a potential national security risk—when I brought up a bill to say all those folks could not be released into the country, they had to be detained if they were declared a national security risk—Democrats blocked that bill.

We can play this game all day long. Somehow, this belief that if we bring up a bill that has failed before that is somehow a strong movement to be able to solve the issue doesn’t. It plays a political game, and we all know it.

So what should we do? Actually be grownups, sit down, and actually try to figure out what we can pass rather than bringing things up that we all know won’t.

Now, I don’t know if there is a belief that somehow, on Memorial Day week, Americans across the country can’t wait for the Senate to vote again on a bill that has already failed before that could come up again, as if something is going to be different. I have a message to all of my colleagues: The people of America are not, on Memorial Day week, focused on what the Senate is doing this week. They are just not.

They are thinking about their family member that was lost defending the country, or they are thinking about a sale at an appliance store. They are not thinking about this and this drama.

We should take seriously, though, the national security risk that all of us know about and do something about it.

Just as a side note that all of us know full well, the number of people designated by this administration as special interest aliens, those that are a national security risk by definition, who are coming across our border and being released into the country, is in the thousands.

We all know it. We should take that seriously. If we want to just deal with the people who are on the higher list, who are on the Terror Watchlist, if I go back to, let's say, 2017, there were two people who were apprehended on the Terror Watchlist in 2017. There were six people apprehended in 2018. There were three people in 2019. But if I take that to this past year, 2023, there were 172. We have people crossing our border who we know are a national security risk while we are playing political messaging games here.

Let's sit down and solve this. Let's not just vote on things that we know are going to fail. Let's not just do political messaging. Let's actually sit down and solve this.

Over the past 2 years, something has shifted on our southern border. It is not just people from the Western Hemisphere who are crossing illegally; it is people from all over the world. We went from having a handful of Chinese citizens who crossed the border to last year and this year—tens of thousands of Chinese nationals crossing our border.

I asked DHS: Are any of these Chinese nationals being deported?

They responded to me: Yes, we have started deporting Chinese nationals who are here illegally.

I said: Terrific. How many?

Their response: Fourteen so far.

Fourteen of the tens of thousands who have crossed in the last 2 years. We have deported 14 Chinese nationals.

Can I tell you, in Oklahoma, there are thousands of Chinese nationals who have come into my State who are working in illegal marijuana operations. Our Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics has done a tremendous job of trying to be able to shut down all these illegal grow operations, but they continue to spring up. Over and over again, when they do a bust, it is Chinese nationals working, individuals who were trafficked over our southern border and individuals who are in our country illegally—over and over and over.

We know this is going on. We know we have a terror risk. We all see it. We know there are individuals by the thousands being released who are declared by this administration as special-interest aliens. We understand full well criminal activities that are happening. And we are doing messaging bills that everyone knows will fail.

Why don't we sit down and actually talk about it and work it out? Why don't we figure out how to solve this? That is what the American people expect us to do.

My friends in Oklahoma look at me and say "You guys go figure this out" because they feel the problem is there, and what they feel is correct. So let's sit down and figure this out.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, there has been a lot of attention and controversy attached to a recent action by the International Criminal Court, the ICC.

The core purpose of the ICC is to prosecute the most serious international crimes—genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. I believe that it is very important that all of us support accountability for these crimes and the important mission of the ICC.

Last year, the ICC declared that President Vladimir Putin, of Russia, was in violation of international law and that he was a war criminal. The ICC issued arrest warrants for Putin and one of his senior officials, saying there are reasonable grounds to believe that they had committed the war crime of unlawful deportation and transfer of population for their systematic kidnapping of thousands and thousands of Ukrainian children.

I supported the ICC decision. In fact, that is the tip of the iceberg of what Putin has done in Ukraine. Putin started the most destructive war in Europe since World War II. He has bombed civilians and devastated civilian infrastructure, killing at least 30,000 civilians and displacing millions more. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded as a result of Putin's horrific invasion of Ukraine.

On that occasion, when the ICC declared Putin a war criminal, the U.S. Government welcomed the ICC decision. A White House spokesperson said:

There is no doubt that Russia is committing war crimes and atrocities in Ukraine, and we have been clear that those responsible must be held accountable. The ICC prosecutor is an independent actor and makes his own prosecutorial decisions based on the evidence before him. We support accountability for perpetrators of war crimes.

That is what a U.S. Government spokesperson said in March 2023, and I agree. In my view, Mr. Putin is, in fact, a war criminal.

We live in a world of increasing division, tension, and hostility. Around the globe, countries are dramatically increasing their military budgets, and more countries are attempting to gain nuclear weapons and other dangerous weapons systems. It is in times like these that we most need international law. Without it, we will have an even

more violent world where might makes right and war criminals can act with impunity.

In recent years, the ICC has attempted to hold governments and political leaders accountable for crimes against humanity. That is what they do. That is what they are supposed to do.

All wars are terrible, and very often, civilian casualties are unavoidable. But after the horrors of the Second World War, countries throughout the world came together to try to establish rules to govern the conduct of war and to limit civilian casualties. The ICC's role is to enforce these limits.

Yesterday, the ICC prosecutor announced that he was requesting arrest warrants for three top Hamas leaders, including Yahya Sinwar, the group's leader in Gaza.

To my mind, Sinwar and his Hamas accomplices are clearly war criminals. The horrific October 7 terrorist attack on Israel began this war and included the mass murder of 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, the taking of hundreds of hostages, and sexual violence against captives. These war crimes are well documented, and very few people would dispute the merits of those charges.

The ICC prosecutor also asked for arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant. The ICC charges focus on the use of starvation of civilians as a method of war as well as international attacks against the civilian population. Those are the charges—the use of starvation of civilians as a method of war, really a war crime, as well as intentional attacks against the civilian population.

Specifically, the prosecutor says that Netanyahu is responsible for "depriving [civilians] of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions."

Now, many people here in the beltway in Washington have responded negatively to this decision from the ICC prosecutor. It seems that some folks here were comfortable with what the ICC did in terms of Putin and in terms of Sinwar but not with Netanyahu.

Some have argued that it is unfair to compare the democratically elected head of the Israeli Government to Putin, who runs an authoritarian system, or Sinwar, the head of a terrorist organization, but that is not what the ICC has done. In fact, the ICC prosecutor has looked at what each of these leaders has done, looked at their actions and then compared those actions to established standards of international law.

In other words, the ICC is not making some claim of equivalence, as some have charged, but is, in fact, holding both sides in this current war to the same standard.

Yes, democratically elected officials can commit war crimes. Let me repeat.

Democratically elected officials can commit war crimes.

The ICC is doing its job. It is doing what it is supposed to do. We cannot only apply international law when it is convenient. And the independent panel of international legal experts the ICC appointed to help with this case unanimously—unanimously—agreed with the charges.

People may be uncomfortable to see the Prime Minister of Israel charged with war crimes, but let us take a hard look at what he has actually done, and we must determine whether his actions meet the standard of being a war crime.

In 7½ months, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed and almost 80,000 injured. Thousands more are still under the rubble, but their bodies have not been fully identified. Some 60 percent of the victims are women, children, or the elderly. More than 250 aid workers have been killed, including 193 U.N. staff—more than in any previous conflict.

There are 2.2 million people living in Gaza. More than 1.7 million of them have been forced from their homes—75 percent of the population. I am trying to think of my own State and what it would be like if three-quarters of the people—400,000 people—were just driven out of their homes, and these are, by and large, poor people, desperate people.

In just the last 2 weeks, more than 900,000 have been displaced, many of whom have been forced to move many times during this war—chased out of one place, gone to another place; chased out of that place, gone to another place—and many of these people are children. Gaza has a very young population. Many of them are elderly, and many of them are sick. These are people who have been forced out of their homes, who have moved and moved and moved again and again, often without adequate food, without adequate water supplies, and certainly without adequate healthcare.

When we talk about war crimes and when we talk about attacks on civilians, let's understand Gaza's housing stock has been demolished. Again, I try to think of my own State and what it would mean if 60 percent of the housing was destroyed. Now, if these people who have been chased from their homes—displaced from their homes—are ever able to return to their communities, where are they going to live? Over 60 percent of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed, including 221,000 housing units that have been completely destroyed, leaving more than a million people homeless. Entire neighborhoods have been wiped out both by bombings and by planned detonations of explosive charges.

In other words, we are looking at a war. We understand Hamas is a very difficult enemy that often uses civilians to protect their own people—I have got it—but what we are talking

about here is over 60 percent of the housing units in Gaza that have been destroyed. It is hard for me to believe that there is a terrorist in every one of those buildings. Israel has destroyed the civilian infrastructure of Gaza. It has wiped out their ability to have electricity. There is virtually no electricity in Gaza right now, and there is virtually no clean water, and raw sewage is running through the streets, spreading disease. Now, if that is not an attack on civilians, I don't know what is.

The healthcare system in Gaza has been systematically annihilated. There are 21 hospitals that have been made inoperable. In fact, of the 36 hospitals in Gaza, only 4 have not been damaged by bombardment, raided by the Israeli military, or closed. More than 400 healthcare workers have been killed. Well, what do we say when we have a war in which the healthcare system is annihilated at a time when you have tens and tens of thousands of people who are wounded, many of them seriously?

The education system in Gaza has been virtually destroyed. Every one of Gaza's 12 universities has been bombed. More than 400 schools have suffered direct hits, and 56 schools have been totally destroyed. Today, 625,000 children in Gaza have no access to education at all.

I will tell you something else. When you talk about what is going on in Gaza, what is not talked about almost at all—I think I read one article on this. I want you to think about the psychic damage done to the children—to the children who see housing being destroyed and their parents or relatives being killed; who see drones flying around them, some of which have guns; who are being pushed out of their homes; who experience deafening noise, inadequate food, inadequate water; who are pushed, shoved into any place and every place. What kind of psychic damage is there? If there is one child in Gaza who does not suffer psychic damage from this horror, I will be very surprised.

As a result of the destruction and Israeli policies restricting the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, more than a million people today face catastrophic levels of hunger, and Gaza remains on the brink of famine. Hundreds of thousands of children face starvation. Even now—more than 7 months into this war—Israel's invasion of Rafah has severely disrupted the humanitarian relief operation by closing the two main border crossings and making it almost impossible for the U.N. to access its warehouses or to distribute aid. Very little aid has gotten in for more than 2 weeks. Bakeries have had to shut down, and hospitals are running low on fuel.

Just today—today—the U.N. announced that it has been forced to hold all food distribution in Rafah after running out of supplies.

The World Food Programme said that humanitarian operations in Gaza

are “near collapse.” It said that, if food and other supplies don't resume entering Gaza “in massive quantities, famine-like conditions will spread.”

Now, Mr. Netanyahu has been on TV today and elsewhere. He denies it all. Ain't true, says Mr. Netanyahu. He claims that Israel is deeply worried about the civilian population and is worried about the children and that Israel is not blocking humanitarian aid at all—not at all. Well, it turns out that the United Nations and virtually every other humanitarian group involved in the humanitarian disaster in Gaza strongly disagrees with Mr. Netanyahu.

Now, we can trust the words of a Prime Minister under criminal indictment in Israel or we can trust the people whose function in life is to provide humanitarian aid.

The U.N. Secretary General says that much more aid is urgently needed “to avert an entirely preventable human-made famine” and that “there is no alternative to the massive use of land routes.”

Cindy McCain—the wife of our former Republican colleague John McCain and who is now the head of the World Food Programme—said of Gaza that “there is famine—full-blown famine—in the north, and it's moving its way south.”

A month ago, more than 50—five, zero—humanitarian organizations called on Israel to allow greater humanitarian access and to stop unnecessarily restricting aid. These are 50 humanitarian organizations. Mr. Netanyahu says one thing, but 50 organizations that are desperately trying to get food to hungry people say something else. Let the world decide who is telling the truth. This group of humanitarian organizations included Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, Refugees International, and scores of other well-respected humanitarian organizations. They say that Netanyahu and his team have blocked humanitarian aid.

Two of our colleagues—Senator VAN HOLLEN and Senator MERKLEY—visited Rafah in January, and I heard their presentation to the Democratic caucus. Upset by the unreasonable Israeli restrictions on aid, they talked about trucks being inspected, inspected, sent back, and that things that should have been allowed to get through were not allowed to get through. They said afterward that the United States must “demand that the Netanyahu government lift the impediments to the delivery of basic goods needed to sustain life in Gaza.” Netanyahu denies it, but two of our colleagues who were there say that Israel was blocking aid.

The U.S. Government also disagrees with Netanyahu. USAID Administrator Samantha Power said:

Food has not flowed in sufficient quantities to avoid this imminent famine in the south and these conditions that are giving rise already to child deaths in the north.

In March, Secretary of State Blinken said:

The bottom line is food is getting in, but it's insufficient.

In April, he said that there had been progress, "but it is not enough. We still need to get more aid in and around Gaza."

And, in a formal report this month, the State Department said:

Israel did not fully cooperate with the United States Government's efforts and United States Government-supported international efforts to maximize humanitarian assistance flow to and distribution within Gaza.

I got a kick out of hearing Mr. Netanyahu this afternoon. He talked about airlifts. My God, they are supporting airdrops. They are supporting food coming in from the sea. Well, the reason that the United States is spending millions of dollars to get food in from the sea is precisely because Israel is blocking the ability to get trucks in. The reason that Jordan and other countries and the United States are doing airdrops is, once again, because trucks cannot get through. Netanyahu is taking credit. Yet the reason we are having to do those is precisely because of the policies of his government.

President Biden himself has said that "a major reason why distributing humanitarian aid in Gaza has been so difficult [is] because Israel has not done enough to protect aid workers trying to deliver desperately needed help to civilians. . . . Israel has also not done enough to protect civilians."

This was from President Joe Biden.

So it is fair to say that most of the world disagrees with Mr. Netanyahu.

Think about all that destruction. Think about the tens of thousands of civilians killed and of the schools and hospitals blown up. Take a look at the pictures of emaciated children who are starving to death while food just sits miles away.

One of the things that is interesting, to my mind, is we don't see enough of those pictures. Maybe that has something to do with the fact that Israel—the Israeli military—has killed dozens and dozens and dozens of journalists.

I just met with some journalists last week. One was a young man who happens to come from my own State of Vermont who had no doubt that he was targeted along with other press people. They had big press symbols on their coats, and they were attacked. He was slightly injured. One of his colleagues was killed. Another one was severely injured.

Now, if you add all of that stuff up, are these actions war crimes? Yes, I believe that they are. I believe that there is substantial evidence that the extreme rightwing Israeli Government, led by Netanyahu, has used starvation as a weapon of war and has clearly targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure.

As I think we all agree—I certainly do—Israel had the right to defend itself against the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, but it did not—and this is where we get into the issue of war

crimes. Yes, you have the right to defend yourself. Yes, Israel has the right to go after Hamas—very few people doubt that—but Netanyahu and his government do not have the right to wage an all-out war against the children, against the women, against the innocent people of Gaza. And, for that, there must be consequences.

What the ICC has done is important not only for the global community in the sense that we cannot allow the human race to descend into barbarity. Somebody has got to say: Look, war is terrible. It is a little bit embarrassing as a human being that we have been at war for thousands of years and do not seem to make progress in eliminating war, but if there is war, let us learn from what happened in the past and do our best to protect the women, the children—the innocent people.

So Israel had a right to defend itself against a terrible enemy in Hamas, but it does not have the right to wage an all-out war against the people of Gaza.

Now, what the ICC is doing is important for the world. It is to tell leaders all over the world—dictators, people in democratic countries—that if you go to war, you just cannot wage all-out war against civilians. That is what the ICC is doing. That is important.

It is also important for those of us in the United States. Our Nation claims to be the leader of the free world—the free world. At our best, we try to mobilize countries to uphold international law and prevent crimes against humanity. That is what we do and have done.

But how can or how will the United States be able to criticize any country in the world—whether it is Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, or anyone, any other country in the world—if we pretend that what is happening in Gaza is acceptable, if we actually believe what Netanyahu is saying?

If we turn our backs and ignore the crimes against humanity that are being committed in Gaza right now, what credibility will we ever have in criticizing the actions of any country no matter how terrible those actions may be? Because people will say: Oh, really, you are attacking China or Turkiye or anyone else, really, really, deeply concerning. But, apparently, for Netanyahu, we don't believe it.

I don't want to see this great country of ours be in that position. I want to see this country respected all over the world as a country that does believe in human rights, that does believe in international law.

The ICC, as I see it, is trying to uphold international law and minimum standards of decency. Our government should do no less.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent due to a personal matter when

the Senate voted on vote No. 172 on confirmation of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit. Last week, I voted to invoke cloture on Mr. Aframe. On vote No. 172, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to a personal matter when the Senate voted on vote No. 173 on the motion to invoke cloture on Krissa M. Lanham to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. On vote No. 173, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to a personal matter when the Senate voted on vote No. 174 on confirmation of Krissa M. Lanham to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. On vote No. 174, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to a personal matter when the Senate voted on vote No. 175 on the motion to invoke cloture on Angela M. Martinez to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona. On vote No. 175, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was absent due to a personal matter when the Senate voted on vote No. 176 on passage of S.J. Res. 58, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces". On vote No. 176, had I been present, I would have voted yea.●

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I submit to the Senate a budget scorekeeping report. The report, which covers fiscal year 2024, was prepared and submitted as a letter by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. This information assists the Senate Budget Committee in determining if budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation.

CBO's report shows the effect on spending and revenues of congressional action through April 15, 2024. Between CBO's last report on December 13, 2023, and April 15, 2024, Congress passed eight pieces of legislation with effects on direct spending or revenue. These include two appropriations bills passed in March, P.L. 118-42 and P.L. 118-47, that completed the fiscal year 2024 appropriations cycle in line with the bipartisan agreement enacted last summer.

CBO's report included three tables, tables 1, 2, and 3. Tables 1 and 2 show that current budgetary levels are within allowable amounts for budget authority and outlays. The allowable levels include an adjustment for the Senate-passed national security supplemental, P.L. 118-50, which had not yet

been enacted into law when the table was prepared. These tables also show that revenue is below the allowable amount, due to the rescissions of IRS mandatory funding in the last appropriation bill, P.L. 118-47, which reduces revenue and increases the deficit.

Table 3 shows the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go scorecard, which reflects \$36.4 billion of net deficit increase, entirely due to IRS funding rescissions.

The Democratic staff of the Budget Committee prepared three addendum tables to supplement CBO's report, tables A, B, and C.

Table A compares the mandatory spending of each authorizing committee against the enforceable allocations under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act. It shows that 11 of the 16 authorizing committees are compliant with their allocations, either because no legislation with significant budgetary costs was enacted, the legislation was deficit-neutral and qualified for an allocation adjustment that was subsequently filed, or the legislation reduced spending.

Table B updates CBO's table 1, the Senate current level report for spending and revenues, to reflect the enactment of P.L. 118-50, the national security supplemental, which was passed by the House and Senate and was signed into law by the President after CBO prepared its report.

Table C updates CBO's table 3, updating the Senate Pay-As-You-Go scorecard to reflect six bills that have passed by the House and Senate since the release of CBO's report, five of which have been signed into law by the President.

I ask unanimous consent that CBO's letter, accompanying tables, and the addendum be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, Washington, DC, April 17, 2024.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2024 budget and is current through April 15, 2024. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on March 22, 2024, pursuant to section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, Public Law 118-5).

Since our last letter dated December 13, 2023, the Congress has cleared the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority, outlays, or revenues in fiscal year 2024:

An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations (P.L. 118-26);

5G SALE Act (P.L. 118-27); National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (P.L. 118-31);

Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-35);

Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-38);

Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-40);

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42); and

Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47).

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL, Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF APRIL 15, 2024

Table with 4 columns: Budget Resolution, Current Level, Current Level Over (+) or Under (-) Resolution. Rows include On-Budget (Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues) and Off-Budget (Social Security Outlays, Social Security Revenues).

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF APRIL 15, 2024

Table with 4 columns: Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Previously Enacted, Enacted Legislation (Authorizing and Appropriation), Entitlements and Mandatories, and Memorandum (Revenues 2024-2033).

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-344) in the Senate, the aggregate spending and revenue levels for 2024 published in the Congressional Record on June 21, 2023, by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, P.L. 118-5) do not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, amounts in this current-level report do not include those items.

In keeping with the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255), certain funding for the Department of Health and Human Services is excluded from estimates for the purposes of both the Budget Act and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA P.L. 99-177), as amended. As a result, this report excludes \$457 million in budget authority and \$770 million in outlays. Similarly, in keeping with section 14003 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136, as modified by section 101 of division AA of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260)), certain funding provided to the Army Corps of Engineers is excluded from estimates for the purposes of both the Budget Act and the Deficit Control Act. As a result, this report excludes \$2,829 million in budget authority and \$2,829 million in outlays.

Reflects a correction to account for the interest effects of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, P.L. 118-5), which were inadvertently excluded from the current-level report filed on December 13, 2023, because of a database error. As a result of that correction, previously enacted budget authority and outlays alike are \$1,347 million less than previously indicated.

Current-level amounts and allocations include budgetary effects designated as an emergency requirement in keeping with section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. However, they exclude budgetary effects designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001 of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022. In consultation with the Senate Committee on the Budget and in keeping with section 103 of the FRA, current-level amounts and allocations also exclude amounts previously enacted and designated as an emergency requirement for 2024 for allocation enforcement under the Budget Act. Excluded amounts are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Authorizing Legislation: Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118–5)	0	–2,331	n.a.
Appropriation Legislation: Congressional non-BBEDCA Emergencies	70,983	2,798	n.a.
Changes to Congressional non-BBEDCA Emergencies	0	358	n.a.
Total, Emergency-Designated Budgetary Effects	70,983	825	n.a.

^cSection 121 of the FRA requires the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2024; those aggregate levels were first published in the *Congressional Record* on June 21, 2023. The Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget has the authority to revise the budgetary aggregates for the budgetary effects of certain revenue and spending measures pursuant to the Budget Act and the FRA:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Aggregates Printed on June 21, 2023:	4,878,570	5,056,741	3,651,838
Revisions:			
Published in the <i>Congressional Record</i> on September 12, 2023	61,854	23,541	n.a.
Published in the <i>Congressional Record</i> on October 24, 2023	16,642	1,219	n.a.
Published in the <i>Congressional Record</i> on November 29, 2023	1,589	954	n.a.
Published in the <i>Congressional Record</i> on March 8, 2024	95,070	21,606	n.a.
Published in the <i>Congressional Record</i> on March 22, 2024	–17,550	–6,698	n.a.
Revised Senate Resolution	5,036,175	5,097,363	3,651,838

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 15, 2024
(In millions of dollars)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Beginning Balance ^a	0	0	0
Enacted Legislation ^{a,b,c} , Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act of 2023 (S. 111, P.L. 118–9)	*	*	*
250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. 1096, P.L. 118–10)	0	0	0
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (H.R. 5860, P.L. 118–15) ^d ..	*	*	*
An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (S. 2795, P.L. 118–19)	0	1	–1
Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 6363, P.L. 118–22) ^e	*	*	*
National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023 (H.R. 3315, P.L. 118–24)	*	*	*
Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 (S. 788, P.L. 118–25)	*	*	*
An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations. (S. 2747, P.L. 118–26)	–1	–5	–10
5G SALE Act (S. 2787, P.L. 118–27)	–60	–85	–85
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (H.R. 2670, P.L. 118–31)	178	1,410	–1,487
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II (H.R. 6503, P.L. 118–34)	*	*	*
Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 2872, P.L. 118–35) ^f	*	*	*
Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2023 (S. 3427, P.L. 118–38)	1	1	1
Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2024 (H.R. 7463, P.L. 118–40) ^g	*	*	*
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024 (H.R. 7454, P.L. 118–41)	*	*	*
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366, P.L. 118–42) ^h ..	—	—	—
Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 2882, P.L. 118–47) ⁱ	1,273	17,586	37,971

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 15, 2024—Continued
(In millions of dollars)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status". (H.J. Res. 98)	*	*	*
Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	1,391	18,908	36,389
Total Change in Outlays	119	1,327	–1,572
Total Change in Revenues	–1,272	–17,581	–37,961

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
P.L. = public law; — = excluded from PAYGO scorecard; * = between \$500,000 and \$500,000.
^aOn June 21, 2023 the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.
^bThe amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.
^cExcludes off-budget amounts.
^dSection 2401(b) requires the budgetary effects of division B to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 2401 of division B.
^eSection 701(b) requires the budgetary effects of division B to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 701 of division B.
^fSection 401(b) requires the budgetary effects of division B to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 401 of division B.
^gSection 102(b) requires the budgetary effects of division B to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 102 of division B.
^hSection 401(b) of division G requires the budgetary effects of that division to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard.
ⁱSection 401(b) of division G requires the budgetary effects of that division to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects of rescinding amounts provided to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in P.L. 117–169 are shown here because divisions B and D do not fall within the exclusion in section 401(b) of division G.

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS

(\$ in millions; positive numbers represent spending above enforceable limits)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Armed Services:			
Budget Authority	2,629	3,321	721
Outlays	178	1,410	–1,487
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation:			
Budget Authority	747	3,338	5,368
Outlays	748	795	–30
Energy and Natural Resources:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS—Continued
(\$ in millions; positive numbers represent spending above enforceable limits)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Outlays	3	3	3
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Finance:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Foreign Relations:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Homeland Security and Government Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Indian Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Intelligence:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Judiciary:			
Budget Authority	1	1	1
Outlays	1	1	1
Rules and Administration:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Small Business and Entrepreneurship:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	1	–1
Outlays	0	1	–1
Memo—all committees, total over allocation			
Budget Authority	3,377	6,661	6,089
Outlays	930	2,210	–1,514

TABLE B.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF MAY 20, 2024

(\$ in billions)

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over (+) or Under (–) Resolution
On-Budget:			
Budget Authority	5,036.2	5,039.9	3.7
Outlays	5,090.4	5,057.4	–32.9
Revenues	3,651.8	3,650.6	–1.2
Off-Budget:			
Social Security Outlays ...	1,322.7	1,322.7	0.0
Social Security Revenues	1,195.5	1,195.5	0.0

Memo: This table is an updated version of CBO's Table 1 above, incorporating the budgetary effects of H.R. 815, the national security supplemental, which was signed into law on April 24, 2024 (P.L. 118–50).

TABLE C.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF MAY 20, 2024
(\$ in millions)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Beginning Balance ^a	1,391	18,908	36,389

TABLE C.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF MAY 20, 2024—Continued
(\$ in millions)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Legislation That Has Cleared Congress Since April 15, 2024:			
Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (H.R. 815, P.O. 118–50) ^b ..	—	—	—
Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology (REPORT) Act (S. 474, P.L. 118–59)	*	*	*
Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act (H.R. 1042, P.L. 118–62) ^c ..	—	—	—
Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2023 (S. 2073)	*	*	*
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024, Part II (H.R. 8289, P.L. 118–60)	*	*	*
Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in America Aviation Act (H.R. 3935, P.L. 118–63)	0	54	63
Total Change in Outlays	0	54	63
Total Change in Revenues	0	0	0
Final Balance	1,391	18,962	36,452

P.L. = public law; — = excluded from PAYGO scorecard; * = between —\$500,000 and \$500,000.
^a The beginning balance reflects CBO’s Table 3, above.
^b Section 1(b) of division T requires the budgetary effects of division D and each subsequent division to be excluded from the Senate’s PAYGO scorecard.
^c H.R. 1042 increases direct spending from budget authority originally designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to a budget resolution by the infrastructure investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117–58), and therefore is excluded from the Senate’s PAYGO scorecard.

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Each year, this month gives us the opportunity to celebrate the diverse group of peoples who make up Asian America. And there is much to celebrate; today, we see Asian Americans in every part of American society, from books and movies, to the highest halls of government.

President Biden has appointed AANHPI leaders to key positions in the administration, including Ambassador Katherine Tai, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Arati Prabhakar.

At the same time, we recognize the many barriers broken by those who came before, to pave the wide road which we now traverse today.

The AANHPI civil rights movement is inextricably tied with the Black civil rights movement that defined the mid-20th century, giving rise not only to well-known African-American activists like Martin Luther King, Jr, John Lewis, and Malcolm X, but also leaders like Grace Lee Boggs, Larry Itliong, and Patsy Mink.

For many of us, these latter three names are not as familiar; only now are we as a country beginning to truly recognize the importance of the Asian-American movement, and to teach its history to the next generation. Asian-

American activists played a key role in calling out U.S. involvement in colonialist conflicts like the Vietnam war, as well as racist housing and development projects at home.

As we have seen time and again, failing to understand our history as a nation puts us at risk of repeating its mistakes. Our context in the 21st century is undoubtedly distinct from the challenges faced by the earliest Asian Americans. Yet hate crimes against the AANHPI community increased 167 percent from 2020 to 2021, in large part because of racist rhetoric echoed by the highest levels of government during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though incidences of anti-Asian hate have decreased overall from 2021 to 2022, racially motivated incidents against Sikh and Muslim Americans have continued to rise.

Janelle Wong, a contemporary Asian-American activist and researcher for the nonprofit AAPI Data, said that “Anti-Asian hate crimes . . . are often tied to national security or other kinds of U.S. foreign policy that heightened attention to Asian Americans in the U.S. We will expect them to go up again at some point, depending on what the national and international context is and the degree to which places in Asia are cast as a threat to the U.S.”

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will be the first to tell you that the Chinese Communist Party poses a significant national security threat to the United States in many arenas. But we as a country must be able to distinguish between China as a geopolitical entity and Chinese Americans and Chinese people with their own unique beliefs, hopes, and dreams. Sinophobia, and all other forms of racism and discrimination, cannot be excused in the name of geopolitical circumstance.

As a nation of immigrants, we should know better than to label people as “un-American” because they or their families were born someplace else.

The Biden administration has taken significant, meaningful steps to address anti-Asian racism over the last 3 years, including signing the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to make reporting hate crimes easier and hosting the first-ever White House summit against hate-fueled violence, alongside significant actions to address gun violence.

The administration also launched the first-ever National Strategy to Advance Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for AANHPI communities, addressing issues like anti-Asian hate and enhancing accessibility to government services in multiple languages.

Of particular note to me as a member of the Small Business Committee, Biden has provided over \$22 billion in loans to AANHPI entrepreneurs through the Small Business Administration, achieving the highest Asian-American employment and entrepreneurship rates in over a decade.

And finally, recognizing the importance of honoring and protecting tradi-

tional cultures, the President signed legislation to establish a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

I am proud to join 400,000 Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in calling the State of Maryland my home. I recognize that the last few years have been difficult for the AANHPI community, and as a Jewish American, I want to take a moment to grieve with you in the face of what at times can feel like an overwhelming rise in hate and discrimination.

But I would urge you to keep pushing toward a fairer, more just future—and I will be right there with you.

In this last week of AANHPI Heritage Month, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the triumphs of this community in the face of great adversity and to continue our work to lift up and address their unique needs to ensure that we all can thrive.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

On June 7, 2024, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The celebration will be held in conjunction with its summer convention at the Little America Hotel and Conference Center in Cheyenne, WY. The foundation is dedicated to preserving Wyoming’s bighorn sheep herds and their habitats, to conservation education, and to hunter’s rights.

The 1960s saw a drastic decline in bighorn sheep populations and their habitats throughout the country. This prompted the formation of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep in 1974. It is now known as the Wild Sheep Foundation. The foundation aimed to restore and manage sheep herds and their ranges.

In 1983, Dave Steger, Ron Ball, Alex Wolfer, John Suda, and Terry Reach established the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. The Wyoming foundation sought the same goals as the national group, but solely within the borders of the State.

Wyoming’s rugged mountains and western plains are home to 15 bighorn sheep herds. With over 5,900 wild sheep, Wyoming is a mecca for bighorn sheep.

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation plays a critical role in maintaining the health and vitality of each herd and the habitat in which they thrive. Conservation efforts to preserve these herds includes bighorn sheep reintroduction, recreational trail closure, and prescribed burns.

The re-establishment of the Ferris-Seminole herd near Rawlins proves to be one of the most successful transplant efforts for bighorn sheep in Wyoming. The low population prompted the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, in partnership with the Wyoming Game

and Fish, to capture and transplant bighorn sheep from the Whiskey Mountain and Devil Canyon herds to augment and re-establish the Ferris-Seminole herd. Those continued efforts help the herd thrive and reach population objectives set forth by the Wyoming Game and Fish.

Similar to the Ferris-Seminole herd, the Sweetwater Rocks herd was completely decimated by 1907 and again in 1980. Recently, the foundation established the Sweetwater Rocks Initiative to reintroduce sheep into the region. The foundation is collaborating with the Wyoming Game and Fish and local ranchers to “put wild sheep back on the mountain.”

The snowcapped peaks and rocky mountains in northwestern Wyoming are home to the Teton Range herd. The herd nearly died out in the 19th and 20th centuries due to over harvest, disease, habitat depletion, and disturbance of their migration routes. The foundation’s mitigation efforts include working with the Wyoming Game and Fish and Grand Teton National Park to close recreation areas in important bighorn sheep habitats and to collar the sheep to track survival patterns.

The survival and growth of the herds, the vitality of the habitat, and the endless dedication of every member are a testimony to the importance of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

The foundation partnered with the Wyoming Big Game License Coalition to establish five Governor’s Bighorn Sheep hunting tags. This collaboration helps fund conservation projects for bighorn sheep and ensure hunting remains an integral part of Wyoming’s heritage. Since the partnership began in 2003, bighorn sheep tags have raised over \$5 million for conservation.

In 2015, one of Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation’s lifetime members Gary Butler approached the foundation to establish a permanent bighorn sheep conservation fund. The plan was to ensure long-term projects were sustainable into the future. Due to the popularity of this fund, it has already exceeded the original goals. As of 2022, the fund generated more than \$400,000 and awarded 11 lifetime memberships to youth. Gary’s dedication to bighorn sheep is a testament to the caliber of this organization and to each member’s unwavering devotion to the long-term survival of Wyoming’s wild sheep.

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is an incredible asset for conservation efforts in Wyoming. No project is too small. Each of the foundation’s members bears a resolute commitment to the strength of the herd and the habitat, all while maintaining the values of hunting. The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is led by:

Katie Cheesbrough, Executive Director
Dean DiJenno, Deputy Director
Zach McDermott, President
Scott Butler, Vice President
Brall Clifford, Treasurer
Bruce Perryman, Secretary
John W. Harris, Board Director
Kurt Eisenach, Past President

Sam Lockwood, Board Director
Scott Smith, Board Director
Jimmy Owens, Board Director
Matt Hoobler, Board Director
Greg Pope, Board Director

It is an honor to rise in recognition of this significant milestone for the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. The impact and opportunities the foundation has created for bighorn sheep, hunters, and youth leaves an astonishing mark on the outlook of bighorn sheep in Wyoming. Congratulations to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation on their 40th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE WRIGHT MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro, NH. This local landmark, educational institution, and national repository for WWII items and memorabilia will be holding events throughout the summer in celebration of its 30th anniversary. I join in saluting the hard-working Wright Museum staff, its enthusiastic volunteers, and its generous supporters who give so much of their time and effort to fulfilling the vision of founder David Wright: to be the preeminent history museum that preserves and promotes a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the enduring contributions made by World War II-era Americans.

The Wright Museum of World War II is unmistakable to people who venture down Center Street near Wolfeboro’s historic downtown. They turn the corner to find a genuine M3A1 Stuart tank positioned almost as if it just broke through the building’s brick frontage. The tank is just one current piece of an extensive military vehicle collection that once belonged to museum founder David Wright, a U.S. marine during the Korean war and a proud son of a World War II veteran. David would offer pieces of his collection for parades and special events throughout the Northeast, but he knew his vehicles represented a small part of a vast war effort that mobilized millions of Americans in a variety of ways. He had an idea for a permanent building that would tell the full story of the people who made these enormous contributions. He envisioned a museum that contextualized this time period so Americans today could thoroughly grasp the forces on the battlefield and the home front that propelled our country to victory.

In 1992, David found an ideal site at the former location of a Diamond National sawmill in Wolfeboro. He uncovered a perfect natural setting adjacent to the Smith River and nearby Lake Winnepesaukee, and he identified a community filled with people who would eagerly donate their time and resources in support of the museum’s

mission. The Wright Museum of World War II opened its doors in 1994. Since then, museum staff and volunteers have guided nearly 300,000 visitors, including my family and me, on an interactive and thought-provoking journey that captures American life in the early 1940s and depicts the enduring impact of the Greatest Generation.

The Wright Museum hosts guest lectures and rotating exhibits in a flexible space, including its current offerings of “D-day: A View from Above” and “Women in Uniform,” alongside its popular permanent exhibits. One permanent display is a military gallery that showcases World War II-era uniforms and weaponry in addition to David Wright’s collection of tanks, half-tracks, jeeps, and motorcycles. These vehicles are still drivable and operational thanks to the Wright Mechanics, a group of volunteers who educate themselves on the inner workings of 80-year-old equipment. The military gallery is complemented by a homefront gallery that sheds light on everyday life in 1940s America while the war was waged overseas. It includes dozens of artifacts as well as full-scale replicas of a typical kitchen and soda fountain. Another illuminating exhibit is the time tunnel. Visitors are able to walk through rooms dedicated to each year from 1939 to 1945 and learn through audio and visual means about the culture and prevailing mood of the country. There is even a Victory Garden outside of the museum that grows produce for a local food pantry.

These exhibits come together at the Wright Museum of World War II to craft a compelling and enlightening narrative of the homefront contributions to the American war effort. The museum is always finding creative ways to engage patrons of all ages, and everyone learns something new about the World War II experience after talking with a passionate volunteer, listening to an expert speaker, or interacting with a thoughtfully placed display. These efforts ensure that current and future generations will appreciate all of the people who played a role in this formative chapter of our American story. United as one and fighting for a common purpose, these incredible citizens achieved victory, protected our way of life, and reintroduced freedom and democracy to distant parts of the world. Their legacy of commitment, duty, and sacrifice should inspire all of us as we confront modern-day challenges and threats to global peace and security.

On a personal note, the last outing I took with my 94-year-old mother, a member of the Greatest Generation, before her passing was to the Wright Museum. I have wonderful memories of that visit and the thoughtfulness of everyone at the museum. Thank you for your stewardship of World War II memorabilia.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in celebrating

the 30th anniversary of the Wright Museum of World War II.●

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 58, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Ted Cruz, Kevin Cramer, Bill Cassidy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, Mitt Romney, Ted Budd, John Barrasso, Chuck Grassley, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Ron Johnson, Marsha Blackburn, Jerry Moran, Mike Lee, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Eric Schmitt, Mike Braun, Dan Sullivan, Roger Marshall, John Hoeven, John Cornyn, John Boozman, Marco Rubio.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 58. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 8369. An act to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4381. A bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

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-4611. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4612. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4613. A communication from the General Counsel, Selective Service System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Procedures" (RIN3240-AA05) received in the office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4614. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4615. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to waiving the Full-Up System Level requirement for survivability and lethality testing for the E-XX Take Charge And Move Out (TACAMO) aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4616. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4617. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of twenty-six (26) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4618. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of nine (9) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4619. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4620. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of eight (8) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4621. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of eight (8) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this

will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4622. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of seven (7) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4623. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4624. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of thirty-one (31) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general or major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4625. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of nine (9) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4626. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of ten (10) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general or major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4627. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of twelve (12) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4628. A communication from the Director of Congressional and Public Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expenditures pursuant to the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13873 as well as Executive Orders 14034 and 13984; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4629. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Existing Controls on Russia and Belarus Under the Export Administration Regulations Adding New License Exception Medical Devices; Corrections" (RIN0694-AJ59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4630. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and

Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Investing Lenders and Investing Mortgagees Requirements and Expansion of Government-Sponsored Enterprise Definition” (RIN2502-AJ60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4631. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4632. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4633. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to Export, Reexport, and Transfer (In-Country) Controls for Nicaragua under the Export Administration Regulations” (RIN0694-AJ34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4634. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the Unverified List” (RIN0694-AJ33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4635. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions of Entities to the Entity List” (RIN0694-AJ54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4636. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions to the Entity List” (RIN0694-AJ28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4637. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4638. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13959 with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People’s Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4639. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

entitled “Chief Counsel’s Interpretation Clarifying: (1) Authority of a Bank to Engage in Certain Cryptocurrency Activities and (2) Authority of the OCC to Charter a National Trust Bank”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4640. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4641. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of President, Government National Mortgage Association, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4642. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Export Control Revisions for Australia, United Kingdom, United States Enhanced Trilateral Security Partnership” (RIN0694-AJ58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4643. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Export Control Measures Under the Export Administration Regulations to Address Iranian Aggression Against Israel and Military Support for Russia” (RIN0694-AJ61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4644. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act; Supplemental Rule” (RIN1557-AF26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4645. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4646. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4647. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4648. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4649. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, Department of Treasury received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4650. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain; Connected Software Applications” (RIN0605-AA62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4651. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4652. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Entities to and Revision of Entry on the Entity List” (RIN0694-AJ47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4653. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act; Supplemental Rule” (RIN7100-AG75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4654. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Firearms License Requirements” (RIN0694-AJ46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4655. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fair Lending, Fair Housing, and Equitable Housing Finance Plans” (RIN2590-AB29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4656. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard” (RIN2506-AC54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4657. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Determination: Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing” (RIN2506-AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4658. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016—Housing Choice Voucher and Project-Based Voucher Implementation; Additional Streamlining Changes” (RIN2577-AD06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4659. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation entitled “To repeal the MOX production objective reporting requirement, and for other purposes”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4660. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation entitled “To expand the Secretary of Energy’s authority to counter threatening unmanned aircraft systems for the protection of covered nuclear facilities and assets, and for other purposes”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4661. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures” (RIN1990-AA48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4662. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Solar for All”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4663. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interpretation of Foreign Entity of Concern” (RIN1901-ZA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4664. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Federal Energy Management Program, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings” (RIN1904-AB96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4665. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Conservation Landscape Health Final Rule” (RIN1004-AE92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4666. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products” (RIN1904-AF62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4667. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation” ((RIN1902-AF87) (Docket No. RM21-17-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4668. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning with Reporting Year 2024” ((RIN2070-AL04) (FRL No. 9427.1-01-OCSPF)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4669. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Missouri: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 11446-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4670. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs” (RIN2125-AF79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4671. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4672. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Section 355 PLR Procedures” (Rev. Proc. 2024-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4673. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expansion of Prohibition of Interment or Memorialization of Persons Who Committed Certain Crimes” (RIN2900-AS06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4674. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Update and Clarify Regulatory Bars to Ben-

efits Based on Character of Discharge” (RIN2900-AQ95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4675. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “CHAMPVA Coverage of Audio-Only Telehealth, Mental Health Services, and Cost Sharing for Certain Contraceptive Services and Contraceptive Products Approved, Cleared, or Granted by FDA” (RIN2900-AR55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4676. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Veteran and Spouse Transitional Assistance Grant Program” (RIN2900-AR68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4677. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of fiscal year 2024”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4678. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Loan Guaranty: Regulation Servicer Changes” (RIN2900-AR97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4679. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “VA Servicer Handbook M26-4, Chapter 9: VA Purchase [Note: VA has concluded that this handbook is not a ‘rule’ within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, VA is submitting it to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 801(a).]” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4680. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “VA Manual M26-3, Chapter 9: VA Purchase [Note: VA has concluded that this handbook is not a ‘rule’ within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, VA is submitting it to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 801(a).]” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4681. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “VA Veteran Readiness and Employment Program Removal of Regulation Regarding Repayment of Training and Rehabilitation Supplies” (RIN2900-AR90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4682. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN2900-AS03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4683. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exceptions to Applying the Bilateral Factor in VA Disability Calculations" (RIN2900-AR51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4684. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments" (RIN2900-AR89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4685. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Active Service Pay" (RIN2900-AP86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4686. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "85/15 Rule Calculations, Waiver Criteria, and Reports" (RIN2900-AR56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4687. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commemorative Plaques and Urns" (RIN2900-AR88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4688. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Outdated Regulations" (RIN0917-AA24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4689. A communication from the Administrative Specialist, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting" (RIN1090-AB21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4690. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FOIA Improvement Act" (Notice 2024-13); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4691. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criminal Justice Reviews for the SBA Business Loan Programs, Disaster Loan Programs, and Surety Bond Guaranty Program" (RIN3245-AI03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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-111. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to expand the eligible uses of benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to include the purchase of menstrual products to improve the access of persons with low incomes to such necessary products; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-112. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the federal government to address the issue of spouses of members of the military losing retirement benefits due to frequent relocations by creating a retirement plan that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, Historically, the State of Nevada has honored the sacrifices that members of the military and their families have made to protect our freedoms by providing veterans and members of the military certain benefits and rehabilitative services; and

Whereas, Nevada state law currently requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to assist veterans and those persons presently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada and their spouses, domestic partners, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives; and

Whereas, According to the RAND National Defense Research Institute, research has found that spouses of members of the military have lower earnings and employment than comparable persons who are married to civilians and that relocating because of military service is associated with lower spousal earnings; and

Whereas, Permanently relocating because of a change of duty station has been shown by the RAND National Defense Research In-

stitute to reduce earnings of spouses of members of the military and may threaten the ability of such persons to support themselves financially in retirement; and

Whereas, A study by the RAND National Defense Research Institute suggests that programs designed to mitigate the adverse impacts on careers of spouses of members of the military associated with permanent relocation because of a change of duty station may have meaningful impacts on the financial well-being of families of members of the military by improving current earnings and the ability of members of the military and their spouses to support themselves financially in retirement; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense, through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, administers the military retirement system, which is a government-funded benefit system that includes monthly compensation for qualified retirees from the active duty and reserve forces of the military, disability benefits for those deemed medically unfit to serve and a survivor annuity program for the eligible survivors of deceased retirees; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense currently offers several programs to assist military spouses advance their careers and educational goals, such as the Military Spouse Employment Partnership and My Career Advancement Accounts, mainly through the Office of Military Community and Family Policy of the Department; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act appropriates funding to the United States Department of Defense for military activities; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense does not currently have a plan or program that provides retirement benefits to spouses of members of the military; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the creation of a retirement plan to resolve the issue of the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the Federal Government to create and implement a retirement plan that addresses the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the Department of Defense and the Governor of the State of Nevada; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-113. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation establishing a Space National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 1004

Whereas, the space domain has been a critical part of defense and combat operations necessary for the continued security of the United States symbolized by strategic importance and the multifaceted value of space operations to both national security and technological advancement;

Whereas, Arizona is home to significant aerospace and defense industry contributions, with its citizens and economy benefiting greatly from the technological innovations and jobs these sectors provide; and

Whereas, establishing a Space National Guard would enhance the capabilities of the United States in space by offering a cost-effective, ready and innovative force that leverages the talent and resources of states like Arizona; and

Whereas, the collaboration between the United States Department of Defense, the United States Space Force and state National Guards would strengthen national security, foster international partnerships and ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of space domain operations; and

Whereas, the integration of National Guard space operations into a formal Space National Guard would optimize resources, ensuring every dollar invested yields significant returns in combat capability and technological advancement; and

Whereas, the Air National Guard's Space Operations have demonstrated unparalleled expertise, readiness and economic efficiency and have proved the vital role they play in the nation's defense and space exploration efforts; and

Whereas, the establishment of the Space National Guard would recognize and leverage the existing Infrastructure, talent and innovation present in states like Arizona and would foster a collaborative environment between federal and state entities to advance the nation's space objectives.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation to immediately establish a Space National Guard to harness and expand the capabilities, readiness and economic efficiency of the Air National Guard's Space Operations, thereby ensuring that the United States maintains its competitive edge in space domain security and exploration.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-114. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to reevaluate proposed restrictions on the chemical industry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL No. 2001

Whereas, the State of Arizona recognizes the vital role played by the chemical industry in the economic development, national security and technological innovation of the United States; and

Whereas, the chemical industry is a cornerstone of our nation's economy, contributing over \$600 billion in economic impact, supporting more than half a million jobs and constituting 25% of the gross domestic product; and

Whereas, the chemical industry is instrumental in providing essential products and innovations that drive progress in areas such as housing, infrastructure, health care, telecommunications and clean energy solutions; and

Whereas, the success of the chemical industry is crucial to maintaining America's global competitiveness and achieving national priorities; and

Whereas, recent regulatory actions and proposed restrictions by the Biden Adminis-

tration and its agencies have raised concerns about the impact on the chemical industry's ability to innovate, create products and contribute to the nation's economic growth; and

Whereas, these new restrictions have the potential to limit access to and increase the cost of essential products, negatively impacting the United States economy, jeopardizing American competitiveness and delaying progress in industries with urgent and growing needs; and

Whereas, there are currently 13 proposed new restrictions with the potential to directly impact the chemical industry, ranging from outright bans on certain chemistries to regulations that may render manufacturing unviable or impossible; and

Whereas, these restrictions may have detrimental effects on the supply chains for vital technologies, including semiconductors, electric vehicles and modern health care applications; and

Whereas, the proposed restrictions contradict policy priorities set forth by laws such as the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the CHIPS and Science Act; and

Whereas, responsible regulation that prioritizes science, promotes innovation and supports supply chain resiliency is essential to achieving national goals.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the Members of the Legislature urge the President of the United States, federal agencies and the United States Congress to reevaluate proposed restrictions on the chemical industry and to ensure that regulations are based on sound science, promote innovation and support supply chain resiliency.

2. That the Members of the Legislature urge the President of the United States, federal agencies and the United States Congress to support frameworks that celebrate innovation and accelerate progress in the chemical industry.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the directors of relevant federal agencies and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-115. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the United States Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 6

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983 to equalize the earned Social Security benefits of workers who spend part of their careers in exempt public service and workers who spend their entire careers participating in Social Security; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision reduces the Social Security benefits of public servants who receive a pension for public service that was not subject to Social Security taxes; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision's flawed practical application diminishes nearly 150,000 Ohioans' retirement security and fails to recognize their rightfully earned Social Security and public pension benefits; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset reduces the Social Security spousal or survivor benefit paid to an individual's spouse who receives a government pension based on

the spouse's own public employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset reduces an individual's Social Security spousal or survivor benefit by two-thirds of the individual's own government pension, leaving many without adequate retirement income; and

Whereas, It is estimated that the Government Pension Offset affects and undermines the financial security of more than 100,000 Ohioans; and

Whereas, There are 1.7 million participants in Ohio's public retirement systems and over 450,000 beneficiaries and recipients; and

Whereas, Members of the 118th United States Congress have introduced legislation to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-116. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the federal Office of Management and Budget to update its Uniform Guidance in order to improve job creation, quality, and equity; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No.5

Whereas, Since 1988, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established federal grant rules, now known as the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200), that have severely limited state and local governments from implementing substantive procurement standards that promote good jobs and equity; and

Whereas, State and local governments are prohibited from using local hire (hiring people from a specific geographic region) in federally funded procurements; and

Whereas, The Uniform Guidance has impeded the implementation of policies, including targeted hire provisions and project labor agreements;

Whereas, This language has hindered state and local governments efforts to put local or disadvantaged residents to work rebuilding infrastructure in their own communities; and

Whereas, No empirical evidence has been cited that shows local hire has an adverse impact on bid competition or cost; and

Whereas, The United States Congress itself has never prohibited local hire or targeted hire; and

Whereas, The 2015 Obama-Biden Administration's Local Labor Hiring Pilot Program allowed grant recipients to use local hire programs to successfully increase social, economic, and racial equity in their communities; and

Whereas, The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allowed for local hire to be used in transportation construction projects; and

Whereas, Local hire programs address the fundamental goal of having residents participate in infrastructure investments in their own towns and cities; and

Whereas, Targeted hire programs can also increase opportunities for workers of color, women, veterans, returning community

members, and others historically excluded from meaningful employment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the Office of Management and Budget to update its Uniform Guidance to explicitly allow states and localities to implement strong procurement standards that advance high-quality jobs and equitable hiring, including lifting the local hire prohibition on federally funded projects, and in so doing empower California lawmakers and agencies to create equitable infrastructure jobs that can strengthen our cities, counties, and state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the federal Office of Management and Budget, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-117. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the federal government to do all within its power to secure the border and protect our country; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 801

Whereas, recent events in Texas have demonstrated the federal government's disinclination to fulfill a duty imposed by the United States Constitution and federal statutory law, namely the protection of the several states from illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the security of our nation's borders and the safety of our citizens are paramount to protecting the American way of life; and

Whereas, due to the present administration's abrogation of its duty to secure the border, more than six million illegal immigrants have crossed our southern border in the last three years; and

Whereas, Article 1, §10, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution reserves to the states the right of self-defense, including the right to secure a state's border against an invasion; and

Whereas, the state of Texas has acted properly in declaring an invasion pursuant to such constitutional provision and invoking Texas's constitutional authority to defend and protect its citizens and sovereign property; and

Whereas, the Texas National Guard, Texas Department of Public Safety officers, and other qualified Texas personnel have been deployed to secure the Texas border; and

Whereas, federal government officials and agencies have since encroached upon Texas's constitutional right to protect against threats to the public safety; and

Whereas, the members of this General Assembly have consistently taken steps to address illegal immigration in Tennessee and support the state of Texas in doing likewise; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, The Senate Concurring, that this General Assembly stands in support of the state of Texas's efforts to secure its border against illegal immigration and affirms the several states' constitutional right to protect and defend their citizens and property against any threat to public safety and security; and be it further

Resolved, that this General Assembly commends Governor Lee for previous support of securing the Texas border and urges him to send continued support; and be it further

Resolved, that this General Assembly urges the federal government to do all within its power to secure the border and protect our country; and be it further

Resolved, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the

United States, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation, and the Governor of Texas.

POM-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine requesting the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide access to medical care and assistance to members of the Maine National Guard who trained at the military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE PAPER 998

Whereas, Resolve 2023, chapter 95 established the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission; and

Whereas, the commission was tasked with studying the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals, including 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCDD, as well as other dioxins including that known as Agent Orange, on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada; and

Whereas, the commission has striven to demonstrate through scientific evidence the connection between exposure to those chemicals while training and subsequent negative health outcomes, but it is the responsibility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to make this determination and provide care and assistance; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to tactical herbicides, including Agent Orange, suffered harmful effects and were subsequently diagnosed with conditions or illnesses associated with that exposure; and

Whereas, those who served at the Gagetown military support base include members of the United States National Guard, who were never deployed but were nevertheless exposed to these harmful chemicals, which are known to have been tested at Gagetown; and

Whereas, access to medical care and assistance through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is therefore unavailable for these National Guard members; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs recognize the effects of exposure to harmful chemicals, including TCDD and other dioxins, on members of the United States National Guard who trained at Gagetown and who are diagnosed with conditions or illnesses associated with that exposure as has already been done for Vietnam War veterans and others; and be it further

Resolved, That We further urge and request that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs review the most recent scientific reporting on the effects to human health of exposure to dioxins, to conduct independent environmental sampling and analysis at Gagetown related to dioxins and risks to human health, to examine health outcomes for individuals who trained there and to provide access to medical care and assistance for those individuals; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; the Honorable Denis Richard McDonough, Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, calling for the end of the Gaza war and a lasting peace; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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 Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 4370. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4371. A bill to amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 4372. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs associated with the delivery of automobiles or other conveyances to eligible persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4373. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4374. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include screening for loneliness and coordination of supportive services and health care to address the negative health effects of loneliness, to require a report on loneliness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4375. A bill to establish a critical supply chain resiliency and crisis response program in the Department of Commerce, and to secure American leadership in deploying emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4376. A bill to increase Government accountability for administrative actions by reinvigorating administrative Pay-As-You-Go; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4377. A bill to require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to facilitate naturalization services for noncitizen veterans who have been removed from the United States or are inadmissible; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4378. A bill to require on-time delivery of periodicals to unlock additional rate authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4379. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4380. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote matriculation, and increase in the graduation rates, of individuals with disabilities within higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4381. A bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception; read the first time.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 4382. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to provide for environmental infrastructure in East Point, Georgia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4383. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to provide for environmental infrastructure in coastal Georgia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 4384. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to provide for environmental infrastructure in Columbus, Henry, and Clayton Counties, Georgia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 700. A resolution supporting the efforts of the United States and international partners to facilitate a security environment that is conducive to holding free and fair elections in Haiti and promoting a durable return to democratic governance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 161

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska

(Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 895

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1867, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out an initiative to develop, expand, and improve rural childcare, and for other purposes.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to extend the tem-

porary order for fentanyl-related substances.

S. 2360

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2360, a bill to establish an Interagency Collaborative and Innovation Pilot Program to Address Hunger and Promote Access to Healthy Food Among Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to clarify that, in awarding funding under title X of the Public Health Service Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not discriminate against eligible States, individuals, or other entities for refusing to counsel or refer for abortions.

S. 2881

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2881, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to provide notice to students participating in a State or federally financed work-study program about potential eligibility for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 2913

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2913, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to deny Federal retirement benefits to individuals convicted of child sex abuse.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3260

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3260, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to formulate recommendations for standardizing the measurements of loneliness and isolation, and for other purposes.

S. 3428

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3428, a bill to terminate the membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes.

S. 3716

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3716, a bill to create children's lifetime savings accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 3764

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3764, a bill to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 3989

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3989, a bill to prohibit defense contracting with companies that employ lobbyists who represent Chinese military companies or human rights abusers, and for other purposes.

S. 4051

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4051, a bill to prohibit transportation of any alien using certain methods of identification, and for other purposes.

S. 4096

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4096, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the random assignment of certain cases in the district courts of the United States.

S. 4296

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 4296, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes.

S. 4307

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4307, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to modify requirements for citizen suits under those Acts, and for other purposes.

S. 4337

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4337, a bill to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 4368

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Wyoming

(Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4368, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require, as a condition of receiving Federal Medicaid funding, that States do not prohibit in vitro fertilization (IVF) services, and for other purposes.

S. 4369

At the request of Mr. COTTON, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 4369, a bill to require the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center to develop a strategy and conduct outreach to United States industry, including shipping companies, port operators, and logistics firms, on the risks of smartport technology of the People's Republic of China and other related risks, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage".

S.J. RES. 79

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 79, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary".

S. RES. 638

At the request of Mr. COONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 638, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban.

S. RES. 687

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 687, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States "One China Policy".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 700—SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO FACILITATE A SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CONDUCTIVE TO HOLDING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN HAITI AND PROMOTING A DURABLE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 700

Whereas, on July 7, 2021, Jovenel Moïse, the former President of Haiti, was assassinated in his home, aggravating a complex and dynamic political crisis which has debilitated the capacity of the country;

Whereas, in the absence of a functioning and democratically elected central government in Haiti, criminal gangs have flourished, often with the backing of the country's political and economic elites, creating a security vacuum and humanitarian crisis that has exposed Haitians to the overwhelming threat of indiscriminate violence, including rampant gender-based violence;

Whereas widespread gang violence in Haiti has culminated in killings and kidnappings of civilians, including at least 1 United States citizen;

Whereas criminal gangs have seized control of up to 80 percent of Port-au-Prince and critical infrastructure, including health care providers, schools, and transit facilities;

Whereas, according to the International Organization for Migration, more than 350,000 Haitians are internally displaced, with gang violence accounting for 93 percent of such displacement;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, 3,334 Haitians were victims of intentional homicide between January 1 and September 30, 2023, while the projected homicide rate per 100,000 people doubled compared to the 2022 homicide rate;

Whereas gangs in Haiti have routinely engaged in kidnaping for ransom, abducting 1,787 people between January 1 and September 30, 2023;

Whereas, as of March 2024, there were 79,411 suspected cases of cholera in Haiti and the risk of a cholera outbreak has been exacerbated by the gangs' control of critical infrastructure, including hospitals and health clinics;

Whereas endemic corruption in Haiti, which ranked 171 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, which is worse than the 2017 ranking of 157 out of 180, has entrenched criminal gangs, deprived Haitians of economic prosperity, and presents significant obstacles to lasting government reform;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued an appeal for \$674,000,000 in February 2024 to meet the needs of an estimated 3,600,000 Haitians who require humanitarian assistance (12 percent more Haitians than were supported in 2023) and are highly vulnerable as a result of the worsening security situation and near-collapse of basic services in Haiti;

Whereas, according to the World Food Programme, 4,950,000 Haitians were food insecure as of September 2023, and 68 percent of the country's population had insufficient food consumption as of March 2024;

Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has documented that illicit firearms and drug trafficking from the United States to Haiti have, in part, fueled the cycle of violence across Haiti;

Whereas on June 25, 2022, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117-159) made gun trafficking a Federal offense and granted the government new authorities to hold firearms smugglers accountable and to prosecute perpetrators;

Whereas Homeland Security Investigations, in coordination with the Department of State, has utilized these new authorities to set up a Transnational Criminal Intelligence Unit in Haiti to work with the Haitian National Police to investigate and prosecute transnational crimes, including firearms and ammunition smuggling, human trafficking, and transnational gang activity;

Whereas, in July 2023, the Department of Justice appointed the first United States Coordinator for Caribbean Firearms Prosecutions to ensure collaboration with the Department of State and investigate gun-related crimes in the region;

Whereas, on November 16, 2023, Haiti and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate cooperation through the eTrace system, an investigative tool used by the bureau to track firearms used in criminal activity, including their purchase history and manufacturer or importer;

Whereas the interim government of Prime Minister Ariel Henry was not duly elected to office and lacked the constitutional or public legitimacy to unilaterally organize free and fair elections;

Whereas the expiration of the terms of the majority of the members of the Parliament of Haiti on January 10, 2023, without elected officials to succeed them, led to the suspension of the legislature's activities and have left the Haitian people without a functioning government;

Whereas, in February 2023, the interim government appointed members to the High Transition Council, which is charged with facilitating a roadmap for eventual democratic elections, but progress was hampered by gang violence and a failure by Prime Minister Henry to reach political consensus with major opposition parties;

Whereas, on October 6, 2022, Prime Minister Henry and 18 members of the Council of Ministers issued an appeal to the international community for security assistance and technical support to assist the Haitian National Police's efforts to combat gang violence;

Whereas, on October 2, 2023, the United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly voted to adopt Resolution 2699/2023, which authorizes the formation and deployment of a Multinational Security Support (referred to in this preamble as the "MSS") mission to re-establish security and the Government of Kenya has subsequently agreed to lead the MSS mission in close coordination with the Government of Haiti;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2699/2023 authorizes the MSS mission to provide operational support to the Haitian National Police—

(1) to support the provision of security for critical infrastructure and transit locations;

(2) to help to ensure unhindered and safe access to humanitarian aid; and

(3) to build security conditions that are conducive to holding free and fair elections in Haiti;

Whereas the Government of Kenya has volunteered to send 1,000 police officers to support the MSS mission and the Kenyan parliament has subsequently voted to approve this action;

Whereas, on April 25, 2024, Ariel Henry resigned as prime minister and a 9-member transitional presidential council, composed of representatives from political parties and civil society, was sworn in and charged with—

(1) selecting a new prime minister;

(2) appointing members to an electoral commission to facilitate the election; and

(3) swearing in a new president by February 7, 2026;

Whereas Caribbean Community (commonly known as "CARICOM") member states are vital partners in supporting the MSS mission and Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad, Guyana, and Jamaica have each publicly committed to contributing personnel or resources to the MSS mission;

Whereas the MSS mission is not a substitute for a sustainable, professional, and well-equipped Haitian National Police that protects and serves the entirety of the Haitian people;

Whereas Congress, through the passage of the Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act (division V of Public Law 117-103), has previously directed the Secretary of State to prioritize the protection of human rights and anti-corruption efforts in Haiti and urges the Department of State to integrate these priorities into oversight and accountability mechanisms for the MSS mission;

Whereas a Haitian-led, inclusive, and sustainable political solution is the only path forward for the country to restore security, the rule of law, democratic institutions, and economic stability; and

Whereas the international community and those contributing to the MSS mission must ensure that—

(1) the MSS mission does not inadvertently support nondemocratic actors who would attempt to seize on improved security conditions to entrench their own power or perpetuate instability; and

(2) lessons learned from previous international missions in Haiti, including the need to promote respect for human rights and promote accountability, are applied: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the urgent need to restore peace and security and alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Haiti as part of an overarching strategy—

(A) to promote a return to democratic governance in the country; and

(B) to ensure that Haitians enjoy their right to liberty and security of person;

(2) supports a MSS mission, as authorized by the United Nations Security Council on October 2, 2023, which adequately—

(A) complies with international law, including international human rights law, as applicable;

(B) takes all necessary steps to protect civilians and respect the rule of law;

(C) maintains the popular support of the Haitian people;

(D) consults with and incorporates feedback from impacted populations, with attention to vulnerable communities, including women, children, and the economically disadvantaged; and

(E) is bound by strict time constraints and is subject to oversight and renewal by the United Nations Security Council in specified increments;

(3) applauds the assistance and other support the Department of State and the Department of Defense have provided to secure intelligence, airlift, communications, and medical support for the MSS mission;

(4) commends the support offered to-date by CARICOM and international partners, in-

cluding Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Guyana, and Jamaica, which is necessary to operationalize the MSS mission;

(5) calls on other members of the international community to pledge financial assistance, logistical and operational support, and personnel to the MSS mission to the greatest extent possible;

(6) endorses international election monitoring in Haiti in support of free and fair elections; and

(7) encourages additional assistance from the United States and the international community to address Haiti's humanitarian needs, including through additional contributions to the United Nations Humanitarian Appeal for fiscal year 2024 and for subsequent fiscal years.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2067. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4361, making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2067. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4361, making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 165, after the undesignated matter following line 5, insert the following:

SEC. 302. SOUTHERN BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION FUND.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the "Build the Wall Act of 2024".

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the "Southern Border Wall Construction Fund" (referred to in this section as the "Fund").

(c) **DEPOSITS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be immediately deposited into the Fund all of the unobligated amounts in the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds established under sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802 and 803).

(d) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Amounts in the Fund shall be used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I have 10 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.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, May 21, 2024, 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, May 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
CUSTOMS, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 21, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

KRISSA M. LANHAM, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHRIS
DOWNEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Deputy Chris Downey, of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. On February 13, 2024 Deputy Downey responded, along with School Guardian Brent Coleman, to a 13 year-old student having a medical emergency in a common area at the school which is at the base of a large set of stairs. The student was found face down and unresponsive to verbal or physical stimulus. Due to the perceived method of injury (fall) the student was carefully rolled to his back while maintaining control of his head and neck. The student was found to have an erratic pulse and was not breathing. CPR was initiated and an AED and EMS was requested. Upon application of the AED, a shock was recommended. Shock was applied by the device and CPR continued. This and two additional cycles were completed before a non-shockable rhythm was established. The student was air-lifted to a children's trauma center where he underwent a procedure to correct the medical condition. Investigation revealed that the initial assumption of a fall was incorrect. The child had navigated the stairs just fine and collapsed after exiting the stairs due to a previously undiagnosed medical condition. The child has since returned to school and is in good spirits. It has been well-established that, without the swift actions of both Deputy Downey and School Guardian Brent Coleman, this child would not have survived this medical episode. This is just one example of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Deputy Downey exhibits every day he comes to work. Deputy Downey is a shining example of what it means to be a Hernando County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Deputy Downey has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING RYANN CARLSON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ryann Carlson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Ryann has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating

perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ryann, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ryann's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ryann Carlson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING CORPORAL WILL SUGGS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clay County, N.C. Corporal Will Suggs in recognition of his service.

Cpl. Suggs is a veteran of the U.S. Army who continues to serve his community as a resident and Deputy Sheriff in Clay County.

Cpl. Suggs oversees the Court and Civil Process division of Field Operations. In addition to those duties, Cpl. Suggs is a Field Training Officer and a supervisor of the Clay County Animal Control Unit.

Cpl. Suggs consistently sets an example by his dedication and professionalism to the Office of the Sheriff and the citizens of Clay County. His leadership qualities, his work ethic, and his commitment to the betterment of Clay County make him an invaluable member of North Carolina's 11th District.

I thank Cpl. Suggs for his dedicated service to our country and to Clay County.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
AND CONDEMNING EFFORTS TO
DEFUND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Con. Res. 106, "Expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defend local law enforcement agencies."

It is unfortunate that H. Con. Res. 106 is simply another hypocritical, partisan attack cloaked behind a message honoring local law enforcement during National Police Week.

During a time when we are coming together and supporting law enforcement, my Republican colleagues continue to offer divisive political talking points and largely meaningless bills that will neither protect law enforcement nor enhance public safety.

It is further disappointing and disingenuous that Republicans have consistently blamed the

rise in violent crime on Democrats and have attempted to pin the "defund the police" rhetoric on Democrats—labeling Democrats as the party of "defund the police."

This bill put forth by Republican colleagues, H. Con. Res. 106, endeavors to continue those efforts—repeating almost verbatim—sentiments asserted in H. Con. Res. 40, which was introduced during National Police Week last year.

Through the American Rescue Plan, Democrats have provided \$350 billion to the states that would allow our cities to keep law enforcement on the beat and communities safe from violence, the largest Federal investment in public safety in our history.

Police departments used that funding to establish training facilities, hire more officers, and raise salaries.

In the 117th Congress, House Democrats showed their support for law enforcement and the needs faced by departments across the country by passing priority policing bills—including:

Extending death benefits to law enforcement officers with PTSD;

Providing funding to law enforcement and other first responders for interacting with people with TBIs and PTSD;

Authorizing \$300 million in grants for law enforcement agencies with fewer than 125 officers;

Making significant investments in de-escalation training; and

Providing \$100 million per year in grants to solve cold-case violent crimes—all over Republican objections.

Sadly, however, this resolution is another missed opportunity to support and honor law enforcement officers across the country, without engaging in nonsensical and damaging partisanship.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP
FIRST PLACE WINNER
RYAN AOUAD IN THE WORLD
LANGUAGE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ryan Aouad, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the World Language category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Ryan attends West Boca Raton High School, where he has further advanced his skills as a polyglot. His passion lies with the Spanish language, which led him to earn a distinguished mention on his Spanish AICE/AS test. He also maintains fluency in French while possessing the skillset to speak intermediate

• 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.

Arabic and beginner Russian. He uses his language skills to further assist those in his community, which can be seen in his volunteer work as a lifeguard and swim coach, in which he is able to dedicate his efforts to teaching non-native English-speaking swimmers. We are hopeful that Ryan's multi-lingual capabilities will pave the way for a successful career in foreign affairs, where his unique skills and perspective will be invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Mr. Ryan Aouad as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of world languages.

HONORING DR. DANIEL F. MORGAN
FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS
AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RE-
SEARCH SERVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Daniel F. Morgan for his lengthy career of public service to the U.S. Congress. After 25 years at the Congressional Research Service, or CRS, he will retire as a specialist in science and technology policy at the end of the month. During his time at CRS, Dr. Morgan made invaluable contributions to Congress in federal and commercial space policy, federal research and development facilities and infrastructure, and the role of science and technology in homeland security.

Dr. Morgan was born in London and raised in Austin, TX, where he attended high school, excelling in mathematics. He played the cello in the high school string quartet, igniting a lifelong love of classical music, and in particular, music that allows the cello to shine. Dr. Morgan graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), majoring in physics and mathematics and minoring in philosophy. While at MIT, he was a consultant to Project Athena to produce a campus-wide distributed computing environment, which is recognized as an important historical contribution to distributed computing. He competed in the MIT Integration Bee, an annual integral calculus competition, placing second his junior year. Dr. Morgan then attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a doctorate in physics with a dissertation on particle physics and cosmology in the early universe. His dissertation was supervised by Joe Polchinski, noted string theorist and Dirac Medal winner, and Steven Weinberg, Nobel laureate in physics, was on his committee. During graduate school, Dr. Morgan began to play bridge at beer gardens around Austin. He would go on to regularly host games, compete at regional and national competitions, and regularly play bridge during lunch with CRS colleagues.

Dr. Morgan began his career with CRS in 1991 as a contractor, covering major federal physics projects and advanced energy technologies. In 1994 he joined the staff at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, first on Board on Physics and Astronomy and then National Materials Advisory Board, working with preeminent researchers in their fields. Dr. Morgan returned to CRS in 2002 and was instrumental in covering the

creation and evolution of the research and development activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 following the September 11, 2001 attacks. He consulted regularly with Congress as multiple Department of Energy (DOE) programs—such as those dedicated to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense—were folded into the newly-established agency. During this period, Congress also relied heavily on his technical expertise to cover the development and deployment of explosive and radiation detection systems. For over two decades, Dr. Morgan has covered major scientific facilities at DOE, including the national laboratories, and civil and commercial space policy. He is widely recognized in Congress for his expertise on the policies, programs, and missions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, routinely providing invaluable personal consultation to Members and staff on House and Senate committees of jurisdiction. Dr. Morgan consulted heavily with Congress as it considered the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 and America COMPETES Act of 2022 and the subsequent development and enactment of the resulting CHIPS and Science Act in 2022.

Dr. Morgan is a polymath, whose advice is valued by Members, congressional staff, and colleagues. At CRS, he is relied on to provide expert leadership and coordination of complex analysis and is a sought-after reviewer and mentor. Throughout his career at CRS, he embodied the agency's mission values of providing authoritative, objective, nonpartisan, and timely service to Congress.

On behalf of the American people, I thank Dr. Morgan for his decades of service to the country.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JOSEPH
BOLOGNA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my constituents, Officer Joseph Bologna, from the New Port Richey Police Department. Officer Bologna has been with the New Port Richey Police Department's K9 unit since July 2021 when he transferred from the Oviedo Police Department with more than ten years of service. He was one of the initial first law enforcement teams to respond to the Pulse Night Club shooting, and used that experience to help make him an even better officer. Officer Bologna's true passion is being a K9 handler and trainer. He has trained police K9s for approximately 13 years and is state-certified. He has assisted with ten State of Florida-certified K9 patrol schools. Additionally, he has trained with national K9 training associations throughout the United States. He feels the best part of being a K9 team is the apprehension of multiple dangerous suspects, removing large amounts of narcotics off the street, and participating in community events. He has also had the honor of assisting federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security. Officer Bologna is so well received in the department that he had three separate nominations

from supervisors for the department's Officer of the Year Award. Officer Bologna's performance on the street, community involvement, and city representation have been stellar. Officer Bologna is a wonderful family man who enjoys being with his wife and wonderful sons. Officer Bologna is busy learning about his latest addition to his family, the New Port Richey Police Department's newest K9, Rex. Rex is still a puppy and attending Patrol School, pending his graduation this month. These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Officer Bologna exhibits every day he comes to work. Officer Bologna is a shining example of what it means to be a New Port Richey Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Officer Bologna has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING LUTHER
KOZHEVNIKOV

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luther Kozhevnikov for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Luther has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Luther, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Luther's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Luther Kozhevnikov on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of S. 546, the "Recruit and Retain Act".

As a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Surveillance, I am pleased to support this bill.

This legislation will help law enforcement agencies in tangible ways by providing them with tools to help address the high rates of attrition that have plagued these agencies for years.

Our Nation's law enforcement agencies are facing an unprecedented staffing crisis.

Hiring efforts have been unable to keep pace with the high rates of attrition that we are seeing in police departments from coast to coast, and everywhere in between.

According to a report last year by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Community Oriented Policing, factors such as community frustration with the policing profession, and concerns about officer safety and well-being, have contributed to this staffing crisis.

It is unsurprising, then, that a 2023 survey of police departments showed resignations continuing to increase every year since 2019, with responding agencies reporting nearly 50 percent more resignations in 2022 than in 2019.

In my district in Houston, Texas, the problem goes back even further.

We recently learned that staffing shortages resulted in over 264,000 cases—including 4,000 sexual assault cases—were never submitted for investigation, due to staffing shortages.

We cannot allow this to continue.

Our communities deserve more.

Victims deserve more.

The Recruit and Retain Act will attempt to remedy this problem by authorizing law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants to reduce the numerous fees that law enforcement applicants must pay.

We will not get qualified men and women in uniform if they cannot afford to even apply to a police department.

The Recruit and Retain Act also will encourage voluntary partnerships between agencies and local elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning, including historically black colleges and universities, for students interested in careers in law enforcement.

Partnership activities will include dedicated programming for students; work-based learning opportunities; mentoring; community liaisons; career and jobs fairs; job shadowing; and internships.

These activities will help law enforcement agencies recruit talented applicants who reflect and respect the communities they serve.

This, in turn, will help earn back the trust of those communities—making all of us safer.

I would prefer for this bill to include the minimum qualification and training standards that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would require.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

We cannot wait any longer to address the law enforcement staffing crisis.

We must act now to help police departments across the country recruit and retain the officers they need to keep our communities safe.

I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this effort to support local and state law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER NIKKI LEALI IN THE COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nikki Leali, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Computer Engineering and Technology category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories

Nikki, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of hard work and dedication. She is not only taking dual enrollment courses at the FAU Wilkes Honors College but also working towards a major in data analytics. Her future includes continuing her education at FAU and graduating in 2027 with a master's degree, with the aim of becoming a data analyst. Her experience volunteering with FAU's Privacy, Security, and Trust in Autonomy Lab, where she has gained experience interpreting research papers and using Python coding, has prepared her to launch into a career in which she hopes to become a leader in implementing and advancing artificial intelligence and data visualization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Nikki Leali as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of computer engineering and technology.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8369, ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7530, D.C. CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7343, DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8146, POLICE OUR BORDER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7581, IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT OF 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 354, LEOSA REFORM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1213, RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1210, CONDEMNING THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS AND THE TREMENDOUS BURDENS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FACE AS A RESULT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to Republicans using Police Week to push divisive legislation in the House that takes away local control from communities, weakens gun safety laws, and dehumanizes immigrants.

Our constituents did not elect us to get involved in the local politics of our Nation's capital city. Yet, House Republicans think it's appropriate to waste Congress's time to limit Washington, D.C.'s ability to police itself. Congress does not have the authority to pass such a resolution for Minnesota or any other state—and we would not have that power over D.C. and its 700,000 residents if the District was granted statehood as the majority of its residents' support.

Children at schools, daycares, and playgrounds deserve to be safe from guns and gun violence. House Republicans instead pushed legislation eroding the ability for communities across America to protect these areas from guns. Overriding a community's ability to establish zones that are gun-free fails to make our children safer, it exposes them to the danger of firearms. Three million children are already threatened by gun violence each year in America. More than 20,000 are killed or wounded. The solution to the gun violence crisis in this country is not more guns, and it clearly isn't overruling the will of a community that is taking its own action to make vulnerable children safer.

Finally, House Republicans continue to dehumanize immigrants, as they have week after week in this Congress. They have presented their harmful proposals under the guise of protecting and supporting our law enforcement. Madam Speaker, I support law enforcement. I always have. These bills do nothing to support or protect the people who serve our communities. House Republicans continue to insist on

undermining Constitutional civil liberties by removing the hurdle of proving guilt before deportation. As I've said before: Where will they stop? Are American citizens next?

It is shameful that House Republicans are using our law enforcement as pawns for the Majority's extreme MAGA immigration rhetoric. House Republicans must stop their politics of division and distraction from addressing the real challenges facing Americans. They need to join Democrats at the table to find solutions.

RECOGNIZING SGT. RYAN LENNOX

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and honor the service one of my constituents, Sgt. Ryan Lennox, of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. On November 28, 2022, Sgt. Lennox was transferred to the Special Operation Division as a K9 Sergeant. However, during this timeframe the Patrol Division was understaffed with squad and platoon supervisors. This prompted Sgt. Lennox to be asked to take a temporary duty assignment as a Patrol Sergeant while continuing to lead, supervise and guide his K9 Patrol Squad. Sgt. Lennox willingly accepted the dual responsibilities and continued to shine in both roles. Examples of his accomplishment during this period include:

Attending a Patrol K9 School with his new K9 partner Ranger;

Passing the K9 state standards course;

Leading and Supervising a K9 squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Assisting patrol units as a K9 handler. Within a year, he successfully led the search and location of multiple suspects;

Leading and supervising a patrol squad, ensuring all administrative duties were completed;

Planning, leading and successfully executing several SWAT operations and monthly SWAT trainings;

Co-teaching SWAT school, and

Planning, leading and successfully executing several operational missions.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Sgt. Lennox exhibits every day he comes to work. Sgt. Lennox is a shining example of what it means to be a Pasco County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Sgt. Lennox has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING SAKURA
CHENHALLS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sakura Chenhalls for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sakura has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sakura, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sakura's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sakura Chenhalls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

DETAIN AND DEPORT ILLEGAL
ALIENS WHO ASSAULT COPS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 7343, the "Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

This overly broad legislation would result in extremely harsh and unintended consequences, subjecting people to mandatory immigration detention for merely being arrested for, and never charged or convicted of a crime.

It does not actually solve any problems with the immigration system or the border.

This bill will, however, callously, and carelessly increases the scope of those subject to mandatory immigration detention to cover many undocumented immigrants, including those in a lawful status such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS), if they are arrested for assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder.

In particular, it will make it so that someone who is merely arrested for or charged with an assault of a law enforcement officer or first responder, even if they never committed that crime or hurt anyone, is now subject to mandatory immigration detention.

It is so broad and overinclusive that it would lead to truly absurd results and to the detention and removal of people who had no intention of ever committing a crime.

Indeed, consider a situation where an immigrant is wrongfully arrested for assault due to mistaken identity.

Under this bill, that individual would now be subject to mandatory detention, even though they were arrested by mistake and potentially never even charged with a crime.

Wrongful arrests are not far-fetched scenarios.

In fact, the main reason this bill was introduced was because Republicans wanted to exploit an incident involving recently arrived migrants allegedly assaulting law enforcement in Times Square.

One specific image of an arrested migrant flipping off cameras after his arraignment set off a firestorm among Republicans.

However, in March, ten weeks after the incident, charges against that specific individual were dropped.

It turns out he was wrongfully arrested and charged. He was not even at the scene of the incident.

This is a perfect example as to why this bill is absurd—if it was in effect, this individual, despite his innocence, would have been subject to mandatory detention.

Additionally, many jurisdictions have a broad definition of assault that are so broad, they can include conduct as minor as throwing a parking ticket at a ticketing officer.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. No one in this caucus condones serious assaults against law enforcement officers.

People who admit to or are convicted of serious assault offenses against law enforcement officers are already subject to mandatory detention under our laws. This bill would not change that fact.

Instead, this bill will subject more people to mandatory detention at a time when Republicans refuse to give the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs.

It should also be noted that Congress has never appropriated, and no administration has ever requested, sufficient resources to detain all noncitizens who fall under the "mandatory detention" categories.

Even former President Trump never tried to detain all migrants subject to mandatory detention.

If this bill were to become law, as written, it would simply lead to absurd consequences.

Consequences that do nothing to resolve the problems that Republicans claim they are seeking to resolve.

Time and again, Republicans have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are really showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge my colleagues to not take the bait.

It should also be stated that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born individuals.

There are currently 45 million foreign-born people in the United States.

In any large group, there are going to be some people who do bad things.

These people do not represent the group as a whole.

Unfortunately, Republicans and Fox News want to use any crime committed by an immigrant to fearmonger and scapegoat migrants for everything that is wrong in the country.

But here are the facts: Higher immigration is associated with lower crime rates.

According to a 2015 study by the American Immigration Council, between 1990 and 2013, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.

During the same period, FBI data indicates that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.

Likewise, the property crime rate fell 41 percent, including declining rates of motor vehicle theft, larceny/robbery, and burglary.

An NBC News review of available 2024 crime data from the cities targeted by Texas's "Operation Lone Star," which buses or flies migrants from the border to major cities in the interior—shows overall crime levels dropping in those cities that have received the most migrants.

Overall crime is down year after year in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER JAKE CHAVIS IN THE SPORTS CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jake Chavis, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Sports category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

As a student at FAU High School, Jake has maintained a 4.0 GPA and will graduate high school with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He is currently enrolled at Wilkes Honors College at FAU. His school's tennis team competed in the 2023 State Championship under his leadership as captain. His pas-

sion for tennis extends into his community, where he selflessly teaches tennis at the Tenorio Tennis Academy and has volunteered hundreds of hours with the Delray Beach Open Tennis Tournament. He aspires to become a professional tennis player and hopes to attend law school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Mr. Jake Chavis as an excellent student and an incredible athlete.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA DOMINGUEZ SALAZAR

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victoria Dominguez Salazar for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Victoria has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Victoria, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Victoria's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Victoria Dominguez Salazar on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CONDEMNING THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS AND THE TREMENDOUS BURDENS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FACE AS A RESULT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H. Res. 1210, "Condemning the Biden border crisis and the tremendous burdens law enforcement officers face as a result".

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

This resolution is more of the same false and misleading narrative we have become accustomed from House Republicans this Congress.

This resolution, however, goes further and also claims that "Democrat elected officials prioritize illegal alien criminals over citizens and legal residents of the United States."

This is slanderous, wrong, and offensive language that should draw universal condemnation from Democrats.

Let us remember how we got here.

Last May, House Republicans passed their inhumane, unworkable border bill, H.R. 2, over bipartisan opposition.

They claimed this bill was the only way to secure the border.

That bill has since failed twice to pass the Senate, rejected both times on a bipartisan basis.

Former President Trump instructed Republicans to reject a bipartisan border compromise that Minority Leader McConnell called the strongest border bill in 30 years.

Republicans have said out loud they want to preserve the political issue for the election year.

The best way to secure the border is to expand lawful pathways and adequately fund the immigration system.

And yet, we have not updated our legal immigration system in over 30 years.

The more broken the legal immigration system is, the more people will try to come to the border as the only means of entry.

We need more asylum officers and immigration judges to ensure people have their day in court, in a fair and expeditious manner.

However, there has been a refusal to actually solve the problem.

This resolution accuses of Democrats of not supporting law enforcement when time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer and address the issues at the border.

In addition to rejecting the bipartisan Senate border bill, Republicans have consistently refused to support providing additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included \$13.6 billion for border security.

House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges, and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this resolution, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge Members to not take the bait.

Rather, let us look at the facts.

In the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill, Congress appropriated over \$3.4 billion for DHS to maintain and use 41,500 detention beds.

These are levels of detention similar to those during under the Trump administration. Despite the claims of this resolution, the Biden administration has significantly expanded expedited removal and in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process.

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned over 720,000 individuals, including over 109,000 individual members of family units, including children.

This is more than the number of people removed in ALL of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration, and more removals and returns than every full fiscal year since 2011.

We also know that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born individuals.

There are currently 45 million foreign-born people in the United States.

In any large group, there are going to be some people who do bad things.

These people do not represent the group as a whole.

Unfortunately, Republicans and this resolution, want to use any crime committed by an immigrant to fearmonger and scapegoat migrants for everything that is wrong in the country.

But here are the facts: Higher immigration is associated with lower crime rates.

According to a 2015 study by the American Immigration Council, between 1990 and 2013, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.

During the same period, FBI data indicates that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.

An NBC News review of available 2024 crime data from the cities targeted by Texas's "Operation Lone Star," which buses or flies migrants from the border to major cities in the interior—shows overall crime levels dropping in those cities that have received the most migrants.

Overall crime is down year after year in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER BROOKE TAYLOR IN THE REACH FOR EXCELLENCE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brooke Taylor, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Reach for Excellence category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach

and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Brooke, a Spanish River High School student, has excelled academically as an AP Scholar with Distinction and an AICE Diploma recipient. Her Journey as an individual with a learning disability spurred her to found the Learning Disability Awareness Club at her school, a testament to her commitment to inclusivity and advocacy. Her future career goal of serving as an elected school board member and specializing in education law is a testament to her dedication to championing the rights of students with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Brooke Taylor as an excellent student and impactful member of her community.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, H.R. 5863

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, we are now almost a year and a half removed from the devastating tornado that hit my district and one thing is clear; the people of Selma, Dallas County and Greene County are resilient.

From the very beginning, my biggest priority has been ensuring that those impacted by the tornado get the resources they need to recover AND ensuring that our recovery is equitable.

The legislation before us today is just another example of making a valuable resource within the tax code available to all those still rebuilding after the storm.

The road to recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. The work undertaken by the Ways & Means Committee is transformative in nature and improves lives for the better.

H.R. 5863 will give my constituents and all Americans impacted by federal designated disasters yet another tool to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING SIMON RIVAS NIETO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Simon Rivas Nieto for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Simon has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Simon, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Simon's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Simon Rivas Nieto on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 7581, the "Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act."

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill.

Sadly, nothing in this bill makes a single officer safer or invests a single dollar in officer wellness.

By contrast, last Congress, Democrats passed the Protecting America's First Responders Act, the Public Safety Officer Support Act, the Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support (COPS) Counseling Act, and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act.

But this Congress, House Republicans are refusing to follow suit, instead offering this bill that sounds helpful, but is not.

This legislation falls far short of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would invest in better data collection and reporting by requiring law enforcement agencies to report uses of force by or against law enforcement officers as a condition of the receipt of certain grants.

My bill, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would actually provide us with new data because it would condition the receipt of certain grants on the reporting of incidents involving law enforcement officers and it would support better data collection and reporting through additional grants to reporting agencies.

The reporting provisions of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act include officer shootings by civilians, officer deaths, deaths of civilians in custody, and uses of deadly force against civilians.

In focusing only on attacks against officers, this bill turns a blind eye to uses of force by law enforcement against civilians, whether justified or not.

House Republicans are again refusing to work with police and the organizations that represent them to pass meaningful legislation.

At least seven bipartisan law enforcement bills, many led by Republicans, have been passed by the Democratic-led Senate and are awaiting consideration in the House.

These are bills that would actually improve the welfare of law enforcement officers and are priorities for the groups who represent them.

But, so far, House Republicans have only advanced one of these bills.

While House Republicans continue to prioritize messaging over meaningful legislation, Democrats will continue to work with law enforcement organizations on substantive proposals—proposals we will pursue when we take back the House.

With these facts, we can see that this bill is sadly another opportunity for my Republican colleagues to score cheap political points on a

bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER AVA ALLWARDT IN THE SCIENCE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ava Allwardt, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the Science category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Ava, a student at Saint Andrews School, is driven by a passion for biomedical engineering and a desire to leverage computer science in the discovery of biologically complex diseases. Her research, already published in two prestigious science journals, has earned her a place as a finalist in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. She has also collaborated on projects with renowned institutions such as Harvard Medical School and UF Scripps Biomedical Research. Beyond her academic achievements, Ava has made a significant societal impact through her volunteer work, dedicating over 750 hours of service to the International Youth Neuroscience Association and establishing chapters in more than 35 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Ms. Ava Allwardt as an excellent student and notable contributor to the field of science.

HONORING LT. TYLER FAGGARD

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clay County, N.C. Lieutenant Tyler Faggard in recognition of his service.

Lt. Faggard, a Clay County native, began his career in law enforcement as a Clay County Telecommunicator before becoming a commissioned Justice Officer. He went on to serve the citizens of neighboring Cherokee County as a Patrol Deputy before achieving the rank of Detective.

In 2021 Lt. Faggard returned home and accepted a position with the Clay County Sheriff's Office as Patrol Lieutenant.

Lt. Faggard's hard work ethic and commitment to his service led him to be recruited to his current position as a Clay County Task Force Officer attached to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Lt. Faggard is wise beyond his years in law enforcement as it relates to investigative techniques. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in reducing the flow of illicit drugs into the area.

I thank Lt. Faggard for his brave and tireless service to Clay and Cherokee Counties.

RECOGNIZING LAYLA LEUTHY-PECK'S GOOD DEED

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding accomplishment and good deed from a constituent from my district, Layla Leuthy-Peck.

Layla Leuthy-Peck is a 7-year-old first grade student at Saint Andrew's School in Newtown. After listening to Monsignor Michael Picard, pastor at St. Andrew's parish, telling the children about the importance of finding a way to serve others, she immediately thought of her best friend WW2 veteran Joe Gagliardi who was about to turn 100.

She remembered Joe telling her how much he misses visiting schools to tell the students about his service and the importance of service. He especially misses receiving all the wonderful handmade thank you cards from them afterwards.

With the help of her entire first grade classmates, Layla was able to get 100 handmade birthday cards for Joe's 100th birthday. To make it a day he will remember, Layla delivered the sack of cards to Joe riding in a Newtown firetruck which was escorted by the township police and many other emergency service vehicles in a parade of lights and sirens.

Mr. Gagliardi served in the United States Navy during WW2 on a Patrol Torpedo (PT) Boat that escorted General Douglas MacArthur and remembers seeing President John F. Kennedy on his PT Boat duty near him. Layla's father Sean Peck is an also a Veteran who served in Afghanistan and is currently a police officer in Pennel. Her great-grandfather, Ray Leuthy, a Corporal in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, parachuted into the Battle of the Bulge and was an escort driver for General George S. Patton, Jr.

The news story about Layla's special card delivery for her best friend has spread internationally along with her wish for more children to do a good deed for a veteran.

Layla's commitment to figuring out a creative and meaningful way to serve a WW2 veteran in a truly collaborative manner is to be commended. It is my hope that Layla will continue to find ways to serve veterans and be an example for other very young children to realize they too can make a difference. I would like to wish Layla the best in her future endeavors and once again congratulate her on fulfilling her mission to brighten the day for her best friend, Joe on his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE ROSCOE WATTS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of my

constituents, Detective Roscoe Watts, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Detective Watts has exhibited exceptional dedication, determination, and unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice throughout his distinguished career. Detective Watts's exemplary performance is best highlighted by his successful resolution of the attempted robbery at the Sunoco gas station. Through his diligence and unwavering work ethic, he was able to bring the perpetrator to justice, ensuring that they received a just and deserving 20-year prison sentence. His tenacity in the face of adversity and commitment to protecting the community sets him apart as a role model for his peers. Furthermore, Detective Watts's dedication was equally evident in his investigation of a battery within the Core Civic Jail, which tragically resulted in the victim's death due to their injuries.

Detective Watts meticulously conducted interviews, analyzed video surveillance, and worked tirelessly to apprehend the suspect. His relentless pursuit of the truth led to the suspect's guilty plea to manslaughter and a 20-year prison sentence, offering closure and justice to the victim's family. Outside of his professional duties, Detective Watts continues to give back to the community through his selfless volunteer work with CASA, the Key Training Center, and the Church Without Walls. His efforts, including running multiple miles to raise funds for the Key Training Center, exemplify his dedication to making the world a better place. Detective Watts's exceptional contributions to law enforcement, his relentless pursuit of justice, and his selfless dedication to community service have undoubtedly made our community more safe. He is a true embodiment of selfless sacrifice, and his legacy of service is an inspiration to us all.

These are just a few examples of the hard work, dedication, eagerness to help, and servant leadership that Detective Roscoe Watts exhibits every day he comes to work. Detective Watts is a shining example of what it means to be a Citrus County Law Enforcement Officer. His work ethic should be a benchmark for which other law enforcement officers should strive to attain. It is evident that Detective Watts has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and is qualified to be recognized as a First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING GIOVONNI ALIJAH GONZALES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Giovanni Alijah Gonzales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Giovanni has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Giovanni, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Giovanni's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Giovanni Alijah Gonzales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and a senior member of the Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I rise to commemorate National Police Week.

May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, which falls within National Police Week since 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

National Police Week pays homage to those who lost their lives in the line of duty, with a Memorial Service that began in 1982 to list in remembrance and commemoration all the names of those we have lost.

Sadly in 2023, Texas lost 11 law enforcement individuals in the line of duty, and in 2024 there have been 5 deaths.

To date, a total of 2,247 Texas law enforcement individuals and 30 K9s overall have been killed in the line of duty in the State of Texas.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2023

Sergeant Stephen Gibson, Somervell County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Correctional Officer III Jovian Motley, Texas Department of Criminal Justice—Correctional Institutions Division, TX, EOW: Monday, November 13, 2023, Cause of Death: Unidentified.

Senior Police Officer Jorge Pastore, Austin Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, November 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Jon Arden Jenson, Fort Worth Police Department, TX, EOW: Saturday, October 28, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

Lieutenant Milton Resendez, San Benito Police Department, TX, EOW: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Police Officer Darrin McMichael, Arlington Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, September 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Deputy Sheriff Matthew Pierson, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, August 29, 2023, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Officer Bryan Holley, Hudson Independent School District Police Department, TX, EOW: Friday, August 18, 2023, Cause of Death: Duty related illness.

Deputy Sheriff David Bosecker, Eastland County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Friday, May 21, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Sergeant Joshua Lee Clouse, Cameron Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, May 11, 2023, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Deputy Sheriff Jason Stuart Jones, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Cause of Death: COVID-19.

FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS—2024

Police Officer Kyle Hicks, Corpus Christi Police Department, TX, EOW: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Cause of Death: Gunfire.

Investigator John Hampton Coddou, III, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle.

Border Patrol Agent Christopher Luna, United States Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Border Protection—United States Border Patrol, U.S., EOW: Friday, March 8, 2024, Cause of Death: Aircraft accident, Location: Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Charles Rivette, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

Deputy Sheriff Rondald Bates, Harris County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Saturday, February 10, 2024, Cause of Death: Automobile crash.

It is important that we take this opportunity to honor America's law enforcement community and recognize the sacrifices that these brave officers have made in our communities.

This should be a time of unity and a rededication of our commitment to law enforcement officers—to make every effort to make their work safer and promote the importance of law enforcement as public servants.

Unfortunately, Republicans talk about supporting law enforcement but have sought to defund law enforcement and undermine public trust in police.

Law enforcement is on the front line of fighting crime in communities across the Nation.

All too often law enforcement officers are taken by the violence we expect them to prevent. And increasingly, officers and agents are losing their lives to gun-related violence—oftentimes with handguns.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe, but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Between 2012 and 2021, 504 police officers in the United States were killed in the line of duty. Of those, 90 percent—or 456 officers—were killed by a firearm.

A study by the Center for American Progress found that between 2017 and 2021, the rate of police officers fatally shot in states with the weakest gun laws was 152% higher than in state with stronger gun laws.

Weak gun laws make everyone less safe. From 2000 to 2022, the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Republican in presidential elections (“Red States”) was 24 percent higher than the average murder rate in States that reliably vote Democratic.

In fact, so-called Red States' murder rates are “significantly higher” than reliably Democratic-voting States, “even when [researchers] removed the county with the largest city in Trump-voting states (and kept them in for Biden-voting states).”

Weakening requirements to carry a concealed firearm increases gun violence and violent crime.

Every state allows individuals to carry concealed weapons in public, but fewer than half of them require a permit.

Specifically, by the start of 2023, 26 states allowed individuals to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public without first undergoing a background check, obtaining a license, or receiving any firearm training.

It is important to note that gun-involved homicide rates are higher in states with more permissive concealed carry laws.

Permitless carry laws, like those in Texas, pushed by Republican state legislatures put law enforcement officers at risk.

When Indiana was considering a permitless carry bill in 2022, Patrick Flannelly, Vice President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police warned, “What we have done now is we've taken away the one tool that police officers had out on the street to be able to act quickly and efficiently for not only their personal safety but for the safety of our communities.”

Law enforcement across the country similarly have warned that permitless concealed carry laws put officers at risk.

In fact, in 2021, almost 61 of 84 law enforcement officers who died from felonious assaults were killed by firearms.

Reliably Republican-voting states that have permissive gun laws, specifically permitless carry laws, are putting law enforcement officers' lives on the line by sending them into communities that are increasingly flush with firearms.

Although Republicans claim they support law enforcement, Democrats have implemented policies and reforms that will keep law enforcement and the communities they serve safer and more secure—often over Republican objections.

In June 2021, the Biden Administration unveiled its Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety. Overall, the strategy sought to:

- stem the flow of firearms used to commit violence, including by holding rogue firearms dealers accountable for violating federal laws;
- support local law enforcement with federal tools and resources to help address summer violent crime;
- invest in evidence-based community violence interventions;
- expand summer programming, employment opportunities, and other services and supports for teenagers and young adults; and
- help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully reenter their communities.

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA).

The BSCA was passed in the wake of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the state's deadliest school shooting, where 19 children and two teachers were killed.

Key provisions of the BSCA include: Enhanced background checks requiring the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to conduct an enhanced review of purchasers under the age of 21 to determine whether juvenile records disqualify that individual from purchasing a firearm.

NICS is given 10 days to complete the investigation, and it unsets after 10 years.

State incentives for “red flag” laws: Provides \$750 million over five years that will go to states for “crisis intervention programs” including red flag laws, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection orders.

\$250 million in funding for community-based violence prevention initiatives

\$300 million in school safety funding through the STOP School Violence Act to institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and

provide training to school personnel and students.

Codification of the SchoolSafety.gov clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based resources to improve school safety and prohibits use of funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to train or equip any person with dangerous weapons in schools.

I also think we must do more to address the mental health challenges that officers inevitably face, due to the harrowing nature of their work.

We cannot expect qualified officers to remain in such a dangerous profession if we do not give them the resources, they need to address the toll that police work takes on them.

It is time we come together and truly support law enforcement through legislative efforts that will provide resources and tools to address the myriad of issues facing law enforcement, rather than politicizing what has traditionally been a bipartisan effort.

And so, during this special week and every day in the work I do here in Congress, I am proud to support and recognize law enforcement officers for the tremendous work they do each day, and to uplift in special reverence the names of all those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and the Nation.

It is equally just as important to acknowledge those officers we have lost—our fallen heroes who have given their last full measure of devotion to the communities they swore to protect and serve—some who gave their lives as far back as 1857.

How excellent it is that the stories of these courageous individuals have been brought to light and were not left untold.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024 PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP FIRST PLACE WINNER SHANIA GRANT IN THE HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CATEGORY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shania Grant, the first-place winner of the prestigious Pathfinder Scholarship in the History and Political Science category. This scholarship is awarded to Palm Beach and Martin County students who have displayed excellence in their academic and communal endeavors in a multitude of categories.

Shania, a student at FAU High School, is a shining example of academic excellence and community engagement. Her dedication has earned her a place on the FAU President's Honor Roll three times, a role as managing editor for FAU's law journal, and an internship at the school district's General Council office. As a first-generation student, she aspires to use her passion to make a difference in the legal realm, with plans to attend law school and specialize in immigration or employment law.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Ms. Shania Grant as an excellent student and notable contributor to the fields of history and political science.

RECOGNIZING LEVI SAENZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Levi Saenz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Levi has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Levi, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Levi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Levi Saenz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING DR. DOROTHY SIMPSON-TAYLOR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor, founder of the Sister Soldier Network, with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Hero Award for her service to country and community. Inspired by its namesake, this award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier women veterans whose service to their community and nation is unparalleled.

Well-known throughout the Indianapolis and surrounding communities, Doty's service began in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and has continued over the span of five decades as a former American Legion Indiana District 11 Women Veterans Representative and Commander of AMVETS Post 99 in Indianapolis. A retired psychologist and former faculty member and administrator at multiple universities, Doty uses her unique blend of skills to give back to the community.

Doty is guided by her belief that "everybody ought to provide some service to the community of humanity." With this in mind, she has always been an outspoken trailblazer for the Black community. In 2010, Doty founded the Sister Soldier Network, a veteran organization that helps women transition from the military back into society. Combining her passion to uplift others with tangible actions, the Sister Soldier Network sheds a well-deserved light on women veterans, while also serving as a resource to help guide her peers in topics such as homelessness, discrimination, and community involvement.

In 2019, Doty was presented the Jefferson Award in recognition of her community service. In 2022, she was inducted into the Indiana Military Hall of Fame. She also received the Congressional Black Caucus Award for leadership in veteran issues with the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust and is a member of the Cedar Valley Coalition of Black Veterans.

Doty's commitment to service has led her to be an impactful leader, mentor, and wise

counsel. She has created a legacy of compassion, care, and healing for her fellow veterans and has served as a voice of her peers in the military and veteran communities.

Doty continues to uplift the incredible women veterans around her, and it brings me great joy to commemorate and uplift her in the same manner. As we celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dorothy "Doty" Simpson-Taylor. We celebrate her legacy of outstanding accomplishments and advocacy.

POLICE OUR BORDER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 8146, the "Police Our Border Act".

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Crime Subcommittee and as Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am deeply disappointed in this harmful and misguided bill. Yet again, House Republicans are wasting time with another bill that does nothing to solve any issues at the border.

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, they have once again brought forward a bill that has no chance of becoming law and accomplishes absolutely nothing.

This legislation is purportedly a reporting bill that simply requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the number of migrants coming to the border is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Upon closer inspection however, this bill seeks to codify Republican attacks on the President's immigration policies and the fearmongering and demonization of immigrants.

For example, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the impact the "Biden border crisis" is having on law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

Additionally, the report must include information on the exposure of law enforcement officers to fentanyl as a result of encounters with illegal aliens."

Both of these reporting requirements contain politically motivated rhetoric disguised as fact.

This bill is also very poorly drafted.

Despite the fact the entire bill is focused on reporting requirements related to the "Biden border crisis," this term is not defined in the legislation.

The failure to define this key term provides little guidance to the Attorney General on the required report, and it is further evidence that this bill is more about messaging than congressional oversight of the executive branch.

Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security would almost certainly be much better situated to assess issues related to border security.

However, it appears Republicans chose to request this bill's report from the Attorney General to ensure the Judiciary Committee would have jurisdiction over this bill, so they

would have an immigration-related bill to offer for "Police Week."

Instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, this bill fails in such endeavor and offers no viable action.

It is also important to state the fact that the border is not open.

Let us look at the facts.

In the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill, Congress appropriated over \$3.4 billion for DHS to maintain and use 41,500 detention beds.

These are levels of detention similar to those during under the Trump administration.

Despite the claims of this bill, the Biden administration has significantly expanded expedited removal, and in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process."

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned over 660,000 individuals, including over 102,000 individual members of family units, including children.

This is more than the number of people removed or returned in any year under the Trump administration.

Yet, time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer.

In addition to rejecting the bipartisan Senate border bill, Republicans have consistently refused to support providing additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

My Republican colleagues have refused to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border.

I urge Members to not take the bait, and to vote no on this bill.

RECOGNIZING FREDON
TOWNSHIP'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Fredon Township on its 120th anniversary. I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with them. Over the past 120 years, Fredon Township has flourished into a lively town with vibrant natural scenery and rich history. As the youngest township in Sussex County, Fredon Township was formed from parts of Andover, Green, Hampton, and Stillwater Townships and is home to approximately 3,450 residents and 1,203 residential dwellings. Once a dusty, rutted, narrow dirt road on Route 94, traveling through a busy little village in the 1800s, can now be found as the core of the township. I am proud to have such a remarkable town within the 7th District, and I look forward to watching it continue to thrive in the coming decades. I wish Fredon Township a wonderful 120th anniversary. May its next 120 years be filled with as much success as this one.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
TEXAS PRESIDENT NEAL J.
SMATRESK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of North Texas (UNT) President Neal J. Smatresk, PhD who has dedicated his career to advancing education and transforming institutions. President Smatresk's tenure at UNT has been marked by innovation, growth, and a relentless commitment to excellence.

President Smatresk's journey in academia has been distinguished by his unwavering dedication to fostering academic success and research excellence. Before assuming his role at UNT, President Smatresk held pivotal leadership positions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Prior to his roles in Administration, Dr. Smatresk was a distinguished biologist and researcher. His scholarly pursuits focused on advancing our understanding of respiratory neurobiology, garnering substantial grant support, and resulting in numerous publications. His dedication to STEM education and outreach left an indelible mark on countless aspiring scientists and scholars.

President Smatresk's leadership at UNT has been nothing short of transformative and has propelled UNT to unprecedented heights, fostering a culture of achievement and inclusivity. Under his guidance, UNT has achieved a remarkable five-year record of continued enrollment growth, now serving almost 47,000 students; reflecting President Smatresk's dedication to expanding access to higher education and empowering students to pursue their academic aspirations. Additionally, President

Smatresk led UNT to becoming a Carnegie-ranked Tier One institution that has emerged as a top 10 U.S. public university on the rise. While his strategic vision and commitment to student success has propelled UNT to new heights, earning recognition as both a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution and securing its place as one of only 22 Carnegie-ranked Tier One research universities designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

President Smatresk's impact extends far beyond the realm of academia. Through strategic partnerships with industry leaders and innovative program offerings, such as UNT's groundbreaking M.B.A. program in sport entertainment management in collaboration with the Dallas Cowboys, President Smatresk has positioned UNT as a pioneer in higher education. His innovative approach to fostering partnerships between academia and industry has positioned UNT as a leader in addressing the evolving needs of the workforce. Through strategic collaborations with companies such as American Airlines, Liberty Mutual, Google, and JP Morgan Chase, President Smatresk has created new avenues for experiential learning and professional development, ensuring that UNT graduates are well-equipped to thrive in today's competitive job market.

Moreover, his commitment to expanding UNT's presence in Collin County through the establishment of the UNT at Frisco branch campus underscores his dedication to expanding UNT's reach across the growing DFW region and fostering economic development through education. President Smatresk has also overseen a commitment to athletic investments and facility expansions that has transformed UNT's athletic program into a powerhouse of excellence and helped to secure UNT's membership into Conference USA. The Mean Green student-athletes and teams, under his leadership, have flourished, exemplifying the university's spirit of determination and achievement.

President Neal J. Smatresk's visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on higher education will leave an enduring legacy at the University of North Texas and beyond. On behalf of the constituents of the 26th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to President Smatresk for his exemplary service and wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT JERSEY SHORE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AND RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Hackensack Meridian Health in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Behavioral Health Services at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center. The hospitals' vision and commitment to supporting the well-being of Monmouth and Ocean County's communities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since 1974, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center

have offered a range of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, including psychiatry, crisis and emergency services, hospitalization, consultation, and education. Over the years, services have expanded to include addiction and children's programs.

Additionally, in 1979, Jersey Shore Medical Center began mobile services in Asbury Park under a grant from the State of New Jersey. To better meet the needs of its clients, the program, coined Park Place, moved to a facility, first operating out of the local United Methodist Church, then to a home on Sewall Avenue, and later to a property on Bond Street. The Park Place program continued to expand and adapt, integrating services and other programs until 2019 when it was merged with the Riverview Medical Center Behavioral Health Acute Partial Program.

For 50 years, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center have been providing services, education, outreach, and support to individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Their efforts to improve the quality and availability of support services are important for the health and well-being of individuals and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center for 50 years of providing comprehensive behavioral health services and thanking its staff and members for their extraordinary service to the community.

LEOSA REFORM ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 354, the LEOSA Reform Act.

In 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA), permitting qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms and ammunition in certain places.

Every state allows the concealed carry of firearms subject to certain conditions, but the original LEOSA overrode whatever permit, training, or other requirements might be in place—with important, commonsense exceptions for National Parks, playgrounds, government buildings, private property, and other sensitive areas.

I should note that I was a member of the House Judiciary Committee when it passed the original LEOSA in 2004.

At that time, the Committee was under Republican control, but it still followed regular order.

We held a hearing on the bill in which we heard from several law enforcement organizations.

Some expressed support for the bill as a way for officers to protect themselves and be able to respond to a dangerous situation whether they were in their home jurisdiction or not, on-duty or off-duty, active or retired.

Other law enforcement organizations opposed the legislation, expressing concerns about creating confusion in the field that might even endanger law enforcement.

While some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle expressed concerns about the

original LEOSA, I was satisfied that it struck an appropriate balance.

I supported the original LEOSA because it included limits for special places.

It had exceptions so that states would still have some control over whether retired and off-duty law enforcement officers would be allowed to carry concealed weapons in places like parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, and state and local government buildings.

States should be allowed to regulate these places consistent with the needs of the state.

Allowing them to do so protects local law enforcement by making sure they know what to expect when responding to a scene.

The original LEOSA also respected the rights of private property owners to prohibit concealed weapons on their property if they chose to do so.

And with respect to retired officers, it ensured that they would continue to receive annual firearms training so that they would know how to safely use the concealed firearm that they were carrying.

The legislation before us today, however, upsets the balance struck by the original LEOSA and it is being advanced without a hearing that would help us fully evaluate its strengths and weaknesses.

While I supported the original LEOSA, I oppose the legislation before us today because it would allow more concealed weapons in parks, playgrounds, Gun-Free School Zones, local government buildings, and on private property even when it is contrary to the judgment of state leaders and private property owners.

Today's bill also weakens the training standards for retired officers as set forth in the original LEOSA, which is especially concerning.

Marksmanship is a perishable skill that must be renewed through practice and training.

By relaxing the training standards, today's bill would allow retired officers to carry concealed firearms despite it being as many as three years since they last received training—and it could be that they retired from law enforcement more years before that.

I respect the rights of lawful and responsible gun owners, including the rights of retired and off-duty law enforcement.

We should allow these individuals to carry concealed weapons into many places, provided they meet certain qualifications including regular training.

But this bill would allow concealed weapons to be carried by those who have not received recent training.

And it would allow concealed firearms in spaces where a state may have a valid public safety interest in prohibiting them.

For these reasons, I must oppose this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

CONGRATULATING LTC KELSEY ROUSEY

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Lieutenant Colonel Kelsey

Rousey for her dedicated service to the people of American Samoa and all the Pacific Islands as Deputy to the House Liaison Division in the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison.

In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. In particular, our U S Army recruiting center ranks number one in the nation in enlistment rate.

To that end I would like to recognize all the work LTC Rousey has done to serve our country throughout her career, so far. She received her commission through the ROTC program at John Carroll University, as Transportation Officer.

She has an extensive list of military awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Meritorious Volunteer Medal. She was instrumental in sharing the Army message throughout the House of Representatives and Congress.

In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all over the world.

In thank Kelsey for her outstanding leadership and her commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. Best wishes to her and her family as she departs for Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army War College. I thank her for her service and her tone dedicated to our beautiful island.

God bless you on your journey (Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala. Soifua).

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the United States Border Patrol for the 100 years of incredible service they have provided to our country, ensuring security and sovereignty at our borders. Since its founding on May 1, 1924—the first anniversary of the signing of the 1923 Border Convention between the United States and Mexico, the United States Border Patrol has been dedicated to defending the borders of our great Nation.

The members of the United States Border Patrol work day and night, hour upon hour, in harsh conditions and dangerous circumstances to ensure that terrorists, weapons, drugs and contraband do not make their way into the United States.

Today, I wish to shine a spotlight on one of the integral sectors within the United States Customs and Border Patrol—the Buffalo Sector. Situated along the Northern border, the Buffalo Sector plays a pivotal role in securing our nation's perimeter. Sprawling across vast landscapes, from the Great Lakes to the Appalachian Mountains, its agents stand as

guardians of the gateway between the United States and Canada.

In the Buffalo Sector, CBP agents face unique challenges, navigating diverse terrain and weather conditions with unwavering determination. From bustling urban centers to remote wilderness, they remain steadfast in their mission to uphold the rule of law and protect our communities. Their tireless efforts have thwarted illicit activities, intercepted smugglers, and safeguarded our borders from potential threats.

But beyond their operational duties, the agents of the Buffalo Sector embody the swift of service and sacrifice. They forge bonds with the communities they serve, building trust and collaboration to ensure the safety of all. Their commitment to excellence and their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty exemplifies the finest traditions of the United States Customs and Border Patrol.

The United States Border Patrol embodies the highest standard of courage and dedication to duty, exemplified by serving in the most hazardous environment with professionalism, unmatched performance, and unwavering ethics.

Today, I am joined by my Congressional colleagues to hereby recognize and applaud the United States Border Patrol for its outstanding service and commend it for its contributions to the safety and protection of the United States.

I thank all agents of the United States Border Patrol, past and present, who bravely dedicated their efforts to guarding the borders of the United States and upholding the rule of law for the past 100 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Public Defender Service Technical Correction Act, which would fix a drafting error in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. Unless fixed, this error will force the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS) to close one day per week beginning in mid-June through the rest of the current fiscal year. I very much appreciate that Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN will be introducing the bill in the Senate. I also appreciate that he filed an amendment on the Senate floor to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 to fix this error, but am disappointed that the Senate did not take it up.

PDS is independent of the D.C. government, is exclusively funded by the federal government and its employees are deemed federal employees for purposes of federal benefits. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 provides PDS \$53,629,000 in fiscal year 2024, the same funding level PDS received in fiscal year 2023. However, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 requires PDS to spend \$3 million of its appropriation on office relocation expenses, even though PDS had already relocated offices before the bill was enacted. PDS needs the au-

thority to spend that \$3 million on salaries, or it will be forced to close one day per week. My bill would give PDS the authority to spend that \$3 million on salaries.

The drafting error will not only harm PDS employees, who will not be paid when PDS is closed, it will also harm the local criminal justice system in D.C. On the days that PDS is closed, PDS attorneys will not appear in any matter before the D.C. Superior Court, the D.C. Court of Appeals, the U.S. Parole Commission or other administrative or adjudicative body. The local D.C. court system is already facing a backlog of cases because of a shortage of judges, who are appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation. The PDS furloughs will only exacerbate this problem. This is simply an unacceptable result, especially when it will have been caused by what everyone acknowledges is a drafting error, and not a deliberate cut to PDS's funding.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 14th and May 15th as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; YEA on Roll Call No. 200; YEA on Roll Call No. 204; YEA on Roll Call No. 203; YEA on Roll Call No. 202; YEA on Roll Call No. 201; YEA on Roll Call No. 205; YEA on Roll Call No. 206; YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; YEA on Roll Call No. 209; YEA on Roll Call No. 210; YEA on Roll Call No. 211; and YEA on Roll Call No. 212.

RECOGNIZING DR. DEV A. GNANADEV

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev for his decades of service as a healthcare provider in the Inland Empire and to celebrate the naming of the Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev Trauma Center at the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Dr. GnanaDev started his over 40-year career serving the Inland Empire as a member of the medical staff at the San Bernardino County Medical Center, which eventually was renamed the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. At Arrowhead Regional, he played a key role in the development of the trauma center as the Founding Director of Trauma Services until being appointed as the Medical Director of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in June 2000. Under his 12-year leadership, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center took critical steps to expand its patient services and physician training programs. Today, Dr. GnanaDev serves as the Associate Director of Medicine and the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Arrowhead Regional

Medical Center, a position he has held since 1989.

Dr. GnanaDev has dedicated a lifetime to improving access to and the quality of health care in the Inland Empire. As the Founding President of the California University of Science and Medicine and as a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Western University of Health Sciences and the California University of Science and Medicine, Dr. GnanaDev has taken tremendous steps in addressing the physician shortage impacting our communities.

This week, our community is coming together to celebrate Dr. GnanaDev's commitment to a healthy Inland Empire. On Thursday, May 23rd, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center will officially be named the Dr. Dev A. GnanaDev Trauma Center. This honor will ensure that Dr. GnanaDev's profound impact on our community's health and wellbeing will be remembered for generations to come.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Dev A. GnanaDev, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S. His years of service and commitment to the people of the Inland Empire are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING MARINE VETERAN CONRAD C. JANOWSKI

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marine veteran Conrad C. Janowski, who passed away on May 12, 2024.

A long-time resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Conrad was a respected member of the community, an accomplished architect, and beloved husband, father, and friend.

Conrad attended the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. After he moved his family to Fort Wayne, he served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Society of Architects and was President of the Northern Chapter early in his career. One of Conrad's greatest sources of pride throughout his life was his service in the United States Marine Corps from 1956 to 1958.

We honor Conrad for his service to his country and for the civic leadership he showed across the entirety of his life. May he rest in peace.

RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H. Res. 1213, "A resolution regarding violence against law enforcement officers".

Sadly, H. Res. 1213 is another hypocritical, partisan attack cloaked behind a message honoring local law enforcement during National Police Week.

The resolution is full of misinformation, baseless and dangerous claims, and political rhetoric that overwhelms its intended purpose and has no place in what should be an opportunity to bring Congress together in solemn reflection.

My Republican colleagues have consistently tried to blame the rise in violent crime on Democrats and locally-elected District Attorneys and with this resolution have attempted once again to label Democrats as the party of “defund the police.”

The resolution asserts without evidence that calls to defund the police are tied to an increase in violence against law enforcement officers and further implies that locally adopted progressive criminal justice reform policies have contributed to the “negative environment” in which law enforcement officers work.

The Resolution fails to acknowledge that the number of officers killed in the line of duty decreased substantially each year from 586 in 2021 to 137 in 2023.

The resolution advances baseless political attacks against policies aimed at addressing decades of mass incarceration and over-criminalization, attempting to link policies such as decreased criminal penalties and no-cash bail systems with an increase in aggression and violence toward law enforcement.

The Resolution claims that House members are responsible for exemplifying a respect for the rule of law and for law enforcement but overlooks hypocritical anti-police Republican actions:

The failure of Republicans to unanimously vote to award the Congressional Gold Medal to all police officers who responded to the violent January 6th attack on the Capitol and efforts like H. Con. Res. 106 to marginalize federal law enforcement officers.

Republican efforts to defund law enforcement, whether by opposing grant funding that supports state and local agencies, or by calling to abolish federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

For these reasons I must oppose this fatally flawed resolution—and yet another missed opportunity to support and honor law enforcement personnel across the country and those who lost their lives in the line of duty, without engaging in partisanship on this solemn occasion.

REMEMBERING GAYLE OWEN
AVERYT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina is recognizing the extraordinary achievements of Gayle Averyt, who is a Southern Gentleman who has been a top business and political leader. My personal appreciation is for his courage as one of the state's earliest Republicans, building the modern Party from non-existence to now super majorities with all statewide elected officials Republicans.

DUNBAR FUNERAL HOME OBITUARY

Gayle Owen Averyt of Columbia, South Carolina, was born on October 13, 1933, in

Montgomery, Alabama, and he died peacefully at his home in Columbia, South Carolina on May 13, 2024. He was the second of three children of Edwin Franklin and Asenath Murfee Averyt. Gayle's family moved into their first home in Columbia when he was five weeks old.

Gayle graduated from Dreher High School in 1951. He went on to graduate Cum Laude from Davidson College in 1955 and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1958.

Gayle's father, Edwin, co-founded Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company in 1937. Gayle joined Colonial Life after Harvard, moving through the management ranks. In 1970, he became the Chairman of the Board and CEO after his father retired. He held those positions until 1993 when Colonial Life merged with UNUM Corporation. Gayle became Chairman Emeritus of Colonial Life and served on UNUM's board from 1993 until 1999.

Gayle and his wife of 61 years, Margaret “Peg” Finlay met on a blind date. This was their first time meeting despite both growing up in Columbia. Safe to say their date was a success and they were married on June 15, 1963, at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Gayle was generous with his time, talents and resources. Being of service gave him priceless memories and enhanced his worldview and purpose. He was on many boards and committees, including the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina State Fair Association, the South Carolina Orchestra Association, the South Carolina Ports Authority and the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties. He was an active member of Trinity Cathedral and served on the Finance Committee and in various other capacities. As a board member, he spent countless hours helping Heathwood Hall Episcopal School and Kanuga Conference Center, two places that were very special to him. Even after he retired, Gayle remained involved in numerous business, civic, political, educational and cultural organizations.

Some of the awards Gayle received were the Distinguished Alumni Award from Davidson College, Humanitarian of the Year from The United Way of the Midlands, Business Man of the Year from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Doctor of Public Service from the University of South Carolina, and the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Carroll Campbell. He was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement.

Gayle led with humility and in the spirit of collaboration. He was quick to acknowledge that he would not have achieved his accomplishments without the support of Peg, his administrative assistants, the many people who were serving alongside him, and his colleagues and employees at Colonial Life. He said that Colonial Life gave more to him than he ever gave to the company.

Gayle exercised regularly and was a fore-runner in promoting healthy living. He established a wellness center at Colonial Life in the 1980s, offering exercise classes in which he often participated. He and Peg played mixed doubles in tennis and began jogging in the 1970s when it was a new fad. He took up golf in high school and shot a hole in one when he was 83. Gayle loved to dance at any occasion where music was playing. He hung upside down in gravity boots and practiced yoga. He was interviewed in an article about longevity in Smart Money magazine, accompanied by a photo of him standing on his head.

Gayle was a kind and caring husband, father and grandfather. He will be remembered

for his integrity, compassionate heart and the many contributions he made towards helping others.

Gayle is survived by his wife, Margaret Finlay Averyt; his daughters, Caroline Averyt Lord and Margaret McQueen Averyt; his sisters, Ella Averyt DuBose and Dorothy Averyt Poston; his grandchildren, William Leighton Lord IV, Owen Elliott Lord and Isabelle Finlay Lord; and his six nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his parents and his youngest daughter, Elinor Finlay Averyt. A nephew is State Representative Kirkman Finlay.

The memorial service for Gayle will be held on May 23, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29201. A reception will follow the service in Satterlee Hall. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, you may consider making a donation to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (www.trinitysc.org), Kanuga Conference Center (www.kanuga.org), or the charity of your choice.

Memories of Gayle may be shared at www.dunbarfunerals.com.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the brave and selfless members of our nation's Coast Guard. I also rise to urge my colleagues to join me in working to develop America's maritime and shipbuilding workforce to meet the growing demand of the offshore wind industry.

I am concerned that the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, which is a critical piece of legislation, includes language that would be detrimental to the budding domestic offshore wind industry. If enacted without changes, this bill would significantly slow our transition to clean, renewable, and domestic energy. We have seen this worrisome provision before. Numerous stakeholders, then and now, have expressed concern that crewing requirements on globally rare vessels that are already in high demand would make it all but impossible for offshore wind projects to move forward in the near term.

While I certainly share the goal of expanding opportunities for American mariners in offshore wind farm construction, this jeopardizes jobs in offshore wind manufacturing as well as jobs that will last decades in offshore wind turbine operations and maintenance. While I plan to vote for this legislation due to the important work of our nation's Coast Guard, I urge my colleagues to work together and remove this shortsighted provision.

Last spring, in the interest of finding a path to empower American workers without threatening progress in the near term, I introduced the Offshore Wind American Manufacturing Act. This Act requires the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study to inform public and private investment in shipbuilding and workforce training to support the Biden Administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. The study would also identify ways that current policies could be strengthened to support

American workers, including new opportunities for American mariners interested in installing offshore wind on the outer continental shelf.

This study is a pragmatic approach that balances our responsibility to reduce emissions

and support American workers and mariners. Thanks to momentum generated by the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, offshore wind has the potential to catalyze major investments in American manufacturing and

shipbuilding. By studying opportunities to maximize the role of American mariners and shipbuilders in meeting these goals, we ensure that we do not allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3783–S3818

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 4370–4384, and S. Res. 700. **Pages S3814–15**

Measures Passed:

Consumer Furnaces CRA: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 58, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces”, and the joint resolution was then passed in a roll call vote, 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 176). **Page S3800**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S3800**

Measures Considered:

Border Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4361, making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. **Page S3783**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force. **Page S3783**

Appointments:

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 34 (118th Congress), appointed the following Senators to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Senators Schumer, Klobuchar, and Fischer. **Page S3800**

Martinez Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. **Page S3790**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 64 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 175), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S3789–90**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2024; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2024, ripen upon disposition of the nomination. **Page S3800**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2024; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, all time be considered expired at 3:15 p.m. **Page S3800**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 66 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 174), Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. **Pages S3786–89, S3818**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 173), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S3788–89**

Measures Discharged:

Page S3809

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S3783, S3809

Measures Read the First Time:

Pages S3800, S3809

Executive Communications:

Pages S3809–12

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S3812–14

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S3815–16

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**Pages S3816–17****Additional Statements:****Pages S3808–09****Amendments Submitted:****Page S3817****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Pages S3817–18**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—176) **Pages S3789–3800**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3818.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Army, after receiving testimony from Christine Wormuth, Secretary, and General Randy A. George, Chief of Staff, both of the Army, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: STATE DEPARTMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, after receiving testimony from Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense space activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from John D. Hill, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Space and Missile Defense, Frank Calvelli, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, and General Michael A. Guetlein, USSF, Vice Chief of Space Operations, all of the Department of Defense.

ROADWAY SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports concluded a hearing to examine the roadway safety crisis and highlighting community solutions, after receiving testimony from Samuel

Krassenstein, City of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan; Laura Chace, The Intelligent Transportation Society of America, Washington, D.C.; Jacob Nelson, AAA, Farmington, Michigan; Laura Sandt, University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center, Chapel Hill; and Jeff Farrah, Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

ELECTRIC POWER

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with growth in demand for electric power in the United States, after receiving testimony from Ben Fowke, American Electric Power Company, Columbus, Ohio; Karen Onaran, ELCON, and Mark P. Mills, National Center for Energy Analytics, both of Washington, D.C.; and Scott Gatzemeier, Micron, Boise, Idaho.

CHILD SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine child savings accounts and other tax-advantaged accounts benefiting American children, after receiving testimony from William Elliott, University of Michigan Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, Ann Arbor; Colleen J. Quint, Alford Scholarship Foundation, Portland, Maine; Veronique de Rugy, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Fairfax, Virginia; and Adam N. Michel, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.

U.S. PORTS

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness concluded a hearing to examine trade enforcement and entry of merchandise at United States ports, after receiving testimony from John Pickel, National Foreign Trade Council, and John Drake, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.; and James H. Paylor, Jr., International Longshoreman's Association, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, focusing on American diplomacy and global leadership, after receiving testimony from Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State.

FRAUD AND ZELLE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine fraud and Zelle, after receiving testimony from Stephanie R. Tatar, Tatar Law Firm, Los Angeles, California; John Breyault, National Consumers League, Arlington,

Virginia; Delicia Reynolds Hand, Consumer Reports, Washington, D.C.; Ariana Duval, Boston, Massachusetts; and Anne Humphreys, Laurel, Maryland.

FEEDING A HEALTHIER AMERICA

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security concluded a hearing to examine feeding a healthier America, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities for Food is Medicine, after receiving testimony from Jean Terranova, Community Servings, and Dariush Mozaffarian, Tufts University Food is Medicine Institute, both of Boston, Massachusetts; Erin Martin, FreshRx Oklahoma, Tulsa; and J. Carter Williams, iSelect Fund, LLC, St. Louis, Missouri.

COMPETITION IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MARKET

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine competition in the prescription

drug market, focusing on ensuring affordable and accessible medications, after receiving testimony from William B. Feldman, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; David E. Mitchell, Patients for Affordable Drugs NOW, and Jocelyn B. Ulrich, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, both of Washington, D.C.; Adam Mossoff, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; and Arti K. Rai, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina.

PRISON LABOR IN AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine prison labor in America, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Turner, American Civil Liberties Union, New York, New York; Charles Fain Lehman, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Washington, D.C.; Andrea Armstrong, Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Terrance Winn, Shreveport, Louisiana.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 8467–8488; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 151; and H. Res. 1244–1249, were introduced.

Pages H3397–98

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H3399–H3400

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6160, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–513);

H.R. 7153, to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–514);

H.R. 7218, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–515); and

H. Res. 1243, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4763) to provide for a system of regulation of digital assets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5403) 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; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 192) to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia (H. Rept. 118–516).

Pages H3396–97

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kustoff to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3359

Recess: The House recessed at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H3363

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Representatives Johnson (LA), Scalise, and Jeffries.

Page H3364

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 3:34 p.m.

Page H3364

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act: H.R. 5527, amended, to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund;

Pages H3364–67

Government Service Delivery Improvement Act: H.R. 5887, amended, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government; **Pages H3367–69**

Federal Prison Oversight Act: H.R. 3019, amended, to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 220; **Pages H3369–74**

Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act: H.R. 807, amended, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society; **Pages H3374–76**

Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act: H.R. 1097, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation; **Pages H3376–79**

Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act: H.R. 5863, amended, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 382 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 219; **Pages H3379–82**

Rolling Stock Protection Act: H.R. 3317, to amend title 49, United States Code, to remove the lifetime exemption from the prohibition on procurement of rolling stock from certain vehicle manufacturers for parties to executed contracts; **Pages H3382–83**

Designating the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the “Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse”: H.R. 5754, amended, to designate the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the “Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse”; **Pages H3383–85**

Think Differently Transportation Act: H.R. 6248, amended, to require Amtrak to report to Congress information on Amtrak compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to trains and stations; and **Pages H3385–86**

James R. Dominguez Memorial Act: H.R. 5799, to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the “James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint”. **Pages H3386–87**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3387**

Order of Business: Agreed by unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XVII, during the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, Representative

Wexton be permitted to use a medical assistive communication device on the floor of the House.

Page H3389

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I: The House agreed to take from the Speaker table and agreed to S. Con. Res. 36, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

Page H3389

Providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters: Agreed by unanimous consent that H. Res. 961, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, be laid on the table. **Pages H3387–88**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2023, as modified by Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, and Executive Order 13668 of May 27, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2024—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–143). **Page H3364**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3364.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two ye-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3387–88 and 3388–89.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025. The Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

FINANCIAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT; CBDC ANTI-SURVEILLANCE STATE ACT; TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM VOTING IN ELECTIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4763, the “Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act”; H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”; and H.R. 192, to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4763, the “Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act”, H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”, and H.R. 192, to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4763, the “Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees. The rule provides that in lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Agriculture and Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–33, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee Report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided

and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part C of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in part C of the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 192, to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Accountability now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hill, Waters, Johnson of South Dakota, Biggs, Raskin, and Self.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and the United States Capitol Police, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine protecting consumers' pocketbooks, focusing on lowering food prices and combatting corporate price gouging and consolidation, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine water scarcity in a changing climate, 10:30 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 4359, to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize that Act, S. 3564, to amend title 40, United States Code, to include Indian Tribes among entities that may receive Federal surplus real property for certain purposes, S. 3880, to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to make improvements to that Act, S. 4293, to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the "Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex", H.R. 4688, to direct the Administrator of General Services to sell the property known as the Webster School, and an original bill entitled, "Water Resources Development Act of 2024"; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine Federal programs for the circular economy, focusing on state and local perspectives on efforts to improve reuse and recycling, 9:45 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the Family First Prevention Services Act, focusing on successes, roadblocks, and opportunities for improvement, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine new standards and practices in mining, focusing on health and safety, 2:30 p.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine restoring Congressional oversight over emergency powers, focusing on exploring options to reform the National Emergencies Act, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine public safety and justice resources in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle Williams Court, Anne Hwang, and Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, each to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Sarah Netburn, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Stacey

D. Neumann, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider S. 3772, to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, S. 3971, to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, S. 4341, to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and an original bill entitled, "The STEP Modernization Act of 2024", Time to be announced, S-120, Capitol.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Nutritious Foods in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)", 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of State, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8070, the "Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled "Big Labor Lies: Exposing Union Tactics to Undermine Free and Fair Elections", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing on a Legislative Proposal to Sunset Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Check Up: Examining FDA Regulation of Drugs, Biologics, and Devices", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled "Green Building Policies: Jeopardizing the American Dream of Homeownership", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "PHA Oversight: How Scandals and Mismanagement Harm Residents and Taxpayers", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8437, to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel; H.R. 8315, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to prevent foreign adversaries from exploiting United States artificial intelligence and other enabling technologies, and for other purposes; and H. Res. 616, expressing support for the people of Afghanistan, condemning the Taliban's

assault on human rights and the specific targeting of women, girls, and members of religious and ethnic minorities, and expressing support for any Afghans who assisted in the United States mission in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “The State of American Diplomacy in 2024: Global Instability, Budget Challenges, and Great Power Competition”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Advancing Innovation (AI): Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Defend and Secure the Homeland”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1398, the “Protect America’s Innovation and Economic Security from CCP Act”; H.R. 7909, the “Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act”; and H.R. 8296, the “GAO Database Modernization Act”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 7776, the “Help Hoover Dam Act”; H.R. 7872, the “Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act”; H.R. 7938, the “Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act of 2024”; and H.R. 8263, the “Rural Jobs and Hydropower Expansion Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Examining the President’s FY 2025 Budget

Request for the United States Geological Survey and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of Our Nation’s Largest Employer: Reviewing the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Pt. II”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

2024, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “A Hearing with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Senior Scientific Advisor, Dr. David Morens”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Check Up: Examining FDA Regulation of Drugs, Biologics, and Devices”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Biden Administration’s Failure to Consider Small Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, business meeting on documents protected under Internal Revenue Code section 6103, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies—2024: organizational business meeting to designate the Chair, designate the 2025 Inaugural site, approve the Inaugural budget, and designate official staff representatives, 11:45 a.m., S-219, Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 3:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 4763—Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Banks, Jim, Ind., E540
 Bilirakis, Gus M., Fla., E529, E530, E532, E535
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E538
 Carson, André, Ind., E537
 Diaz-Balart, Mario, Fla., E540
 Edwards, Chuck, N.C., E529, E535
 Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E535

Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E529, E530, E532, E533,
 E534, E536, E537, E539, E540
 Kean, Thomas H., Jr., N.J., E538
 Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E530
 McCollum, Betty, Minn., E531
 Moskowitz, Jared, Fla., E529, E531, E533, E534, E535,
 E537
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia,
 E540
 Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E538

Pettersen, Brittany, Colo., E529, E530, E532, E533,
 E534, E535, E537
 Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman, American
 Samoa, E539
 Scott, Robert "Bobby", Va., E541
 Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E534
 Tenney, Claudia, N.Y., E539
 Torres, Norma J., Calif., E540
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E541



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.