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No. 148

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 23, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE LESKO 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.

FAILED SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, for the past 4 years, American communities have been forced to live with failed, soft-on-crime policies that have sought to free violent criminals and defund our law enforcement.

In California, a recent study showed that 70 percent of individuals who received zero-dollar bail were subsequently rearrested. A study focused on

Chicago identified that 50 percent of offenders who were released committed another violent crime.

Now isn't the time to put dangerous criminals back on the street. It is time to pass legislation that stops violent criminals and instead backs the men and women in blue. We rely on our police officers to keep us safe, and we cannot allow far-left policies from prosecutors continue to allow criminals to go free.

It is time to pass the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act and help to put a stop to the unaccountable bail systems that have allowed these violent criminals to roam the streets of America.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS first took office, they have allowed the Chinese Communist Party to continue their unlawful abuses of human rights and international standards. These failures jeopardize our security and put every American at risk.

When a Chinese spy balloon floated across the American heartland, taking photos of our military installations, our critical infrastructure, and our farmland, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS did nothing.

It is time to take direct action and enforce strict sanctions on the members of the CCP that have taken these aggressive actions against America and against our allies.

It was President Ronald Reagan who said that "weakness only invites aggression," and the Chinese Communist Party accepted that invitation. It is clear from the past 4 years that the Biden-HARRIS administration has failed in its duty to stop the aggression of the Chinese Communist Party.

It is time for a President who believes in peace through strength. It is time to stand up against the Chinese Communist Party and protect Amer-

ican security, both here at home and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH D. LESKO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my son Joseph D. Lesko.

Joey is my oldest son. I can't believe he is 30 years old already. It seems like it wasn't that long ago when Joey was born.

I have a great photo of my husband changing Joey's diaper in the hospital after he was born. My husband was so happy to have his first son. After a number of diaper changes, I don't think he had that smile on his face anymore.

Then came years of birthday parties, parties with families and friends, swimming, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, camping, and baseball. We have had a lot of fun throughout the years.

I am proud of my son Joey. He is a great son. He is successful in his job in IT. He bought a really nice home, and it is close to where I live, which I obviously love.

He is getting married in October of this year. I am so thankful that Joey is in my life. As I end my term in Congress, I am so happy to recognize him.

May God continue to bless him for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UPCOMING WEDDING OF JOSEPH LESKO AND CHERIE AREL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son Joseph Lesko, also known as Joey, and his fiancée, Cherie Arel, on their upcoming wedding.

After dating for 5 years, Joey and Cherie are getting married on October 26 of this year, 2024, in my hometown, Peoria, Arizona.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5565

My husband, Joe, and I, wish them as much happiness as we have had in our marriage of over 30 years.

I congratulate Joey and Cherie. May God continue to bless you now and forevermore.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARICOPA COUNTY
ATTORNEY RACHEL MITCHELL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell for her impact on our State and Nation throughout her accomplished 30-year legal career.

A native of Arizona, Rachel has been a leader for decades, including leading teams of prosecutors at the Sex Crimes Bureau, where she successfully prosecuted hundreds of complex cases involving crimes against children, adults, and sex trafficking.

As a nationally recognized voice on sexual assault and child abuse prosecution, Rachel's impact has not only been in the cases she has prosecuted, but the way she has changed the way prosecuting these cases is done, including advocating for reforms to ensure victims are more comfortable in the courtroom.

Rachel Mitchell's impact is felt in my community of Maricopa County, across Arizona, and beyond. I am thankful for her commitment to both protecting families and the integrity of our legal system.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID LEE
IRELAND

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. David Lee Ireland.

David died on September 17 following a long battle with cancer. He spent his professional life protecting and serving the people of Iowa as a police officer in the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

When he was not working, he was collecting antique Model T memorabilia or enjoying the outdoors with his wife, canoeing on the Mississippi River.

David was also a lifelong member of the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and eventually seeing both of his sons achieve the same rank.

He later served as Scoutmaster for Troop 30 in Montrose, Iowa, where he proudly taught these young boys essential life values, such as hard work, love of the outdoors, self-reliance, and commitment.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and his two sons, Matthew and Shawn.

Let us not despair in the loss of this great man, but, rather, praise God for sending David here to make the world a better place.

RECKLESS POLICIES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Biden-HARRIS administration border crisis that

has plagued our Nation for over 3 years.

Under the failed leadership of President Biden and his border czar KAMALA HARRIS, we have witnessed the worst border crisis in American history, with over 10 million illegal immigrants having crossed our border, while nearly 300,000 unaccompanied children are left unaccounted for and at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

The horror doesn't stop there. Fentanyl, the poison that has claimed over 200,000 American lives, flows unchecked across our border, with over 2,000 pounds seized each month.

This administration's negligence has created a perfect storm for crime, with a shocking 52,058 arrests of illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds, a staggering 130 percent increase since President Trump was in office.

Biden and HARRIS have failed us. Their reckless policies are jeopardizing our children and communities. It is time for a return to a strong border security, time to hold them accountable and assure that every child is safe, every community is secure, and every American life matters.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eighth annual National Clean Energy Week.

As chair of the Conservative Climate Caucus and a Representative of Iowa, where 59 percent of our net energy generation comes from wind turbines, I am proud to highlight our State's leadership in harnessing renewable energy, and wind isn't the only type of renewable energy we have.

We show how emissions can responsibly be reduced without sacrificing reliable energy production by tapping into our abundant resources, like wind, ethanol, biodiesel, manure, and hydro. Investing in innovation, we have strengthened our energy independence, created good-paying jobs, and kept energy costs low for families and businesses alike.

This is what responsible, forward-thinking energy policy looks like, driven by innovation, not government mandates.

National Clean Energy Week reminds us that we can secure a cleaner, healthier planet through practical, market-driven solutions that work for our economy, not against us.

We must continue to support innovation that grows our economy, meets our energy needs, keeps our energy costs down, and respects the hard-working people that depend on affordable, reliable energy.

Cleaner energy, more innovation, and a stronger economy is the path forward.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER THAN FAILED
POLICIES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the disastrous impact KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden have had on our economy.

Inflation has risen as high as 20.2 percent. Eggs are up 46.8 percent. Gas is up

49.9 percent. Bread is up 24.3 percent. Sugar is up 31.4 percent. The list goes on and on.

In just the past year, 1.2 million U.S.-born citizens lost their jobs to illegal aliens crossing our wide-open southern border. Everyday essentials, from food to fuel, have seen outrageous price hikes.

Families in Iowa are paying over \$13,000 more annually just to get by. Real wages have plummeted. Interest rates are at a 23-year high. Credit card debt has now surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time, and our national debt has crossed \$35 trillion.

Instead of finding practical solutions, this administration thinks the solution is to print more money and to spend more by the government. The American people deserve better than KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden's failed policies.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HAMAS
TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming 1-year anniversary of the heinous Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

On that fateful day, Hamas terrorists launched inhumane and barbaric attacks on Israeli civilians by land, air, and sea. The world watched in horror as these terrorists slaughtered and burned innocent Israeli families in their homes; abducted and killed Americans; murdered over 200 young people enjoying a music festival; kidnapped innocent people, including Holocaust survivors, women, and children; and wounded thousands.

It was, in fact, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. The trauma continues to this day as Hamas continues to hold hostages, including American citizens.

In August, I joined Senator JONI ERNST on a congressional trip to meet with heads of state to advocate for the release of all hostages in Hamas' captivity.

Hamas' recent murders of six hostages, including American citizen Hersh Goldberg-Polin, is yet another tragedy that underscores the brutality of this terrorist organization.

We will continue to forcefully push for the release of all hostages.

At home, we have seen anti-Semitism rear its ugly head over the past year, especially on college campuses. This is unacceptable in America. In Congress, we will continue to fight this heinous scourge of anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, on this upcoming October 7 anniversary, the United States must ensure that Israelis have the tools they need to defend their citizens, and I will continue to urge Members of Congress to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish people and the State of Israel during their time of need.

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

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Dr. Ralph B. Lassiter, Sr., St. Mark Baptist Church, Omaha, Nebraska, offered the following prayer:

God our creator, our sustainer, and our redeemer, we thank You for this day and ask Your blessings upon this, the people's House, both collectively and individually.

Lord, fill our Representatives with wisdom and courage to perform the difficult tasks entrusted to them. Calm the winds of dissension, empower a spirit of unity, and provide clarity of vision for the future that You desire for this country.

Lord, encourage these men and women through Your Word that tells us that You have "plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future." Therefore, I ask that You touch the heads, the hearts, and the hands of those who lead these United States, so that Your will be done.

Now, Lord, we give all glory, honor, and praise to You because You are able to do infinitely more than we might ask or think. In the mighty and majestic name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, I 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 Texas (Mr. SELF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SELF led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING DR. RALPH B. LASSITER, SR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to welcome Pastor Ralph Lassiter

and his wife, Doris Lassiter, to the people's House. We are grateful to have them in Washington, D.C., and I thank him for opening up our session in prayer.

Pastor Lassiter has been the lead pastor for Mount Moriah Baptist Church for 17 years before he retired. Now, he is the pastor emeritus.

Mount Moriah is a historical church in our city, preaching the Gospel for generations, healing relationships, and helping people with their physical needs. It has been a true blessing.

Today, both Pastor and Mrs. Lassiter are helping to bring a small business back to north Omaha. Pastor Lassiter also works with men who are struggling with addictions. He has been a true blessing.

His favorite Bible verse is out of Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will guide your paths." It is a great prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Lassiter for opening us up with prayer, and I welcome both him and his wife, Mrs. Lassiter.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MICHAEL KALINICH, SR.

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Michael Kalinich, Sr., a pillar of Strongsville, Ohio.

Mr. Kalinich leaves behind a legacy of service and strength. He will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his family and community.

Born into a family of entrepreneurs, Michael carried on the family business with great pride, bringing it to Strongsville in 1956. This business thrived under his leadership and continues to operate in the city that he loved so deeply.

Michael proudly served his country during the Korean war. As a United States Army veteran, bravery and patriotism were hallmarks of his character in every aspect of life. Michael put the "strong" in Strongsville.

Michael's commitment to his community was without equal. He started the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Dance to benefit graduating high school students looking to pursue higher education. He was also a founding member of the Strongsville City Club and served as chairman of the Strongsville Homecoming. These selfless efforts brought joy and celebration to his neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Michael's life, let us remember the power of community, hard work, and family.

CONGRATULATING COACH WENDEE SAINTSING ON HER RETIREMENT

(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, after 35 remarkable years as Barton College head women's basketball coach, Wendee Saintsing has entered a well-deserved retirement.

Coach Saintsing has taken 10 teams to the NCAA Division II tournament and led Barton to seven Conference Carolinas regular season championships and three Conference Carolinas Tournament titles.

Under her leadership, 27 of her 33 Bulldogs teams have had winning records. She also coached seven All-Americans, and a Bulldogs student athlete was named the Conference Carolinas Women's Basketball Player of the Year 12 times.

Saintsing was named the Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year an impressive four times and received the Milestone award at the Conference Carolinas inaugural Legends of the Game banquet.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Saintsing's outstanding record, which is big, speaks for itself. She has made an invaluable impact at Barton and on eastern North Carolina. I congratulate her on her retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). 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.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE DATA ACCESS ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1549) to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1549

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 "Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act".

SEC. 2. CONDITIONS OF DISCLOSURE FOR FEDERAL AGENCY INFORMATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.

Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12) as paragraphs (12) and (13), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

"(11) to the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, or any authorized representative of the Director, in the course of performance of the duties of the Congressional Budget Office;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, is the legislative branch agency responsible for helping Congress accurately analyze the budgetary impact of proposed legislation.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 authorized CBO to collect information and data directly from agencies. Timely access to agency data is necessary for CBO to produce accurate cost estimates for legislation and prepare other congressional reports. However, agencies often delay or restrict CBO's access to data. One of the most common reasons agencies restrict CBO's access to Federal agency data is because of perceived Privacy Act obstacles.

This bill, the Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act, solves this problem by granting CBO the same Privacy Act exemption afforded to the Government Accountability Office and Congress.

Under existing law, CBO must meet the confidentiality standards required of the agency that is providing the data, and this bill maintains that standard of confidentiality while expanding CBO's data access authority, such access that GAO and Congress already possess.

CBO access to agency data is critical for the legislative branch agency's ability to fulfill its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my House Oversight Committee colleagues, Representative GROTHMAN and Representative MFUME, for their work on the House companion of this legislation, H.R. 7184. I also thank House Budget Committee Chairman ARRINGTON and Ranking Member BOYLE and their staff for coordinating with the Oversight Committee on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the CBO Data Access Act is a commonsense, good government bill. I commend Senator GARY PETERS and Senator SUSAN COLLINS for introducing it on the Senate side, as well as Congressman LATURNER, the gentleman from Kansas, and Chairman GROTHMAN and Ranking Member MFUME for sponsoring the House companion.

The bill would accelerate the speed and improve the accuracy with which the CBO analyzes the budgetary consequences of proposed legislation by providing CBO with an exemption to the Privacy Act.

H.R. 7032, which has passed both the House and Senate, requires CBO to treat any information it receives with the same level of confidentiality as the agency from which it is received. That is a wise safeguard that will work well in tandem with this bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this commonsense bill to support CBO in carrying out its mission, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1549.

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.

REUSE EXCESS PROPERTY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2685) to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2685

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 "Reuse Excess Property Act".

SEC. 2. REPORTING ON EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives" after "Administrator of General Services"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) COMPILATION OF DATA.—Not later than 180 days following the close of a fiscal year, the Administrator shall compile the data in the reports submitted under subsection (a) and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and publish on a centralized online website a publicly available report, which shall include—

"(1) the complete data provided in each report in a user-friendly format;

"(2) a summary of the findings of each report, including the aggregate dollar amount of personal property determined to be no longer required for the purpose of the appropriation used to make the purchase; and

"(3) any other recommendations from the Administrator.";

(2) by inserting after section 529 the following:

"§ 530. Internal guidance on excess personal property

"(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and make publicly available on the website of the executive agency the internal guidance of the executive agency on considering using excess personal property to meet the needs of the executive agency, which shall include—

"(1) a requirement to consider excess personal property before buying new;

"(2) when it is practicable to check for and obtain excess personal property;

"(3) how to evaluate the suitability of excess personal property for use; and

"(4) defined roles and responsibilities relevant to considering the use of excess personal property, including the designation of an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet the needs of the executive agency.

"(b) UPDATES.—Each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and update on the website of the executive agency any changes to the internal guidance submitted and made available under subsection (a)."

(b) REPORT ON INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall publish a publicly available report on a centralized online website that includes a summary of findings from the interagency working group on the acquisition of personal property that was first convened in February 2023 on ways to improve the use of excess personal property.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following:

"530. Internal guidance on excess personal property."

(d) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates the frequency with which executive agencies (as defined in section 102 of title 40, United States Code) acquire personal property that was made, produced, or manufactured by any entity, including any corporation, that is organized under the laws of, is headquartered in, or has its principal place of business in the People's Republic of China, including any Special Administrative Region.

(e) SUNSET.—Effective the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives"; and

(B) by striking subsection (c);

(2) by striking section 530; and

(3) in the table of sections, by striking the item relating to section 530.

(f) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, Federal agencies acquire billions of dollars of personal property, ranging from office supplies to automobiles, each year. Unfortunately, agencies routinely and wastefully dispose of excess personal property that could otherwise be repurposed for continued Federal agency use.

Agencies are already required to consider the availability of excess personal property before buying new products. This excess personal property is available to agencies at no cost, apart from any necessary transportation expenses.

In a June 2022 report, the Government Accountability Office found that agencies are continuing to acquire new property while not using available excess personal property. GAO's findings indicate that the guidance in the existing Federal Management Regulation, or FMR, alone may not be sufficient.

With better direction from Congress, agencies can be more efficient in leveraging excess personal property to meet their needs and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would hold agencies more accountable toward efficiently using and reusing personal property by introducing transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Specifically, this bill would reform existing statutory reporting requirements to the General Services Administration on excess personal property and require GSA to make this information publicly available. This will help decisionmakers and taxpayers better understand the extent to which agencies are working to cut wasteful spending through the use of excess property, informing future policy.

Because GAO found that agencies have varied guidance on the use of excess personal property that often neglects essential FMR components, S. 2685 would require agencies to publicly report their guidance. Such guidance must include essential FMR components outlined by GAO. Agencies must also designate an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet agency needs.

In response to GAO's report, in February 2023, GSA convened the first meeting of an interagency working group to assess how agencies acquire personal property, uncover obstacles, and recommend improvements to policies for acquisition professionals. This bill would require GSA to make the findings of that working group, including a general summary, publicly available to provide full transparency into efforts to promote the maximum use of excess personal property.

In conclusion, this bill shines a light on agency practices and could incentivize more efficient use of excess personal property, saving untold taxpayer dollars in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCLAIN for her leadership on the House companion of this legislation, H.R. 8276.

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

□ 1230

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Reuse Excess Property Act, which would dramatically increase transparency across the Federal Government by strengthening Federal reporting requirements about excess personal property.

I commend Senators PETERS and LANKFORD for introducing it and Chairwoman MCCLAIN and Ranking Member KATIE PORTER for introducing the House counterpart.

The Federal Government has amassed billions of dollars in personal property, including furniture, things like chairs and desks, vehicles, office supplies, and medical equipment. Billions of dollars means a lot of tables and chairs and computers.

Federal agencies are required to survey and index their inventories of personal property annually and identify items they no longer need.

This accounting enables agencies to have a better understanding of excess items that could be considered for use in other Federal agencies or institutions, which is obviously the prudent thing to do.

The GAO identified \$3.9 billion in excess personal property between FY 2016 and FY 2020 and found an additional \$28.9 billion in excess personal property items that were reported but not obtained by other agencies.

These excess items could be transferred to other Federal agencies and departments, distributed to a State or local government, or even sold to the public. It shouldn't just be sitting there.

The Reuse Excess Property Act would increase Federal reporting requirements to Congress and the public and provide greater transparency of acquisition, monitoring, reuse, and disposal of personal property across the whole Federal Government. It directs the GSA and Federal agencies to report

annually to Congress data that it collects related to excess personal property and would also make this data publicly available to all of us.

This greater transparency around Federal use of personal property may help agencies make far more efficient use of these items.

We support this financially prudent and commonsense bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, we urge all of our colleagues to support this legislation and for all Federal agencies to cooperate and aggressively participate in this program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2685.

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.

ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3639) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3639

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT HAYDEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3639, which names a post office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for Robert Hayden.

Hayden was born in Detroit, Michigan, where he attended Detroit City College, now Wayne State University, before going on to earn a master of arts degree from the University of Michigan.

During his lifetime, he published nine collections of poetry with much of his work touching on the Black American experience.

In 1969, he began to teach at the University of Michigan, becoming the first Black faculty member in the university's English department.

In 1976, he became the first African American to be appointed consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress, a position that is known today as poet laureate.

Hayden passed away in 1980 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to echo the gentleman from Kansas in expressing support for S. 3639 for the naming of the post office after Robert Hayden.

My colleague stated well his career. He did publish nine different collections of poetry, including the very well-reviewed "Heart-Shape in the Dust," "Figures of Time," and "A Ballad of Remembrance."

His writings leaned on his own study of American history, exploring the complexities of the Black American experience and situating it within the broader context of the development of the American story.

In 1976, Hayden made history when he became the first African American to be appointed as a consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress.

He passed away in 1980 in Ann Arbor.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the life of Robert Hayden and his career in literature by naming a post office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, after this distinguished writer.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill naming a post office for Robert Hayden, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3639.

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.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3640) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3640

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3640, which names a post office in Mount Clemens, Michigan, for Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson.

Jefferson served in the military during World War II, completing combat training at Selfridge Field in Mount Clemens and pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

During his time with the Tuskegee Airmen, Jefferson was shot down over France and captured by Nazi ground troops. He was imprisoned in German-occupied Poland before being freed by General George Patton's U.S. Third Army.

Jefferson returned to Michigan where he became a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier, earned a teaching certificate, and obtained a master's degree in education from Wayne State University.

Jefferson taught elementary school science in Detroit, was appointed assistant principal, and retired in 1979 after 31 years of service to Detroit Public Schools.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3640.

Lieutenant Jefferson was born in 1921 in Detroit, Michigan.

After graduating from Chadsey High School and earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Clark College, he was accepted into the Aviation Cadet Training Program in the U.S. Army Corps. He completed combat training in Michigan and pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

Jefferson served the cause of democracy and freedom faithfully in World War II in our struggle against fascism and totalitarianism in Europe.

As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was shot down and captured by Nazi troops. He suffered great hardship as a prisoner of war in Nazi-occupied Poland until he was finally freed by General George Patton's Third Army, which was busy liberating people from fascists all over Europe.

When he returned home from war, Jefferson took a job as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He later earned his teaching certificate and a master's degree in education at Wayne State.

He taught elementary school science in Detroit, was appointed an assistant principal, and in 1979 retired with 31 years of service in public education, as well as all of his years fighting for America and for freedom.

I urge my colleagues to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson by naming this post office in Mount Clemens, Michigan, after him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3640.

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.

SOJOURNER TRUTH POST OFFICE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3851) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the "Sojourner Truth Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3851

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

SECTION 1. SOJOURNER TRUTH POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90

McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Sojourner Truth Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sojourner Truth Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3851, which names a post office in Battle Creek, Michigan, for Sojourner Truth.

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in New York State as Isabella Baumfree. She escaped slavery in 1827 and took her new name, Sojourner Truth, in 1843.

After meeting Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1850, Truth began to passionately advocate for women's rights and courageously fought against racial injustices.

In 1851, Truth gave her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech to criticize race and gender discrimination at a convention in Akron, Ohio.

In 1857, Truth moved to Harmonia, a former utopian community that was later incorporated into Battle Creek, Michigan, where this post office is located.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3851.

Sojourner Truth's life and legacy have profoundly shaped our country. Born in 1797 in Ulster County, New York, with the name Isabella Baumfree, she spent her childhood enslaved. In 1826, she courageously and historically escaped the shackles of slavery when her enslaver, John Dumont, refused to honor the State of New York's law declaring the freedom of all enslaved human beings.

In 1843, she adopted the name Sojourner Truth as a testament to her faith and her pilgrimage of freedom and hope. She then committed to speaking around America about the truth of conditions for enslaved people and the rights of African Americans. Sojourner Truth worked with key figures in the abolitionist movement. After meeting with the esteemed Eliza-

beth Cady Stanton in 1850, she, herself, became a passionate advocate for women's rights.

In 1851, Sojourner Truth delivered her landmark "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio. She declared that women and Black Americans deserved equal rights and dignity, and her speech was met with roars of applause and tears from activists who were united in calling for a woman's right to vote and for equal rights for all Americans.

She was one of the first Black women to win a court case against a White person, successfully freeing her son from slavery and bringing him back to New York in 1828.

In 1857, Sojourner moved to Harmonia, Michigan, and later to Battle Creek as a member of President Ulysses S. Grant's reelection campaign. She died in Battle Creek at 86 years old.

She was inducted in the National Women's Hall of Fame as a pioneer of social justice and became the first Black woman to be honored with a bust in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall.

I strongly urge my colleagues to honor the memory of Sojourner Truth by naming a post office in Battle Creek, Michigan, after this great American.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3851.

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.

ARMY SSG RYAN CHRISTIAN KNAUSS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6633) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6633

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

SECTION 1. ARMY SSG RYAN CHRISTIAN KNAUSS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Army SSG

Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Florida for Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss.

Committed to protecting his country, Knauss joined the Army at the young age of 17. He served in Afghanistan where he supported the humanitarian evacuation of Americans and Afghani refugees.

□ 1430

On August 16, 2021, Staff Sergeant Knauss was processing eligible Afghani refugees when a bomb exploded, killing him and others.

Knauss earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Congressional Gold Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart.

I support naming a post office in memory of Staff Sergeant Knauss, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6633. Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss was born and raised in Corryton, Tennessee. As a high school student, Knauss joined the Junior ROTC cadet program to prepare for his eventual enlistment in the military. Immediately upon graduation, he joined the U.S. Army. Following his basic training, he was given a designation as a paratrooper for the 82nd Airborne in North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Knauss continued his life of service and devotion in two different Afghanistan deployments, the first as part of a psychological operations battalion, the second in August 2021 to support noncombatant evacuation operations, nearly 20 years after the United States' first mission began in Afghanistan.

Tragically, 13 American servicemembers lost their lives in the final stages

of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and Staff Sergeant Knauss was one of those Americans lost in a conflict in which more than 7,000 Americans were lost over the course of the entire war. He made the ultimate sacrifice on August 26, 2021, and all Americans are indebted to him and his family.

H.R. 6633 will honor the life of Staff Sergeant Knauss by naming a post office in Seminole, Florida, after him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA), a fierce advocate for this legislation.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, today, as we talk about the Seminole, Florida, post office, I would like to take a moment to honor Staff Sergeant Knauss' life and service to our country.

On August 26, 2021, Staff Sergeant Knauss volunteered to serve during the humanitarian evacuation mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, at the Hamid Karzai International Airport Abbey Gate. While performing his duties, a bomb was detonated at the Abbey Gate, killing Staff Sergeant Knauss, 12 other servicemembers, and many civilians.

Staff Sergeant Knauss bravely served our country, earning many awards and decorations, including the Congressional Gold Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

Staff Sergeant Knauss has continued to have a lasting impact in communities across the country. In his hometown of Corryton, Tennessee, an annual merit scholarship at a local high school has been established in Staff Sergeant Knauss' name. The merit scholarship helps to support a JROTC candidate showing the same leadership and willingness to enter the military after high school as Staff Sergeant Knauss did. His family plans to duplicate the scholarship in communities across the country.

Specific to Florida, Staff Sergeant Knauss' lasting impact can be seen through community celebrations and honor rides recognizing the military heroes of today, yesterday, and tomorrow. His family also plans to organize an annual Seminole Park Veteran 5K run with a motorcycle and jeep ride through Seminole each Veterans Day. They are also working to raise awareness within the community of how to get involved in sending active military care packages overseas and are seeking to provide services for homeless veterans reluctant to go to VA facilities. They are also looking to partner with local Florida charter boats and captains to provide veterans with an opportunity to fish and build connections with one another to help lower suicide rates in the Tampa Bay area and across the State of Florida.

Renaming the Seminole Post Office after Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss would serve as a reminder of his life, service, and the impact he con-

tinues to have on local students and veterans each day.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge my constituent and Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss' mother, Paula, who is here with us today. Thank you, Paula, for supporting all of this and for the sacrifice that your family has made.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this renaming bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and would just add how honored I am by the presence of Paula in the gallery. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6633.

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.

COLONEL JOSEPH WILLIAM
KITTINGER II POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5867) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5867

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

SECTION 1. COLONEL JOSEPH WILLIAM KITTINGER II POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name a post office in Casselberry, Florida, for Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II.

Kittinger was a command pilot in the U.S. Air Force, where he researched high-altitude bailouts.

On August 16, 1960, he set a record for the longest free fall, highest parachute jump after leaping from a gondola at 102,800 feet.

In 1972, during the Vietnam war, he shot down a MiG-21 North Vietnamese plane. Later that year, his own plane was shot down, and he spent a year in the Hanoi Hilton POW camp.

I support naming a post office in memory of Colonel Kittinger, an American hero who paved the way for future astronauts and adventurers.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5867.

Colonel Kittinger was born and raised in Florida. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1949 as an aviation cadet and received commission as a command pilot.

From 1959 to 1960, Colonel Kittinger was a member of Project Excelsior, an effort of Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories that pioneered research on safety and survival in high-altitude emergencies. On August 16, 1960, he set the record for the longest free fall from a gondola, 4 minutes and 36 seconds, before deploying his parachute.

Colonel Kittinger went on three tours in Vietnam for the U.S. Air Force. When his plane was shot down, he faced adversity and stayed resilient as a prisoner of war in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Among many awards, Colonel Kittinger received two Purple Hearts and a Prisoner of War Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Kittinger became the first person to complete a solo balloon trip across the Atlantic. His efforts helped advance developments in spacesuit technology and safety procedures in high-altitude environments.

On December 9, 2022, at the age of 94, Colonel Kittinger passed away. I urge my colleagues to honor the life and valiant service of the colonel by naming a post office in Casselberry, Florida, after him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that honors the legacy of Colonel Joseph Kittinger, a former command pilot in the U.S. Air Force who lived in Altamonte Springs,

Florida, in Florida's Seventh Congressional District.

From a young age, Colonel Kittinger was fascinated by planes. He ended up dedicating his life to pushing the boundaries of aviation and advancing the understandings of high altitude and space exploration, inspiring many generations to come.

He joined the Air Force in 1949, where he flew experimental jets and participated in aerospace medical research. He was part of Project Excelsior, which researched high-altitude pilot bailouts to learn if humans could sustain the extended travel at space-like altitudes.

On August 16, 1960, he set the record for the highest parachute jump, jumping out of a gondola at 102,800 feet, completing the longest free fall at 4 minutes and 36 second airborne.

During the free fall, he also reached a maximum speed of 614 miles per hour, the fastest speed reached by a human at that time before deploying his parachute.

He was called to further service during the Vietnam war and flew 483 fighter plane missions. On his third tour in 1972, his plane was shot down, and he spent close to a year as a prisoner of war in the famed Hanoi Hilton, enduring torture.

His fighting spirit never wavered, Mr. Speaker. In fact, he titled his autobiography "Come Up and Get Me." Back home, he dreamed of returning to the air, but this time via long-distance balloon travel.

Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1978, that dream later became a reality when he completed the first solo balloon flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

About his travel, he would state: Life is an adventure, and I am an adventurer.

Seventy-five years ago, he answered the call to service. May Colonel Kittinger's courage, resilience, and service inspire aviators, servicemembers, veterans, and all Americans.

It is a great privilege to sponsor this legislation to rename the main post office at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, in honor of Colonel Joseph Kittinger.

I thank my colleagues in the Florida delegation for supporting this bill and request that all Members join us in passing it in honor of an American hero.

From one combat soldier to another, I want to take a moment to salute him and his service. Life is an adventure, Mr. Speaker. May we all be adventurers like Colonel Kittinger.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues 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 Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5867.

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.

□ 1445

CARDIOMYOPATHY HEALTH EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND RESEARCH, AND AED TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6829) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6829

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 "Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, and Research, and AED Training in the Schools Act of 2024" or the "HEARTS Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CARDIOMYOPATHY HEALTH EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND RESEARCH, AND AED TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 312 (42 U.S.C. 244) the following:

"SEC. 312A. MATERIALS AND RESOURCES TO INCREASE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF CARDIOMYOPATHY AMONG SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES.

"(a) MATERIALS AND RESOURCES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the HEARTS Act of 2024, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall develop public education materials and resources to be disseminated to school administrators, educators, school health professionals, coaches, families, guardians, caregivers, and other appropriate individuals. The materials and resources shall include—

"(1) information on the signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with high-risk cardiac conditions and genetic heart rhythm abnormalities that may cause sudden cardiac arrest in children, adolescents, and young adults, including—

"(A) cardiomyopathy;

"(B) long QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome, catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, short QT syndrome, and Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome; and

"(C) other high-risk cardiac conditions, as determined by the Secretary;

"(2) guidelines regarding the placement of automated external defibrillators in schools, early childhood education programs, and child care centers;

"(3) training information on automated external defibrillators and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

"(4) recommendations for how schools, early childhood education programs, and child care centers can develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan.

"(b) DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS AND RESOURCES.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of the HEARTS Act of 2024, the Secretary shall disseminate the materials and resources developed under subsection (a) in accordance with the following:

"(1) DISTRIBUTION BY STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall make available such materials and resources to State educational agencies to distribute—

"(A) to school administrators, educators, school health professionals, coaches, families, guardians, caregivers, and other appropriate individuals, the information developed under subsection (a)(1);

"(B) to parents, guardians, or other caregivers, the cardiomyopathy risk assessment developed pursuant to section 312B(b)(1); and

"(C) to school administrators, educators, school health professionals, and coaches—

"(i) the guidelines described in subsection (a)(2);

"(ii) the training information described in subsection (a)(3); and

"(iii) the recommendations described in subsection (a)(4).

"(2) DISSEMINATION TO HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS.—The Secretary shall make available the materials and resources developed under subsection (a) to State and local health departments, pediatricians, hospitals, and other health professionals, such as nurses and first responders.

"(3) POSTING ON WEBSITE.—

"(A) CDC.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Director, shall post the materials and resources developed under subsection (a) on the public Internet website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(ii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Director is encouraged to maintain on such public Internet website such additional information regarding cardiomyopathy as deemed appropriate by the Director.

"(B) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—State educational agencies are encouraged to create public Internet webpages dedicated to cardiomyopathy and post the materials and resources developed under subsection (a) on such webpages.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'cardiomyopathy' means a heart disease that affects the heart's muscle (myocardium)—

"(A) the symptoms of which may vary from case to case, including—

"(i) cases in which no symptoms are present (asymptomatic); and

"(ii) cases in which there are symptoms of a progressive condition that may result from an impaired ability of the heart to pump blood, such as fatigue, irregular heartbeats (arrhythmia), heart failure, and, potentially, sudden cardiac death; and

"(B) the recognized types of which include dilated, hypertrophic, restrictive, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, and left ventricular non-compaction.

"(2) The term 'Director' means the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(3) The terms 'early childhood education program', 'elementary school', and 'secondary school' have the meanings given to those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

"(4) The term 'school administrator' means a principal, director, manager, or other supervisor or leader within an elementary school, secondary school, State-based early childhood education program, or child care center.

"(5) The term 'school health professional' means a health professional serving at an elementary school, secondary school, State-based early childhood education program, or child care center.

“SEC. 312B. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CARDIOMYOPATHY.

“(a) REPORT ON CDC NATIONAL CARDIOMYOPATHY ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the HEARTS Act of 2024, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall submit to Congress a report on findings generated from existing activities conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the understanding of the prevalence and epidemiology of cardiomyopathy across the lifespan, from birth to adulthood, with particular interest in the following:

“(A) The natural history of individuals with cardiomyopathy, in both the pediatric and adult population.

“(B) Estimates of cardiomyopathy-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations, in both the pediatric and adult population.

“(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the report submitted under this subsection shall be made available to the public.

“(3) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that complies with all applicable privacy laws under Federal and State law.

“(b) IMPROVING RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CARDIOMYOPATHY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and make publicly available a cardiomyopathy risk assessment for health care providers and individuals. Such risk assessment shall, at a minimum, include the following:

“(A) Background information on the prevalence, incidence, and health impact of cardiomyopathy, including all forms of cardiomyopathy and their effects on pediatric, adolescent, and adult individuals.

“(B) A worksheet with variables and conditions for an individual or health care provider to use in assessing whether an individual is at risk for cardiomyopathy.

“(C) A worksheet with variables and stages of progression for an individual or health care provider to use in assessing whether and to what extent cardiomyopathy has progressed in an individual.

“(D) Guidelines on cardiomyopathy screenings for individuals who are at risk for, or have a family history of, cardiomyopathy.

“(2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall seek input from external stakeholders including—

“(A) representatives from national patient advocacy organizations expert in all forms of cardiomyopathy;

“(B) representatives from medical professional societies that specialize in the care of adults and pediatrics with cardiomyopathy; and

“(C) representatives from other relevant Federal agencies.

“(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘cardiomyopathy’ has the meaning given to such term in section 312A.

“SEC. 312C. CARDIOMYOPATHY RESEARCH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, may expand and coordinate research and related activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to cardiomyopathy, which may include research with respect to—

“(1) causation of cardiomyopathy, including genetic causes and molecular biomarkers;

“(2) long-term health outcomes in individuals with cardiomyopathy, including infants, children, teenagers, adults, and elderly individuals; and

“(3) studies using longitudinal data and retrospective analysis to identify effective treatments and outcomes for individuals with cardiomyopathy.

“(b) NONDUPLICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that any research and activities related to cardiomyopathy under this section do not unnecessarily duplicate activities, programs, or efforts of other agencies and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(c) NIH REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the HEARTS Act of 2024, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall submit to Congress a report—

“(1) outlining the ongoing research efforts of the National Institutes of Health regarding cardiomyopathy; and

“(2) identifying—

“(A) a research agenda regarding adult forms of cardiomyopathy;

“(B) plans for researching cardiomyopathy affecting the pediatric population; and

“(C) the areas of greatest need for such research.

“(d) CARDIOMYOPATHY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘cardiomyopathy’ has the meaning given to such term in section 312A.

“SEC. 312D. PROMOTING STUDENT ACCESS TO AEDS AND CPR.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to automated external defibrillators (in this section referred to as ‘AEDs’) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (in this section referred to as ‘CPR’) in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) may use funds received through such grant to carry out any of the following activities:

“(1) Developing and providing comprehensive materials to establish AED and CPR programs in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

“(2) Providing support for CPR and AED training programs in such schools for students, staff, and related sports volunteers.

“(3) Providing support for developing a cardiac emergency response plan within such schools.

“(4) Purchasing AEDs that have been approved under section 515 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, cleared under section 510(k) of such Act, or classified under section 513(f)(2) of such Act.

“(5) Purchasing necessary AED batteries and performing necessary AED maintenance (such as by replacing AED pads) in accordance with the labeling of the AED involved.

“(6) Replacing old and outdated AED and CPR equipment, machinery, and educational materials.

“(c) ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

“(1) be a local educational agency (including a public charter school operating as a local educational agency under State law), in consultation with a qualified health care entity; and

“(2) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘local educational agency’, and ‘secondary school’ have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(2) QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified health care entity’ means a health care entity that—

“(A) is—

“(i) a public entity; or

“(ii) an organization that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

“(B) demonstrates an ability to develop, train, and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary and secondary schools; and

“(C) is qualified in providing technical assistance in AED and CPR training.”.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 312A, 312B, 312C, and 312D of the Public Health Service Act, as inserted by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6829, the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, and Research, and AED Training in the Schools Act, or the HEARTS Act, of 2024, led by Committee on Energy and Commerce Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE.

In the United States, more than 30,000 children are diagnosed with some form of cardiomyopathy, and more than 2,000 children and adolescents die from a sudden cardiac event each year.

Research and experience have shown that immediate use of an automated external defibrillator, or AED, for short, or CPR can double or triple an individual’s chance of survival.

The HEARTS Act of 2024 would authorize and support programs to coordinate related research, promote access to AEDs and CPR training, and raise public awareness of cardiomyopathy within schools, local health departments, and communities.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6829, the HEARTS Act. I am proud to have sponsored this legislation, which is inspired by two New Jersey families who each tragically lost a child to sudden cardiac arrest during high school sporting events.

Sadly, more than 2,000 children and adolescents die this way, unfortunately, every single year, and the bill aims to prevent future deaths of cardiac arrest by preparing schools to respond to cardiac emergencies when they occur.

It directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines on the placement of automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, in schools and to provide resources to help schools create and implement cardiac emergency response plans.

The legislation also supports CPR education and training among students, school personnel, coaches, and volunteers. It would also support the development of cardiac emergency response plans, which, along with AEDs and CPR, are integral to a coordinated, immediate, and effective response in the crucial minutes between the time when a victim collapses and when emergency medical services arrive.

The HEARTS Act will raise awareness about the causes of sudden cardiac arrest and ensure schools are more prepared to deal with cardiac emergencies so we can save lives. This legislation has the support of the American Heart Association and the Smart Heart Coalition, among others.

It is my hope the Senate will consider this legislation and restore the authorization level, which we reluctantly were required to remove in order to get this bill before us today to comply with the Speaker's CutGo protocol. The Speaker's protocol, in my opinion, is arbitrary, selectively enforced, and ill-advised because it hampers our ability to address the pressing public health issues of the day.

I am disappointed that although the bill as originally written was cleared in committee on a bipartisan basis with the funding authorization, the House Republican leadership reversed course and determined before floor consideration that it was not in compliance with the Speaker's protocol.

We are, nonetheless, moving forward today because we believe it is imperative to move this policy forward for the parents and student athletes who have suffered from this sudden cardiac arrest, and I remain committed to ensuring the enduring success of this program and to seek funding for it.

I thank Chair RODGERS for working closely with me on the legislation, as well as the New Jersey families who shared their stories with me and have advocated tirelessly for safer cardiac health and resources in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for the bill, and I thank all the members of our committee for reporting this bill out on a bipartisan basis. It is important for our kids.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to vote in support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6829, 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.

MEDICAID STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT FOR DETERMINING RESIDENCY OF MILITARY FAMILIES

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8108) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement with respect to the determination of residency of certain individuals serving in the Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8108

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

SECTION 1. MEDICAID STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT FOR DETERMINING RESIDENCY AND COVERAGE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES.

Section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (86), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (87), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (87) the following new paragraph:

"(88) beginning January 1, 2028, provide, with respect to an active duty relocated individual (as defined in subsection (uu)(1))—

"(A) that, in determining eligibility for medical assistance under the State plan (or waiver of such plan), the relocation described in such subsection is deemed to be a temporary absence for purposes of section 435.403(j)(3) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation);

"(B) that if, at the time of such relocation, such active duty relocated individual is on a home and community-based services waiting list (as defined in subsection (uu)(2)), such individual remains on such list until—

"(i) the State completes an assessment and renders a decision with respect to the eligibility of such individual to receive the relevant home and community-based services at the time a slot for such services becomes available and, in the case such decision is a denial of such eligibility, such individual has exhausted the individual's opportunity for a fair hearing in accordance with paragraph (3); or

"(ii) such individual elects to be removed from such list; and

"(C) payment for medical assistance furnished under the State plan (or a waiver of the plan) to such active duty relocated individual in the temporary relocation State (as referred to in subsection (uu)(1)) in accordance with such guidance as the Secretary may issue to ensure access to such assistance."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(uu) ACTIVE DUTY RELOCATED INDIVIDUAL; HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAITING LIST.—For purposes of subsection (a)(88) and this subsection:

"(1) ACTIVE DUTY RELOCATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'active duty relocated individual' means an individual enrolled under the State plan (or waiver of such plan)—

"(A) who—

"(i) is a member of the Armed Forces engaged in active duty service and is temporarily relocated (as specified by the Secretary) to another State (in this subsection referred to as the 'temporary relocation State') by reason of such service;

"(ii) at any point during the preceding 1-year period, was such a member so engaged in such service and was temporarily relocated to the temporary relocation State by reason of such service, but is no longer so engaged in such service (including by reason of retirement from such service); or

"(iii) is a dependent (as defined by the Secretary) of a member described in clause (i) or (ii) who temporarily relocates to the temporary relocation State with such member; and

"(B) who—

"(i) was receiving home and community-based services (as defined in section 9817(a)(2)(B) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) at the time of such relocation; or

"(ii) if the State maintains a home and community-based services waiting list, was on such home and community-based services waiting list at the time of such relocation.

"(2) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAITING LIST.—The term 'home and community-based services waiting list' means, in the case of a State that has a limit on the number of individuals who may receive home and community-based services under section 1115(a) or section 1915(c), a list maintained by such State of individuals who have applied to receive such services under either such section but for whom the State has not yet completed an assessment and rendered a decision with respect to the eligibility of such individuals to receive the relevant home and community-based services at the time a slot for such services becomes available due to such limit."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. KIGGANS for bringing forth such an important solution for our military families.

H.R. 8108 would ensure that military families can maintain access to essential care when they are required to move States for Active Duty.

According to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment Access Commission, as many as 867,000 Medicaid enrollees have primary insurance through TRICARE, including as many as 220,000 children.

In most instances, servicemembers rely on TRICARE as their insurer to cover most of their needs, but for individuals who also have a disability—take, for example, a military family with a child with a disability—Medicaid will often step in to cover additional care, like home and community-based services. Those services help with daily living activities and are essential to keeping people with disabilities healthy and independent in their communities.

Unfortunately, many State Medicaid programs limit access to home and

community-based services and often do so by creating waiting lists. It can take years for a patient to get off the wait list and get the level of care that they need.

For military families who rely on Medicaid to pay for home and community-based services, moving from one State to another requires the family to join the new State's waiting list and start the whole process over again.

H.R. 8108 makes clear that Active-Duty military families required to move across the country for their service to this country cannot lose access to current home and community-based services or lose their spot in line on their home State's waiting list.

These necessary changes will help reaffirm our commitment to our military families who don't need additional hoops to jump through or stress in a time of reassessment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. KIGGANS for her leadership on this important issue. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8108, a bill that would amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement regarding the determination of residency of people serving in the armed services.

Medicaid is the primary payer for home and community-based services, serving as the safety net for people with long-term care needs, including military families. Medicaid provides coverage for home and community-based services when other insurers, including TRICARE, do not.

Military families face unique stressors when a family member has a need for home and community-based services and needs to relocate for military service. For example, when a child with disabilities is receiving home and community-based services covered by the Medicaid program in the same State in which they live, there is no guarantee that the child will continue to receive care in the State where the family is being relocated.

In many States, families wait years on a waiting list to receive these services, and once they are finally able to access the care they need, the time may come to move again. Military families in this position may face a difficult choice: Do they keep their family together, knowing that their child may lose access to care in the State in which they are moving, or do they separate the family to ensure their child is able to access the care they need? These are decisions that military families simply should not have to make.

H.R. 8108 would lessen the burden military families face by requiring States to continue to provide Medicaid coverage to dependents of Active-Duty military servicemembers who are receiving Medicaid home and community-based services and must move out

of State due to military service. It also allows families that are on waiting lists to maintain their place on those lists so they, too, are not forced to start over.

While H.R. 8108 does not address the many underlying issues with our patchwork long-term care system, including those that have led to the existence of waiting lists, I am pleased that it will help ease some of the challenges that military families face in receiving the care they need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives KIGGANS and KAPTUR for their leadership on this very important issue, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 8108.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS).

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8108, the Medicaid State Plan Requirement for Determining Residency of Military Families, that I introduced earlier this year to ensure servicemembers can maintain critical healthcare coverage and medical services for their children no matter where their service takes them.

Americans with disabilities often need long-term care services to help them with everyday activities, such as eating, walking, medical equipment management, and more. TRICARE does not cover long-term care services, leaving military families with children in need of those services to apply for Medicaid. However, Medicaid is operated State by State, which puts individuals and their families at risk of losing services when they leave their State.

This particularly impacts our military families, who frequently transfer locations as part of their commitment to serving our country. As a Navy spouse, mom of four, and a veteran who served for nearly 10 years myself, I know how hard these relocations can be for military families.

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Those who serve our country shouldn't have to worry about whether their children will be able to access critical healthcare services when they get to their next duty station.

That is why I introduced the Medicaid State Plan Requirement for Determining Residency of Military Families.

My bipartisan bill would guarantee dependents of Active-Duty servicemembers can continue to receive long-term care services through a State-administered Medicaid plan should their family be stationed in another State.

Our men and women in uniform already sacrifice so much for our country. Their children should never have to forego critical care because of their selfless decision to serve.

I thank Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR for joining me in this important effort, and I encourage my colleagues on

both sides of the aisle to support our bipartisan legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill for individuals serving in the Armed Forces and their families, so I urge my colleagues to vote for it on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage everyone to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOPEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8108, 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.

NAPA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 133) to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 133

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 "NAPA Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROJECT.

Section 2 of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and coordination of," and inserting "on, and coordination of,";

(B) in paragraph (4)—

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

(ii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

"(A) promotion of healthy aging and reduction and mitigation of risk factors for Alzheimer's";

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting "and other underserved populations, including individuals with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome," after "populations"; and

(ii) by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) provide information on, and promote the adoption of, healthy behaviors that may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and promote and protect cognitive health; and";

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by inserting "across public and private sectors," after "Nation's progress"; and

(B) by inserting "including consideration of public-private collaborations, as appropriate" before the period;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following:

“(xi) A designee of the Department of Justice.

“(xii) A designee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(xiii) A designee of the Social Security Administration.

“(xiv) 2 or more other designees, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, at least one of whom has expertise in risk factors associated with the development or the progression of Alzheimer’s.”; and

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “12” and inserting “15”;

(II) in clause (v)—

(aa) by striking “2 researchers” and inserting “3 researchers”; and

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting “, including at least one researcher with demonstrated experience in recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups into research or clinical trials related to dementia;”;

(III) in clause (vi), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) 1 individual with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease; and

“(viii) 1 representative from a historically underserved population whose lifetime risk for developing Alzheimer’s is markedly higher than that of other populations.”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “an initial evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and

(II) by striking “research, clinical” and inserting “research, risk reduction, public health, clinical”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “initial”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “initial”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and

(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “annually thereafter, an evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “2025” and inserting “2035”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) by striking “that includes an evaluation” and inserting “that includes—

“(A) an evaluation;”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) a summary of the Secretary’s process for identifying and updating what conditions constitute Alzheimer’s disease;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and

(5) in subsection (h), by striking “2025” and inserting “2035”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 133, the NAPA Reauthorization Act led by Senators Collins and Warren.

The House companion bill, H.R. 619, is led by Representatives Tonko and Smith of New Jersey.

In the United States, one in nine people aged 65 and older currently suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. Unfortunately, this number continues to grow with some estimates projecting the overall number to rise to 12.7 million Americans by 2050.

Congress established the National Alzheimer’s Project in 2011 with a goal of building upon, raising awareness of, and helping to coordinate current Federal efforts to combat Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia through earlier diagnosis, prevention, and improved treatments.

This bill would support and improve the National Alzheimer’s Project, including expanding membership of the advisory council to include those individuals battling this disease and those at high risk for developing Alzheimer’s.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 133, the NAPA Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize the National Alzheimer’s Project Act through 2035.

In 2011, our Nation made addressing Alzheimer’s disease a priority when we passed the National Alzheimer’s Project Act. This law called for a national plan to accelerate research and improve care and services to those living with Alzheimer’s. Since the establishment of the national plan, we have made enormous strides in strategy implementation to address Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia. The national plan has also allowed us to make progress in Alzheimer’s research, care and services, and public awareness about the disease.

S. 133 will build on the progress we have made through the national plan by reauthorizing the law through fiscal year 2035. The bill will also allow the national plan to address healthy aging and risk reduction issues related to Alzheimer’s disease.

This reauthorization will build on the progress brought forward by NAPA and allow the Department of Health and Human Services to continue long-term planning for a strategic approach to addressing Alzheimer’s and other dementia.

This bill is the Senate counterpart of legislation led by Representative TONKO, who shepherded this bipartisan reauthorization through the Energy and Commerce Committee this past spring. Since the beginning of his time in Congress, Representative TONKO has led the push to address Alzheimer’s and related dementia, and I thank him for his continued leadership.

I also thank my colleague from New Jersey, Representative SMITH, who is the Republican sponsor.

I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 133 so we can continue our commitment to combat Alzheimer’s disease.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting the National Alzheimer’s Project Reauthorization Act.

This legislation reauthorizes the National Alzheimer’s Project Act through 2035, providing a roadmap for Federal efforts in responding to Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Alzheimer’s is a cruel disease that steals a person’s quality of life. As a pharmacist, I have seen firsthand the impact Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia have on patients, families, caregivers, and society overall.

People living with Alzheimer’s lose their memories, their independence, their relationships, and ultimately their lives. Beyond the patients, caregivers and loved ones endure emotional distress and unthinkable financial burdens.

With nearly 7 million Americans suffering with Alzheimer’s, there is a critical need for Federal resources to prevent, treat, and ultimately find a cure for this devastating disease.

In honor of those who have battled and continue to battle this disease, let’s continue to work together to raise awareness and pass this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of us to support this bill on a bipartisan basis. Whatever we can do to fight Alzheimer’s is very important.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 133.

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.

ALZHEIMER’S ACCOUNTABILITY AND INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 134) to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer’s Project Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 134

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 “Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROJECT.

Section 2 of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) **PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET.**—For fiscal year 2024 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, after reasonable opportunity for comment, but without change, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Advisory Council, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to the reports and recommendations made under this Act, including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the National Institutes of Health.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 134, the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act led by Senators Collins and Markey. The House companion bill, H.R. 620, is led by Representatives Smith of New Jersey and Tonko.

In the United States, health and long-term costs for individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are projected to reach \$360 billion in 2024. Around 64 percent of these costs are expected to be covered by Medicare and Medicaid with patients on the hook for the other \$90 billion in out-of-pocket spending.

This tremendous cost does not even include the value of our unpaid caregivers, which was estimated to be \$350 billion in 2023, amounting to over 18 billion hours of care.

In addition, individuals with dementias are more likely to have other chronic conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, and kidney disease.

This bill would require the NIH to submit an annual budget estimate to Congress so that we may effectively assess the current resources needed to achieve the goals of the National Alzheimer’s Project.

Continued investments in research to prevent and treat Alzheimer’s disease and dementia will improve the quality of life for millions of Americans, with the simultaneous hope of achieving significant long-term financial savings.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of S. 134, the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act.

This bill would require the National Institutes of Health to annually submit an estimate of its budget and personnel needs for carrying out initiatives related to the National Alzheimer’s Project.

The Energy and Commerce Committee reported out this bipartisan bill sponsored by Representatives CHRIS SMITH and PAUL TONKO this spring.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association 2024 report, the annual cost of caring for people with Alzheimer’s or other types of dementia will be about \$360 billion this year alone. That is \$15 billion higher than in 2023.

The report also found that 6.9 million Americans aged 65 and older have Alzheimer’s dementia, with nearly 185,000 residing in my State of New Jersey. Nationwide, between 2000 and 2021, the number of deaths from Alzheimer’s disease more than doubled, increasing 141 percent.

In order to make sure we meet the goals set out by the National Alzheimer’s Project, which the House is also considering today, we must make sure that NIH has our support. S. 134 will require that the NIH submit a professional judgment budget for the National Alzheimer’s Project so that we can identify the needs of the agency.

With this information, we can be assured that the Nation’s experts are speaking directly to Congress on resources they need to effectively treat the disease and effectively communicate the capacity needs of NIH.

I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 134 so that we can continue our commitment to combat Alzheimer’s disease.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, whatever we can do to help prevent or deal with more effectively with the Alzheimer’s disorder cases, we should support it.

For that reason, I ask all my colleagues to support this bill on a bipartisan basis. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 134.

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.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDERS RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3884) to amend title XI of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program providing for sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3884

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 “Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDERS RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT.

Section 1106(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-5(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “, grant, or cooperative agreement” after “contract”; and
(2) in paragraph (6), by striking “\$4,455,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$8,205,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3884, the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act led by Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS.

□ 1515

Sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States and impacts about

100,000 Americans. This disease causes red blood cells to become rigid and form into a crescent, or sickle, shape; restricts blood flow; and can lead to serious health problems throughout the body.

H.R. 3884 will continue important programs and activities administered by CDC and HRSA that are aimed to support research, prevention, and treatment for sickle cell disease and other blood disorders through fiscal year 2028.

It is critical to reauthorize this legislation so patients, families, and providers can be further educated on the condition and foster partnerships between clinicians and community organizations to help improve access to care.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3884, the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act.

This bill reauthorizes the sickle cell disease treatment demonstration program and data collection administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration.

At our Energy and Commerce Committee hearing in June of last year, we heard directly about the importance of this reauthorization to continue critical Federal efforts to improve the lives of the approximately 100,000 Americans living with sickle cell disease. In my State of New Jersey, we have 2,000 cases of sickle cell disease, with an estimated 80 to 90 new cases each year. New Jersey is among the top 10 States with the highest prevalence of sickle cell disease.

Thanks in part to programs such as the bill before us, our Nation has seen improvements in data collection, newborn screening, and research efforts for sickle cell disease. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. Sickle cell disease patients still experience several barriers to appropriate treatment and care.

One barrier is underresourced care programs, leading many patients to rely on emergency care rather than regular, preventive treatment.

There is also still mistrust in the healthcare system among many African-American patients, socioeconomic disparities within the sickle cell disease community, and potential discrimination within our healthcare system. While considerable work remains before us, this is an important step to continue the necessary Federal investments to improve health outcomes, increase outcomes to innovative gene therapies, and lower the healthcare costs for many of the Nation's most vulnerable populations.

I thank Representative DAVIS and Dr. BURGESS for their advocacy and leader-

ship on this legislation. We know that with early diagnosis and support for effective evidence-based interventions, we can save lives.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BUCSHON from Indiana for yielding me the time on such an important reauthorization that we are undertaking today.

Mr. Speaker, 2018 was the last authorization for sickle cell research. Prior to that, it had been part of the 2004 Bush tax cuts, and it has been a long time since this Congress had turned its attention to the problems encountered by people who suffer from the diagnosis of sickle cell disease. Fortunately, in 2018, President Trump signed a bill into law, and now we are going to reauthorize that bill in this Congress.

That is a good thing.

I can remember sitting in a hearing in 2016 where the sickle cell disease advocate told us that it had been fully 40 years, four decades, since the Food and Drug Administration had approved a new therapy for sickle cell.

Fortunately, we are well past those days now, and on the horizon are a number of newer therapies. Ranking Member PALLONE mentioned cell and gene therapies. A lot of work was done when the Committee on Energy and Commerce did the CURES bill in 2016. There are now newer therapies on the horizon that were not even contemplated the last time that this bill was authorized.

Mr. Speaker, I was in practice for 30 years. I worked with families and with patients suffering from this very complex disease. Proper treatment requires knowledge, intervention, and care coordination. It is important that we have the resources to encourage more research and more data to better inform how to evaluate treatment plans while improving the quality of life for patients.

This legislation will continue to improve physician and patient education, as well as assist with best practices for care coordination. By having access to these programs, the patient and the physician will continue to have the ability to identify the problem early on, providing more time to arrest the effects of the disease from having long-term effects on the well-being of the patient.

I certainly thank my fellow Members, Representative CARTER of Georgia, and, of course, Representative DAVIS of Illinois for his longstanding work in this regard and for helping educate me as to the importance of advancing this research and advancing this reauthorization through the many steps it has taken over the last 20 years. I am grateful for the direction

and the wise counsel provided by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) on this important issue.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BUCSHON for yielding me the time, and I thank the committee for working on this important topic.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who is the Democratic sponsor of the bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank Dr. BURGESS for his tremendous advocacy on this and other legislative initiatives designed to improve the quality of health and healthcare in America.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences and complications of sickle cell disease are extreme. According to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, they have studied and reported that common complications with this disease include early childhood death from infection; stroke in young children and adults; lung problems similar to pneumonia; chronic damage to organs, including the kidney, leading to kidney failure, and to the lungs, causing pulmonary hypertension; and severe painful episodes. In fact, pain episodes are a hallmark of sickle cell disease.

More than 2.5 million Americans have the sickle cell trait. The sickle cell trait is found in 1 in 12 African Americans. There is a one in four chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will develop the sickle cell disease. The average lifespan for an adult with sickle cell disease is 45 years. The sickle cell disease affects an estimated 100,000 Americans, primarily African Americans, Hispanics, and other ethnic groups.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that the devastation of this disease on those who are affected by it is, indeed, tremendous. I have had firsthand experience with it by virtue of having run a sickle cell community education project for the University of Illinois in Chicago and encountered many of the patients and their families. I saw the pain and suffering firsthand.

In 2004, Senator James Talent and I, along with our colleagues in Congress, introduced the Sickle Cell Disease Act, a bill designed to do more to improve the treatment and prevention of sickle cell disease. Specifically, as part of the American Jobs Creation Act, this bill was enacted.

In the 115th Congress, Senators TIM SCOTT and CORY BOOKER, Representative MICHAEL BURGESS, Representative G.K. Butterfield, and I sponsored the House companion bill to the Senate and supported a bipartisan and bicameral bill, S. 2465-enacted, the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2018. This reauthorized law had continued to improve the treatment and preventive measures to reduce the risk

factors of sickle cell disease, especially for the data collection part, which is the heart of the surveillance program in the law. This law expired in late 2023.

H.R. 3884, the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2023, is a bipartisan bill by Representatives Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS; myself, DANNY DAVIS; Representative BUDDY CARTER; and BARBARA LEE. It is a companion bill to the Senate version S. 1852 by Senators TIM SCOTT, CORY BOOKER, and RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

H.R. 3884 would extend the reauthorization of the sickle cell disease treatment demonstration program through FY 2028 that supports efforts to improve treatment, reduce risk and complications, and cure this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act.

As a pharmacist for over four decades, I have seen firsthand the heart-breaking toll sickle cell disease takes on patients and their families.

Sickle cell disease is a destructive disease, attacking red blood cells in the body and causing patients strong episodes of pain over time.

Unfortunately, Georgia is home to one of the largest sickle cell disease populations in the country, which is why it is so important that we act quickly to save lives and prevent further pain.

The bill before us today reauthorizes critical sickle cell disease programs so that patients have the support and resources they need to battle this terrible disease. I have always and will always commit to putting patients first, and I believe these programs do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS for working on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge that we support this legislation on a bipartisan basis. Sickle cell disease is something that we need to continue to research and help with. This is an important bill in that respect.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3884, 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.

CHARLOTTE WOODWARD ORGAN TRANSPLANT DISCRIMINATION PREVENTION ACT

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2706) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2706

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 "Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.**—*The term "auxiliary aids and services" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12103).*

(2) **COVERED ENTITY.**—*The term "covered entity" means any licensed provider of health care services (including licensed health care practitioners, hospitals, nursing facilities, laboratories, intermediate care facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, institutions for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and prison health centers), and any transplant hospital (as defined in section 121.2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations or a successor regulation), that—*

(A) is in interstate commerce; or

(B) provides health care services in a manner that—

(i) substantially affects or has a substantial relation to interstate commerce; or

(ii) includes use of an instrument (including an instrument of transportation or communication) of interstate commerce.

(3) **DISABILITY.**—*The term "disability" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).*

(4) **HUMAN ORGAN.**—*The term "human organ" has the meaning given the term in section 301(c) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)).*

(5) **ORGAN TRANSPLANT.**—*The term "organ transplant" means the transplantation or transfusion of a donated human organ into the body of another human for the purpose of treating a medical condition.*

(6) **QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.**—*The term "qualified individual" means an individual who, with or without a support network, provision of auxiliary aids and services, or reasonable modifications to policies or practices, meets eligibility requirements for the receipt of a human organ.*

(7) **REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES OR PRACTICES.**—*The term "reasonable modifications to policies or practices" includes—*

(A) communication with persons responsible for supporting a qualified individual with post-surgical or other care following an organ transplant or related services, including support with medication;

(B) consideration, in determining whether a qualified individual will be able to comply with

health requirements following an organ transplant or receipt of related services, of support networks available to the qualified individual, including family, friends, and providers of home and community-based services, including home and community-based services funded through the Medicare or Medicaid program under title XVIII or XIX, respectively, of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq.), another health plan in which the qualified individual is enrolled, or any program or source of funding available to the qualified individual; and

(C) the use of supported decision-making, when needed, by a qualified individual.

(8) **RELATED SERVICES.**—*The term "related services" means services related to an organ transplant that consist of—*

(A) evaluation;

(B) counseling;

(C) treatment, including postoperative treatment, and care;

(D) provision of information; and

(E) any other service recommended or required by a physician.

(9) **SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING.**—*The term "supported decision-making" means the use of a support person to assist a qualified individual in making health care decisions, communicate information to the qualified individual, or ascertain a qualified individual's wishes. Such term includes—*

(A) the inclusion of the individual's attorney-in-fact or health care proxy, or any person of the individual's choice, in communications about the individual's health care;

(B) permitting the individual to designate a person of the individual's choice for the purposes of supporting that individual in communicating, processing information, or making health care decisions;

(C) providing auxiliary aids and services to facilitate the individual's ability to communicate and process health-related information, including providing use of assistive communication technology;

(D) providing health information to persons designated by the individual, consistent with the regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 note) and other applicable laws and regulations governing disclosure of health information;

(E) providing health information in a format that is readily understandable by the individual; and

(F) working with a court-appointed guardian or other person responsible for making health care decisions on behalf of the individual, to ensure that the individual is included in decisions involving the health care of the individual and that health care decisions are in accordance with the individual's own expressed interests.

(10) **SUPPORT NETWORK.**—*The term "support network" means, with respect to a qualified individual, one or more people who are—*

(A) selected by the qualified individual or by the qualified individual and the guardian of the qualified individual, to provide assistance to the qualified individual or guidance to that qualified individual in understanding issues, making plans for the future, or making complex decisions; and

(B) who may include the family members, friends, unpaid supporters, members of the religious congregation, and appropriate personnel at a community center, of or serving the qualified individual.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATOR POLICY.

The board of directors described in section 372(b)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274(b)(1)(B)) shall not issue policies, recommendations, or other memoranda that would prohibit, or otherwise hinder, a qualified individual's access to an organ transplant solely on the basis of that individual's disability.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to subsection (b), a covered entity may not, solely on the basis of a qualified individual's disability—

(1) determine that the individual is ineligible to receive an organ transplant or related services;

(2) deny the individual an organ transplant or related services;

(3) refuse to refer the individual to an organ transplant center or other related specialist for the purpose of receipt of an organ transplant or other related services; or

(4) refuse to place the individual on an organ transplant waiting list.

(b) *EXCEPTION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—

(A) *MEDICALLY SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES.*—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a covered entity may take a qualified individual's disability into account when making a health care treatment or coverage recommendation or decision, solely to the extent that the disability has been found by a physician, following an individualized evaluation of the potential recipient, to be medically significant to the receipt of the organ transplant or related services, as the case may be.

(B) *CONSTRUCTION.*—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to require a referral or recommendation for, or the performance of, a medically inappropriate organ transplant or medically inappropriate related services.

(2) *CLARIFICATION.*—If a qualified individual has the necessary support network to provide a reasonable assurance that the qualified individual will be able to comply with health requirements following an organ transplant or receipt of related services, as the case may be, the qualified individual's inability to independently comply with those requirements may not be construed to be medically significant for purposes of paragraph (1).

(c) *REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS.*—A covered entity shall make reasonable modifications to policies or practices (including procedures) of such entity if such modifications are necessary to make an organ transplant or related services available to qualified individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such policies or practices.

(d) *CLARIFICATIONS.*—

(1) *NO DENIAL OF SERVICES BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.*—For purposes of this section, a covered entity shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that a qualified individual with a disability is not denied a procedure associated with the receipt of an organ transplant or related services, because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the covered entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the nature of the procedure being offered or would result in an undue burden on the entity.

(2) *COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAW.*—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(A) to prevent a covered entity from providing organ transplants or related services at a level that is greater than the level that is required by this section; or

(B) to limit the rights of an individual with a disability under, or to replace or limit the scope of obligations imposed by, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) including the provisions added to such Act by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116), or any other applicable law.

(e) *ENFORCEMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Any individual who alleges that a qualified individual was subject to a violation of this section by a covered entity may bring a claim regarding the allegation to the Of-

fice for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services, for expedited resolution, as appropriate.

(2) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit or replace available remedies under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) or any other applicable law.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION TO EACH PART OF PROCESS.

The provisions of this Act—

(1) that apply to an organ transplant, also apply to the evaluation and listing of a qualified individual, and to the organ transplant and post-organ-transplant treatment of such an individual; and

(2) that apply to related services, also apply to the process for receipt of related services by such an individual.

SEC. 6. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede any provision of any State or local law that provides greater rights to qualified individuals with respect to organ transplants than the rights established under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2760, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, led by Representative CAMMACK.

This bill prohibits covered entities from determining that an individual is ineligible to receive a transplant or denying a transplant based solely on the fact that the individual has a disability.

H.R. 2706 will clarify that organ transplant discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited and require the HHS Office of Civil Rights to review these claims in an expedited manner to ensure a timely resolution.

There have been too many instances in which individuals with disabilities have been denied a lifesaving organ transplant, and this is unacceptable.

Congress has the opportunity to help ensure individuals with disabilities are treated fairly within the organ transplant system.

No one should be denied access to an organ transplant just because they have a disability.

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

□ 1530

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2706, the Charlotte Woodward Organ

Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits eligible individuals from being denied a life-saving organ transplant based solely on their disability status. Existing Federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Affordable Care Act, already prohibit organ transplant centers from discriminating based solely on disability.

However, there are still cases where people with disabilities have been denied access to organ transplants. This is often because of misperceptions about how a disability impacts the medical likelihood of transplant success or unfounded assumptions regarding disabled persons' abilities to comply with postoperative care.

This bill prohibits covered entities from determining that an individual is ineligible to receive a transplant based solely on the fact that the individual has a disability. It also acknowledges the importance of support networks and services and helping with postoperative care.

Mr. Speaker, organ transplants can save lives, and it is important that the system be free from discrimination. I am glad that we are taking this step to clarify and build upon existing civil rights protections for people with disabilities. I thank our colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mrs. CAMMACK and Representative DINGELL, as well, for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2706, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BUCSHON, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here today and debate H.R. 2706, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act. Of course, I don't think there is a whole lot of debate that is going to happen here today because I hope it will be unanimous.

For Members who don't know, this bill is named after Charlotte Woodward, an adult woman with Down syndrome who received a lifesaving heart transplant over 12 years ago.

Sadly, as has been mentioned, not all individuals with disabilities have that same opportunity. That is why we are here to consider this bill today, to ensure that all Americans, regardless of the disability they may have, have the same opportunity to receive a life-saving organ transplant.

When I first learned of this issue, I could not believe that this practice was happening here in our country. However, after learning more about the issue and hearing stories from advocates, including Charlotte herself, they were advocating for change. I was shocked and horrified to learn that

there were no protections for these individuals.

According to a 2019 report from the National Council on Disability, which is the agency that advises the legislative and executive branch on disability policy issues, people with disabilities have been routinely denied due to subjective judgments about the value of a human who happens to have a disability, subjective assumptions about their quality of life, and misconceptions about their ability to comply with postoperative care.

Even more, that same report found that some organ transplant programs have policies that exclude, rather than include, people with disabilities as candidates for transplant.

In 2021, as a freshman Member of Congress, I met Bobbi and Josh Sarmiento. They are from Ocala, Florida, in my district. These constituents reached out and wanted to share the story of their son, baby Zion. I spent time learning about their journey and couldn't help being moved to action as I left them that day.

I couldn't possibly do justice in recounting their story. Instead, I will read an excerpt from baby Zion's mom, Bobbi, in her own words, their story and experience with the organ transplant system that she provided to a congressional panel just last year.

In Bobbi's words, she said:

We learned at 10 weeks gestation that our son, Zion, had Down syndrome, and at his 20-week anatomy scan, he had a heart defect called a complete AVSD, or also called a complete AV canal defect. Simply put, we have four chambers in our heart. Zion had a large hole in the center separating those chambers from forming. This is a common heart defect those with Down syndrome have.

Our beautiful boy was born on June 15, 2021. We spent 40 days in the NICU before being discharged to go home. We have some of the best memories of our time at home before his open-heart surgery was scheduled for September of 2021. We did all the research and asked all the questions. We never knew we would end up being the worst-case scenario.

To make a long story short, Zion had 5 open-heart surgeries in a matter of 12 days. He was such a warrior through each one. After the fifth surgery didn't work as planned, we were told that he would need a heart transplant. The hospital we were at did not do transplants, so we were left with three options in Florida. To qualify, we were told his other organs had to be working, which they were, and we have the autopsy to prove this.

Our first option told us that they had never done a successful heart transplant on someone with Down syndrome. I asked how many they had tried. No response. Through my own research and digging that moms do to get answers, I have since learned that the answer was zero. Our second option said that they didn't feel their team could do a successful heart transplant for Zion, and the third option kept us waiting.

Finally, they came back and said that, because baby Zion was on ECMO life support three times through the five surgeries, he couldn't have brain activity. I would like to note that Zion came off ECMO after the second and fifth surgery, which we knew upfront was vital to being accepted for the

heart transplant list. They wanted a brain activity test run and sent to them for their final decision. We were told before it was sent that the test was perfect.

With nothing to disqualify him, we thought that we would be on our way to the next step. They came back and told us that after much deliberation, they concluded that they just couldn't waste a heart.

Wow, that is hard to read.

Our son was worth the same chance at life as anyone else. With no options left, we had to make the decision to remove the machines. On October 8, 2021, our son left our arms and ran into the arms of Jesus.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Baby Zion deserved the same chance at life as any other American, but he was denied a heart transplant by the same doctors because he had Down syndrome, and they "couldn't waste a heart."

The tragic story of baby Zion and the courage of his parents, Josh and Bobbi, along with the drive of so many incredible advocates, have led us today to H.R. 2706, the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, which would prohibit healthcare providers and other entities from denying or restricting an individual's access to organ transplants solely based on an individual's disability.

The bill would require expedited review of discrimination claims at the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. No family should have to wait or be denied.

I thank Charlotte Woodward, Bobbi and Josh, and all of the advocates who have worked so hard to get this bill where it is today. We would not be here without your tireless work to educate and advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities across the country.

I also want to thank my colleague, DEBBIE DINGELL, for her partnership and work on this bill. It was truly an honor to work with the gentlewoman on important issues like this.

I also acknowledge my Senate counterpart, Senator RUBIO, for championing this issue in the Senate.

Lastly, I thank Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS for her work and support on this issue. Her leadership in Energy and Commerce on this issue and the multitude of important issues that we deal with in the committee cannot be overstated. Not only is the gentlewoman a trailblazer and an ability advocate, but a force of nature.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I think Mrs. CAMMACK explained very well why we need to pass this bill, and I would ask all of my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2706, 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.

GIVE KIDS A CHANCE ACT OF 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3433) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3433

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Give Kids a Chance Act of 2024".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—GIVE KIDS A CHANCE

Sec. 101. Research into pediatric uses of drugs; additional authorities of Food and Drug Administration regarding molecularly targeted cancer drugs.

Sec. 102. Ensuring completion of pediatric study requirements.

Sec. 103. FDA report on PREA enforcement.

Sec. 104. Extension of authority to issue priority review vouchers to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases.

Sec. 105. Limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs.

Sec. 106. Program for pediatric studies of drugs.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES-ABRAHAM ACCORDS COOPERATION AND SECURITY

Sec. 201. Establishment of Abraham Accords Office within Food and Drug Administration.

TITLE III—ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK

Sec. 301. Registration fees.

TITLE I—GIVE KIDS A CHANCE

SEC. 101. RESEARCH INTO PEDIATRIC USES OF DRUGS; ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGARDING MOLECULARLY TARGETED CANCER DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ADDITIONAL ACTIVE INGREDIENT FOR APPLICATION DRUG; LIMITATION REGARDING NOVEL-COMBINATION APPLICATION DRUG.—Section 505B(a)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)(3)) is amended—

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

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the investigation described in this paragraph is (as determined by the Secretary) a molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigation of—

“(i) the drug or biological product for which the application referred to in such paragraph is submitted; or

“(ii) such drug or biological product in combination with—

“(I) an active ingredient of a drug or biological product—

“(aa) for which an approved application under section 505(j) under this Act or under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act is in effect; and

“(bb) that is determined by the Secretary to be the standard of care for treating a pediatric cancer; or

“(II) an active ingredient of a drug or biological product—

“(aa) for which an approved application under section 505(b) of this Act or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act to treat an adult cancer is in effect and is held by the same person submitting the application under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(bb) that is directed at a molecular target that the Secretary determines to be substantially relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) DESIGN OF INVESTIGATION.—A molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be designed to yield clinically meaningful pediatric study data that is gathered using appropriate formulations for each age group for which the study is required, regarding dosing, safety, and preliminary efficacy to inform potential pediatric labeling.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—An investigation described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may be required only if the drug or biological product for which the application referred to in paragraph (1)(B) contains either—

“(I) a single new active ingredient; or

“(II) more than one active ingredient, if an application for the combination of active ingredients has not previously been approved but each active ingredient has been previously approved to treat an adult cancer.

“(iii) RESULTS OF ALREADY-COMPLETED PRECLINICAL STUDIES OF APPLICATION DRUG.—The Secretary may require that reports on an investigation required pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) include the results of all preclinical studies on which the decision to conduct such investigation was based.

“(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INACTIVE INGREDIENTS.—With respect to a combination of active ingredients referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii), such subparagraph shall not be construed as addressing the use of inactive ingredients with such combination.”.

(2) DETERMINATION OF APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 505B(e)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall determine whether subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to an application before the date on which the applicant is required to submit the initial pediatric study plan under paragraph (2)(A).”.

(3) CLARIFYING APPLICABILITY.—Section 505B(a)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No application that is subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B) shall be subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A), and no application (or supplement to an application) that is subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B).”.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 505B(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(C), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, by striking “investigations described in this paragraph” and inserting “investigations referred to in subparagraph (A)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(D), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, by striking “the assessments under paragraph (2)(B)” and inserting “the assessments required under paragraph (1)(A)”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall—

(1) not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, issue draft guidance on the implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 12 months after closing the comment period on such draft guidance, finalize such guidance.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to any application under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) and any application under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)), that is submitted on or after the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the Secretary’s efforts, in coordination with industry, to ensure implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a).

(2) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of requiring assessments and investigations described in section 505B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c), as amended by subsection (a), in the development of drugs and biological products for pediatric cancer indications.

(B) FINDINGS.—Not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report containing the findings of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

SEC. 102. ENSURING COMPLETION OF PEDIATRIC STUDY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) EQUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEDIATRIC STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 505B(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Beginning 270” and inserting “NONCOMPLIANCE LETTER.—Beginning 270”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “The drug or” and inserting “EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—The drug or”; and

(B) by striking “(except that the drug or biological product shall not be subject to action under section 303)” and inserting “(except that the drug or biological product shall be subject to action under section 303 only if such person demonstrated a lack of due diligence in satisfying the applicable requirement)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not issue enforcement actions under section 303

for failures under this subsection in the case of a drug or biological product that is no longer marketed.”.

(b) DUE DILIGENCE.—Section 505B(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DUE DILIGENCE.—Before the Secretary may conclude that a person failed to submit or otherwise meet a requirement as described in the matter preceding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) issue a noncompliance letter pursuant to paragraph (1);

“(B) provide such person with a 45-day period beginning on the date of receipt of such noncompliance letter to respond in writing as set forth in such paragraph; and

“(C) after reviewing such written response, determine whether the person demonstrated a lack of due diligence in satisfying such requirement.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 303(f)(4)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 333(f)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “or 505-1” and inserting “505-1, or 505B”.

(d) TRANSITION RULE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may take enforcement action under section 303 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 333) only for failures described in section 505B(d) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)) that occur on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 103. FDA REPORT ON PREA ENFORCEMENT.

Section 508(b) of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (21 U.S.C. 355c-1(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “, including an evaluation of compliance with deadlines provided for in deferrals and deferral extensions;”;

(2) in paragraph (15), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following: “(17) a listing of penalties, settlements, or payments under section 303 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353) for failure to comply with requirements under such section 505B, including, for each penalty, settlement, or payment, the name of the drug, the sponsor thereof, and the amount of the penalty, settlement, or payment imposed; and”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHERS TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

(a) EXTENSION.—Paragraph (5) of section 529(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024, unless” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “September 30, 2029.”.

(b) GAO REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY VOUCHER AWARDS IN INCENTIVIZING RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE DRUG DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) GAO STUDY.—

(A) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of awarding rare pediatric disease priority vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff), as amended by subsection (a), in the development of human drug products that treat or prevent rare pediatric diseases (as defined in such section 529).

(B) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(i) The indications for each drug or biological product that—

(I) is the subject of a rare pediatric disease product application (as defined in section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) for which a priority review voucher was awarded; and

(II) was approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (42 U.S.C. 355) or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

(ii) Whether, and to what extent, an unmet need related to the treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease was met through the approval or licensure of such a drug or biological product.

(iii) The size of the company to which a priority review voucher was awarded under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) for such a drug or biological product.

(iv) The value of such priority review voucher if transferred.

(v) Identification of each drug for which a priority review voucher awarded under such section 529 was used.

(vi) The size of the company using each priority review voucher awarded under such section 529.

(vii) The length of the period of time between the date on which a priority review voucher was awarded under such section 529 and the date on which it was used.

(viii) Whether, and to what extent, an unmet need related to the treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease was met through the approval under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (42 U.S.C. 355) or licensure under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) of a drug for which a priority review voucher was used.

(ix) Whether, and to what extent, companies were motivated by the availability of priority review vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) to attempt to develop a drug for a rare pediatric disease.

(x) Whether, and to what extent, pediatric review vouchers awarded under such section were successful in stimulating development and expedited patient access to drug products for treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease that wouldn't otherwise take place without the incentive provided by such vouchers.

(xi) The impact of such priority review vouchers on the workload, review process, and public health prioritization efforts of the Food and Drug Administration.

(xii) Any other incentives in Federal law that exist for companies developing drugs or biological products described in clause (i).

(2) REPORT ON FINDINGS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report containing the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 105. LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIVE APPROVAL OR LICENSURE OF ORPHAN DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 527 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360cc) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter following paragraph (2), by striking “same disease or condition” and inserting “same approved use or indication within such rare disease or condition”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “same rare disease or condition” and inserting “same approved use or indication for which such 7-year period applies to such already approved or licensed drug”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, relating to the approved use or indication,” after “the needs”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “same rare disease or condition as the already approved drug” and inserting “same use or indication for which the already approved or licensed drug was approved or licensed”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) APPROVED USE OR INDICATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘approved use or indication’ means the use or indication approved under section 505 of this Act or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act for a drug designated under section 526 for a rare disease or condition.”.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any drug designated under section 526 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bb), regardless of the date on which the drug was so designated, and regardless of the date on which the drug was approved under section 505 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355) or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SEC. 106. PROGRAM FOR PEDIATRIC STUDIES OF DRUGS.

Section 409I(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284m(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) FUNDING.—Of the amount made available for pediatric research to each national research institute and national center under this title for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027, the Director of NIH is authorized to make available up to one percent of such amount for pediatric research under this section.”.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES-ABRAHAM ACCORDS COOPERATION AND SECURITY

SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF ABRAHAM ACCORDS OFFICE WITHIN FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter X of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1015. ABRAHAM ACCORDS OFFICE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall establish within the Food and Drug Administration an office, to be known as the Abraham Accords Office, to be headed by a director.

“(b) OFFICE.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) in consultation with the governments of Abraham Accords countries, as well as appropriate United States Government diplomatic and security personnel—

“(A) select the location of the Abraham Accords Office in an Abraham Accords country; and

“(B) establish such office; and

“(2) assign to such office such personnel of the Food and Drug Administration as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the functions of such office.

“(c) DUTIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Abraham Accords Office, shall—

“(1) after the Abraham Accords Office is established—

“(A) as part of the Food and Drug Administration's work to strengthen the international oversight of regulated commodities, provide technical assistance to regulatory partners in Abraham Accords countries on strengthening regulatory oversight and converging regulatory requirements for the oversight of regulated products, including good manufacturing practices and other issues relevant to manufacturing medical

products that are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration;

“(B) facilitate interactions between the Food and Drug Administration and interested parties in Abraham Accords countries, including by sharing relevant information regarding United States regulatory pathways with such parties; and

“(C) facilitate feedback between the Food and Drug Administration and such parties located within Abraham Accords countries prior to submission of an application under section 505(b), 505(j), or 515 of this Act or section 351(a) or 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act, or a notification under section 510(k) of this Act, such as feedback on research, development, and manufacturing of drugs, biologics, and medical devices; and

“(2) carry out other functions and activities as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

“(d) ABRAHAM ACCORDS COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Abraham Accords country’ means a country identified by the Department of State as having signed the Abraham Accords Declaration.”.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress a report on the Abraham Accords Office, including—

(A) an evaluation of how the Office has advanced progress toward conformance with Food and Drug Administration regulatory requirements by manufacturers in the Abraham Accords countries;

(B) a numerical count of parties that the Office has helped facilitate interactions or feedback pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1015(c)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by subsection (a));

(C) a summary of technical assistance provided to regulatory partners in Abraham Accords countries pursuant to subparagraph (A) of such section 1015(c)(1); and

(D) recommendations for increasing and improving coordination between the Food and Drug Administration and entities in Abraham Accords countries.

(2) ABRAHAM ACCORDS COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Abraham Accords country” has the meaning given such term in section 1015(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by subsection (a)).

TITLE III—ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK

SEC. 301. REGISTRATION FEES.

Section 372 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) REGISTRATION FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collect registration fees from any member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network for each transplant candidate such member places on the list described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i). Such registration fees shall only be collected and distributed to support the operation of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Such registration fees are authorized to remain available until expended.

“(2) COLLECTION.—The Secretary may collect the registration fees under paragraph (1) directly or through awards made under subsection (b)(1)(A).

“(3) DISTRIBUTION.—Any amounts collected under this subsection shall—

“(A) be credited to the currently applicable appropriation, account, or fund of the Department of Health and Human Services as discretionary offsetting collections; and

“(B) be available, only to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, to distribute such fees among

the awardees described in subsection (b)(1)(A).

“(4) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall—
“(A) promptly post on the Internet website of the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network—

“(i) the amount of registration fees collected under this subsection from each member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; and

“(ii) a list of activities such fees are used to support; and

“(B) update the information posted pursuant to subparagraph (A), as applicable for each calendar quarter for which fees are collected under paragraph (1).

“(5) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall, to the extent data are available—

“(A) conduct a review concerning the activities under this subsection; and

“(B) submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report on such review, including related recommendations, as applicable.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3433, the Give Kids a Chance Act of 2024, and thank Representatives MCCAUL, ESHOO, and BILIRAKIS for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited that we have reached broad bipartisan agreement on this comprehensive bill, which will provide hope to approximately 30 million Americans affected by rare diseases.

Currently, only about 500 of these diseases have FDA-approved treatments. This legislation will foster the development of more pediatric rare disease treatments by strengthening the orphan drug pathway, ensuring drugs are studied for children battling cancer, and reauthorizing the rare pediatric disease priority review voucher program, which is set to expire on September 30.

The PRV program has been a lifeline for patients who require specialized treatments that would not be developed without the incentive this program provides.

I am also supportive of the other provisions in this bill, which would increase organ transplant rates by

strengthening OPTN operations and require the FDA to establish an office in a country that has signed the Abraham Accords.

I am grateful to Representatives HARSHBARGER and VARGAS for their leadership on this effort to facilitate operations between the FDA and regulatory authorities and innovators in Abraham Accords countries.

There has been a lot of discussion about moving supply chains for medical products back to the U.S. and our allies, and this office is a good step to help do just that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3433, the Give Kids a Chance Act, sponsored by Representatives MCCAUL and ESHOO.

This bill includes several strong bipartisan pieces of legislation, and I am pleased that our Republican colleagues agreed to work with us on advancing important policies.

This legislation will help expand access to care for patients with rare diseases and complex medical needs, increase research and development into rare pediatric diseases, and improve regulatory certainty.

This bill will help in our efforts to bring new treatments to pediatric patients with more advanced forms of cancer. It also includes important sections of H.R. 6664, Representative ESHOO's bill, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act. Specifically, it gives the Food and Drug Administration new enforcement authority to take action against companies that do not conduct required studies in pediatric patients.

The bill also includes critical language introduced by Representative MATSUI as part of H.R. 7383, the Retaining Access and Restoring Exclusivity Act, or RARE Act, and this will clarify FDA's long-held treatment of orphan drug exclusivity and bring new treatments to more patients suffering from rare diseases. These provisions all advance our goals of accelerating the development of novel, safe, and effective treatments and improving outcomes for patients.

These bills are going to make a difference, but I remain disappointed that my Republican colleagues have been unwilling to consider necessary changes to require drug manufacturers to study their approved rare disease drugs in pediatric populations.

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It is disappointing that my Republican colleagues refuse to hold drug manufacturers' feet to the fire and have decided to move forward with a long-term reauthorization of the priority review voucher program, or PRV, without requiring manufacturers to study rare disease drugs in pediatric patients.

I have been consistent in my belief that we need reforms to the PRV pro-

gram. Unfortunately, we still have not seen the compelling evidence that this program is functioning how Congress intended it to. That is why I am pleased that the bill includes a requirement for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a new study and report on the effectiveness of the program in attaining our original intent. Previous reports from GAO on the program, and continued research from academics, show that there is little evidence that it incentivized the products Congress intended to help come to market.

I continue to believe that additional guardrails are needed to better target the intent of the program, but despite these concerns, I am pleased that this bill includes important provisions to ensure that our medical product supply chain can be strengthened by working with international partners that believe in both tolerance and respect for every person as well as advancement of science and medicine. I look forward to working with our Republican colleagues to ensure FDA receives the funding necessary to implement this policy and establish an FDA office in Israel.

I am also pleased that this legislation provides the Health Resources and Services Administration the authority to modernize the organ transplant system. This system is lifesaving for many Americans, and I am glad that we can continue to support these much-needed reform efforts.

I believe that we could have achieved more for patients in this legislation. However, since there are strong bipartisan policies included here, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as a founder of the Childhood Cancer Caucus 15 years ago, I have met countless cancer patients and advocates who have asked me for one thing: to give the kids a chance. They want a chance to receive better and safer treatments that preserve their quality of life, a chance to beat childhood cancer, and a chance to eradicate this disease once and for all.

The Give Kids a Chance Act does just that.

The bill is simple. It directs drug companies researching combination drug therapies for adults to also research them for children, where appropriate. This will allow us to treat children the same as we treat adults.

With 235 cosponsors, this legislation is one of the most bipartisan bills in Congress because there is nothing partisan or political about a child with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BILIRAKIS from Florida and Ms. ANNA ESHOO from California, my partner in this. I also

thank Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE for all of their help in making this come together.

Included in this legislation is another one of my bills, the Creating Hope Reauthorization Act. We first passed this legislation in 2012 to create the pediatric priority review voucher program within the FDA because we found that there was no market incentive for pharmaceutical companies to develop cancer treatments for children. This program provides the incentives.

Since its inception in 2012, 53 vouchers have been awarded for treatments of 39 different rare pediatric diseases, 36 of which previously had no FDA-approved treatments. These diseases typically led to death before a child can reach adulthood, but not anymore.

A dear friend of mine, Dr. Allison from MD Anderson in my home State of Texas, was able to use the voucher program to obtain FDA approval for a treatment called CAR-T immunotherapy. Immunotherapy is a breakthrough cancer treatment not just for children but for all adults. He received the Nobel Prize in medicine for it.

This bill would reauthorize that successful program for another 5 years.

We just had our 15-year summit, and these children, I have to say to the ranking member and to the chair, who I hope is listening, how much joy this gave to their lives. These children who have either survived cancer or are going through cancer, some can make it, some may not, but this gives them hope.

I founded the caucus to give them a voice in the Congress because they didn't have one. They didn't have high-powered lobbyists, but they have us. This is the result of their voices.

We wouldn't be standing here today considering this legislation without the help of patient advocates, including my dear childhood cancer friends, Sadie Keller, Sophie Ryan, Brianna Commerford, and Ailani Myers, and so many other brave children who have joined me in advocating tirelessly on this important issue.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, these kids are tougher than any adults I know, and they are my biggest inspiration in life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my colleagues have come together in a bipartisan spirit to do what is right for our children, which will influence them for decades to come.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BUCSHON, a great friend of mine who does an outstanding job on our committee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3433, the Give Kids a Chance Act, by Representative MCCAUL. His

legislation strengthens pathways for treatments and cures for children across the Nation.

The Give Kids a Chance Act would require that new studies of pediatric cancer trials focus on combination therapies rather than solely single-use drugs. This bill requires these pathways for children with cancer in cases where both the drugs are FDA approved and owned by the same company.

These combination products may help unlock new treatment options for pediatric cancers and help extend the lives of children battling a rare cancer.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation. Furthermore, I am particularly glad to see that this comprehensive package contains provisions of two bills I co-lead, the Creating Hope Reauthorization Act and the RARE Act. These bills will support innovation for pediatric rare disease treatments and cures.

The Creating Hope Reauthorization Act will extend the FDA's rare pediatric priority review voucher program for another 5 years, through fiscal year 2029. This voucher serves as a critical and necessary incentive for innovators to invest in research and development of pediatric rare diseases.

Due to their extremely small patient populations, these diseases too often go unnoticed, unfortunately. However, the voucher program allows innovative rare disease companies to receive FDA priority review if they get an approval for a pediatric rare disease. These vouchers can then be used to expedite consideration of new treatments in the pipeline, or transferred or sold to another company to recoup investment losses.

This successful FDA incentive does not cost any taxpayer dollars and must be extended to continue the pipeline of treatments for children with rare diseases.

I was proud to lead the effort in the Energy and Commerce Committee with my good friend and colleague, ANNA ESHOO. We are going to miss her. She is retiring, but hopefully, she will be around to give us some advice in the future.

Again, we have bipartisan agreement on this. It is so very important for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3433 off the floor today.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3433, the Give Kids a Chance Act, which is bipartisan legislation to help speed up the process for getting treatments to children with cancer and other rare diseases.

I am pleased that this bill also includes a modified version of bipartisan legislation I have been leading with Democratic Representative JUAN

VARGAS: the United States-Abraham Accords Cooperation and Security Act.

This section of H.R. 3433 will establish a U.S. Food and Drug Administration office in the Abraham Accords region, creating a staging ground for technical assistance and friend-shoring collaboration between the U.S. and Abraham Accords countries, for development of and bringing to our markets lifesaving drugs.

I thank House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chair RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE for working with me to advance this important initiative. Chair RODGERS has been a strong ally in developing this.

Our continued dependence on adversarial countries like China for pharmaceutical products endangers our medical supply chains and jeopardizes our national security. More than 80 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients for drugs sold in the U.S. are imported from foreign countries, primarily China and India.

As our country works toward securing critical healthcare supply chains from reliance on adversarial countries like China, the strategy of friend-shoring or near-shoring has emerged as part of the solution for industries where domestic production is not yet fully available.

Leveraging the Abraham Accords countries' robust biopharmaceutical industries to help diversify and protect our access to crucial medical supply chains that don't rely on China is a commonsense step to work with our natural allies in our quest to safeguard our access to vital medical products.

We need to begin this process of fortifying our medical supply chains as soon as possible because we have a big hill to climb. With adoption of H.R. 3433 and establishment of an FDA technical assistance office in the Abraham Accords region, we begin climbing that hill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, obviously, this bill does a lot to help childhood disorders. It is a very important bill, and I urge that it be passed on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote on my legislation, H.R. 3433, the Give Kids a Chance Act.

My thanks to Reps. MICHAEL MCCAUL (R-TX) and GUS BILIRAKIS (R-FL), the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS (R-WA) and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE (D-NJ) for their very hard work on this important effort.

H.R. 3433 is the most comprehensive legislation to improve and address childhood cancer and rare disease in over a decade.

As medicines become more sophisticated and we improve our understanding of the

deadliest diseases facing children in our country, our laws must keep up.

This legislation will ensure children have access to the most innovative treatments and therapies for cancer and rare disease, and it does that by doing the following.

It reauthorizes the FDA's pediatric priority voucher program for five years. The program expires September 23, 2024 and we cannot let critical tools to encourage the development of drugs for children to lapse.

It directs companies to conduct pediatric trials with combinations of drugs. More than 40 combination therapies are approved for adults, but only 2 are approved for children. This legislation fixes that inequity. Every member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and 392 Members of the House voted for this provision as part of the user fees package last Congress.

It brings the FDA's enforcement capabilities for children on par with that of adults, giving the FDA new options to ensure pediatric studies are completed on time. Today, the FDA can only remove a drug from the market if pediatric studies are not completed. This bill gives the FDA more flexibility to ensure companies follow the law.

The bill dedicates existing funds for pediatric research through the NIH's Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act Program over the next three years, the program's first funding update since it was authorized in 2002. Zero new funding will be used.

This bill was advanced by the House Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously last week.

Children are not little adults. They deserve effective medicines, just as adults do. The Give Kids a Chance Act will get children what they deserve and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this critical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3433, 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.

SENIORS' ACCESS TO CRITICAL MEDICATIONS ACT OF 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5526) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished under the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5526

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 "Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THE APPLICATION OF THE IN-OFFICE ANCILLARY SERVICES EXCEPTION TO THE PHYSICIAN SELF-REFERRAL PROHIBITION FOR COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS FURNISHED UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1877(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395nn(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "With respect to services described in subsection (h)(6)(J) consisting of covered part D drugs (as defined in section 1860D-2(e)) furnished to an individual during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2029, such drugs shall be treated as having been furnished in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii) if such drugs are picked up in a building described in subclause (I) or (II) of such subparagraph by such individual, or a family member or caregiver on behalf of such individual, or delivered to such individual by a mail, delivery, or courier service, but only if, during the 1-year period ending on the date such drugs were so furnished, such individual had a face-to-face encounter with the prescriber of such drugs (not including any such encounter conducted via telehealth), and only if such prescriber (or another physician or practitioner (as described in section 1842(b)(18)(C)) in the same practice as such prescriber (as determined by tax identification number)) furnished to such individual, during such 1-year period, another item or service for which payment was made under this title, and only if such individual has an ongoing relationship with such prescriber."

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(1) the number of individuals who were furnished drugs in a manner that would constitute a violation of section 1877 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395nn) but for the amendment made by subsection (a);

(2) an analysis of the change in expenditures under title XVIII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) attributable to such amendment;

(3) a description of which drugs were furnished in a manner described in paragraph (1); and

(4) such amendment's impact on prices for such drugs.

SEC. 3. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF EXTERNAL INFUSION PUMPS AND NON-SELF-ADMINISTRABLE HOME INFUSION DRUGS.

Section 1861(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Beginning with the first calendar quarter beginning on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of the 'Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act of 2024', an external infusion pump and associated home infusion drug (as defined in subsection (iii)(3)(C)) or other associated supplies that do not meet the appropriate for use in the home requirement applied to the definition of durable medical equipment under section 414.202 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor to such regulation) shall be treated as meeting such requirement if each of the following criteria is satisfied:

"(1) The prescribing information approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the home infusion drug associated with the pump instructs that the drug should be administered by or under the supervision of a health care professional.

"(2) A qualified home infusion therapy supplier (as defined in subsection (iii)(3)(D)) administers or supervises the administration of the drug or biological in a safe and effective manner in the patient's home (as defined in subsection (iii)(3)(B)).

"(3) The prescribing information described in paragraph (1) instructs that the drug should be infused at least 12 times per year—

"(A) intravenously or subcutaneously; or

"(B) at infusion rates that the Secretary determines would require the use of an external infusion pump."

SEC. 4. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$0" and inserting "\$114,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, a silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic, if there is one, was the proliferation of new, effective ways to deliver healthcare.

Of course, we saw the rise of telehealth, but we also saw an increased use of mail to deliver prescription drugs to patients. Mailing prescription drugs to patients, especially those who live in rural communities, helped increase access to care and medication adherence by reducing the need to travel long distances to your nearest pharmacy.

For seniors who may struggle with mobility, this change was especially important.

□ 1600

Unfortunately, Federal laws limit the ability for seniors to take advantage of these benefits.

CMS states that if a Medicare beneficiary wants to see an independent physician that also owns a pharmacy, the Medicare beneficiary must pick up their drugs from that physician-owned pharmacy in person.

That pharmacy cannot mail the drug directly to the patient or let a family member pick up the drug on the Medicare patient's behalf.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS relaxed this restriction. I have heard from countless oncologists across my home State about how during the COVID-19 pandemic era, those flexibilities improved access to care.

H.R. 5526 would clarify that seniors can get drugs from physician-owned pharmacies through the mail or have someone pick up those medications on their behalf, making it easier for seniors to get the care that they need.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5526, the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act.

This bill amends the Physician Self-Referral Law, also known as the Stark Law, to permit Medicare patients to have their physicians dispense prescription drugs to them in narrow circumstances, either through a caregiver or through a mail courier. Congress enacted the Stark Law to ensure that physician financial considerations do not influence patient care. Under the Stark Law, physicians are prohibited from making referrals to entities in which the physician has a financial stake.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve the independent judgment of their physicians and access to treatment that is medically appropriate and necessary for them. The Stark Law is critical in ensuring that financial arrangements do not distort physician decision-making or raise healthcare costs.

Now, current law includes specific and narrowly tailored exceptions such as the in-office ancillary services exception. This exception permits a physician with an ownership stake to provide an outpatient prescription drug or certain services to a patient at his or her office as part of an in-person visit. This is for the convenience of the patient but also because there are more limited program integrity concerns when the item or service is being delivered as part of an in-person office visit.

While I continue to have strong concerns with significantly weakening the Stark Law, I believe there are also limited instances in which it may be necessary for a caregiver or a family member to pick up the prescription drugs for patients or for them to be mailed. I believe there are limited program integrity concerns in these instances.

This narrow Stark exception will help patients receive necessary medications more easily and protects Medicare beneficiaries by ensuring that financial considerations do not influence patient care.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 5526, and I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5526, the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act.

I thank my co-lead, Democrat Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and House Energy and Commerce Chair RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE for allowing me to advance this important legislation.

I spent 37 years working as a pharmacist in almost every area of pharmacy, and I know firsthand the importance of providing patients with serious illnesses timely and reliable access to their lifesaving medications.

Under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' interpretation of the physician self-referral law, which is

known as the Stark Law, it states that it is unlawful for a medical practice, such as a community oncology practice, to deliver a prescribed and filled drug to a patient by mail or courier, UPS or Fed Ex. CMS' interpretation doesn't even allow for a family member or a caregiver to pick up the patient's drug on their behalf.

For Medicare seniors living in rural areas who don't have transportation or who are too sick to pick up their life-saving drug, they are just simply out of luck in a lot of cases, or they are forced to rely on a nameless or faceless mail order pharmacy benefit manager, where these "distant middlemen" cannot quickly fine-tune necessary short-term changes or adjustments in their therapies.

Some patients will go without their oral chemotherapy medication because they can't get transportation to pick their prescription up. It can change the entire outcome for those patients. We shouldn't have obstacles in the way of patients receiving the medications they need.

The bipartisan Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act simply ensures that cancer patients, as well as other patients, have timely access to the appropriate oral medications they need by allowing delivery of these medications or allowing family members or caregivers to pick up their medicines.

I have heard from dozens upon dozens of Tennessee oncologists and other specialty physicians and patients, as well as others around the country, who have been deeply impacted by the unnecessary hurdles created by CMS' misguided interpretation of the Stark Law.

During the pandemic, CMS recognized these barriers and issued a Stark waiver, lifting the restrictions that hindered patient access to these crucial medications.

This bill restores those flexibilities, and I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 5526 to protect Medicare beneficiaries' ability to receive the medications they need when they need them.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5526, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physi-

cian self-referral prohibition for covered outpatient drugs furnished under the Medicare program, and to provide coverage of external infusion pumps and non-self-administrable home infusion drugs under such program."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGENITAL HEART FUTURES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. BILLRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7189) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7189

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 "Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE, AND AWARENESS PROGRAM.

Section 399V-2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-13) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) REPORT AND STRATEGY.—

“(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall issue a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate including the following:

“(A) A description of past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to congenital heart disease, including efforts to address the lifelong needs of congenital heart disease patients.

“(B) An assessment of past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase education and training of health care providers with respect to congenital heart disease, including efforts to address the lifelong needs of congenital heart disease patients.

“(C) A description of the current workforce capacity in the United States of health care providers who treat adult patients living with congenital heart disease.

“(2) STRATEGY.—

“(A) DEVELOPMENT; SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after submitting the report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop and submit to Congress a strategy for improving efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of the public and education and training of health care providers with respect to congenital heart disease. Such strategy shall include findings and recommendations to—

“(i) address any public awareness and research gaps and opportunities related to the lifelong needs of congenital heart disease patients, including long-term health outcomes, quality of life, mental health, and health care utilization;

“(ii) address any shortages in the current workforce of health care providers who treat adult patients living with congenital heart disease, which may include strategies to enhance

fellowship training programs or other continuing education programs; and

“(iii) foster collaboration and dissemination of information across Federal agencies, health care providers, researchers, and patient organizations.

“(B) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall, as appropriate, consult with qualified stakeholder groups, including patient organizations, health care professionals, research entities, health insurance providers, accrediting organizations, and relevant Federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration.”; and

(3) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by striking “2020 through 2024” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 7189, the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024, and I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program at HHS for the next 5 years through FY 2029.

I am so proud to have been involved in the creation of this pivotal program and its reauthorization efforts, and I am grateful to my colleagues on this bill; Representatives SCHIFF, CARTER, SOTO, SALAZAR, and CÁRDENAS, as well as our bicameral partners, Senators DURBIN and YOUNG, and I thank them for their efforts.

I have been glad to lead the Congressional Congenital Heart Caucus with Representative SCHIFF. Over the last years, we have become all too familiar with the struggles this patient community faces on a daily basis, unfortunately.

In particular, I also thank the broad set of stakeholders that support this initiative and the thousands of advocates speaking on behalf of the approximately 2 million patients living with congenital heart defects.

This includes the Adult Congenital Heart Association, Conquering CHD, Mended Little Hearts, and The Children's Heart Foundation.

I thank them for their partnership on this issue and again for support of this bill. We have to get this done together, folks. Let's pass this in a bipartisan fashion.

Now, the advocates that come up here do an outstanding job for family members and friends that have congenital heart defects as well as the patients.

In the United States, more than 40,000 babies are born with heart defects each year, making it the most common type of birth defect.

It is estimated that more than 2 million people are currently living with a heart defect nationwide, but thankfully, they are living much longer into adulthood.

Thankfully, medical care and treatments have advanced. Individuals with heart defects, as I said, are living longer and healthier lives. Thank goodness.

This bill will continue the support for research and education regarding congenital heart disease and the impact heart defects have on individuals throughout every stage of life.

It would also require HHS to develop a strategy to address any research gaps and workforce shortages, particularly as it relates to healthcare providers who treat adult patients living with congenital heart disease.

Importantly, this strategy will be developed with the input of expert stakeholder groups and relevant Federal entities.

I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill. It is so very important, Mr. Speaker. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 7189, the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Representative BILIRAKIS and cosponsored by Representative SOTO. The bipartisan legislation will reauthorize a national congenital heart disease program through 2029.

In the United States, about 40,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease, or CHD, every year. Congenital heart disease prevents normal blood flow through the heart and can become a critical issue that results in a baby needing surgery or other procedures early in life.

Thanks to scientific advancements in diagnosis and treatment, many babies and children can reach adulthood living with CHD. To continue our progress, we have to continue to support research, surveillance, and awareness for CHD.

First passed in 2010, the bipartisan Congenital Heart Futures Act authorized research and data collection related to CHD.

The act expands the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's infrastructure to track epidemiological data for CHD. It also increased the National Institutes of Health's research to study lifelong CHD to see how those with the disease can still live a long and healthy life.

H.R. 7189 will reauthorize our national congenital heart disease program so we can continue to make

strides in addressing CHD. It also builds on our Nation's CHD program.

This bill will assess current research efforts at NIH to ensure we have a better understanding of CHD. The bill also expands research at the CDC by directing the agency to understand healthcare utilization, demographics, and best practices for CHD.

Finally, the bill allows CDC to establish and implement an awareness campaign so that those with CHD and their families understand the healthcare needs related to this birth defect.

Again, I thank my colleagues, Representatives BILIRAKIS and SOTO, for their leadership in reauthorizing the Congenital Heart Futures Act.

Thanks to their efforts, we can pass this bill and continue to make strides in addressing CHD.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” to reauthorize this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we support this important bill on a bipartisan basis to continue to address the Nation's CHD program effectively.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this particular 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7189, 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.

□ 1615

ONLINE DATING SAFETY ACT OF 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6125) to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6125

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 “Online Dating Safety Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. ONLINE DATING SAFETY .

(a) FRAUD BAN NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An online dating service provider shall provide to a member of the online dating service a fraud ban notification if the member has received a message through the online dating service from a banned member of the online dating service.

(2) **REQUIRED CONTENTS.**—A fraud ban notification under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The username or other profile identifier of the banned member, as well as the most recent time when the member to whom the notification is being provided sent or received a message through the online dating service to or from the banned member.

(B) A statement, as applicable, that the banned member may have been using a false identity or attempting to defraud members.

(C) A statement that a member should not send money or personal financial information to another member.

(D) An online link to information regarding ways to avoid online fraud or being defrauded by a member of an online dating service.

(E) Contact information to reach the customer service department of the online dating service provider.

(3) **MANNER AND TIMING.**—

(A) **MANNER.**—A fraud ban notification under paragraph (1) shall be—

(i) clear and conspicuous; and
(ii) provided by email, text message, or other appropriate means of communication consented to by the member.

(B) **TIMING.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), an online dating service provider shall provide a fraud ban notification under paragraph (1) not later than 24 hours after the fraud ban is initiated against the banned member.

(ii) **DELAY BASED ON JUDGMENT OF PROVIDER.**—If, in the judgment of the online dating service provider, the circumstances require a fraud ban notification under paragraph (1) to be provided after the 24-hour period described in clause (i), the online dating service provider shall, except as provided in clause (iii), provide the notification not later than 3 days after the day on which the fraud ban is initiated against the banned member.

(iii) **DELAY UPON REQUEST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.**—If, due to an ongoing investigation, a law enforcement official requests an online dating service provider to delay providing a fraud ban notification under paragraph (1) beyond the time when the notification is required to be provided under clause (i) or (ii), the online dating service provider—

(I) may not provide the notification before the end of the period of delay (including any extension of such period) requested by the law enforcement official; and

(II) shall provide the notification not later than 3 days after the last day of the period of delay (including any extension of such period) requested by the law enforcement official.

(b) **ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.**—A violation of this section shall be treated as a violation of a regulation under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)) regarding unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

(2) **POWERS OF COMMISSION.**—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section, and any person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(c) **ACTIONS BY STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In any case in which the attorney general of a State, or an official or agency of a State, has reason to believe that an in-

terest of the residents of such State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by an act or practice in violation of this section, the State, as *parens patriae*, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate relief.

(2) **NOTICE.**—Before filing an action under this subsection, the attorney general, official, or agency of the State involved shall provide to the Commission a written notice of such action and a copy of the complaint for such action. If the attorney general, official, or agency determines that it is not feasible to provide the notice described in this paragraph before the filing of the action, the attorney general, official, or agency shall provide written notice of the action and a copy of the complaint to the Commission immediately upon the filing of the action.

(3) **AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On receiving notice under paragraph (2) of an action under this subsection, the Commission shall have the right—

(i) to intervene in the action;
(ii) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein; and
(iii) to file petitions for appeal.

(B) **LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.**—If the Commission or the Attorney General of the United States has instituted a civil action for violation of this section (referred to in this subparagraph as the “Federal action”), no State attorney general, official, or agency may bring an action under this subsection during the pendency of the Federal action against any defendant named in the complaint in the Federal action for any violation of this section alleged in such complaint.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of bringing a civil action under this subsection, nothing in this section may be construed to prevent an attorney general, official, or agency of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general, official, or agency by the laws of such State to conduct investigations, administer oaths and affirmations, or compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(d) **ONE NATIONAL STANDARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State, or political subdivision of a State, may not maintain, enforce, prescribe, or continue in effect any law, rule, regulation, requirement, standard, or other provision having the force and effect of law of the State, or political subdivision of the State, that requires an online dating service provider to notify, prohibits an online dating service provider from notifying, or otherwise affects the manner in which an online dating service provider is required or permitted to notify, a member of the online dating service that the member has received a message from or sent a message to a banned member through the online dating service.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—This subsection may not be construed to preempt any law of a State or political subdivision of a State relating to contracts or torts.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **BANNED MEMBER.**—The term “banned member” means a member of an online dating service whose account or profile on the online dating service is the subject of a fraud ban.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) **FRAUD BAN.**—The term “fraud ban” means the termination or suspension of the account or profile of a member of an online dating service because, in the judgment of the online dating service provider, there is a significant risk the member will attempt to obtain money from another member through fraudulent means.

(4) **MEMBER.**—The term “member” means an individual who—

(A) submits to an online dating service provider the information required by the provider to establish an account or profile on the online dating service; and

(B) is allowed by the provider to establish an account or profile.

(5) **ONLINE DATING SERVICE.**—The term “online dating service” means a service that—

(A) is provided through a website or a mobile application; and

(B) offers members access to dating or romantic relationships with other members by arranging or facilitating the social introduction of members.

(6) **ONLINE DATING SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “online dating service provider” means a person engaged in the business of offering an online dating service.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6125, the Online Dating Safety Act of 2023, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, DAVID VALADAO.

Over the last three decades, online dating platforms have transformed the way people find their partners. According to the Pew Research Center, 30 percent of U.S. adults say they have used a dating app or site, many of whom say it has made the dating process much easier.

However, these technologies have also led to the rise of dating scams and fraud, unfortunately, and the FTC reported that romance scams resulted in victims losing \$1.3 billion in 2022.

There are countless examples of victims losing their investments and retirements. One victim was tragically driven to suicide after losing his life savings. That is terrible.

H.R. 6125 seeks to protect users of online dating platforms against harmful and fraudulent accounts by requiring platforms to send a fraud ban notification to a user who has been communicating with a suspended account or profile.

This crucial step of communication and transparency has been missing from online dating platforms. This is an opportunity to create a safety mechanism to better protect Americans from falling victim to such devastating scams.

The bill advanced out of committee with unanimous support, a bipartisan

vote of 44-0. I look forward to the bill passing the House this week. Really, we have got to take care of this. Too many people are being taken advantage of, particularly our seniors. We can't have this happen.

I strongly support H.R. 6125 and ask my colleagues to vote "yes." I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6125, the Online Dating Safety Act. I thank the sponsors of this bill, Representatives VALADAO and PETTERSEN, for their leadership on the issue of online dating safety. I also thank Chair RODGERS for her willingness to work with me at committee to improve the bill.

As more and more consumers report using online dating services, it is important that they are made aware of potential harms. This bill ensures that when an online dating app bans someone for fraud, it notifies all the other users who have been in contact with that banned person on the app. This will help to reduce the number of people who fall victim to identified fraudsters looking to extort money from dating app users.

While there is more to be done to address harms that have arisen in the online dating space, this bill is an important step forward. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank my colleague, my coauthor, BRITTANY PETTERSEN, for her support on this. I also thank the members and staff of the committee. They have been very, very helpful in us moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bill, the Online Dating Safety Act. Each year, millions of people are deceived, defrauded, and misled by users of online dating apps.

While it is sadly common to see people lie about things like their age or occupation, this bill takes aim at the more sinister fraudsters who make their livelihoods preying on vulnerable individuals.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, romance scams resulted in victims losing \$1.3 billion in 2022 alone, with senior citizens being the most at-risk age group.

There are countless horror stories of people being conned out of their entire life savings, all because they trusted someone they met online. Individuals who meet online often take their conversations to other communication platforms, so even when the fraudulent account is removed, someone might not even know they are talking to someone who has been removed from that original platform.

This bill requires that the dating platform issue a fraud ban notification to users who have ever interacted with

the person who has been removed from the app for fraudulent activity. While we can't stop all criminals, this is a simple and important step to fill a communication gap and help people make more informed decisions about who they are really communicating with.

These apps have been around for years, but still there are few safeguards in place to protect users. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and prevent the widespread fraud.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Let me just say that this is an important step forward in dealing with online dating safety, and I support the bill and urge my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate Mr. VALADAO putting forth this bill. We have got to do it. We have got to protect our seniors and others who use these apps. I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6125, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY ISSUANCE REVIEW ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6231) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6231

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 "Department of Homeland Security Policy Issuance Review Act".

SEC. 2. POLICY ISSUANCE REVIEW PROCESS.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

"(13) Overseeing the Department's process for review and approval of policy issuance documents.";

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsection (f); and

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

"(g) POLICY ISSUANCE REVIEW PROCESS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Under Secretary for Management shall require a prioritized periodic review process (in this subsection referred to as the "Review Process") of Department policy issuance documents.

"(2) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Management shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a briefing on the Review Process, including relating to the Department's record of reviewing and updating existing policy issuance documents. Each such briefing shall include information relating to the following:

"(A) All policy issuance documents, including, with respect to each such document, the title, policy number, revision number, issue date, and last reviewed date.

"(B) All policy issuance documents canceled in the prior year.

"(C) An explanation of the methodology used to prioritize the review of policy issuance documents.

"(D) The procedures used by the Department to track and coordinate with Department components the issuance, review, and cancellations of policy issuance documents.

"(E) The number of staff and vacancies within the Management Directorate responsible for supporting the Review Process.

"(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection the term "policy issuance document"—

"(A) means a Department-level directive, instruction, designation, or delegation, issued in accordance with the process referred to in subsection (a)(13) or any process for issuing such documents consistent with Department policy as may be in effect; and

"(B) does not include documents—

"(i) issued in accordance with a process other than a process referred to in subsection (a)(13) or the Review Process; or

"(ii) documents published in the Federal Register.

"(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to—

"(A) invalidate any policy issuance document created on, before, or after the date of the enactment of this subsection;

"(B) serve as a basis for action to challenge the validity of such a policy issuance document; or

"(C) create any right or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable by any person in any administrative or judicial proceeding."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6231.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 6231, the Department of Homeland Security Policy

Issuance Review Act. I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY) for this commonsense oversight legislation. I urge support of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Department of Homeland Security Policy Issuance Review Act will codify the Department of Homeland Security's policy issuance and review process to ensure DHS provides up-to-date policy guidance for its more than 260,000 employees.

Policies provide important clarity on what is expected of DHS employees as they carry out the critical work of the Department. These policies outline how to uphold civil liberties and civil rights while conducting criminal investigations, how to ensure grant funds are used in accordance with congressional intent, and how to incorporate new technology into the agency operations.

Some DHS policies have not been reviewed or updated for many years in accordance with the Department's requirements. H.R. 6231 will address this by providing Congress greater insight into the issuance, review, and revision of the Departmentwide policies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of my bill, the Department of Homeland Security Policy Issuance Review Act, H.R. 6231.

DHS has over 800 Departmentwide policies. While many of these policies relate to internal management functions of the Department, others provide critical guidance for employees on issues such as use of force by law enforcement officers, the personal and professional use of social media, and the ethical code of conduct.

The Department has a requirement that all policies be reviewed every 2 years. However, a recent review by the Committee on Homeland Security found that DHS rarely met this deadline, and some foundational policies had not received meaningful review since their issuance.

My bill addresses this shortcoming by making the Department's policy issuance and review process a formal responsibility of the DHS Under Secretary for management.

My bill also provides Congress with greater transparency into how and when DHS updates policies by requiring the Department to provide Congress an annual briefing on policies issued, reviewed, and canceled. My bill also requires DHS to inform Congress on its staffing needs to help ensure the Department has the resources needed to review and revise its policies in a timely manner.

H.R. 6231 is necessary to ensure that Congress has greater visibility into how the Department is managing its policy issuance program and to prevent any lengthy delays in the review and revision of critical departmental documents.

In closing, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for cosponsoring this bill, Representatives CLARKE, BISHOP of North Carolina, and EZELL. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for passing this legislation out of committee unanimously. Finally, I thank DHS staff, who provided valuable insight and feedback on the Department's policy review process.

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

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

This bipartisan bill is a commonsense way for Congress to ensure that DHS policies are updated on time, and if they are not updated, that Congress will hear about it and take appropriate action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6231, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This is a bipartisan bill. Mr. IVEY put a lot of work into this. It makes good common sense, and it allows us to oversee the Department with more authority and effectiveness. I fully support it, and I urge my colleagues to do so. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6231.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 288. An act to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

S. 4698. An act to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

EMERGING INNOVATIVE BORDER TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7832) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7832

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 "Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act".

SEC. 2. INNOVATIVE AND EMERGING BORDER TECHNOLOGY PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that may incorporate artificial intelligence, machine-learning, automation, fiber-optic sensing technology, nanotechnology, optical and cognitive radar, modeling and simulation technology, hyperspectral and LIDAR sensors, imaging, identification, and categorization systems, or other emerging or advanced technologies, to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding how CBP utilizes CBP Innovation Team authority under subsection (c) and other mechanisms to carry out the purposes specified in subsection (a).

(2) An assessment of the contributions directly attributable to such utilization.

(3) Information regarding the composition of each CBP Innovation Team, and how each such Team coordinates and integrates efforts with the CBP acquisition program office and other partners within CBP and the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) Identification of technologies used by other Federal departments or agencies not in use by CBP that could assist in enhancing, or addressing capability gaps in, border security operations.

(5) An analysis of authorities available to CBP to procure technologies referred to subsection (a), and an assessment as to whether additional or alternative authorities are needed to carry out the purposes specified in such subsection.

(6) An explanation of how CBP plans to scale existing programs related to emerging or advanced technologies into programs of record.

(7) A description of each planned security-related technology program, including objectives, goals, and timelines for each such program.

(8) An assessment of the privacy and security impact on border communities of security-related technology.

(9) An assessment of CBP legacy border technology programs that could be phased out and replaced by technologies referred to in subsection (a), and cost estimates relating to such phase out and replacement.

(10) Information relating to how CBP is coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate to—

(A) research and develop new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to carry out the purposes specified in subsection (a);

(B) identify security-related technologies that are in development or deployed by the private and public sectors that may satisfy the mission needs of CBP, with or without adaptation;

(C) incentivize the private sector to develop technologies that may help CBP meet mission needs to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations; and

(D) identify and assess ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with the private sector, small and disadvantaged businesses, intra-governmental entities, university centers of excellence, and Federal laboratories to leverage emerging technology and research within the public and private sectors.

(1) Information on metrics and key performance parameters for evaluating the effectiveness of efforts to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to carry out the purposes specified in subsection (a).

(12) An identification of recent technological advancements in the following:

(A) Manned aircraft sensor, communication, and common operating picture technology.

(B) Unmanned aerial systems and related technology, including counter-unmanned aerial system technology.

(C) Surveillance technology, including the following:

- (i) Mobile surveillance vehicles.
- (ii) Associated electronics, including cameras, sensor technology, and radar.
- (iii) Tower-based surveillance technology.
- (iv) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

(v) Deployable, lighter-than-air, ground surveillance equipment.

(D) Nonintrusive inspection technology, including non-X-ray devices utilizing muon tomography and other advanced detection technology.

(E) Tunnel detection technology.

(F) Communications equipment, including the following:

- (i) Radios.
- (ii) Long-term evolution broadband.
- (iii) Miniature satellites.

(13) Any other information the Secretary determines relevant.

(C) CBP INNOVATION TEAM AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of CBP is authorized to maintain one or more CBP Innovation Teams to research and adapt commercial technologies that are new, innovative, disruptive, or otherwise emerging or advanced that may be used by CBP to enhance, or address capability gaps in border security operations and urgent mission needs, and assess potential outcomes, to include any negative consequences, of the introduction of emerging or advanced technologies with respect to which documented capability gaps in border security operations are yet to be determined.

(2) OPERATING PROCEDURES, PLANNING, STRATEGIC GOALS.—The Commissioner of CBP shall require each team maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) to establish the following:

(A) Operating procedures that include specificity regarding roles and responsibilities within each such team and with respect to Department of Homeland Security and non-Federal partners, and protocols for entering into agreements to rapidly transition such technologies to existing or new programs of record to carry out the purposes specified in subsection (a).

(B) Planning and strategic goals for each such team that includes projected costs, time frames, metrics, and key performance parameters relating to the achievement of identified strategic goals, including a metric to measure the rate at which technologies described in subsection (a) are transitioned to existing or new programs of record in accordance with subparagraph (A)

(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of CBP shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information relating to the activities CBP Innovation Teams, including information regarding the following:

(A) Copies of operating procedures and protocols under paragraph (2)(A) and planning and strategic goals required under paragraph (2)(B).

(B) Descriptions of the technologies piloted by each such team over the immediately preceding fiscal year, including information regarding which such technologies are determined successful and an identification of documented capability gaps that are addressed.

(C) Information on the status of efforts to rapidly transition technologies determined successful to existing or new programs of record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7832.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7832, the Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act. This bill would enable Congress to better equip frontline personnel with the tools and resources necessary to secure and protect the United States border.

It is a necessary piece of legislation amidst the current crisis at our southwest border. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) for his attention to this matter.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7832, the Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act, is an opportunity to improve the Department of Homeland Security's ability to quickly acquire innovative technologies, like artificial intelligence and machine learning, that enhance border technologies overall.

With newer, more innovative technologies, we can improve CBP's targeting and our detection capabilities, which will help officers find and stop more illegal drugs before they flood our communities and harm our children.

By requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a plan to address capability gaps and integrate innovative technologies, like AI, machine learning, and nanotechnology, into our border security operations, this bill would force the Department of Homeland Security to think strategically about opportunities to work with

private-sector operators and others to develop and implement the latest technologies.

My bill also authorizes CBP's Innovation Team, which works with frontline agents and officers to develop and pilot promising technologies that help them do their jobs, primarily keeping Americans safe.

The Innovation Team finds and tests new commercial technologies, works with companies to adapt them for use along our border, and then helps the successful programs navigate government procurement bureaucracies so they can help scale up quickly to meet the government's needs.

Innovative technologies don't just help with catching drugs. New technologies can also help detect victims of human trafficking or migrants in need of help in the middle of a desert.

New technologies can also help Border Patrol agents communicate reliably in remote areas. When an agent is down or finds somebody injured, the ability to communicate quickly can literally save lives and be the difference between life and death.

Technology also helps CBP facilitate legal trade and travel. Long lines at our ports of entry can result in produce spoiling as opposed to making it to our grocery stores.

No one enjoys long lines at the airport. I am proud to represent Disneyland, and I know that most international travelers want to get to go see Minnie and Mickey as soon as possible.

While we clearly need more manpower at our ports of entry, new technologies can help get people and goods on their way to our markets and to our communities much quicker and much safer.

My legislation is just one way of many ways that Congress can support our border agents.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LUTTRELL and his team for working with us to make sure this piece of legislation is successful. I also thank my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security for their bipartisan support. I hope we continue to come together to craft bipartisan solutions to making our border more secure and support our men and women working in a safer environment on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support H.R. 7832, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7832, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7832.

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.

CUSTOMS TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TERRORISM PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 794) to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 794

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 “Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act of 2023” or the “CTPAT Pilot Program Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CTPAT.**—The term “CTPAT” means the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism established under subtitle B of title II of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (6 U.S.C. 961 et seq.).

SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON PARTICIPATION OF THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS PROVIDERS IN CTPAT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall carry out a pilot program to assess whether allowing entities described in subsection (b) to participate in CTPAT would enhance port security, combat terrorism, prevent supply chain security breaches, or otherwise meet the goals of CTPAT.

(2) **FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the requirements for the pilot program required by paragraph (1).

(b) **ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—An entity described in this subsection is—

(1) a non-asset-based third-party logistics provider that—

(A) arranges international transportation of freight and is licensed by the Department of Transportation; and

(B) meets such other requirements as the Secretary specifies in the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2); or

(2) an asset-based third-party logistics provider that—

(A) facilitates cross border activity and is licensed or bonded by the Federal Maritime Commission, the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Transportation;

(B) manages and executes logistics services using its own warehousing assets and resources on behalf of its customers; and

(C) meets such other requirements as the Secretary specifies in the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2).

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that—

(A) not more than 10 entities described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) participate in the pilot program; and

(B) not more than 10 entities described in paragraph (2) of that subsection participate in the program;

(2) provide for the participation of those entities on a voluntary basis;

(3) continue the program for a period of not less than one year after the date on which the Secretary publishes the Federal Register notice required by subsection (a)(2); and

(4) terminate the pilot program not more than 5 years after that date.

(d) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the pilot program under subsection (c)(4), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of, and any recommendations arising from, the pilot program concerning the participation in CTPAT of entities described in subsection (b), including an assessment of participation by those entities.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CTPAT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the effectiveness of CTPAT.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of—

(A) security incidents in the cargo supply chain during the 5-year period preceding submission of the report that involved criminal activity, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, commercial fraud, or terrorist activity; and

(B) whether those incidents involved participants in CTPAT or entities not participating in CTPAT.

(2) An analysis of causes for the suspension or removal of entities from participating in CTPAT as a result of security incidents during that 5-year period.

(3) An analysis of the number of active CTPAT participants involved in one or more security incidents while maintaining their status as participants.

(4) Recommendations to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for improvements to CTPAT to improve prevention of security incidents in the cargo supply chain involving participants in CTPAT.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. 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 S. 794.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 794, the CTPAT Pilot Program Act of

2023, which would establish a pilot program to assess the security benefits of providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program. I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider S. 794, the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act of 2023. This important legislation will further strengthen the security of cargo shipments arriving in the United States.

As we work to build a resilient supply chain and prevent dangerous threats from reaching our communities, it is critical that customs officers work closely with importers, shippers, carriers, and others to ensure both fast and secure travel. The CTPAT program encourages this.

In response to faster processing at our ports of entry, members of the trade community participating in this program adopt tighter security measures throughout their global supply chain. Today, more than 11,400 companies currently participate in the CTPAT program, accounting for about 52 percent of cargo imports into the United States.

Despite the success of the program, certain third-party logistics providers are excluded from even applying for membership. Further expanding access to CTPAT will help U.S. businesses and improve supply chain security to prevent terrorists and terrorist threats from reaching our communities.

Specifically, this bill establishes a 5-year pilot program to allow certain third-party logistics providers to join this very important program. We hope to see how the participation of third-party logistics providers helps CBP enhance port security and mitigate supply chain breaches.

I thank Senator CORNYN for leading this legislation in the Senate and my colleague, Representative ELISSA SLOTKIN, for leading this legislation in the House.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREEN for recognizing me for such time as I may consume, whereas any other Member of Congress would need only about 1 minute to provide this commentary.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 794, the CTPAT Pilot Program Act of 2023.

Since 2001, the United States Customs and Border Protection's CTPAT program has been reducing vulnerability throughout the supply chain by incentivizing greater security measures with certified trade partners.

Today, more than 11,400 certified partners have been accepted into the program.

The CTPAT Pilot Program Act of 2023 expands upon this already successful program by requiring CBP to establish a pilot program to assess the benefits of allowing non-asset-based third-party logistics providers, 3PLs, and additional asset-based 3PLs to participate in this program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members will support this critical legislation today, as it strengthens our efforts to combat the threat of terrorism in the global supply chain.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would help American businesses thrive and also enhance the safety of our communities. By expanding access to CTPAT, more of our trusted trading partners can expedite cargo into our local communities and our country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support S. 794, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 794.

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.

PRODUCING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR HOMELAND SECURITY ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9459) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9459

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 “Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act” or the “PATHS Act”.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACQUISITION PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Until September 30, 2024, and subject to subsection (d)” and inserting “Until September 30, 2027, and subject to subsection (c)”; and

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

“(3) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY INVOLVING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—Not later than 72 hours after the use or extension of the transaction authority authorized under paragraph (1) involving artificial intelligence technology, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and offer a briefing explaining the reason for the use or extension.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2027”.

(b) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF COVERED CONTRACT AWARD.—Subparagraph (A) of section 7113(d)(1) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (6 U.S.C. 112 note; Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 9459.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9459, the PATHS Act.

DHS’ other transaction authority is an important tool in the Department’s limited arsenal of mechanisms to acquire innovative new research and prototypes.

This bill also includes some common-sense transparency reforms to DHS’ use of OTA authority.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), for his work on this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to continue to use other transaction authority, or OTA, for an additional 3 years.

OTA allows the Department to work with nontraditional government contractors to conduct research and prototype projects outside the framework of the traditional acquisition process.

□ 1645

DHS’ ability to use OTA expires on September 30, just 1 week from now. Let’s pass this legislation and ensure that this does not happen again.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) the Congressman who represents my parents and who is the vice chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9459, the Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for advancing this bipartisan piece of legislation that I am proud to lead with my friend from Maryland, Congressman GLENN IVEY.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security has a constantly evolving mission, and to meet these needs, the Department was previously granted authority to enter into other transactional agreements, or OTAs. These legally binding agreements allow the Department to engage with non-traditional contractors that would not normally do business with the Federal Government.

This authority allows the Department of Homeland Security to operate quickly and more efficiently. These agreements have allowed entities to produce prototypes of nonintrusive inspection technology that can detect illicit materials hidden inside vehicles crossing the border and has researched machine learning practices to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The usefulness of this authority has been demonstrated in my home State of Mississippi, as The University of Southern Mississippi was part of a project to develop sensors for unmanned vehicles used by both DHS and the United States Coast Guard.

It is critical that we pass this legislation before the authority expires on September 30.

This bill served as a companion to Senator PETERS’ Senate bill, which passed unanimously out of markup in the Senate in April of this year. It would extend the Department’s OTA authority by 3 years to 2027.

Mr. Speaker, I am also glad to say that this bill provides additional accountability and places guardrails on the current program.

It would require advanced notification to Congress should the authority be used in any advancement of artificial intelligence technology.

It would amend the DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021 to ensure greater—once again, greater—transparency by reducing the amount of a contract to be reported on the DHS website from \$4 million to \$1 million.

Again, I thank Mr. IVEY for his leadership on this important legislation, and I appreciate Chairman GREEN and the committee staff for their work on this timely and relevant issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY), a cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act.

Other transaction authority, or OTA, is a vital tool that enables DHS to more quickly obtain cutting-edge, emerging technologies that address specific operational needs.

For example, DHS has used OTA to fund research and development of digital IDs that people can store on their phone and advanced technology to improve the detection of explosive materials at airport checkpoints.

This bipartisan bill also provides for increased transparency into the Department's use of OTA by requiring DHS to notify the public and Congress when it uses the authority to enter into agreements worth over \$1 million or for agreements involving artificial intelligence.

A lapse in DHS' authority would impede the Department's ability to rapidly develop solutions for border security, aviation security, and other critical homeland security concerns.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago when OTA did briefly lapse, that is exactly what happened. DHS was forced to delay or stop 48 projects.

DHS estimates that if OTA lapses again next week, 77 planned and underway projects would be halted or delayed.

A potential halt in OTA would be inefficient, wasteful, and potentially harmful to the security of our homeland.

In closing, I thank my colleague, Congressman GUEST, for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

I thank Representatives MICHAEL GUEST and GLENN IVEY for cosponsoring this bill.

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

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

I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9459, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9459.

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.

DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

pass the bill (H.R. 3208) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3208

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 "DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act".

SEC. 2. DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2220F. DHS CYBERSECURITY ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Agency a 'DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program' (in this section referred to as the 'Program') to voluntarily train Department employees who are not currently in a cybersecurity position for work in matters relating to cybersecurity at the Department. The Program shall be led by the Director, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management.

"(b) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—In carrying out the Program under subsection (a), the Director—

"(1) shall develop a curriculum for the Program, incorporating any existing curricula as appropriate, and consistent with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Framework or any successor framework, which may include distance learning instruction, in-classroom instruction within a work location, on-the-job instruction under the supervision of experienced cybersecurity staff, or other means of training and education as determined appropriate by the Director;

"(2) shall develop criteria for participation in the Program;

"(3) in accordance with paragraph (1), shall provide cybersecurity training to employees of the Department and may, as appropriate, provide cybersecurity training to other Federal employees; and

"(4) shall annually for seven years submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

"(A) information relating to the number of employees who participated in the Program in the preceding year;

"(B) an identification of the positions into which employees trained through the Program were hired after such training;

"(C) a description of metrics used to measure the success of the Program;

"(D) copies of the reports submitted pursuant to (c)(1); and

"(E) any additional information relating to the duties specified in this subsection.

"(c) DUTIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—In carrying out the Program under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall—

"(1) submit to the Secretary an annual report on the status of vacancies in cybersecurity positions throughout the Department;

"(2) support efforts by the Director to identify and recruit individuals employed by the Department to participate in the Program;

"(3) implement policies, including continuing service agreements, to encourage participation in the Program by employees throughout the Department; and

"(4) conduct outreach to employees who complete the Program regarding cybersecurity job opportunities within the Department."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2220E the following new item:

"Sec. 2220F. DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3208.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3208. The DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act will strengthen CISA's role in providing cybersecurity training to DHS employees not formerly in cybersecurity positions.

This legislation is reflective of the consistent efforts of its sponsor, Ms. Jackson Lee, who we all lost just months ago, to improve DHS. This, I believe, is her last bill. She was a true friend to the committee and to this Chamber, and I know we will all miss her presence.

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

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

During Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's two decades in Congress serving on the Homeland Security Committee, one of her top priorities was strengthening our Nation's cyber defenses.

She consistently prioritized expanding our cybersecurity workforce, recognized that investing in cybersecurity education and training would make our Nation more secure.

At a time when few Members of Congress were focused on cybersecurity back in 2005, Congresswoman Jackson Lee introduced the Cybersecurity Education Enhancement Act to provide funding for expanded cybersecurity education programs across the country.

With her trademark persistence, Congresswoman Jackson Lee kept on fighting to expand the talent pool of trained cybersecurity professionals, most recently with the introduction last year of this legislation that we are considering today, the DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act.

This bill will direct the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, to provide cybersecurity

training to Department of Homeland Security existing employees with the goal of training existing personnel to fill cybersecurity job vacancies at the Department.

According to testimony before the Homeland Security Committee in June, there are nearly 2,000 cybersecurity vacancies at DHS today.

With cybersecurity threats from adversaries like Russia and China only further increasing, filling these vacancies is a national security imperative.

While DHS has taken important steps to address this challenge, private-sector competition for talent and the slow Federal hiring process have continued to hamper our efforts at DHS to eliminate this shortfall.

Training existing DHS personnel who have already been vetted and onboarded by the Department is a critical part of ensuring that DHS has the cybersecurity talent on payroll today to fulfill its critical cybersecurity mission.

This legislation builds on CISA's existing Federal Cyber Defense Skilling Academy and ensures that CISA continues its efforts to leverage cybersecurity expertise to support DHS' broader workforce.

I urge my colleagues to continue Congresswoman Jackson Lee's legacy on this most important issue and support H.R. 3208.

Across DHS' many component agencies, there is a critical need for cybersecurity expertise to help defend our homeland.

So long as key cybersecurity positions sit vacant, we are at greater risk for damaging cyberattacks that expose our sensitive information or disrupt critical infrastructure.

Passing Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's legislation will ensure DHS employees get the training necessary to fill cybersecurity job vacancies, and also, we will be honoring her legacy of fighting for a stronger cybersecurity workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3208, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3208, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3208.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. 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.

DHS JOINT TASK FORCES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4698) to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4698

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 "DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding "and" at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;" and

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

"(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

"(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

"(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

"(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.;" and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking "2024" and inserting "2026".

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 4698.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 4698, the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024, which extends authorization for DHS' Joint Task Force authority until September 30, 2026.

This critical authority allows DHS to use multiagency task forces to defend U.S. borders against terrorism and other emerging threats in a unity of effort campaign.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) for his leadership on the House companion to this legislation, H.R. 9460, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering the DHS Joint Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2024.

Right now, DHS operates one joint task force in the southeastern U.S. and Caribbean called Joint Task Force East. Every day, Joint Task Force East combines the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, and other agencies to share intelligence and counter bad actors who may bring negative elements to our Nation.

This joint task force also works hand in hand with the Department of Defense and our international partners. We must ensure that they continue to detect and dismantle cartels across the world.

Just this calendar year alone, coalition efforts under Joint Task Force East have resulted in the interdiction of hundreds of migrants, over 55,000 kilos of illicit cocaine valued at almost \$2 billion, illegally harvested fish valued at over \$900,000, over 350 illegal firearms, and over 26,000 rounds of ammunition.

Again, that is nearly \$2 billion worth of illegal narcotics that have been kept off our American streets and over 350 guns not going into the hands of cartels or gang members around the world.

For the joint task force's work to continue, we need to reauthorize the joint task force authority. At the same time, Congress needs more information

on the resources the joint task force needs to be successful.

This bill reauthorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security's ability to create and use joint task forces while also requiring DHS to set up a staffing plan and share that information with Congress.

With this legislation, we can support the men and women working to protect the homeland and give them the resources that they need to do their job of keeping the American people safe.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4698, the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024. I am proud to lead the House companion to this bill.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation will extend the Department of Homeland Security's joint task force authority for another 2 years.

Extending this authority allows for a unified DHS law enforcement approach to target, dismantle, and disrupt transnational criminal organizations and their illegal activities. This coordination enables personnel from Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, and others to continue integrating their existing authorities to work together to confront complex national security threats that impact our Nation's land, sea, and air borders, and to combat terrorism, unlawful immigration, maritime mass migration, and illicit smuggling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 4698.

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

In closing, I thank my colleagues Mr. HIGGINS from Louisiana and Mr. SUOZZI from New York for leading this bill in this House, and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on Homeland Security for their support. I would also like to thank Senator PETERS for leading this bill in the Senate.

During my own travels this year, I saw the great work that Joint Task Force East conducts on a day-to-day basis. This reauthorization makes sure that their good work continues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 4698, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I urge my colleagues to support S. 4698, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4698.

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.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3764) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3764

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 "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking "2023 and 2024" and inserting "2025 and 2026".

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2026".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, religious persecution is a tragic reality in many parts of the world, whether it be against Uyghur Muslims in China, Christian minorities in parts of Africa and the Middle East, the Baha'i in Iran, or religious communities attempting to worship without official control by repressive regimes in Burma, China, or North Korea. Anti-Semitism is on the rise.

This bipartisan bill, which unanimously passed the Senate, will continue the good work of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF.

Congress created USCIRF as an independent Federal entity in 1998. Although the fundamental freedom of re-

ligion was under siege around the world, it did not receive enough attention in U.S. foreign policy.

USCIRF is a body of experts who speak out on behalf of persecuted believers of any faith and push for accountability beyond what the State Department or the White House may view as diplomatically comfortable.

The commission's independent voice remains critical today, as the State Department too often pushes religious freedom to the side.

Although the law requires the department to designate countries of particular concern for religious freedom violations, their list of CPC countries never includes all the countries that meet the statutory criteria.

Thankfully, USCIRF continues its truth telling to identify the other persecutors that should be designated. Those countries include Vietnam, where Communist authorities severely repress Christians, Buddhists, and other believers who attempt to worship outside of state control. They also include Nigeria, where Islamist militias murder Christians with impunity.

They include Afghanistan, where the brutal Taliban have retaken power and moved that country back to an intolerant darkness. If any countries are countries of particular concern for serious violations of religious freedom, then those should be among them.

S. 3764 is a simple extension of USCIRF's statutory authority so that the commission can continue its bipartisan, nonsectarian work on behalf of our Nation's first freedom, religious liberty.

I am very pleased that this is a clean reauthorization and does not include any of the previous attempts by some in the other body to make USCIRF more partisan or to dilute its mandate with extraneous issues.

Through robust oversight, we also must work to ensure that USCIRF remains focused on its true, bipartisan statutory mandate; namely, "the annual and ongoing review of the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom."

I thank Senator RUBIO and his bipartisan colleagues who introduced this bill in the Senate where it received unanimous support.

I also recognize the important work of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Global Human Rights Subcommittee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the author of the House side reauthorization. He has been a leader on religious freedom issues throughout his 43-year career in this House.

We need to pass this bill immediately to help ensure that freedom of religion under threat from extremists and authoritarian governments around the world remains front and center.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3764, and I thank our Senate colleagues, especially Senators MARCO

RUBIO, BEN CARDIN, and JAMES LANKFORD, and my dear friend and colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for their leadership in advancing this important measure.

This bill would reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF, which was established nearly 26 years ago as an independent, bipartisan U.S. Government advisory body to monitor and report annually on religious freedom abroad and make policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the right of each individual to freely practice his or her religion or hold nonreligious beliefs is a fundamental human right. Yet, everyday individuals and communities around the world are subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination simply for practicing their beliefs.

USCIRF's 2024 report outlines serious violations of religious freedom and highlights some concerning global developments, including laws restricting religious freedom like blasphemy laws, anti-conversion laws, and restrictions on religious garb, governments engaged in transnational repression to silence religious minorities and their advocates abroad, and the disturbing global rise of anti-Semitism during 2023 and 2024.

USCIRF has done an excellent job highlighting the threat that anti-Semitism poses to religious freedom, including issuing an important report on anti-Semitism in Europe in 2021, as well as highlighting the growing number of national strategies and other initiatives around the world to combat this trend.

This year, USCIRF noted the significant increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes following the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel in which Jews around the world were collectively blamed for the actions of the Israeli Government. USCIRF continues to document anti-Semitic tropes being weaponized in elections, Holocaust distortion and denial, and even the impact of laws prohibiting ritual slaughter on religious freedom.

Throughout this time, it has diligently followed its mission to advance international freedom of religion or belief by independently assessing and unflinchingly confronting threats to this fundamental right.

Mr. Speaker, USCIRF is needed more than ever. By reauthorizing USCIRF, we will ensure the commission will be able to continue to defend and promote religious freedom by conducting research, publishing reports and analysis for the public, and offering recommendations to policymakers on religious freedom violations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, I encourage my colleagues to support its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

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

Mr. Speaker, religious freedom flows from the inherent dignity of every human person and should be protected wherever it is threatened.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom remains an independent voice on behalf of religious believers everywhere. USCIRF will continue to enjoy bipartisan support so long as they focus on their core mandate, which is the protection of religious liberty around the world.

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

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, attempts to distort definitions of religious freedom to cover unrelated or partisan issues will quickly squander that support and endanger the extension of USCIRF's mandate in the future. S. 3764 will ensure that the Commission continues its nonpartisan mission of promoting the right of religious liberty that we hold so dear as a nation. It deserves our unanimous support.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would allow USCIRF to continue its important work of advising Congress, engaging with the executive branch, monitoring religious freedom abroad, and raising public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative CHRIS SMITH and Senators MARCO RUBIO, BEN CARDIN, and JAMES LANKFORD, for their hard work on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3764, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2024.

This is a simple, clean, 3-sentence bill that reauthorizes the Commission, popularly known as USCIRF, for 2025 and 2026. It does so by amending the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 in the authorization of appropriations merely by updating the years of authorization and expiration. This has become the tradition: clean, simple, 2-year reauthorizations, and we should stick to this.

It's vital that we reauthorize USCIRF because it is the linchpin of the entire program Congress created to promote religious freedom through the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. USCIRF's high-quality reporting and high-profile commissioners influence the State Department's work on religious freedom, making it more honest and effective.

USCIRF is tasked with defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviewing reports of religious freedom

violations and making policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and the congressional leadership of both political parties. In May, Speaker JOHNSON appointed our former colleague the Honorable Vicky Hartzler to the Commission, and none of you will be surprised to hear that she's been a very active and engaged commissioner.

It was my very good friend Chairman Frank Wolf, who, in 1998, with great legislative skill, commitment and driving passion, pushed a supportive Congress but highly reluctant White House into enacting a singularly important human rights law—the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA). Frank Wolf's law made the protection and promotion of religious freedom a serious priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom, by establishing the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State—which among other duties, compiles the International Religious Freedom Reports on every country in the world—and by crafting the independent-minded U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the subject of today's reauthorization.

Importantly, Frank Wolf's landmark law also created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs. History has shown that when the U.S. elevates religious freedom and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern, conditions often change for the better, prisoners of conscience gain their freedom and progress is made in the free or at least freer exercise of religious liberty.

As the author of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, which updated Frank's legislation in 2016, I follow the implementation of this law very closely. Since its founding, the International Religious Freedom Commission has issued 25 annual reports and recommended that 25 countries be designated CPCs—17 of them have ultimately been designated by the State Department. The IRFC acts as a true watchdog, recommending with incisive commentary that more countries be designated as Countries of Particular Concern than the State Department regularly designates. This demonstrates that USCIRF is a genuinely outside force, a constructive influence on the State Department. Convincing the State Department to heed the recommendations of USCIRF can be a process that takes years, and some administrations are more difficult to convince than others.

In this respect the Biden administration has been one of the worst. Nigeria is the most egregious case of all. USCIRF has recommended CPC status—after all, almost 5,000 Christians were killed there for their faith last year, with rampant government complicity. This is no-brainer—but not for the Biden-Harris Administration, which attributes this modern martyrdom to climate change and tribal conflict. This is egregious. Over 90 percent of Christians killed for their faith last year, in the entire world, were killed in Nigeria. USCIRF, however, calls it like it is and pulls no punches.

Mr. Speaker, USCIRF in recent years has been more effective than at any point in its history. Its recent chairs and commissioners have raised the profile and credibility of the Commission. I can say today that the U.S.

Commission on International Religious Freedom is the U.S. government's strongest and most respected voice for victims of religious persecution worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, USCIRF's mission is to monitor religious freedom violations globally and make policy recommendation to the U.S. government—that's a big mission, and it's always commanded bipartisan support. S. 3764 and its House companion, H.R. 7025, which has identical language and was introduced by myself and my good friend Rep. ESHOO, has together an equal number of Republican and Democrat co-sponsors. I believe Speaker JOHNSON's most recent appointments to the Commission, our former colleague Vicky-Hartzler and Maureen Ferguson, will help keep it on course. Congress will continue to do its part.

USCIRF is important to millions of our constituents of all faiths. I urge my colleagues to support S. 3764 and reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3764.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. 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.

GAO DATABASE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 679) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 679

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 "GAO Database Modernization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. RULES NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) For any rule submitted under subparagraph (A), if the Federal agency promulgating the rule, in whole or in part, revokes, suspends, replaces, amends, or otherwise makes the rule ineffective, or the rule is made ineffective for any other reason, the Federal agency shall submit to the Comptroller General a report containing—

"(i) the title of the rule;

"(ii) the Federal Register citation for the rule, if any;

"(iii) the date on which rule was submitted to the Comptroller General; and

"(iv) a description of the provisions of the rule that are being revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective."

(b) SUNSET.—Effective on the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, section 801(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (D), as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENTZ. 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 S. 679.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 679, the GAO Database Modernization Act. This is an important piece of legislation that would help Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and the public keep track of the rule-making activities of the administrative state.

Under the Congressional Review Act, administrative agencies are required to notify Congress and the GAO when that agency enacts a new rule. This notification process allows Congress to review and, if necessary, consider a resolution to reject the new rule within a certain period of time.

The notification process also allows the GAO to maintain a publicly available database of all rules. This publicly available database allows the American people to access information about the rules and regulations that govern their lives.

One downside, however, is that, under current law, agencies, although required to publish new rules, are not required to notify Congress or the GAO if they amend or eliminate a rule. This can lead to significant confusion. If the GAO is not notified of a change to or revocation of a rule, then it is unable to maintain an up-to-date database for the American people.

Further, because agencies are not required to notify Congress when a rule is modified or eliminated, many activities undertaken by the administrative state occur without any oversight.

As a result, the American people may view out-of-date information when searching for details about regulations, and Congress does not have easy access to all the information required to effectively conduct oversight of the administrative state.

S. 679 seeks to remedy this problem. The GAO Database Modernization Act will require administrative agencies to notify the GAO whenever they amend, suspend, or eliminate any rule.

This bill would allow the GAO to maintain a comprehensive database,

tracking all administrative rule-making developments, not just newly enacted rules. This commonsense, narrowly tailored, and bipartisan proposal will ensure that the American people have access to complete and correct information about the rules that govern their lives.

It will also allow Congress to better monitor the regulatory developments of the administrative state and ensure that Members of Congress are appropriately informed of the regulatory state of play.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the GAO Database Modernization Act would amend the Congressional Review Act to require Federal agencies to report to the GAO certain information about agency rules that are made ineffective due to an agency action or other reason.

The Congressional Review Act, or CRA, requires an agency to submit a report to both Houses of Congress and to GAO whenever it promulgates a rule. This reporting requirement enables Congress to be kept regularly informed of rulemaking activity by all administrative agencies.

GAO has created a publicly accessible database which tracks all rules submitted by the agencies. However, agencies do not currently report updates, suspensions, or alterations of rules to GAO unless any modifications are part of a newly promulgated regulation.

To increase transparency, this legislation amends the CRA to require agencies to submit a report to GAO on rules that are revoked, suspended, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.

While I do not oppose this legislation, I do note that I have concerns with the underlying Congressional Review Act, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to examine whether the law is operating as intended.

The CRA, which provides a fast-track process whereby Congress can overturn an agency regulation, could be misused to undermine lifesaving regulations to protect public health and safety.

Regulations take significant time, resources, public input, and expertise to craft, but the CRA allows narrow, partisan majorities in Congress to do away with them without any of the deliberative processes that went into making them.

Since the CRA also prohibits an agency from issuing another rule "in substantially the same form" without congressional authorization, it allows Congress to tie an agency's hands well into the future.

I hope this legislation is a modest improvement to oversight and transparency, but I hope that this is just the beginning of a larger conversation about the CRA and its impact on the regulatory process.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, although I hope that we can engage in a broader conversation about the Congressional Review Act, I appreciate that this bill provides additional transparency into the regulatory process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues 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 Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 679.

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.

IMPACTT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 670) to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 670

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 “IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATORS MAINTAIN PURPOSEFUL AWARENESS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING TRAUMA PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program (referred to in this Act as the “IMPACTT Program”).

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The IMPACTT Program shall—

(1) provide outreach and training to Homeland Security Investigations employees who have been exposed to various forms of trauma in working with victims of human trafficking, including—

(A) self-awareness training for the relevant employees on recognizing the signs of burn-out, compassion fatigue, critical incident stress, traumatic stress, posttraumatic stress, secondary traumatic stress, and vicarious trauma;

(B) training material that—

(i) provides mechanisms for self-care and resilience and notification of resources that are available through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, such as the Employee Assistance Program, the Peer Support Program, the Chaplain Program, and other rel-

evant accredited programs that are available; and

(ii) provides examples of potential resources that are available outside of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which may include, faith-based and community-based resources; and

(C) provide additional training to first line supervisors of relevant employees on recognizing the signs referred to in subparagraph (A) and the appropriate responses to employees exhibiting such signs;

(2) include training modules that are carried out by—

(A) licensed and accredited clinicians who—

(i) have been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

(ii) may have experience working with faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, counseling programs, or other social service programs; and

(B) additional subject matter experts who are available; and

(3) be overseen and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking to ensure that—

(A) appropriate program materials are distributed;

(B) training is offered to all relevant employees; and

(C) any needed travel and equipment is provided.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 447. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FORENSIC INTERVIEW SPECIALIST.—The term ‘forensic interview specialist’ is an interview professional who has specialized experience and training in conducting trauma-informed forensic interviews with victims of crime.

“(2) VICTIM.—The term ‘victim’ has the meaning given such term in section 503(e)(2) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 2041(e)(2)).

“(3) VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST.—The term ‘victim assistance specialist’ is a victim assistance professional who—

“(A) has experience working with victims of crime in a service capacity;

“(B) has been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

“(C) may have experience working with local government and community-based organizations, including victim advocacy centers, child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, faith-based organizations, and other social service programs.

“(b) IN GENERAL.—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Victim Assistance Program.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Victim Assistance Program shall—

“(1) provide oversight, guidance, training, travel, equipment, and coordination to Homeland Security Investigations victim assistance personnel throughout the United States;

“(2) recruit not fewer than—

“(A) 1 forensic interview specialist and 1 victim assistance specialist for each Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge office;

“(B) 1 victim assistance specialist for—

“(i) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a human trafficking task force; and

“(ii) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a child sexual exploitation task force;

“(3) support Homeland Security Investigations regional attaché offices, to the extent necessary;

“(4) provide training regarding victims’ rights, victim-related policies, roles of forensic interviewers and victim assistance specialists, and an approach that is—

“(A) victim-centered;

“(B) trauma-informed; and

“(C) linguistically appropriate, to the extent feasible; and

“(5) purchase emergency items that are needed to assist identified victims in Homeland Security Investigations criminal investigations, including food, clothing, hygiene products, transportation, and temporary shelter that is not otherwise provided by a nongovernmental organization.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) is amended—

(1) in section 1(b) (6 U.S.C. 101 note)—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 442. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”;

and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 446 the following:

“Sec. 447. Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.”;

(2) in section 442—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: “U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT”;

(B) by striking “bureau” each place such term appears (except in subsection (a)(1)) and inserting “agency”;

(C) by striking “the Bureau of Border Security” each place such term appears and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”;

(D) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “OF BUREAU”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “affecting the Bureau of” and inserting “affecting U.S.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the Bureau.” and inserting “the agency.”; and

(E) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Bureau of Border Security” and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the Bureau of” before “Citizenship and Immigration Services” and inserting “U.S.”; and

(3) in section 443(2), by striking “such bureau” and inserting “such agency”.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that identifies, with respect to the reporting period—

(1) the number of trainings that were provided through the IMPACTT Program and the number of personnel who received such training; and

(2) the number of human trafficking victims who were assisted by the Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall cease to have force or effect beginning on October 1, 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENTZ. 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 S. 670.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program, IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act, provides for outreach and training to Homeland Security Investigations employees who have been exposed to various forms of trauma while working with victims of human trafficking.

Thousands of men, women, and children are exploited through sex or labor in the United States. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, and false promises of jobs or even romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. We have heard about these issues extensively in two victim-focused hearings in the House Judiciary Committee in this Congress.

Human trafficking not only leaves victims and survivors with lasting trauma, but it also affects the dedicated professionals who are responsible for investigating these crimes. Homeland Security Investigations is a component of and the main investigative body within the Department of Homeland Security.

HSI investigates all types of transnational crimes, but they serve as the leading Federal agency combating the evils of human trafficking, human smuggling, and child exploitation.

HSI works with more than 120 Federal, State, and local law enforcement human trafficking task forces across the United States. Through these task forces, HSI agents work with victim services organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and others to raise awareness of human trafficking and generate investigative leads.

While we all have a role in putting a stop to human trafficking, HSI stands on the front lines to identify and capture traffickers and predators, and then to hold these criminals accountable.

We cannot thank these brave men and women enough for all they do to protect victims, both in the United States and abroad. This bill would make permanent the Investigators

Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma, IMPACTT, program within HSI that provides outreach and training to investigators, interviewers, victim assistance specialists, and other partners who have been exposed to trauma while working with victims of human trafficking.

These trainings would include the available resources to help cope with burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, and trauma.

The bill also makes the HSI victim assistance program permanent, which provides important guidance on victim assistance and monitors compliance with Federal crime victim statutes.

Lastly, this legislation increases the number of victim assistance specialists to ensure that every office participating in a human trafficking or child exploitation task force will have an assigned victim assistance specialist.

This legislation already passed the Senate under unanimous consent.

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

□ 1730

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 670, the IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act, is bipartisan legislation that has a dual purpose. It would establish the program within the DHS' Homeland Security Investigation unit, or HSI. It would also codify and expand the HSI Victim Assistance Program.

By establishing the IMPACTT program, this bill would ensure that outreach and training are available to HSI agents, forensic interviewers, survivor assistance specialists, task force officers, and other partners who work with survivors of human trafficking.

This work can be extremely taxing, exposing these individuals to the trauma of those they are working to help. By ensuring that these individuals receive support, such as through training to help recognize burnout and secondary traumatic stress, this legislation would help them be more effective, reduce turnover, and ensure that they can continue the important work of fighting human trafficking and assisting survivors.

The second component of this legislation would enhance the HSI Victim Assistance Program to ensure that every human trafficking survivor identified by HSI is assigned a survivor assistance specialist and that this program provides survivors with the support they need.

Survivor assistance specialists are a critical component of HSI's survivor-centered approach to addressing human trafficking. These specialists connect survivors to resources they might need and might not otherwise be aware of, help survivors understand their investigative and prosecutorial process, and train other law enforcement and private-sector partners so that survivors receive assistance that is survivor-cen-

tered, trauma-informed, and linguistically appropriate.

Currently, only the largest HSI field offices have a victim assistance specialist, but this legislation would ensure that every HSI office with a human trafficking or child exploitation task force would have a survivor assistance specialist to carry out this important work.

The Victim Assistance Program also provides forensic interview support so that survivors are not retraumatized during investigative interviews, and this bill would ensure that more survivors receive that support.

Finally, this bill would help address the immediate needs of survivors of human trafficking by providing funds for clothing, food, transportation, hygiene products, and temporary shelter.

This benefits the survivors by promoting their safety and reducing the chances that they end up back under the control of a trafficker. It also prevents crime and future victimization by increasing the chances that survivors are willing and able to assist law enforcement in bringing the perpetrators of trafficking to justice.

As the State's attorney of Prince George's County, I saw some of the harrowing experiences survivors of human trafficking experienced. This bipartisan legislation would provide important support to help them as well as those who work with them.

I commend Senator PETERS and my House colleagues who jointly led the companion to this bill: Representatives JOYCE, TITUS, WAGNER, and SLOTKIN. It is truly encouraging to see a bipartisan, bicameral bill that supports the survivors of human trafficking, and I hope we can all work together on more bipartisan legislation like this in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act, which I introduced alongside Senator PETERS early last year.

Thousands of men, women, and children are victimized by human traffickers in the United States each year. Ohio is consistently ranked among the States most heavily impacted by human trafficking incidents. Traffickers threaten, deceive, and manipulate their victims, forcing them into what amounts to modern-day slavery.

As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of caring for victims, punishing perpetrators, and ensuring that law enforcement personnel also receive the resources and attention they need when investigating these heinous crimes.

This bill would codify and expand the Victim Assistance Program at HSI to provide much-needed support for victims and other individuals impacted by human trafficking.

The bill also makes permanent a program focused on promoting the well-being of HSI employees and partners who are repeatedly exposed to trauma and stress during the course of their work with victims and associated investigations. These law enforcement personnel are consistently exposed to some of the worst humanity has to offer, and they are working to protect the most vulnerable. We should do everything in our power to safeguard their well-being and make sure they have the resources they need to protect their mental health and continue to do this admirable work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator PETERS for his continued leadership on this issue and my colleagues in the House for their critical partnership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill today.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, S. 670, the IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act, would enable more survivors to participate in the investigation and prosecution of the crimes committed against them and prevent future trafficking crimes. I support this bipartisan legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this necessary 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 Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 670.

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.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2228) to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2228

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 “Building Chips in America Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. SEMICONDUCTOR PROGRAM.

Title XCIX of division H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 9902 (15 U.S.C. 4652)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) AUTHORITY RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provision by the Secretary of Federal financial assistance for a project described in this section that satisfies the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall not be considered to be a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (referred to in this subsection as ‘NEPA’) or an undertaking for the purposes of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, if—

“(A) the activity described in the application for that project has commenced not later than December 31, 2024;

“(B) the Federal financial assistance provided is in the form of a loan or loan guarantee; or

“(C) the Federal financial assistance provided, excluding any loan or loan guarantee, comprises not more than 10 percent of the total estimated cost of the project.

“(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as altering whether an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) is considered to be a major Federal action under NEPA, or an undertaking under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, for a reason other than that the activity is eligible for Federal financial assistance provided under this section.”; and

(2) in section 9909 (15 U.S.C. 4659), by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘lead agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 111 of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

“(2) OPTION TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY.—With respect to a covered activity that is a major Federal action under NEPA, and with respect to which the Department of Commerce is authorized or required by law to issue an authorization or take action for or relating to that covered activity, the Department of Commerce shall have the first right to serve as the lead agency with respect to that covered activity under NEPA.

“(d) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Each of the following categorical exclusions is established for the National Institute of Standards and Technology with respect to a covered activity and, beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, is available for use by the Secretary with respect to a covered activity:

“(A) Categorical exclusion 17.04.d (relating to the acquisition of machinery and equipment) in the document entitled ‘EDA Program to Implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Other Federal Environmental Mandates As Required’ (Directive No. 17.02–2; effective date October 14, 1992).

“(B) Categorical exclusion A9 in Appendix A to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(C) Categorical exclusions B1.24, B1.31, B2.5, and B5.1 in Appendix B to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(D) The categorical exclusions described in paragraphs (4) and (13) of section 50.19(b) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(E) Categorical exclusion (c)(1) in Appendix B to part 651 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(F) Categorical exclusions A2.3.8 and A2.3.14 in Appendix B to part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(2) ADDITIONAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each of the following shall be treated as a category of action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments and environmental impact statements under section 1501.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation:

“(A) The provision by the Secretary of any Federal financial assistance for a project described in section 9902, if the facility that is the subject of the project is on or adjacent to a site—

“(i) that is owned or leased by the covered entity to which Federal financial assistance is provided for that project; and

“(ii) on which, as of the date on which the Secretary provides that Federal financial assistance, substantially similar construction, expansion, or modernization is being or has been carried out, such that the facility would not more than double existing developed acreage or on-site supporting infrastructure.

“(B) The provision by the Secretary of Defense of any Federal financial assistance relating to—

“(i) the creation, expansion, or modernization of one or more facilities described in the second sentence of section 9903(a)(1); or

“(ii) carrying out section 9903(b), as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) Any activity undertaken by the Secretary relating to carrying out section 9906, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF PRIOR PLANNING DECISIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘prior studies and decisions’ means baseline data, planning documents, studies, analyses, decisions, and documentation that a Federal agency has completed for a project (or that have been completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe), including for determining the reasonable range of alternatives for that project.

“(2) RELIANCE ON PRIOR STUDIES AND DECISIONS.—In completing an environmental review under NEPA for a covered activity, the Secretary may consider and, as appropriate, rely on or adopt prior studies and decisions, if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) those prior studies and decisions meet the standards for an adequate statement, assessment, or determination under applicable procedures of the Department of Commerce implementing the requirements of NEPA;

“(B) in the case of prior studies and decisions completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe, those laws and procedures are of equal or greater rigor than those of each applicable Federal law, including NEPA, implementing procedures of the Department of Commerce; or

“(C) if applicable, the prior studies and decisions are informed by other analysis or documentation that would have been prepared if the prior studies and decisions were prepared by the Secretary under NEPA.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered activity’ means any activity relating to the construction, expansion, or modernization of a facility, the investment in which is eligible for Federal financial assistance under section 9902 or 9906.

“(2) NEPA.—The term ‘NEPA’ means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).”

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. 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 S. 2228, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2228, the Building Chips in America Act. This is a companion to H.R. 4549, which was introduced in the House by Representative KIGGANS along with Representatives PETERS, WILLIAMS, ALLRED, and MCCAUL.

The Building Chips in America Act is fundamentally about our competitiveness and national security.

Semiconductor chips have become essential to the way we live and work. They power our phones, medical devices, cars, and computers. They are not only essential to our economic security but our national security, as well. Yet, the U.S. is dependent on foreign countries for access to chips.

The Chinese Communist Party has made it clear that it wants to dominate the globe in key technology areas, and part of their strategy is to increase China's share of the semiconductor market through both investment and acquisition.

U.S. technology companies obtain as much as 90 percent of their semiconductor chips from Taiwan, which is a huge risk given the geopolitical situation in the region.

When Congress passed the CHIPS for America Act in 2020 and the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022, the intention was to address this lack of domestic chip production to make us more competitive, and it is starting to work. Since we passed these bills, we have seen companies throughout the supply chain announcing billions of dollars in new investments in domestic chip manufacturing.

Unfortunately, these projects are being required to undergo a lengthy National Environmental Policy Act review. These reviews drag on for a long time. The Council on Environmental Quality reports that it takes an average of 4½ years to complete this process. That defeats the goal of quickly scaling up chips production in the United States.

Not only do NEPA reviews delay ongoing construction, but they also discourage future investments in chip production. This bill addresses that issue

by streamlining the permit requirements so we can quickly build up our semiconductor manufacturing. It clarifies that certain CHIPS projects are not subject to NEPA reviews, and it improves efficiency by ensuring that the Commerce Department is the lead agency to carry out NEPA reviews for the projects that are subject to these requirements.

It also gives Commerce more tools to complete environmental reviews.

Finally, it limits the timeline for court challenges to these reviews.

In short, it allows Commerce to be flexible in how it promotes growth while still ensuring environmental protections.

We cannot afford to stunt our own progress in chip manufacturing because we are following a flawed bureaucratic process.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that addressing environmental permitting is an issue that extends well beyond chip production. My colleague BRUCE WESTERMAN, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, has championed the need to comprehensively address NEPA and its unintended consequences. I appreciate his effort to make NEPA work better for the American people.

Today's bill is narrower in scope than what Chairman WESTERMAN has proposed. While it doesn't address NEPA in its entirety, I believe this is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the House who have sponsored this bill, as well as our Senate counterparts, and I urge everyone to support this important reform. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2228, the Building Chips in America Act.

I can't begin to tell you how frustrating it is that we are here considering a bill that hasn't had a single hearing or the slightest bit of real scrutiny, but here we are because Speaker JOHNSON thinks it is a priority.

Now we need to set the record straight for the sake of our communities' health and safety and basic common sense.

Let's talk about the history of semiconductor manufacturing for a second. In 1947, Silicon Valley was the birthplace of the modern semiconductor, the backbone of our tech industry, but that birth left behind some pretty deep scars.

Semiconductor manufacturing has never been clean. It has left behind pollution, toxic waste, and even poisoned workers. Silicon Valley still holds the record for the most Superfund sites in the country. We are talking miscarriages, cancer, and entire communities still dealing with the fallout today. It is serious.

□ 1745

As we work to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S., we must do it right this time. We cannot afford to repeat the devastating mistakes of the past, and we don't need to.

What does this bill want us to do?

It intends to throw all those lessons out the window and bring back the same toxic mess we saw in Silicon Valley, only bigger.

Are we really going to let this disaster play out again in places like Palm Bay, Florida; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Clay, New York; or St. Peters, Missouri?

These are the communities on the line, all home to semiconductor plants getting funding under the CHIPS and Science Act.

Polluting our communities and putting families in harm's way is a policy choice. We have cleaned up a lot of the mess in Silicon Valley, and we have proven that semiconductor manufacturing can be done without hurting workers or the environment.

Democrats worked to pass the CHIPS and Science Act to ensure that when we invest in America's future, we do it the right way.

We made sure these investments benefit all Americans, not just a select few, and we have Secretary Raimondo and the Biden-Harris administration making sure that taxpayer dollars being spent on this are stewarded with care.

So far, those investments are already showing results across the country, and it is just the beginning, but this bill wants to scrap all that progress.

It would wipe out environmental reviews and public input under the National Environmental Policy Act for semiconductor facilities.

That means no guarantees, no checks to make sure companies aren't using our money to harm the very people paying those taxes.

Let me tell you something else: The rush is fake. Republicans keep saying that environmental red tape is slowing down progress, but that is just not true.

Secretary Raimondo has testified that things are moving along just fine. We even made sure the agency got enough funding to handle the workload.

What we are looking at is a dangerous, pointless bill that doesn't solve any real problems. In fact, it creates new ones, ones that could put the health and safety of countless Americans at risk.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in opposing this bill so we can do it the right way.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) to speak on the bill.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2228, the Building Chips in America

Act, the Senate version of bipartisan legislation I introduced last year to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States.

Last year, 120 Members of Congress signed a letter to House and Senate leadership urging its inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Semiconductors go in everything from cell phones to innovative technologies that support American energy, powerful new AI tools, key weapons systems keeping Americans safe at home and abroad, and the list goes on. Despite this, the U.S. is home to only 10 percent of global semiconductor production.

Thankfully, the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act authorized nearly \$40 billion in grant funding to reshore this critical manufacturing capability for which we have historically relied almost entirely on China.

This monumental investment in our domestic industry has spurred companies up and down the semiconductor supply chain to start bringing new manufacturing projects to our shores.

However, existing requirements by the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, threaten to delay semiconductor projects already underway and discourage future investment in domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

A recent study from Georgetown University found the United States builds semiconductor fabs at a slower rate than the rest of the world.

To put it simply, we cannot allow Federal bureaucracy to hold up critical CHIPS Act projects while the Chinese Communist Party spends billions of dollars to become the world's leading producer of advanced semiconductors.

One of the greatest national security threats we face today is China's choke hold on our defense industrial base. We must be able to produce these components critical to our economy and national security here on American soil.

Last week, I had the privilege of visiting Silicon Valley with the House Armed Services Committee. We did a field hearing there, and we heard time and time again the importance of expediting the process for building semiconductor chips here domestically. This was an ask from that defense industry in the Silicon Valley.

The Building Chips in America Act would address this issue by clarifying how NEPA applies to projects that receive funding from the CHIPS Act.

This bipartisan bill would ensure these projects can move forward in a timely fashion while still obtaining all necessary permits and requiring projects to undergo necessary environmental reviews at the State and local level.

This approach streamlines our domestic semiconductor manufacturing without changing the environmental requirements and standards these projects need to meet.

Mr. Speaker, I represent coastal southeast Virginia, which is one of the heaviest military congressional dis-

tricts in the country. We know how to be good stewards of the environment without sacrificing our economy or our national security.

If we want to ensure American economic and national security in today's dangerous world, we must reduce our dangerous reliance on Chinese supply chains and increase our domestic production of these critical technologies.

Our military men and women need secure, reliable electronics to carry out their missions safely. Relying on adversarial nations that directly seek to undermine our national security is not an option.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and allow our country to restore chip manufacturing on American soil, which we can do while maintaining our basic environmental laws. We cannot afford to lose this race with China.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to S. 2228, the so-called Building Chips in America Act.

This bill simply should not be coming up under a suspension of the rules. All three ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction are adamantly opposed to it.

When the CHIPS and Science Act passed the House in July of 2022, it passed by a vote of 243-187. All 187 votes against the bill were Republicans.

In fact, only 24 Republicans voted for the bill, and a lot of them are no longer here. If Republicans had controlled the House last Congress, the \$52 billion that we invested to ensure semiconductors were produced here in the United States instead of China simply would have never become law.

I was one of the leaders who pushed the CHIPS and Science Act through the House, and so I, unlike many of my Republican colleagues, am invested in making this program work as intended.

As we created this program, we did so with the intention of ending our reliance on other countries for microchips that are used in automobiles, consumer electronics, and washing machines. We did all this while also making sure we protected the environment.

The CHIPS and Science Act is a success, but we cannot deflect from that success by once again attacking one of the most important environmental laws that protects all of our communities from corporate malfeasance.

I oppose this bill because it would needlessly eliminate environmental review and public input under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, for semiconductor facilities receiving funding under the CHIPS and Science Act.

Now, this bill simply is not necessary because NEPA review is not a barrier to moving semiconductor projects forward.

Commerce Secretary Raimondo, who oversees the CHIPS and Science Act,

and who had initially voiced concern about NEPA reviews, acknowledged at an Energy and Commerce hearing: I can report to you today that we have made a lot of progress on that, and we are on track to complete environmental reviews for all these companies before we issue any awards.

There is simply no need for wholesale exemptions from NEPA reviews, given the steps that Congress has already taken to increase the speed, efficiency, and management of permitting for this industry.

We made semiconductor manufacturing eligible for the abbreviated permitting process under the FAST-41 Act. This ensured that reviews do not drag out for the most serious environmental impact statements.

We also, under the Fiscal Responsibility Act, eliminated NEPA review for loans, loan guarantees, or other forms of financial assistance for similar activities, and we gave the Department of Commerce the ability to adopt categorical exclusions from other agencies.

This is really, Mr. Speaker, a bill that is a solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist.

Now Republican leadership is bypassing regular order to ram through an anti-environment bill that didn't go through any of the committees here in the House before being rushed to the House floor on the suspension calendar.

The phenomenal work of the CHIPS Program Office is a cause for celebration, and the program has produced critical wins for countless domestic industries worth highlighting.

It is clear that NEPA reviews are not a barrier to moving these projects forward. Fundamentally, NEPA requires us to look before we leap, which is just common sense, and failing to do so could create many new problems for our environment.

My colleague mentioned the Superfund sites in Silicon Valley. Do we want those again?

This affects our water supply, our worker safety, and our communities, and ignoring these impacts is not going to make them disappear, Mr. Speaker.

I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Ranking Member GRIJALVA from the Natural Resources Committee for joining me in leading the effort to oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote "no".

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the House Rules Committee (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in support of S. 2228, the Building Chips in America Act. Last week, Members of the Texas delegation sent a letter to our leadership requesting that we prioritize this crucial piece of legislation.

I certainly thank, of course, Chairman LUCAS as well as Speaker JOHNSON

and Majority Leader SCALISE for considering bringing the Building Chips in America Act to the floor this week.

We have heard over and over how semiconductors are necessary for some of the most vital technology we have today.

Let's also be clear. The NEPA process is valuable. The environmental impact assessments and reviews that are conducted in this country are a pragmatic symbol of the American people's commitment to environmental conservatism and land management. However, efficiency is sometimes lacking.

My friend, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. PALLONE, the gentleman from New Jersey, said this is a solution in search of a problem. Hardly. Hardly.

NEPA's red tape means that many semiconductor projects are delayed, manufacturers are becoming discouraged in developing domestic manufacturing projects, and certainly that is evident in my home State of Texas.

This legislation is important to Texas, and we have remained at the forefront of a national resurgence in high-tech manufacturing.

Streamlining the NEPA process will help companies in the semiconductor industry bring great economic prosperity to our State.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2228, the Building Chips in America Act. Two years ago, Congress wisely passed the CHIPS and Science Act, bringing about a resurgence in domestic manufacturing, particularly in my home State of Arizona.

Some of the world's leading semiconductor companies have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in Arizona to build new fabrication plants, or fabs, creating thousands and thousands of high-wage jobs.

Many of these projects have already broken ground. If you drive around my district in Arizona, cranes dot the skyline, the clearest sign of America's advanced manufacturing boom.

In North Phoenix, TSMC will soon begin producing the world's most advanced semiconductors by the end of this decade.

In Chandler, Intel is building its largest manufacturing complex, which opens next year. It will churn out semiconductor chips at a time when America needs a secure supply more than ever. It is critical for our national defense.

Make no mistake. These projects are being constructed in compliance with Federal, State, and local environmental regulations, protecting Arizonans' clean air and water.

In fact, we have worked in partnership with semiconductor giants to invest in water recycling and reclamation projects in record numbers.

Because these projects are benefiting from the CHIPS and Science Act, many companies must now, for the first time,

complete a secondary Federal and environmental review that could slow or even stop construction for months or years.

This bipartisan bill, led by Senator MARK KELLY from Arizona on the Senate side, would streamline that review process to ensure these fabs can be built on time so we don't lose a single day in the global semiconductor arms race.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 2228.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on S. 2228, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Building Chips in America Act is pragmatic legislation that ensures we aren't sacrificing our growth in chip production because of unwieldy permitting processes.

The changes we are making here today won't compromise the laws that protect our clean air and water, but they do allow us to move forward with semiconductor manufacturing. That is why this bill has strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues 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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2228.

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. STAUBER. 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.

□ 1800

NASA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8958) to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8958

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2025.

TITLE II—EXPLORATION

- Sec. 201. Continuity of purpose for space exploration.
Sec. 202. Artemis program.
Sec. 203. Reaffirmation of the Space Launch System.
Sec. 204. Human-rated lunar landing capabilities.
Sec. 205. Advanced spacesuit capabilities.

TITLE III—SPACE OPERATIONS

- Sec. 301. Report on continued United States presence in low earth orbit.
Sec. 302. International Space Station.
Sec. 303. Nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station.
Sec. 304. Report on suborbital crew missions.
Sec. 305. United States deorbit capabilities.
Sec. 306. Commercial low-earth orbit development.
Sec. 307. Risk of losing access to low-earth orbit.
Sec. 308. Maintenance of service for International Space Station.
Sec. 309. Orbital debris research and development.
Sec. 310. Restriction on Federal funds relating to certain Chinese space and scientific activities.

TITLE IV—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 401. SBIR phase II flexibility.
Sec. 402. Lunar power purchase agreement program.
Sec. 403. Cryogenic fluid valve technology review.
Sec. 404. Lunar communications.
Sec. 405. Celestial time standardization.

TITLE V—AERONAUTICS

- Sec. 501. Definitions.
Sec. 502. Experimental aircraft demonstrations.
Sec. 503. Hypersonic research.
Sec. 504. Advanced materials and manufacturing technology.
Sec. 505. Unmanned aircraft system and advanced air mobility.
Sec. 506. Advanced capabilities for emergency response operations.
Sec. 507. Hydrogen aviation.
Sec. 508. High-performance chase aircraft.
Sec. 509. Collaboration with academia.
Sec. 510. National student unmanned aircraft systems competition program.
Sec. 511. Decadal survey for national aeronautics research and priorities review.
Sec. 512. Making advancements in commercial hypersonics.

TITLE VI—SCIENCE

- Sec. 601. Maintaining a balanced science portfolio.
Sec. 602. Implementation of science mission cost-caps.
Sec. 603. Reexamination of decadal surveys.
Sec. 604. Landsat.
Sec. 605. Private earth observation data.
Sec. 606. Commercial satellite data.
Sec. 607. Greenhouse gas emission measurements.
Sec. 608. NASA data for agricultural applications.
Sec. 609. Planetary science portfolio.
Sec. 610. Planetary defense.
Sec. 611. Lunar discovery and exploration.
Sec. 612. Commercial lunar payload services.
Sec. 613. Planetary and lunar operations.
Sec. 614. Mars sample return.
Sec. 615. Hubble space telescope servicing.
Sec. 616. Great observatories mission and technology maturation.
Sec. 617. Nancy Grace Roman telescope.
Sec. 618. Chandra X-Ray observatory.
Sec. 619. Heliophysics research.
Sec. 620. Study on commercial space weather data.

- Sec. 621. Geospace dynamics constellation.
 Sec. 622. Technology development for wildland fire science, management, and mitigation.
 Sec. 623. Implementation of recommendations by the National Wildland Fire Management and Mitigation Commission.

TITLE VII—STEM EDUCATION

- Sec. 701. National space grant college and fellowship program.
 Sec. 702. Skilled technical workforce education outreach.

TITLE VIII—POLICY/NASA

- Sec. 801. Major programs.
 Sec. 802. NASA advisory council.
 Sec. 803. NASA assessment of early cost estimates.
 Sec. 804. Independent cost estimate.
 Sec. 805. Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy report.
 Sec. 806. Authorization for the transfer to NASA of funds from other agencies for scientific or engineering research or education.
 Sec. 807. Procedure for launch services risk mitigation.
 Sec. 808. Report on merits and options for establishing an institute relating to space resources.
 Sec. 809. Reports to Congress.
 Sec. 810. Contract flexibility.
 Sec. 811. GAO report.
 Sec. 812. NASA public-private talent program.
 Sec. 813. Report on Space Act agreements.
 Sec. 814. Mentoring.
 Sec. 815. Drinking water well replacement for Chincoteague, Virginia.
 Sec. 816. Rule of construction.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
 (2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—
 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
 (B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.
 (3) **CISLUNAR SPACE.**—The term “cislunar space” means the region of space beyond low-Earth orbit out to and including the region around the surface of the Moon.
 (4) **COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.**—The term “commercial provider” means any person providing space services or space-related capabilities, primary control of which is held by persons other than the Federal Government, a State or local government, or a foreign government.
 (5) **DEEP SPACE.**—The term “deep space” means the region of space beyond low-Earth orbit, which includes cislunar space.
 (6) **ISS.**—The term “ISS” means the International Space Station.
 (7) **NASA.**—The term “NASA” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
 (8) **ORION.**—The term “Orion” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described under section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).
 (9) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term “Space Launch System” means the Space Launch System authorized under section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2025.

For fiscal year 2025, there are authorized to be appropriated to NASA \$25,224,640,000 as follows:

- (1) For the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, \$7,618,200,000.
 (2) For the Space Operations Mission Directorate, \$4,473,500,000.
 (3) For the Space Technology Mission Directorate, \$1,181,800,000.
 (4) For the Science Mission Directorate, \$7,334,200,000.
 (5) For the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, \$965,800,000.
 (6) For the Office of STEM Engagement, \$135,000,000.
 (7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services, \$3,044,440,000.
 (8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$424,100,000.
 (9) For Inspector General, \$47,600,000.

TITLE II—EXPLORATION

SEC. 201. CONTINUITY OF PURPOSE FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) NASA continues to make progress in developing and testing the Space Launch System, Orion, and associated ground systems, including through the successful completion of the Artemis I mission in November 2022 and through continued preparations for the Artemis II crewed flight demonstration mission.

(2) The number of spacefaring countries is increasing, and foreign countries have expanded activities for space exploration efforts, including efforts to explore and utilize the Moon through human and robotic missions.

(3) A strong and ambitious space exploration program conducted with international and commercial partners is important to maintaining United States leadership in space and enhancing United States international competitiveness.

(4) Clear mission objectives that tie to concrete, long-term programmatic goals provide a measure to ensure accountability, enhance public support for exploration missions, and provide a clear signal of commitment to both international and domestic partners.

(b) **CONTINUITY OF EXISTING CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMS.**—

(1) As part of the human exploration activities of the Administration, including progress on Artemis missions and activities, the Administrator shall continue development of space exploration elements pursuant to section 10811 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 20302).

(2) The Administrator shall leverage the private sector for logistical services to the extent practical, consistent with the Moon to Mars architecture requirements and in accordance with section 50131 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) Congress reaffirms the sense of Congress to maintain continuity of purpose as described in section 201 of the 2017 NASA Transition Authorization Act (Public Law 115-10; 131 Stat. 21).

SEC. 202. ARTEMIS PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—The following is the sense of Congress:

(1) Exploration of the lunar surface, including exploration of the lunar surface and cislunar space, provides benefits and economic opportunity, including by inspiring future generations and expanding the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce needed to sustain United States leadership in science, space, and technology.

(2) The lunar south pole is home to shadowed craters that may contain water ice and other volatiles. Understanding the nature of lunar polar volatiles, such as water ice, would advance science related to the origin and evolution of volatiles in the inner solar system and could facilitate the long-term future of space exploration. Water ice lunar resources have the potential to become an enabling component of future space exploration missions throughout the solar system, including crewed missions to Mars.

(3) Other countries have demonstrated technological advances and successful robotic missions for lunar exploration and have announced credible plans for long-term human exploration of the Moon that include the intent to establish lunar bases.

(4) United States leadership of and measurable progress on the exploration of deep space is essential for guiding development of norms related to operations on and around the Moon and for other space destinations.

(5) It is in the national interest of the United States to hold a leadership role in discussions of future norms governing activities in space, including those on the lunar surface and in cislunar space.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out activities to enable Artemis missions under the Moon to Mars Program set forth in section 10811 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), the Administrator shall—

(1) use relevant elements set forth in section 10811(b)(2)(B) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167);

(2) continue to ensure that the elements under paragraph (1) enable the human exploration of Mars, consistent with section 10811(b)(2)(C)(i) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167);

(3) engage with international partners, as appropriate, in a manner that is consistent with section 10811(b)(2)(C) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), and that increases redundancy, efficiency, and cost savings; and

(4) leverage capabilities provided by United States commercial providers, as appropriate and practicable.

(c) **UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL PROVIDER CAPABILITIES IN SUPPORT OF LUNAR EXPLORATION EFFORTS.**—The Administrator may enter into agreements with United States commercial providers or engage in public-private partnerships to procure capabilities and services to support the human exploration of the Moon or cislunar space.

SEC. 203. REAFFIRMATION OF THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.

(a) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT AND CADENCE OBJECTIVES.**—Congress reaffirms—

(A) support for the full development of capabilities of the Space Launch System as set forth in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

(B) its commitment to the flight rate of the integrated Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle missions set forth in section 10812(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 20301 note).

(2) **OTHER USES.**—The Administrator shall assess the demand for the Space Launch System by entities other than NASA and shall break out such demand according to the relevant Federal agency or nongovernment sector. This assessment may—

(A) estimate cost and schedule savings from reduced transit times and the potential

for increased returns enabled by the unique capabilities of the Space Launch System;

(B) describe any barriers or challenges that could impede use of the Space Launch System by entities other than NASA; and

(C) identify potential actions and costs associated with overcoming barriers and challenges described in subparagraph (B).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the following:

(1) NASA's progress towards achieving the flight rate referred to in subsection (a)(1)(B) and the expected launch of the integrated Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle missions after which such cadence shall be achieved.

(2) The results of the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 204. HUMAN-RATED LUNAR LANDING CAPABILITIES.

(a) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms that the Moon to Mars program set forth in section 10811 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note.; 136 Stat. 1732) shall include human-rated lunar landing systems.

(b) HUMAN-RATED LUNAR LANDING CAPABILITIES.—

(1) The Administrator shall support the development and demonstration of, and shall obtain, human-rated lunar landing capabilities to further the goals of the human exploration roadmap under section 432 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-10; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note) and the Moon to Mars Program set forth in section 10811 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167).

(2) The Administrator shall ensure that such human-rated lunar landing capabilities meet all relevant requirements, including requirements of the Moon to Mars program, and for human-rating and certification.

(3) Any commercial provider from which the Administrator obtains human-rated lunar landing capabilities must be a United States commercial provider.

(4) In carrying out paragraph (1)—

(A) the Administrator may include uncrewed lunar landing services; and

(B) the Administrator shall, subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, seek to obtain capabilities from not fewer than two commercial providers.

(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the following:

(1) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report—

(A) identifying the contribution over the past five years, and the planned contribution for 2024-2029, of government personnel, expertise, technologies and infrastructure utilized and to be utilized in support of design, development, or operation of human lunar landing capabilities under this section; and

(B) setting forth details and the associated costs of such government support, broken out according to the areas of contribution specified in subparagraph (A), as part of any development initiative for obtaining human lunar landing capabilities.

(2) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report that sets forth, for any agreement with a United States commercial provider for human lunar landing capabilities, the following:

(A) The total value of the agreement when awarded.

(B) If different from the amount in subparagraph (A), the total value of the agreement as of the date of the enactment of this

Act, and an explanation for any change in value, as well as an identification of whether NASA or the commercial partner is responsible for meeting the change in value.

(C) The dollar amount invested and to be invested by the Administration, and the dollar amount invested and to be invested by the commercial partner.

(D) The full requirements, including human-rating and safety requirements, for human lunar landing capabilities under the agreement when awarded.

(E) If different from the amount specified in subparagraph (C), the full requirements, including human-rating and certification requirements, for the human lunar landing capabilities under the agreement as of the date of the enactment of this Act and an explanation for any changes in requirements.

(F) A description of milestone and associated payments provided for in the agreement, including the following:

(i) An identification of all milestones under the agreement.

(ii) The value of the associated payment for each milestone identified under clause (i).

(iii) An identification of completed milestones and the date of completion.

(iv) An identification of milestones which have not yet been completed and an estimated schedule for completion.

(v) The value of all NASA payments under the agreement, outlays as of the date of the enactment of this Act, and the amount which as of the date of the enactment of this Act has not yet been paid.

(vi) a description of any changes in milestones and associated payments between the date of contract award and the date of the enactment of this Act.

(G) Any cost, schedule, and performance challenges as of the date of the enactment of this Act in provider performance of the agreement.

(H) A detailed justification of compliance with section 30301 of title 51, United States Code.

(I) A detailed certification and justification of compliance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, in consultation with any United States commercial provider that is party to an agreement with NASA for human lunar landing capabilities under this section, a report on any steps the Administrator and such providers are taking to carry out the following:

(A) Address cost, schedule, and performance challenges faced by each commercial provider in development and performance of human lunar landing capabilities described in paragraph (2)(G).

(B) Facilitate the timely availability of human lunar landing capabilities of each provider to support the schedule of Artemis missions in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, as applicable to each provider.

(4) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report on alternative approaches, and implementation plans for such approaches, including an estimate of needed budgetary resources, for a human lunar landing capability that meets NASA human-rating and certification requirements in the event challenges referred to in paragraph (3)(A) cannot be overcome or the timeline specified in paragraph (3)(B) cannot be met.

SEC. 205. ADVANCED SPACESUIT CAPABILITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Space suits and associated extravehicular activity (EVA) technologies are critical exploration technologies that are

necessary for future human deep space exploration efforts, including crewed missions to the Moon.

(2) The NASA civil service workforce at the Johnson Space Center provides unique capabilities to design, integrate, and validate Space Suits and associated EVA technologies.

(3) Maintaining a strong NASA core competency in the design, development, manufacture, and operation of space suits and related technologies allows NASA to be an informed purchaser of competitively awarded commercial space suits and subcomponents.

(4) According to a 2018 NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report, current EVAs space suits, the Extravehicular Mobility Units (EMUs), were developed in the late 1970s, are reaching the end of their useful life, have experienced multiple maintenance issues that threaten astronaut lives, and no longer accommodate the varying sizes of a diverse astronaut corps.

(5) The same NASA OIG report found that “. . . manufacturers of several critical suit components, including the very fibers of the suits, have now gone out of business. . . ,” which further reinforces the importance of NASA's role in maintaining a space suit core competency and limiting the risk posed by outsourcing key national capabilities.

(6) The private sector currently is developing space suit capabilities.

(7) Testing space suits and related technologies on the International Space Station could reduce risk and improve safety of such suits and technologies.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall obtain advanced spacesuit capabilities necessary to achieve the goals of NASA's human spaceflight exploration programs.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—Any commercial provider from which the Administrator obtains advanced spaceflight capabilities must be a United States commercial provider, as set forth in section 203(c) of this Act.

(d) PRESERVING SPACESUIT EXPERTISE.—

(1) In carrying out subsection (b), NASA shall maintain the internal expertise necessary to develop space suits for both extravehicular activity and surface operations, including through partnerships with the private sector.

(2) The Johnson Space Center shall continue to manage NASA's spacesuit and extravehicular activity programs.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report —

(1) describing NASA's plans for—

(A) in-space testing of advanced spacesuit capabilities, including—

(i) space suit tests which must be conducted in microgravity in low-Earth orbit; and

(ii) space suit tests that must be conducted on the International Space Station before decommissioning of the International Space Station;

(B) transitioning from existing spacesuits in use on the International Space Station to use of advanced spacesuit capabilities;

(C) future use of advanced spacesuit capabilities by government astronauts with any nongovernmental platform in low-Earth orbit that is certified for use by the Administration for government astronauts (as such term is defined in section 50902(4) of title 51, United States Code); and

(D) disposition of retired spacesuits used on the Space Shuttle or the International Space Station; and

(2) including—

(A) a detailed justification of compliance with section 30301 of title 51, United States Code; and

(B) a detailed certification and justification of compliance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code.

(f) ASSESSMENT OF EXTRAVEHICULAR MOBILITY UNITS USED ON THE ISS.—

(1) No later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with an independent science and technical engineering organization to review the technical status and performance of the Administration's existing extravehicular mobility units ("EMUs"), to analyze the data associated with all mishaps, anomalies, and off-nominal events related to the EMUs used by government astronauts on the International Space Station over the last 10 years, and to make recommendations to the Administrator, as a result of such assessment.

(2) The Administrator shall ensure that the entity carrying out the assessment in paragraph (1) consults with relevant industry contractors regarding the Administration's EMUs and EMU capabilities, and coordinates with the NASA Astronaut Office in carrying out such assessment.

(3) The Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment in paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress as soon as practicable and no later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SPACE OPERATIONS

SEC. 301. REPORT ON CONTINUED UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN LOW EARTH ORBIT.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing information on the following:

(1) The United States Government description of and plans for implementation of the policy on an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in accordance with section 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, and section 201(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(b)) regarding United States human space flight capabilities.

(2) The preparedness of the Administration to continue to meet statutory direction referenced in paragraph (1) under the planned approach to deorbit the International Space Station by not later than the end of calendar year 2031.

SEC. 302. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

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

(1) ISS is a unique facility that provides the United States with capabilities in space that are currently unmatched; NASA continues to make productive use of the ISS;

(2) the ISS serves several functions, including establishing the United States as a leader in space activities, acting as a beacon of international cooperation, and conducting cutting-edge microgravity and observational research in low-Earth orbit;

(3) NASA must complete certain objectives on the ISS to facilitate deep space exploration efforts, including carrying out human research and demonstrating exploration-related technologies; and

(4) reducing crew size or cargo deliveries, or reducing sustaining engineering capabilities, would reduce the scientific output of the ISS and potentially increase the risk to the ISS and its crew.

(b) FULL UTILIZATION.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to ensure the greatest return on investments made by the United States and the International Space Station partners in the development, assembly, and operations of the International Space Station, the Administrator should maximize the uti-

lization and productivity of the International Space Station with respect to the priorities set forth in section 10816 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 70901 note), which include research of the human research program, risk reduction activities relevant to exploration technologies, the advancement of United States leadership of basic and applied space life and physical sciences, and other research and development essential to Moon to Mars program activities.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Section 502(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-267; 42 U.S.C. 18352(a)), is amended by striking "take steps to".

SEC. 303. NONGOVERNMENTAL MISSIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

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

(1) nongovernmental missions involving crew or spaceflight participants on the International Space Station carried out, as appropriate, pursuant to NASA policies and procedures, and Federal Government laws and regulations, can provide lessons and learning experiences for both government and nongovernment entities to inform the development of future commercial low-Earth orbit platforms and a low-Earth orbit economy; and

(2) the Administrator should share lessons learned from nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station to advance the commercial human spaceflight industry, to promote the safety of future commercial low-Earth orbit platforms, and to inform the evolution of policies guiding such activities in low-Earth orbit.

(b) NONGOVERNMENTAL MISSIONS ON THE ISS.—The Administrator may enter into one or more agreements to enable one or more United States commercial providers to conduct nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station pursuant to NASA policies and procedures, and Federal government laws and regulations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing information relating to the following:

(1) The number of nongovernmental missions on the ISS planned.

(2) The number of nongovernmental missions on the ISS completed.

(3) The extent to which commercial entities carrying out nongovernmental missions on the ISS fully reimburse costs incurred by NASA in association with any nongovernmental missions carried out on the International Space Station.

(4) The extent to which nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station impact the priorities specified in section 10816 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 70901 note).

(5) The impact, if any, to operations of or activities on the International Space Station that are not related to nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station.

(6) The extent to which any nongovernmental mission on the ISS—

(A) conforms with section 20102 of title 51, United States Code;

(B) adheres to the requirements of section 50131 of title 51, United States Code; and

(C) is consistent with the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

(7) Any other issues related to nongovernmental missions on the International Space Station that the Comptroller General deter-

mines are appropriate for review as part of undertaking the report in subsection (c).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms "crew" and "spaceflight participant" have the meanings given such terms in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 304. REPORT ON SUBORBITAL CREW MISSIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall deliver to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the costs, benefits, risks, training requirements, and policy or legal implications, including liability matters, of launching United States Government personnel on commercial suborbital vehicles.

SEC. 305. UNITED STATES DEORBIT CAPABILITIES.

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

(1) the International Space Station is aging and eventually will need to be deorbited safely and disposed of in a controlled manner; and

(2) to protect the safety of the public, and to avoid interfering with other space operators or objects, NASA plans to deorbit and disposition the International Space Station through a controlled atmospheric reentry over an uninhabited region.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) The Administrator shall acquire ISS deorbit capabilities from one or more United States commercial providers.

(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, not reduce or deprioritize NASA activities conducted on and in support of the ISS to support the acquisition of United States deorbit capabilities.

(c) COSTS.—

(1) INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.—Before entering into an agreement for the capabilities described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall obtain an independent life-cycle cost estimate for the deorbit capability and shall report the results of such estimate and a five-year budget profile to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the Administration's plan for the financial, logistical, and operational responsibilities associated with the deorbit capability.

(B) Annually, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, to accompany the President's budget request, containing a description of the annual and lifecycle costs for activities related to the deorbit of the International Space Station and how such costs are shared among the ISS partners.

SEC. 306. COMMERCIAL LOW-EARTH ORBIT DEVELOPMENT.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the National Space Council, shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy for a robust and resilient architecture to advance NASA and other relevant Federal government civil research, development, and operational requirements in low-Earth orbit. The architecture should—

(1) include a mix of crewed and uncrewed platforms;

(2) consider an incremental approach to achieving the full suite of capabilities necessary to meet NASA research, development, and operational requirements in low-Earth orbit;

(3) consider the requirements described in subsection (b); and

(4) sustain and promote United States leadership and international partnerships in carrying out low-Earth orbit activities.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress and make available to relevant United States commercial industry entities, a detailed account of the research, development, and operational requirements for NASA activities in low-Earth orbit, including any requirements that could affect the design, development, instrumentation, and long-term operations of future United States commercial low-Earth orbit platforms and supporting capabilities. In preparing the detailed account of research, development, and operational requirements, the Administrator may consider the requirements of other relevant Federal agencies.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Administrator is authorized to enter into agreements with one or more United States commercial providers to enable the development and certification of, and procure capabilities related to, a United States private, low-Earth orbit platform or platforms, and to use such platforms or platforms and related capabilities to achieve the goals set forth in the strategy under subsection (a), to sustain the priorities described in section 10816 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 51 U.S.C. 70901 note) and the activities under the Human Exploration Roadmap pursuant to section 432(b)(2)(J) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transposition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-10), and to meet the requirements described in subsection (b).

(d) **ANCHOR TENANCY.**—No later than November 15, 2025, the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress the following:

(1) The results of a survey and assessment of the market for capabilities and services that may be provided through future United States commercial low-Earth orbit platforms that shall be prepared by an independent entity with appropriate expertise;

(2) A detailed justification of compliance with section 30301 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) A detailed certification and justification of compliance with section 50503 of title 51, United States Code.

(e) **USE OF UNITED STATES LAUNCH AND REENTRY SERVICES.**—As a term of an agreement entered into under to subsection (c), the Administrator shall include a requirement for the use of United States commercially-provided launch and reentry services to support all Administration activities under the agreement, in accordance with section 50131 of title 51, United States Code, as applicable.

(f) **SAFETY.**—When an agreement under subsection (c) involves a government astronauts (as such term is defined in section 50902(4) of title 51, United States Code), the Administrator shall protect the safety of the government astronaut by ensuring that each platform under the agreement meets all applicable human rating processes, certification, and safety requirements.

SEC. 307. RISK OF LOSING ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that evaluates the risk posed by a potential gap in access to low-Earth orbit on science and technology research and development conducted by NASA and private entities. The report shall describe the following:

(1) The NASA science and exploration programs that may be adversely affected by the

lack of a United States presence in low-Earth orbit.

(2) The effects that a gap in low-Earth orbit would have on the United States' competitiveness in science and technology and in the development of the United States-based commercial space industry.

(3) Potential options and associated costs for preventing such a gap, including the following:

(A) Implementing the strategy described in section 306.

(B) Supporting the operation of the International Space Station beyond 2030.

(C) Increasing investment in and accelerating development of commercial space stations.

(D) Working with international partners to establish alternative means for conducting research in low-Earth orbit.

SEC. 308. MAINTENANCE OF SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to appropriations for such purpose, the Administrator shall maintain a flight cadence necessary to support the health and safety of the International Space Station crew and the full and productive utilization of the International Space Station through its operational lifetime, consistent with the certification date of the International Space Station. In maintaining such flight cadence, the Administrator shall seek to carry out not less than the average annual cadence for the immediately preceding three fiscal years of crew and cargo flights on United States vehicles certified under NASA's Commercial Crew and Cargo Program as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The Administrator may waive the requirement under subsection (a) upon submission of a written determination to Congress that—

(1) the health and safety of the International Space Station requires a reduction in flights; or

(2) the International Space Station has concluded its operational lifetime.

SEC. 309. ORBITAL DEBRIS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that NASA's research and development activities related to understanding and mitigating the hazards posed by orbital debris are critical to ensuring the continued safe operation of NASA missions, including the safety of humans living and working in space, and such activities further enable scientific and technological advances that can be leveraged by the broader space operations community to foster a sustainable space environment.

(b) **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator shall, to the extent practicable, conduct research and development to advance scientific understanding and technological capabilities related to orbital debris characterization and mitigation.

(c) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting the research and development described in subsection (b), the Administrator may consider activities that—

(1) improve the characterization and modeling of the space environment, including the characterization and modeling of objects of both natural and anthropogenic origins that cannot be directly characterized by ground-based measurements;

(2) leverage space weather research and development elements within NASA's Heliophysics program, to the extent appropriate and in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent solar and space physics decadal survey; and

(3) support the application of relevant research, tools, and technologies to advance orbital debris characterization and mitiga-

tion and the transfer of such research, tools, and technologies to stakeholders, as appropriate and practicable.

SEC. 310. RESTRICTION ON FEDERAL FUNDS RELATING TO CERTAIN CHINESE SPACE AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No Federal funds authorized in this Act may be obligated or expended for the following:

(1) For the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), or the National Space Council (NSC) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) To effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The restrictions described in subsection (a) shall not apply to activities with respect to which NASA, OSTP, or NSC, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(c) **SUBMISSION.**—Any certification made under subsection (b) shall be submitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, not later than 30 days prior to the activity in question. Any such certification shall include a description of the purpose of such activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

TITLE IV—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 401. SBIR PHASE II FLEXIBILITY.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended in subsection (cc) by striking “and the Department of Education” and inserting “the Department of Education, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration”.

SEC. 402. LUNAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator may enter into an arrangement with an independent entity with appropriate expertise to conduct a study evaluating the feasibility of using power purchase agreements to facilitate the development and deployment of lunar surface power.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The study conducted under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) An identification of facilities and technical capabilities needed to support lunar surface power production.

(2) A demand forecast for lunar surface power, including the following:

(A) Forecasted demand of both governmental and nongovernmental users.

(B) To support the following:

(i) Near-term exploration activities.

(ii) Long-duration activities.

(3) Potential policy and legal issues associated with lunar power purchase agreements between providers and the United States Government, international partners, and other private sector entities.

(c) **COORDINATION.**—In conducting the study under this section, the Administrator may consult with the following:

(1) The Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium.

(2) The Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, and other Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(3) International partners.

(4) Relevant private sector entities.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator may submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 403. CRYOGENIC FLUID VALVE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that advancing cryogenic fluid valve technology would support the Administration's efforts to improve cryogenic fluid management and improve space vehicle reliability and efficiency.

(b) TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall enter into an agreement with an independent research and development center or other independent nonprofit organization, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, to conduct a review of cryogenic fluid valve technology in accordance with this section. The organization shall review recent advances in technologies related to cryogenic fluid valve use in space applications and assess opportunities to improve cryogenic fluid valve technologies, including support for research and development activities to advance materials engineering for cryogenic fluid valves.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the organization conducting the review shall submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the results of the review conducted under this section.

SEC. 404. LUNAR COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Reliable communication and navigation capabilities are essential for sustainable human and robotic exploration of the Moon.

(2) Fostering the development of commercial capabilities can accelerate the deployment of lunar communication and navigation services.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to develop a robust and resilient architecture for lunar communications and navigation to support the Administration's human and robotic lunar exploration activities.

(c) STUDY AND PLAN.—To inform the development in subsection (a), the Administrator shall develop a study and prepare a plan to—

(1) enable interoperable communications and navigation services for cislunar missions;

(2) work with the private sector, other Federal agencies, and, as appropriate, international partners to establish technical standards, consistent with section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113), protocols, and interface requirements for cislunar communications and navigation services and systems;

(3) support NASA lunar activities;

(4) leverage NASA's space technology research, development, and demonstration activities related to space communications and navigation; and

(5) evaluate the opportunities, benefits, feasibility, and challenges of potentially using commercial cislunar communication and navigation services, as appropriate, by United States commercial providers.

SEC. 405. CELESTIAL TIME STANDARDIZATION.

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

(1) United States leadership of a sustained presence on the Moon and in deep space exploration is important for advancing science, exploration, commercial growth, and international partnership;

(2) the Artemis and Moon to Mars program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will involve governmental, commercial, academic, and international partners where there is a need for interoperability between systems;

(3) the use of Coordinated Universal Time has challenges when used beyond Earth at other celestial bodies, due to relativistic effects;

(4) the United States should lead in developing time standardization for the Moon and other celestial bodies other than Earth to support interoperability and safe and sustainable operations; and

(5) development of such standardization will advance United States leadership in standards setting for global competitiveness, and will benefit other spacefaring countries and entities.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF CELESTIAL TIME STANDARDIZATION.—The Administrator of NASA, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall carry out the following:

(1) Enable the development of celestial time standardization, including by leading the study and definition of a coordinated lunar time.

(2) Develop a strategy to implement a coordinated lunar time that would support future operations and infrastructure on and around the Moon.

(3) In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) coordinate with relevant Federal entities, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the Department of Transportation; and

(B) consult with—

(i) relevant private sector entities;

(ii) relevant academic entities; and

(iii) relevant international standards setting bodies.

(4) Incorporate the following features of a coordinated lunar time, to the extent practicable, in the development of the strategy developed pursuant to paragraph (2):

(A) Traceability to Coordinated Universal Time.

(B) Accuracy sufficient to support precision navigation and science.

(C) Resilience to loss of contact with Earth.

(D) Scalability to space environments beyond the Earth-Moon system.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of NASA shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the strategy developed pursuant to subsection (b)(2), including relevant plans, timelines, and resources required for the implementation of a coordinated lunar time pursuant to such strategy.

TITLE V—AERONAUTICS

SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY; AAM.**—The terms “advanced air mobility” and “AAM” mean a transportation system that is comprised of urban air mobility and regional air mobility using manned or unmanned aircraft.

(2) **REGIONAL AIR MOBILITY.**—The term “regional air mobility” means the movement of

passengers or property by air between 2 points using an airworthy aircraft that—

(A) has advanced technologies, such as distributed propulsion, vertical takeoff and landing, powered lift, nontraditional power systems, or autonomous technologies;

(B) has a maximum takeoff weight of greater than 1,320 pounds; and

(C) is not urban air mobility.

(3) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.**—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meanings given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) **URBAN AIR MOBILITY.**—The term “urban air mobility” means the movement of passengers or property by air between 2 points in different cities or 2 points within the same city using an airworthy aircraft that—

(A) has advanced technologies, such as distributed propulsion, vertical takeoff and landing, powered lift, nontraditional power systems, or autonomous technologies; and

(B) has a maximum takeoff weight of greater than 1,320 pounds.

(5) **UTM.**—The term “UTM” means an unmanned aircraft system traffic management system or service.

SEC. 502. EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with industry and academia, shall conduct a study of past and future administration of the experimental aircraft demonstrator projects.

(b) **FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS.**—The study under subsection (a) shall identify systems, capabilities, and technologies that could be viable candidates for maturation and demonstration through the development of an experimental aircraft demonstrator. Such systems, capabilities, and technologies may include technological advancements related to structures, aerodynamics, propulsion, controls, and autonomous capabilities. The study shall include a description of criteria and performance metrics used to determine the readiness of a system, capability, or technology to be demonstrated on a future experimental aircraft demonstrator.

(c) **LESSONS LEARNED.**—The study under subsection (a) also shall include an assessment of lessons learned from the Administration's previous experimental aircraft demonstration projects over the last decade, including the projects set forth under section 10831 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167). This assessment shall include—

(1) a quantitative assessment of each experimental aircraft demonstration project's ability to meet cost, schedule and performance goals, as defined at the time of project confirmation;

(2) the extent to which the project's objectives or performance goals were changed or descope;

(3) the extent to which the system, capability, or technology that was the subject of the project was matured as a result of its demonstration on an experimental aircraft demonstrator; and

(4) the extent to which the project has contributed to advancing the capabilities of and innovation in the United States aircraft and aviation industries.

SEC. 503. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

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

(1) basic and applied hypersonic research—

(A) is critical for enabling the development of advanced high-speed aeronautical and space systems; and

(B) can improve understanding of technical challenges related to high-speed and reusable vehicle technologies, including those related

to propulsion, noise, advanced materials, and entry, descent, and landing operations;

(2) investments in hypersonic research are critical to sustaining United States global leadership in space and aeronautics; and

(3) NASA efforts to study hypersonic research should complement research supported by the Department of Defense and, when appropriate, be conducted in partnership with universities and industry.

(b) **HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.**—The Administrator, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of the Department of Defense, and in consultation with industry and academia, shall continue to carry out basic and applied hypersonic research.

(c) **HYPERSONIC RESEARCH ROADMAP.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of the Department of Defense, and with industry and academic institutions, shall update the hypersonic research roadmap required under section 603 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-10; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note). In updating the research roadmap, the Administrator may consider advancements in—

(1) system level design, analysis, and validation of hypersonic aircraft technologies;

(2) propulsion capabilities and technologies;

(3) vehicle technologies to include vehicle flow physics and vehicle thermal management associated with aerodynamic heating;

(4) advanced materials, including materials capable of withstanding high temperatures and demonstrating durable materials, and efforts to create models and simulate use of such materials; and

(5) other areas of hypersonic research as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(d) **REPORT AND BRIEFING.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) transmit the updated research roadmap under subsection (c) to the appropriate committees of Congress; and

(2) provide a briefing on the research conducted under subsection (b), including how such research aligns with the updated research roadmap under subsection (c).

SEC. 504. ADVANCED MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the status of NASA activities relating to section 10831(e), the Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technology Program, and section 10831(f), regarding relevant Research Partnerships, as set forth in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167).

SEC. 505. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM AND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that research and development related to autonomous aviation is vital to ensure United States competitiveness as the National Airspace System evolves from trajectory-based operations to collaborative and highly automated operations.

(b) **COLLABORATION.**—The Administrator shall, in collaboration with the Administrator of Federal Aviation Administration, the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and appropriate representatives of academia and industry, continue its research on unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility, including research related to UTM and autonomous capabilities, as practicable.

(c) **BRIEF.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the progress of the research under subsection (b).

SEC. 506. ADVANCED CAPABILITIES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall leverage NASA-developed tools and technologies to conduct research and development activities under the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO) project, or appropriate successor project or projects, to improve aerial responses to wildfires.

(b) **GOALS.**—The research and development activities conducted under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Advanced aircraft technologies and airspace management efforts to assist in the management, deconfliction, and coordination of aerial assets during wildfire response efforts.

(2) Information sharing and real-time data exchange for wildfire response teams.

(3) Development of an interoperable platform to provide situational awareness of aerial assets during wildfire response.

(4) Establishment of a multi-agency concept of operations, which may involve Federal, State, and local government agencies, to enable coordination of aerial activities for wildfire response.

(c) **COLLABORATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Administrator—

(1) may coordinate and collaborate with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, regional organizations, and commercial partners and academic institutions involved in wildfire management; and

(2) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consult with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies to avoid duplication of activities.

(d) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in this subsection, the Administrator may not procure an unmanned aircraft system to conduct activities described in this section if such unmanned aircraft system is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.

(2) **EXEMPTION.**—The Administrator may waive the prohibition under paragraph (1) on a case-by-case basis if the Administrator—

(A) determines that the procurement of an unmanned aircraft system is—

(i) in the national interest of the United States; and

(ii) necessary for the sole purpose of improving aerial responses to wildfires; and

(B) notifies the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 30 days after a determination in the affirmative under subparagraph (A).

(e) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until December 31, 2029, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing the activities, including results, carried out pursuant to this section 2. Each such report, at minimum, shall contain the following:

(1) A description of any research and development activities.

(2) A description of the Administrator's activities pursuant to subsection (c).

(3) An identification of any topics related to improvement of aerial responses to wildfires that could benefit from further research.

(4) A description of any continuing efforts under this section.

(5) Any other information determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(f) **DEFINITION.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.**—The term “covered foreign entity” has the meaning given such term in section 1832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

(2) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.**—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 507. HYDROGEN AVIATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, and taking into consideration the strategy developed under and research conducted pursuant to section 1019 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-63), the Administrator may carry out research on emerging technologies related to hydrogen aviation.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the research under subsection (a).

SEC. 508. HIGH-PERFORMANCE CHASE AIRCRAFT.

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

(1) NASA programs benefit from and rely upon high-performance chase aircraft for providing research and mission support; and

(2) NASA currently faces maintenance challenges related to its aging high-performance aircraft fleet, which is resulting in increased program costs.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on the strategy of NASA relating to the following:

(1) Collaboration with the Department of Defense on efforts for research and flight asset sharing to support NASA's research mission support and pilot training requirements.

(2) Efforts to seek aircraft parts and engines to keep NASA's current fleet of chase aircraft operational, including potential use of 3D additive manufactured parts.

(3) Strategies for acquiring or using through loan, sharing, or other agreements, as appropriate, Department of Defense aircraft to support NASA's research and mission support activities, as required.

SEC. 509. COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) colleges and universities are hubs of research and innovation, with expertise in various fields of science and aeronautics;

(2) collaborating with academia allows NASA to access cutting-edge research and expertise that can further enable advancements in aeronautics research and technology and address complex aeronautical challenges;

(3) a cutting-edge civil aeronautics research and development program can inspire the next generation to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including aeronautics; and

(4) opportunities for students to participate in NASA-supported academic research and development projects, such as the University Leadership Initiative, the University Students Research Challenge, and related aeronautic projects and competitions, contributes to training the next generation and developing the aeronautics workforce to support continued United States leadership and economic growth in civil aeronautics and aviation.

SEC. 510. NATIONAL STUDENT UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS COMPETITION PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall lead a national pilot program to carry out unmanned aircraft systems technology competitions for students at the high school and undergraduate level (in this section referred to as “competitions”) in which students shall compete to design, create, and demonstrate an unmanned aircraft system.

(b) **COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION.**—The Administrator shall award, on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis, a grant to a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, or a consortium thereof, to administer the pilot program under subsection (a) (in this section referred to as the “competition administrator”).

(c) **AWARD CRITERIA.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the award decision made under subsection (b) take into account the extent to which the eligible entity—

(1) identifies a plan for engaging eligible institutions from diverse geographic areas, including poor, rural, and Tribal communities; and

(2) identifies a plan for connecting science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) activities to Administration missions and centers.

(d) **COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the competition administrator shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Awarding grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to host individual competitions.

(2) Developing STEM curriculum to be utilized by the competition awardees to help students make the connection to the design, construction, and demonstration of unmanned aircraft systems.

(3) Developing curriculum to assist students in making real-world connections to STEM content and educate students on the relevance and significance of STEM careers.

(4) Ensuring competition awardees are supporting the activities specified in subsection (f).

(5) Conducting performance evaluations of competitions, including data collection, on the following:

(A) The number of students engaged.

(B) Geographic and institutional diversity of participating schools and institutions of higher education.

(6) Any other activities the Administrator finds necessary to ensure the competitions are successful.

(e) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In awarding grants in subsection (d), the competition administrator shall consider applications that include a partnership with that State’s space grant program under chapter 403 of title 51, United States Code.

(f) **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the competition administrator shall ensure competitions occurring at both the high school and undergraduate levels—

(1) allow students to design, construct, and demonstrate an unmanned aircraft system;

(2) allow students to compete with other teams in the performance of the constructed unmanned aircraft system;

(3) connect to relevant missions and NASA Center activities of the Administration;

(4) connect relevant STEM curriculum to the design, construction, and demonstration of unmanned aircraft systems;

(5) support activities designed to help students make real-world connections to STEM content and educate students on the relevance and significance of STEM careers;

(6) are geographically dispersed in order to serve a broad student population, including

those in rural and underserved communities; and

(7) encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, the participation of students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(g) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than six months after the end of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the accomplishments, lessons learned, any challenges in the implementation of the pilot program, and recommendations for whether to continue the pilot program.

(h) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “eligible institution” means—

(1) an institution of higher education;

(2) a nonprofit research institution;

(3) a high school; or

(4) a consortium of 2 or more entities described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3).

SEC. 511. DECADAL SURVEY FOR NATIONAL AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES REVIEW.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Engaging the science and engineering communities, along with industry, through the development of a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine decadal survey in aeronautics research and development can provide a science and engineering community consensus on key research and development priorities in national civil aeronautics programs.

(2) A decadal survey entails a comprehensive review of and strategy and priorities for civil national aeronautics research and development and prioritizes for the next decade.

(3) A decadal survey for civil aeronautics research and development can serve as a guiding framework for strategic planning and resource allocation in the field of civil aeronautics for the coming decade.

(b) **STUDY.**—The Administrator in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal Government agencies and in accordance with section 20305 of title 51, United States Code, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section referred to as the “National Academies”) to conduct a decadal survey of civil aeronautics research and development for the 2025–2035 decade. The survey shall recommend research priorities to sustain United States leadership in civil aeronautics research and development and support a safe and sustainable future for aviation. The survey may also include recommendations related to the dissemination and transition of such research and development to the United States commercial aviation and aircraft industries, to enabling innovation, and to ensuring a world-class workforce for aeronautics research and development and related United States commercial industries and activities.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of such survey, including any recommendations.

SEC. 512. MAKING ADVANCEMENTS IN COMMERCIAL HYPERSONICS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In conducting the hypersonics research in section 40112(d) of title 51, United States Code, the Administrator may establish the Making Advancements in Commercial Hypersonics Program (in this section referred to as the “Program”), which shall facilitate opportunities for testing of high-speed aircraft and other technologies that advance scientific research

and technology development related to hypersonic aircraft.

(b) **LIMITATION.**—The Program under subsection (a) shall not fund the development of technologies that are supported by such testing opportunities.

(c) **PLAN.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, acting through the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, shall develop a strategic plan for activities under subsection (a) that aligns with the research roadmap under section 503 of this Act.

(d) **COORDINATION, CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.**—

(1) The Administrator shall ensure coordination between the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate and other Mission Directorates, as appropriate, to identify technologies eligible for testing opportunities under the Program.

(2) The Administrator shall consult and seek to collaborate with, as appropriate, with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on activities related to the Program, including development, testing, and evaluation of high-speed aircraft and related technologies.

(e) **REPORT.**—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate—

(1) not later than 80 days after the date of the enactment of this section, a report that—

(A) describes activities of the program established under subsection (a); and

(B) includes the strategic plan produced under subsection (c); and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, a report describing progress in carrying out the program, including the number and type of testing opportunities executed in the previous fiscal year and planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

(f) **RESEARCH SECURITY.**—Nothing under this section authorizes the Administrator to develop, implement, or execute an agreement related to technologies under this section with any entity of concern, a foreign business entity, or a foreign country of concern.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) **ENTITY OF CONCERN.**—the term “entity of concern” has the meaning given such term in section 10114 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 18912).

(2) **FOREIGN BUSINESS ENTITY.**—The term “foreign business entity” means an entity that is majority-owned or majority-controlled (as such term is defined in section 800.208 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, or a successor regulation), or minority owned greater than 25 percent by—

(A) any governmental organization of a foreign country of concern; or

(B) any other entity that is—

(i) known to be owned or controlled by any governmental organization of a foreign country of concern; or

(ii) organized under, or otherwise subject to, the laws of a foreign country of concern.

(3) **FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.**—The term “foreign country of concern” has the meaning given such term in section 9901 of title XCIX of division H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

(4) **HIGH-SPEED AIRCRAFT.**—The term “high-speed aircraft” has the meaning given such term in section 1009 of the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118–63).

TITLE VI—SCIENCE

SEC. 601. MAINTAINING A BALANCED SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress reaffirms the sense of Congress that—

(1) a balanced and adequately funded set of activities consisting of research and analysis grant programs, technology development, suborbital research activities, and small, medium, and large space missions, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery; and

(2) the Administrator should set science priorities by following the recommendations and guidance provided by the scientific community through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine decadal surveys.

(b) POLICY REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the policy of the United States set forth in section 501(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-10; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note), which states, “It is the policy of the United States to ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of large, medium, and small science missions”.

SEC. 602. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENCE MISSION COST-CAPS.

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

(1) NASA science missions address compelling scientific questions prioritized by the National Academies decadal surveys, and often such missions exceed expectations in terms of performance, longevity, and scientific impact;

(2) the Administrator should continue to pursue an ambitious science program while also seeking to avoid excessive cost growth that has the potential to affect the balance across the Science portfolio and within the Science Divisions;

(3) audits by the NASA Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office have reported that early cost estimates for missions in the preliminary phases of conception and development are immature and unreliable, and the cost of a mission typically is not well-understood until the project is further along in the development process;

(4) cost growth of a mission beyond its early cost estimates is a challenge for budget planning and has the potential to affect other missions in the Science Mission Directorate portfolio, including through delays to future mission solicitations; and

(5) relying on early cost estimates made prior to preliminary design review for science missions which then experience such cost growth may disincentivize program and cost discipline moving forward.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a review of NASA practices related to establishment of and compliance with cost caps of competitively-selected, principal investigator-led science missions. The review shall—

(1) assess current cost cap values and determine whether existing cost-cap amounts are appropriate for different classes of missions;

(2) consider the effectiveness of cost caps in maintaining a varied and balanced portfolio of mission types within the Science Mission Directorate;

(3) describe the information NASA requires as part of a proposal submission related to project cost estimates and proposal compliance with cost caps, and assess whether such required information provides sufficient insight or confidence in the estimates;

(4) consider NASA processes for assessing proposed cost estimates and the accuracy of such assessments for past competitively-selected, principal investigator-led science missions; and

(5) for the period starting on January 1, 2000 and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) a list of—

(i) competitively-selected, principal investigator-led science missions for which costs have exceeded the associated cost cap; and

(ii) reason the mission costs exceeded the cost-cap;

(B) an assessment of NASA’s role in predicting, preventing, or managing competitively-selected, principal investigator-led science mission cost increases; and

(C) a description of the impact of increased competitively-selected, principal investigator-led science mission costs beyond the cost caps on—

(i) the missions for which the cost cap has been breached; and

(ii) other missions within the applicable division and within the Science Mission Directorate.

SEC. 603. REEXAMINATION OF DECADAL SURVEYS.

Title 51, United States Code, is amended in section 20305(c) by inserting “, significant changes to the NASA budget” after “growth”.

SEC. 604. LANDSAT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress describing—

(1) the Administrator’s efforts to comply with section 60134 of title 51, United States Code;

(2) aspects of Landsat NEXT or any other Landsat observations that—

(A) could be provided by private sector data-buys or service procurements; and

(B) could—

(i) meet associated science requirements while maintaining or exceeding the quality, integrity, and continuity of the Landsat observational capabilities and performance, including requirements necessary to ensure high-quality calibrated data continuity and traceability with the 50-year Landsat data record; and

(ii) comply with nondiscriminatory availability of unenhanced data and public archiving of data pursuant to section 60141 and 60142 of title 51, United States Code, and all other relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies related to open science and data accessibility;

(3) any potential tradeoffs or other impacts of subparagraphs (A) or (B) that could reduce the benefit of Landsat data for scientific and applied uses or reduce the Federal Government’s ability to make such data available for the widest possible use; and

(4) recommendations and opportunities for the Federal Government to mitigate potential tradeoffs or impacts identified under paragraph (3) or to otherwise facilitate private sector data-buys or service procurements.

SEC. 605. PRIVATE EARTH OBSERVATION DATA.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 702 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18371) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Director of OSTP” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of OSTP”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In updating the civil Earth observation strategic implementation plan pursuant to subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Tech-

nology Policy shall consider commercial Earth observation data, as appropriate, that can be purchased or accessed by the Federal Government to meet Earth observation requirements.”.

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the release of the next civil Earth observation strategic implementation plan update under section 702(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18371(a)), the Comptroller General shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s implementation of section 702(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18371(b)), as amended.

SEC. 606. COMMERCIAL SATELLITE DATA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, states that the goal for the Earth Science program of NASA shall be to pursue a program of Earth observations, research, and applications activities to better understand the Earth, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future.

(2) Section 50115 of title 51, United States Code, states that the Administrator of NASA shall, to the extent possible and while satisfying the scientific or educational requirements of NASA, and where appropriate, of other Federal agencies and scientific researchers, acquire, where cost effective, space-based and airborne commercial Earth remote sensing data, services, distribution, and applications from a commercial provider.

(3) The Administrator of NASA established the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Pilot Program in 2019 to identify, validate, and acquire from commercial sources data that support the Earth science research and application goals.

(4) The Administrator of NASA has—

(A) determined that the pilot program described in paragraph (3) has been a success, as described in the final evaluation entitled “Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program Pilot Evaluation Report” issued in 2020;

(B) established a formal process for evaluating and onboarding new commercial vendors in such pilot program;

(C) increased the number of commercial vendors and commercial data products available through such pilot program; and

(D) expanded procurement arrangements with commercial vendors to broaden user access to provide commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to federally funded researchers.

(b) COMMERCIAL SATELLITE DATA ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 603 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 60307. Commercial satellite data acquisition program

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish within the Earth Science Division of the Science Mission Directorate a program to acquire and disseminate cost-effective and appropriate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, and where appropriate, of other Federal agencies and scientific researchers to augment or complement the suite of Earth observations acquired by the Administration, other United States Government agencies, and international partners.

“(b) DATA PUBLICATION AND TRANSPARENCY.—The terms and conditions of commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery acquisitions under the program described in subsection (a) shall not prevent—

“(1) the publication of commercial data or imagery for scientific purposes; or

“(2) the publication of information that is derived from, incorporates, or enhances the original commercial data or imagery of a vendor.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Administrator may—

“(1) procure the commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery from commercial vendors to advance scientific research and applications in accordance with subsection (a); and

“(2) establish or modify end-use license terms and conditions to allow for the widest-possible use of procured commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery by individuals other than NASA-funded users, consistent with the goals of the program.

“(d) UNITED STATES VENDORS.—Commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery referred to in subsections (a) and (c) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be procured from United States vendors.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following information regarding the agreements, vendors, license terms, and uses of commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery under this section:

“(1)(A) In the case of the initial report, a list of all agreements that are providing commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to NASA as of the date of the report.

“(B) For each subsequent report, a list of all agreements that have provided commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to NASA during the reporting period.

“(2) A description of the end-use license terms and conditions for each such vendor.

“(3) A description of the manner in which each such agreement is advancing scientific research and applications, including priorities recommended by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine decadal surveys.

“(4) Information specifying whether the Administrator has entered into an agreement with a commercial vendor or a Federal agency that permits the use of data and imagery by Federal Government employees, contractors, or non-Federal users.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 603 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“60307. Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition Program.”.

SEC. 607. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION MEASUREMENTS.

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

(1) observation and measurement of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are of critical importance to understand the sources of these emissions;

(2) additional tools can improve the precise detection of methane leaks from natural gas lines and production facilities to reduce economic losses and to reduce unintentional release of this potent greenhouse gas;

(3) observation of such gases can be conducted with a combination of space-based, airborne, and ground-based instruments;

(4) in 2022, NASA cancelled the Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory, a competitively-selected, Principal Investigator-led instrument under development that is designed to make space-based observations of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and methane, as well as vegetation health over the western hemisphere from geosynchronous orbit; and

(5) in 2023, the Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory PI-led project team delivered an unvalidated instrument assembly and flight spares to NASA as part of the project close-out activities.

(b) HARDWARE.—

(1) The Administrator shall assess the hardware and, to the maximum extent practicable, seek to validate the instrument assembly delivered to the Administration under the contract for the development of GeoCarb, which shall include an assessment of scientific capabilities of the delivered hardware, including potential repurposed uses or science contributions.

(2) The Administrator, within 6 months of the date of the enactment of this Act, shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the results of the assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) and if appropriate based on the assessment, a list of potential launch opportunities, including cost and schedule associated with such opportunities.

(c) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other relevant agencies, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to develop a science-based strategy to assess and evaluate the use of present and future greenhouse gas monitoring and detection capabilities, including ground-based, airborne, and space-based sensors and integration of data relating to such monitoring and detection from other indicators, to detect large methane emission events (commonly referred to as “methane super-emitters”).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy described in subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(A) Development of a proposed definition for the term “methane super-emitter”.

(B) Examination of whether and how current and planned Federal greenhouse gas monitoring and detection capabilities may be leveraged to monitor and detect methane super-emitters, and identify key gaps in such capabilities.

(C) Examination of the effectiveness of the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Center and Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Measurement Interagency Working Group in facilitating interagency collaboration for greenhouse gas monitoring and detection, data standards, stewardship, and data integration, including activities related to monitoring and detecting methane super-emitters.

(D) Examination of actions taken by Federal agencies and departments in response to the National Strategy to Advance an Integrated U.S. Greenhouse Gas Measurement, Monitoring, and Information System, including progress towards pathways to enhance the scientific and operational value of information regarding methane super-emitters.

(E) Consideration of options for the Federal Government to partner with nongovernmental entities, including State and local governments, academia, nonprofit organizations, commercial industry, and international organizations, to effectively leverage greenhouse gas monitoring and detection

capabilities to monitor and detect methane super-emitters.

(F) Consideration of options for the Federal Government to validate and verify technologies and data developed or collects by nongovernmental entities, academia, nonprofit organizations, commercial industry, and international organizations related to monitoring and detecting methane super-emitters.

(G) Recommendations regarding the activities under subparagraphs (A) through (F), as appropriate.

(d) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator may use the strategy described in subsection (a) to inform the planning of research and development activities regarding greenhouse gas monitoring and detection, including methane super-emitters.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the execution of the agreement between the Administrator and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under subsection (a), the National Academies shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the strategy described in subsection (a).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GREENHOUSE GAS MONITORING AND DETECTION.—The term “greenhouse gas monitoring and detection” means the direct observation, from space or in-situ, or collection of measurement data pertaining to, greenhouse gas emissions and levels.

(2) GEOCARB.—The term “GeoCarb” shall mean the Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory.

SEC. 608. NASA DATA FOR AGRICULTURAL APPLICATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) NASA has decades of experience in space-based scientific Earth observations and measurements, including data, trends and modeling.

(2) NASA Earth science data, which includes data on precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, and vegetation health, has been used to inform the decisionmaking of agricultural producers.

(3) NASA applies its scientific data and models to inform and support the agricultural community and engages in innovative collaborations such as the NASA Acres and NASA Harvest agricultural consortia.

(4) NASA uses space-based Earth observations and science and applications to support farmers in efforts to conserve water and other resources, improve farm management and crop yield, and facilitate the stability of the national food supply.

(5) NASA’s upcoming Earth System Observatory will benefit the agricultural community by improving observations critical for measuring and understanding cropland conditions, water availability, early onset crop disease, soil moisture, and other crop and rangeland management indicators.

(6) Increased engagement between NASA and the agricultural community can support agricultural producers, bolster the national food supply, and improve agricultural research, science, and technology.

(b) DATA DISSEMINATION.—NASA shall continue to partner with other relevant Federal agencies, as practicable, to disseminate water, soil, vegetation, land-use, and other relevant NASA Earth observation and science data, information and tools to support American agricultural producers. Such partnerships may include activities such as—

(1) continuing the leverage NASA Earth science water data and information to enable efficient use of resources, inform irrigation

decisions, and support local innovation and control of water management;

(2) supporting agriculture decisionmaking by increasing the accessibility and useability of NASA Earth science data, information, and tools relevant to the impact of disease, weather, precipitation, and other environmental factors on agricultural production; or

(3) making available, to the greatest extent practicable, NASA earth science measurements and data to advance precision agricultural capabilities relevant to the needs and requirements of agricultural producers.

(c) APPLICATION OF SPACE-BASED DATA.—The Administrator shall, in furtherance of the goal for the NASA's Earth science and applications program of securing practical benefits for society, as set forth in section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, continue to collaborate with relevant Federal agencies to develop mechanisms to transition, as appropriate, relevant NASA Earth science research findings, data, information, models, and capabilities to operational governmental and private sector entities focused on addressing the needs of the agricultural user community.

(d) PARTNERING.—In carrying out subsections (b) and (d), NASA shall, to the extent practicable and in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, where appropriate, continue to engage State and local government agencies, institutions of higher education, agriculture producer organizations, and other relevant stakeholder and user communities from the public and private sectors to improve dissemination of NASA Earth science data, information, and tools relevant to the needs of agricultural producers and the agriculture industry, in accordance with the goal for the Administration's Earth science and applications program set forth in section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, and relevant recommendations of the most recent decadal survey on Earth science and applications from space.

SEC. 609. PLANETARY SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

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

(1) planetary science missions advance the scientific understanding of the solar system and the place of humans in it while also advancing the design and operations of spacecraft and robotic engineering; and

(2) Discovery, New Frontiers, and Flagship programs allow NASA to fund a range of missions that vary in size, cost, and complexity; maintaining balance across these mission classes allows for a broad scope of discoveries and scientific advances.

(b) MISSION PRIORITIES REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the direction in section 502(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-10; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note) that—

(1) in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent Planetary Science Decadal Survey, the Administrator shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, the completion of a balanced set of Discovery, New Frontiers, and Flagship missions at the cadence recommended by the most recent Planetary Science Decadal Survey; and

(2) consistent with the set of missions described in paragraph (1), and while maintaining the continuity of scientific data and steady development of capabilities and technologies, the Administrator may seek, if necessary, adjustments to mission priorities, schedule, and scope in light of changing budget projections.

SEC. 610. PLANETARY DEFENSE.

(a) Section 808 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act

of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18387), is amended in subsection (b) by striking “implement, before September 30, 2012,” and inserting “, in coordination with the NASA Administrator, maintain and regularly update”.

(b) Title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 71103—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “**Developing policy and recommending**” and inserting “**Policy on near-Earth objects and**”

(B) by striking “Within 2 years after October 15, 2008, the” and inserting “The”;

(C) after “Policy shall”, by inserting “, in coordination with the Administrator, maintain and regularly update”;

(D) by striking “(1) develop”; and

(E) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) recommend” and inserting “recommendations for”; and

(2) in chapter 711—

(A) by adding at the end the following:

“§ 71105. Planetary defense coordination office.

“(a) OFFICE.—As directed in section 10825 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), the Administrator shall maintain an office within the Planetary Science Division of the Science Mission Directorate to be known as the ‘Planetary Defense Coordination Office’.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Consistent with the direction in section 10825 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167) the Planetary Defense Coordination Office under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) plan, develop, and implement a program to survey threats posed by near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter, as required by section 321(d)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155; 119 Stat. 2922; 51 U.S.C. 71101 note prec.);

“(2) identify, track, and characterize potentially hazardous near-Earth objects, issue warnings of the effects of potential impacts of such objects, and investigate strategies and technologies for mitigating the potential impacts of such objects; and

“(3) assist in coordinating government planning for a response to a potential impact of a near-Earth objects.”; and

(B) in the table of contents—

(i) by adding at the end the following new item:

“71105. Planetary Defense Coordination Office.”; and

(ii) by amending the item relating to section 71103 to read as follows:

“71103. Policy on near-Earth objects and responsible Federal agency.”.

SEC. 611. LUNAR DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may carry out, within the Science Mission Directorate, a program to accomplish science objectives for the Moon, with an organizational structure that aligns responsibility, authority, and accountability, as recommended by the most recent decadal survey for planetary science and astrobology.

(b) OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program in subsection (a), the Administrator shall direct the Science Mission Directorate, in consultation with the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate and the Space Technology Mission Directorate, to define high-priority lunar science objectives informed by decadal and other scientific consensus recommendations, and related requirements of an integrated Artemis science strategy for human and robotic missions to the Moon.

(c) INSTRUMENTATION.—The program in subsection (a) should assess the need for and

facilitate the development of instrumentation to support the scientific exploration of the Moon.

SEC. 612. COMMERCIAL LUNAR PAYLOAD SERVICES.

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

(1) the Administrator's encouragement and support for commercial services for lunar surface delivery capabilities and other related services serves the national interest; and

(2) commercial providers benefit from an approach that places low-cost, noncritical instruments on initial deliveries using small- and medium-size landers before proceeding to larger landers for more complex payloads.

(b) COMMERCIAL LUNAR PAYLOAD SERVICES.—The Administrator is authorized to establish a Commercial Lunar Payload Services program for the purposes of procuring, from one or more United States commercial providers, services for delivery of NASA science payloads, and the payloads of other NASA mission directorates, as appropriate and practicable, to the lunar surface.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MISSION DIRECTORATES.—A Mission Directorate that seeks to obtain commercial lunar payload services under the program established in subsection (b) shall provide funding for—

(1) any payload, instrument or other item sponsored by the Mission Directorate for delivery through the program; and

(2) the cost of the commercial lunar payload services obtained on behalf of the Mission Directorate.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing any such activities pursuant to subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct updated market research on the commercial lunar economy and identify any changes since the last market analysis;

(2) assess NASA's needs from and role in and contribution to the commercial lunar delivery market;

(3) based on such needs identified in paragraph (2), assess the effectiveness of the task order approach in advancing commercial development of lunar delivery services, including an assessment of the appropriate number of providers necessary to support NASA commercial lunar delivery needs, and identify any challenges and recommendations for improvement; and

(4) strengthen procedures related to the selection, manifesting, interfaces, and requirements of payloads and other relevant factors that could contribute to minimizing future NASA-directed changes to projects following commercial lunar payload service contract awards.

(e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 90 days from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall, informed by the activities conducted under subsection (c), prepare and implement a management plan with clear leadership authority and responsibility for the program authorized in subsection (b).

(f) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the implementation of the management plan in subsection (d).

(g) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall ensure coordination between Mission Directorates and the Moon to Mars Program on the administration of the program in subsection (b) to ensure alignment of goals for lunar delivery services.

SEC. 613. PLANETARY AND LUNAR OPERATIONS.

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

(1) existing NASA lunar and Martian orbital missions are operating well beyond their planned mission lifespans;

(2) NASA relies on this aging infrastructure for observations, communications relay, and other operations to support critical NASA missions; and

(3) the United States plans to increase its activities on and around both the Moon and Mars in coming years.

(b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan to ensure continuity of operations and sufficient observational and operational capabilities on and around the Moon and Mars necessary to continue to enable a robust science program and human exploration program for the Moon and Mars well into the future. Such plan shall consider opportunities to engage both private and international partners in future operations.

SEC. 614. MARS SAMPLE RETURN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, lead a Mars Sample Return program to enable the return to Earth of scientifically-selected samples from the surface of Mars for study in terrestrial laboratories, consistent with the recommendations of the National Academies decadal surveys for planetary science.

(b) APPROACH.—The Administrator shall pursue the program in subsection (a) on a timeline and in a manner necessary to—

(1) Sustain United States leadership in the scientific exploration of Mars;

(2) maintain NASA capabilities to land and operate robotic spacecraft on the surface of Mars;

(3) preserve the relevant unique and long-term institutional expertise; and

(4) maintain a balanced and robust planetary science division portfolio without requiring significant increases to the NASA budget.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Administrator shall, as soon as practicable and no later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan and timeline for the implementation of a Mars Sample Return program pursuant to this section with the goal of enabling the highest scientific return for the resources invested. Such plan shall include a design and mission architecture and establish realistic cost and schedule estimates to enable such goal.

SEC. 615. HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE SERVICING.

Not later than 90 days from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes the results of any study or studies conducted in the last five years regarding the technical feasibility of safely reboosting the Hubble Space Telescope, including any such studies regarding the technical feasibility of using private sector capabilities.

SEC. 616. GREAT OBSERVATORIES MISSION AND TECHNOLOGY MATURATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator may establish a Great Observatories Mission and Technology Maturation project (referred to in this section as a “Project”) to mature the large-scale space-based mission concepts and technologies needed for a future astrophysics mission, as informed by the recommendations of the most recent decadal survey in astronomy and astrophysics.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—A project established under subsection (b) shall inform the design and development of future large-scale space-based Astrophysics missions by conducting activities which may include—

(1) assessing the appropriate scope for any future mission;

(2) determining the range of capabilities and technology readiness of such capabilities needed for a mission; and

(3) informing the development and maturation of science and technologies needed for such mission.

(c) COSTS.—The independent life-cycle cost estimate conducted under section 30307 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by this Act, for a large-scale space-based mission resulting from successful completion of a Project established under subsection (b) shall include an accounting of all costs spent on maturation of the mission through such Project.

(d) REPORT.—Starting on February 1, 2025, and continuing annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress and impacts of any Projects established under subsection (b) within Astrophysics programs.

SEC. 617. NANCY GRACE ROMAN TELESCOPE.

The Administrator shall continue development of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope as directed in subsection 10823(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167).

SEC. 618. CHANDRA X-RAY OBSERVATORY.

The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, take no action to reduce or otherwise preclude continuation of the science operations of the Chandra X-Ray Telescope prior to the completion and consideration of the next triennial review of mission extensions for the Astrophysics division conducted pursuant to section 30504 of title 51, United States Code and NASA’s ongoing operations paradigm change review.

SEC. 619. HELIOPHYSICS RESEARCH.

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

(1) NASA heliophysics research advances the scientific understanding of the Sun, its impact on the Earth and near-Earth environment, and the Sun’s interactions with other bodies in the solar system, the interplanetary medium, and the interstellar medium;

(2) fundamental science supported by the Heliophysics division is critical to improving space weather observations forecasting capabilities, which contribute to—

(A) fortifying national security and other critically important space-based and ground-based assets;

(B) improving the resilience of the Nation’s energy infrastructure; and

(C) protecting human health in space; and

(3) the Heliophysics Division should continue to maximize the scientific return on investment of its portfolio through maintaining a balanced portfolio that includes research and analysis, including multidisciplinary research initiatives, technology development, space-based missions and sub-orbital flight projects that include both directed and strategic missions and principal investigator-led, competitively solicited missions, informed by the science priorities and guidance of the most recent decadal survey in solar and space physics.

(b) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The Administrator shall seek to—

(1) maintain a regular Explorer Announcement of Opportunity cadence and alternate between small and mid-sized missions; and

(2) enable a regular selection of Missions of Opportunity.

SEC. 620. STUDY ON COMMERCIAL SPACE WEATHER DATA.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall conduct a study of the extent to which commercially-available data could advance space weather research, including the relevant space weather research priorities of the most recent decadal survey on solar and space physics.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall include—

(1) an assessment of commercial capabilities and commercial data that meets or ex-

ceeds the science and technical standards and requirements of the Administration, which may include—

(A) data that is generated or able to be generated by commercial providers;

(B) commercially-available small spacecraft;

(C) opportunities for hosted NASA payloads on commercial spacecraft; and

(D) commercial solutions for data processing applicable to space weather science;

(2) recommendations and opportunities for the Federal Government to facilitate the use of commercially available options for space weather data relevant to advancing the Administration’s space weather research and development activities consistent with the most recent National Academies decadal survey, without reducing quality of data; and

(3) options, where appropriate, for potential partnerships or use of NASA prize authority and competitions, as appropriate and practicable, to obtain access to such data identified in paragraph (1) that—

(A) meets or exceeds the science and technical standards and requirements of the Administration; and

(B) are not duplicative of activities conducted pursuant to chapter 606 of title 51, United States Code.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress containing the results of the study provided under subsection (a).

SEC. 621. GEOSPACE DYNAMICS CONSTELLATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Geospace Dynamics Constellation mission could enable scientific discoveries that will transform understanding of the processes that govern the dynamics of the Earth’s upper atmospheric envelope that surrounds and protects the planet.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than September 5, 2024, the Administrator shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding the schedule and budget profile to launch the Geospace Dynamics Constellation mission by the end of the decade to fulfill the recommendations of the heliophysics decadal survey.

SEC. 622. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FOR WILDLAND FIRE SCIENCE, MANAGEMENT, AND MITIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the Associate Director of the Earth Science Division for Earth Action, shall establish a project for science and technology development for wildland fire management and mitigation (referred to in this section as “FireSense”).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of FireSense is to co-develop, deploy, and support NASA’s application of advanced science, data, and technology capabilities to enable measurable improvement in United States wildland fire management and mitigation across the fire cycle, including pre-fire, active fire, and post-fire phases.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—In establishing FireSense, the Administrator shall seek input from relevant stakeholders and shall align FireSense with the goal for NASA’s Earth science and applications program set forth in section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, consider relevant recommendations of the most recent decadal survey on Earth science and applications from space, and shall, to the extent practicable, focus on the following objectives:

(1) Enhanced predictive modeling and early warning systems for wildland fire detection and prevention.

(2) Developing remote sensing technologies and data analysis tools to monitor fire-prone areas.

(3) Transitioning wildland fire management technologies to operational users, including agencies, private sector entities, and academic institutions.

(4) Conducting research to understand the impacts of climate change on wildland fire frequency and intensity.

(5) Supporting post-fire recovery and ecosystem restoration through advanced technologies and data.

(6) Providing necessary technical assistance to operational users to receive, process, and make use of wildland fire science, data, and technology resources.

(7) Any additional objectives as determined necessary by the Administrator to satisfy the purpose described in subsection (b).

(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In implementing FireSense, the Administrator shall, as practicable and appropriate, coordinate with relevant Federal, State, and local agencies to support wildland fire science, data, and technology development activities across all phases of the fire cycle, including prevention, detection, response, and recovery.

(e) OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.—The Administrator shall, to the extent practicable and in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, continue to provide necessary scientific and technical support to enhance wildland fire mitigation efforts to operational users, including the following:

(1) Relevant Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) State, local, and Tribal governments and organizations.

(3) Private sector entities.

(4) Academic institutions, including colleges, universities, and wildland fire research institutions.

(f) DATA SHARING AND COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall facilitate the sharing of data, tools, and research findings with operational users and other relevant stakeholders to ensure effective use of NASA's capabilities in wildland fire management.

(g) FIRESENSE PROJECT EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of FireSense and make necessary adjustments to improve its impact on wildland fire management.

(h) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the activities and accomplishments of FireSense, including the following:

(1) An assessment of interagency coordination efforts.

(2) FireSense's impact on wildland fire management efforts.

(3) A list of emerging wildland fire management technologies and opportunities that may be considered for further research, development, demonstration, and deployment.

(4) An assessment of existing challenges to effective coordination with operational users, including State, local, and Tribal governments.

SEC. 623. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION COMMISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildland fires pose a significant threat to public safety, property, and natural resources.

(2) The National Wildland Fire Management and Mitigation Commission (in this section referred to as the "Commission") has provided critical recommendations for enhancing wildland fire science, data, and technology resources.

(3) The Administration, through the Science Mission Directorate, has the capa-

bility to support and enhance wildland fire management through its advanced research and technological expertise.

(b) INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Administrator, in accordance with the goal for NASA's Earth science and applications program set forth in section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, and relevant recommendations of the most recent decadal survey on Earth science and applications from space, shall incorporate the recommendations of the Commission, to the extent practicable, which may include continuing to carry out the following:

(1) Enhancing the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data related to wildland fires, including satellite and remote sensing data.

(2) Supporting research and development projects aimed at improving wildland fire prediction, prevention, response, and recovery.

(3) Developing and deploying technologies that can assist in monitoring, detecting, and mitigating wildland fires.

(4) Conducting studies on the impact of climate change on wildland fire behavior, frequency, and intensity.

(c) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall continue to coordinate, as practicable, with other Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities to integrate the Commission's recommendations into broader wildland fire management efforts. Such coordination may include the following:

(1) Facilitating the sharing of wildland fire-related data and research findings with relevant agencies and stakeholders.

(2) Participating in joint initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing wildland fire management capabilities.

(d) EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall conduct periodic evaluations of NASA's efforts to incorporate the Commission's recommendations and make adjustments as necessary to maximize the effectiveness of such recommendations to support wildland fire mitigation and management efforts.

(e) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the activities undertaken by NASA to implement the Commission's recommendations, including the following:

(1) A summary of research and development projects initiated or supported.

(2) An assessment of the impact of such activities on wildland fire management and mitigation efforts.

(3) Any challenges or obstacles encountered in implementing such recommendations.

TITLE VII—STEM EDUCATION

SEC. 701. NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 40303, by striking subsections (d) and (e);

(2) in section 40304—

(A) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) SOLICITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall issue a solicitation from space grant consortia for the award of grants or contracts under this section at the conclusion of the award cycle for fiscal Year 2020 to 2024. The Administrator shall implement the allocation guidance from section 40304(e) during each fiscal year covered by the award cycle.

“(2) PROPOSALS.—A lead institution of a space grant consortium that seeks a grant or contract under this section shall submit, on behalf of such space grant consortium, an application to the Administrator at such time

and in such manner and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may require.

“(3) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall award 1 or more multi-year grants or contracts, disbursed in annual installments, to the lead institution of an eligible space grant consortium of—

“(A) each of the 50 States of the United States;

“(B) the District of Columbia; and

“(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.”;

and (B) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

“(1) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out the purposes set forth in section 40301 of this title, each fiscal year, of the funds appropriated for this program of that fiscal year, the Administrator shall allocate not less than 85 percent among eligible space grant consortia as follows:

“(A) The space grant consortia identified in paragraph 40304(c)(3) shall each receive an equal share.

“(B) The territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands shall each receive funds equal to one-fifth of the share for each space grant consortium.

“(2) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, of the funds made available for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, the Administrator shall allocate not more than 10 percent for the administration of the program.

“(B) COSTS COVERED.—The funds allocated under paragraph (1)(A) of this section shall cover all costs of the Administration associated with the administration of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, including—

“(i) direct costs to the program, including costs relating to support services and civil service salaries and benefits;

“(ii) indirect general and administrative costs of centers and facilities of the Administration; and

“(iii) indirect general and administrative costs of the Administration headquarters.

“(3) SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES.—Each fiscal year, of the funds made available for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program, the Administrator shall allocate not more than 5 percent to lead institutions of Space Grant Consortia for grants to carry out innovative approaches and programs to further science and education relating to the missions of the Administration pursuant to subsection (b).”.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator shall make arrangements for an independent external review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program to—

(1) evaluate its management, accomplishments, approach to funding allocation as described in section 40303(e) of title 51, United States Code, and responsiveness to the purposes and goals defined in chapter 403 of title 51, United States Code;

(2) consider the benefits partnerships with local education agencies, including those in underserved and rural areas, may provide; and

(3) propose any statutory updates that may be needed to implement recommendations of the review.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than nine months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report on the independent external review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program described in subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 702. SKILLED TECHNICAL WORKFORCE EDUCATION OUTREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may conduct or support STEM engagement activities that focus on expanding opportunities for students to pursue skilled technical workforce occupations in space and aeronautics.

(b) LEVERAGING EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Administrator, in conducting activities pursuant to subsection (a), shall consider leveraging, as appropriate, existing programs of NASA or other Federal programs and interagency initiatives, such as the Manufacturing USA program under section 34 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s).

(c) INCLUSION.—Activities under subsection (a) may include outreach activities that engage secondary and post-secondary students, including students at institutions of higher education, two-year colleges, and high schools, and students in vocational or career and technical education programs, and that—

(1) expose students to careers that require career and technical education;

(2) encourage students to pursue careers that require career and technical education; and

(3) provide students hands-on learning opportunities to view the manufacturing, assembly, and testing of NASA-funded space and aeronautical systems, as the Administrator considers appropriate and with consideration of relevant factors such as workplace safety, mission needs, and the protection of sensitive and proprietary technologies.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the NASA's activities, and any planned activities, conducted pursuant to this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(2) SKILLED TECHNICAL WORKFORCE.—The term “skilled technical workforce” has the meaning given the term in section 4(b)(3) of the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act (42 U.S.C. 1862p note; Public Law 115-402).

TITLE VIII—POLICY/NASA**SEC. 801. MAJOR PROGRAMS.**

Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a)(1) by striking “7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012” and inserting “7120.5F, dated August 3, 2021”.

SEC. 802. NASA ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

(b) SUNSET.—Effective September 30, 2028, section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “and Congress”.

SEC. 803. NASA ASSESSMENT OF EARLY COST ESTIMATES.

Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a review of the development, application, and assessment of early cost estimates made prior to preliminary design review for NASA missions. The review may include—

(1) an assessment of NASA processes related to the formation and evaluation of proposed and early-stage cost estimates;

(2) an evaluation of NASA's monitoring and management of cost estimates throughout mission development, in accordance with

section 10861(b)(4) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167); and

(3) any such recommendations as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 804. INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.

Section 30307 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “analysis” and inserting “estimate”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “Before any funds may be obligated for implementation” and inserting “After the Administrator completes the preliminary design review”;

(B) by striking “analysis” and inserting “estimate”; and

(C) by inserting after the first sentence, “No funds may be obligated for implementation of the project before the Administrator reports the results of the life-cycle cost estimate to Congress.”.

SEC. 805. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY, POLICY, AND STRATEGY REPORT.

Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the efforts of the Office during the previous calendar year and priorities of the Office for the upcoming calendar year, as practicable.

SEC. 806. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TRANSFER TO NASA OF FUNDS FROM OTHER AGENCIES FOR SCIENTIFIC OR ENGINEERING RESEARCH OR EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 20113 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “In the performance of its functions” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the performance of its functions”; and

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

“(2) TREATMENT.—Funds available to any department or agency of the Federal Government for scientific or engineering research or education, or the provision of facilities therefor, shall, subject to the approval of the head of such department or agency or as delegated pursuant to such department's or agency's regulation, be available for transfer, in whole or in part, to the Administration for such use as is consistent with the purposes for which such funds were appropriated. Funds so transferred shall be merged with the appropriation to which transferred, except that such transferred funds shall be limited to the awarding of grants or cooperative agreements for scientific or engineering research or education.”.

(b) ANNUAL INFORMATION ON FUNDS TRANSFERRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall include in the annual budget justification materials of the Administration, as submitted to Congress with the President's budget request under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, information describing the activities conducted under subsection (f) of section 20113 of title 51, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)), during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

(2) CONTENTS.—The information referred to in paragraph (1) shall contain a description of each transfer of funds under the authority provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 20113 of title 51, United States Code (as added and amended, respectively, by this section), during the immediately preceding fiscal year, including the following:

(A) An identification of the department or agency of the Federal Government from which such funds were transferred.

(B) The total amount of funds so transferred, disaggregated by each such department or agency.

(C) The purposes for which such funds were appropriated to each agency or department.

(D) The program or activity of the Administration to which such funds were made available by each such transfer.

(E) The purposes of each such administration program or activity, and the amount of funding appropriated to the Administration for such purposes.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of enactment of the section, the Administrator of the Administration shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes the following:

(1) A summary of the value of the authority provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 209113 of title 51, United States Code (as added and amended, respectively, by this section), including the extent to which such authority has benefited the Administration and its ability to meet its needs, achieve its mission, or more effectively conduct interagency collaborations.

(2) An identification of any barriers or challenges to implementing such authority, or otherwise to managing funding required to conduct joint programs and award jointly funded grants and cooperative agreements by the administration with other Federal departments and agencies to advance the missions of each such department and agency.

SEC. 807. PROCEDURE FOR LAUNCH SERVICES RISK MITIGATION.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement for an independent external assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of NASA's approach towards launch services risk mitigation in the Administration's Procedural Requirements 8610.7D.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days from the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the following:

(1) The report of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(2) NASA response to the findings of the report, if any.

SEC. 808. REPORT ON MERITS AND OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTE RELATING TO SPACE RESOURCES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and Secretary shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the merits of, and options for, establishing an institute relating to space resources to advance the objectives of NASA and the Department in maintaining United States preeminence in space. Such objectives shall include the following:

(1) Identifying, developing, and distributing space resources, including by encouraging the development of foundational science, industrial capability, and technology.

(2) Reducing the technological and business risks associated with identifying, developing, and distributing space resources.

(3) Research to maximize the responsible use of space resources.

(4) Developing options for using space resources to carry out the following:

(A) Support current and future space architectures, programs, business, and missions.

(B) Enable such architectures, programs, business, and missions that would not otherwise be possible.

(C) Supplement the supply of such resources available on Earth.

(b) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall also include

the following assessments of the Administrator and the Secretary:

(1) Whether a virtual or physical institute relating to space resources is most cost effective and appropriate.

(2) Whether partnering with institutions of higher education and the aerospace industry, and the extractive industry as appropriate, would be effective in increasing information available to the institute with respect to advancing the objectives described in such subsection.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

(2) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.—The term “extractive industry” means companies and individuals involved in the processes of extracting, including mining, quarrying, drilling, and dredging, raw, natural materials or energy sources.

(3) INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(5) SPACE RESOURCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “space resource” means an abiotic resource in situ in outer space.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “space resource” includes a raw, natural material or energy source.

SEC. 809. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS AND NOTICES.—Any report or notice provided to Congress by NASA shall be provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, concurrently with its delivery to any other Committee or office.

(b) REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—If the United States becomes a signatory to an international agreement concerning outer space activities, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing a copy of such agreement.

SEC. 810. CONTRACT FLEXIBILITY.

Congress finds that NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1852.242-72, Denied Access to NASA Facilities instructs that for the period that NASA facilities were not accessible to contractor employees, the contracting officer may adjust the contract performance or delivery schedule, forego the work, reschedule the work, or consider requests for equitable adjustment to the contract.

SEC. 811. GAO REPORT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a review of fire and emergency services at NASA launch and reentry facilities that assesses the following:

(1) Current capabilities and projected demands for NASA-provided fire and emergency services.

(2) How demand for NASA-provided fire and emergency services have been impacted by the following:

(A) An increased rate of launch and reentry operations.

(B) An increased number of leases with commercial launch and reentry service providers for use of NASA property.

(3) Current fire and emergency services provided by commercial providers to support launch and reentry operations that are conducted—

(A) to fulfill a contractual obligation with NASA; or

(B) for non-NASA purposes using NASA-leased property.

(4) Whether NASA-provided and commercially-provided fire and emergency services are able to meet current and projected demands and support all fire response areas on NASA property.

SEC. 812. NASA PUBLIC-PRIVATE TALENT PROGRAM.

Section 20113 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) PUBLIC-PRIVATE TALENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) ASSIGNMENT AUTHORITY.—Under policies and procedures prescribed by the Administration, the Administrator may, with the agreement of a private sector entity and the consent of an employee of the Administration or of such entity, arrange for the temporary assignment of such employee of the Administration to such private sector entity, or of such employee of such entity to the Administration, as the case may be.

“(2) AGREEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide for a written agreement among the Administration, the private sector entity, and the employee concerned regarding the terms and conditions of the employee’s assignment under this subsection. The agreement shall—

“(i) require that the employee of the Administration, upon completion of the assignment, will serve in the Administration, or elsewhere in the civil service if approved by the Administrator, for a period equal to twice the length of the assignment;

“(ii) provide that if the employee of the Administration or of the private sector entity (as the case may be) fails to carry out the agreement, such employee shall be liable to the United States for payment of all expenses of the assignment, unless such failure was for good and sufficient reason, as determined by the Administrator; and

“(iii) contain language ensuring that such employee of the Administration or of the private sector entity (as the case may be) does not improperly use predecisional or draft deliberative information that such employee may be privy to or aware of related to Administration programing, budgeting, resourcing, acquisition, or procurement for the benefit or advantage of the private sector entity.

“(B) TREATMENT.—An amount for which an employee is liable under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a debt due the United States.

“(C) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive, in whole or in part, collection of a debt described in subparagraph (B) based on a determination that the collection would be against equity and good conscience and not in the best interests of the United States, after taking into account any indication of fraud, misrepresentation, fault, or lack of good faith on the part of the employee concerned.

“(3) TERMINATION.—An assignment under this section may, at any time and for any reason, be terminated by the Administration or the private-sector entity concerned, as the case may be.

“(4) DURATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An assignment under this subsection shall be for a period of not less than three months and not more than two years, renewable up to a total of three years. An employee of the Administration may not be assigned under this subsection for more than a total of three years inclusive of all such assignments.

“(B) EXTENSION.—An assignment under this subsection may be for a period in excess of two years, but not more than three years,

if the Administrator determines that such assignment is necessary to meet critical mission or program requirements.

“(5) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish policies and procedures relating to assignments under this subsection.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—Policies and procedures established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall address the following:

“(i) The nature and elements of written agreements with participants in assignments under this subsection.

“(ii) Criteria for making such assignments, including the needs of the Administration relating thereto.

“(iii) How the Administration will oversee such assignments, in particular with respect to paragraphs (2)(A)(iii), (7)(C), and (7)(D).

“(iv) Criteria for issuing waivers.

“(v) How expenses under paragraph (2)(A)(ii) would be determined.

“(vi) Guidance for participants in such assignments.

“(vii) Mission Directorate, Office, and organizational structure to implement and manage such assignments.

“(viii) Any other necessary policies, procedures, or guidelines to ensure such assignments comply with all relevant statutory authorities and ethics rules, and effectively contribute to one or more of the Administration’s missions.

“(C) INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES.—Assignments made under this subsection shall not have responsibilities or perform duties or decision making regarding Administration activities that are inherently governmental, pursuant to subpart 7.500 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and Office of Management and Budget review.

“(6) STATUS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Administration who is assigned to a private sector entity under this subsection shall be considered, during the period of such assignment, to be on detail to a regular work assignment in the Administration for all purposes. The written agreement established under paragraph (2)(A) shall address the specific terms and conditions related to such employee’s continued status as a Federal employee.

“(B) CERTIFICATION.—In establishing a temporary assignment of an employee of the Administration to a private sector entity, the Administrator shall certify that such temporary assignment shall not have an adverse or negative impact on the mission of the Administration or organizational capabilities associated with such assignment.

“(7) TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES.—An employee of a private sector entity who is assigned to the Administration under this subsection—

“(A) shall continue to receive pay and benefits from the private sector entity from which such employee is assigned and shall not receive pay or benefits from the Administration, except as provided in subparagraph (B);

“(B) is deemed to be an employee of the Administration for the purposes of—

“(i) chapters 73 and 81 of title 5;

“(ii) sections 201, 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, 603, 606, 607, 643, 654, 1905, and 1913 of title 18, except that such section 209 does not apply to any salary, or contribution or supplementation of salary made pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

“(iii) sections 1343, 1344, and 1349(b) of title 31;

“(iv) the Federal Tort Claims Act and any other Federal tort liability statute;

“(v) the Ethics in Government Act of 1978; and

“(vi) chapter 21 of title 41;

“(C) shall not have access to any trade secrets or any other nonpublic information which is of commercial value to the private sector entity from which such employee is assigned;

“(D) may not perform work that is considered inherently governmental in nature, in accordance with paragraph (5)(C); and

“(E) may not be used to circumvent—

“(i) section 1710 of title 41, United States Code; or

“(ii) any limitation or restriction on the size of the Administration’s civil servant workforce.

“(8) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administrator shall ensure that—

“(A) the normal duties and functions of an employee of the Administration who is assigned to a private sector entity under this subsection can be reasonably performed by other employees of the Administration without the permanent transfer or reassignment of other personnel of the Administration;

“(B) normal duties and functions of such other employees of the Administration are not, as a result of and during the course of such temporary assignment, performed or augmented by contractor personnel in violation of section 1710 of title 41; and

“(C) not more than two percent of the Administration’s civil servant workforce may participate in an assignment under this subsection at the same time.

“(9) **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**—The Administrator shall implement a system to identify, mitigate, and manage any conflicts of interests that may arise as a result of an employee’s assignment under this subsection.

“(10) **PROHIBITION AGAINST CHARGING CERTAIN COSTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—A private-sector entity may not charge the Administration or any other agency of the Federal Government, as direct or indirect costs under a Federal contract, the costs of pay or benefits paid by the entity to an employee assigned to the Administration under this subsection for the period of the assignment concerned.

“(11) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Administrator shall take into consideration—

“(A) the question of how assignments under this subsection might best be used to help meet the needs of the Administration with respect to the training of employees; and

“(B) where applicable, areas of particular private sector expertise, such as cybersecurity.

“(12) **NASA REPORTING.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than April 30 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report summarizing the implementation of this subsection.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each report under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to the annual period to which such report relates, the following:

“(i) Information relating to the total number of employees of private sector entities assigned to the Administration, and the total number of employees of the Administration assigned to private sector entities.

“(ii) A brief description and assessment of the talent management benefits evidenced from such assignments, as well as any identified strategic human capital and operational challenges, including the following:

“(I) An identification of the names of the private sector entities to and from which employees were assigned.

“(II) A complete listing of positions such employees were assigned to and from.

“(III) An identification of assigned roles and objectives of such assignments.

“(IV) Information relating to the durations of such assignments.

“(V) Information relating to associated pay grades and levels.

“(iii) An assessment of impacts of such assignments on the Administration workforce and workforce culture.

“(iv) An identification of the number of Administration staff and budgetary resources required to implement this subsection.

“(13) **FEDERAL ETHICS.**—Nothing in this subsection shall affect existing Federal ethics rules applicable to Federal personnel.

“(14) **GAO REPORTING.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report summarizing the implementation of this subsection.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

“(i) A review of the implementation of this subsection, according to law and the Administration policies and procedures established for assignments under this subsection.

“(ii) Information relating to the extent to which such assignments adhere to best practices relating to public-private talent exchange programs.

“(iii) A determination as to whether there should be limitations on the number of individuals participating in such assignments.

“(iv) Information relating to the extent to which the Administration complies with statutory requirements and ethics rules, and appropriately handles potential conflicts of interest and access to nonpublic information with respect to such assignments.

“(v) Information relating to the extent to which such assignments effectively contribute to one or more of the Administration’s missions.

“(vi) Information relating to Administration resources, including employee time, dedicated to administering such assignments, and whether such resources are sufficient for such administration.”

SEC. 813. REPORT ON SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the following:

(1) Intellectual property considerations in Space Act agreements.

(2) Feedback shared by industry groups regarding intellectual property considerations in Space Act agreements.

(3) Differences between NASA policies regarding intellectual property in Space Act agreements and policies utilized in similar situations by other Federal agencies.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Space Act agreements” means agreements entered into by NASA pursuant to its authorities under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-568).

SEC. 814. MENTORING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish a comprehensive NASA-wide mentoring program for early-career, mid-level, and senior-level employees at all NASA Centers and NASA Headquarters to ensure a robust pipeline for NASA’s civil servant workforce and support the preparation of employees, including those from populations that are historically underrepresented in STEM, for promotion and leadership roles.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the implementation of the subsection (a).

SEC. 815. DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may enter into an agreement, as appropriate, with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for a period of up to five years, for reimbursement of the Town of Chincoteague’s costs directly associated with the development of a plan for removal of drinking water wells currently situated on NASA-administered property and the establishment of alternative drinking water wells which are located on property under the administrative control, either through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague. Such agreement shall, to the extent practicable, include the three remaining wells to be removed and relocated, the location of the site to which such wells would be relocated or are planned to be relocated, and a current estimated cost of the relocation, including for the purchase, lease, or use of additional property, engineering, design, permitting, and construction.

(b) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the heads or other appropriate representatives of relevant entities, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the agreement under subsection (a).

SEC. 816. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the ability of a NASA employee to discuss scientific research performed by such employee in accordance with NASA’s scientific integrity policies.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8958, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8958, the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

NASA is at an important point in its history. Through the Artemis program, it is currently leading a team of commercial and international partners to return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in over 50 years.

It also seeks to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and accomplish impressive feats of scientific exploration to better understand the universe in which we live.

However, America’s role as a space leader cannot be taken for granted. As more actors, both commercial and foreign, take to the stars, space is increasingly competitive and contested.

Among these competitors is the Chinese Communist Party, which is devoting significant resources to rapidly expanding its presence in space. In 2023, the CCP completed construction of its own space station and returned to Earth the first rock samples from the far side of the Moon.

The CCP also made substantial progress on its plans to land humans on the Moon by 2030. Through these and other activities, the Chinese have become a global leader in space activity.

The next nation to land on the lunar surface will play a key role in guiding the norms and practices that may govern lunar and space exploration for decades to come. We cannot cede U.S. leadership at this time.

In order to be successful, Congress must provide NASA with clear, forward-thinking guidance. The bill before us today does just that by providing thoughtful, strategic direction across NASA's mission areas.

First, this bill recognizes the immense value of NASA having a consistent, long-term plan for space exploration. Accordingly, it reaffirms our commitment to human space exploration through Artemis and the Moon to Mars programs. It also reinforces the need for a steady cadence of flights of the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule.

Second, the bill provides guidance to NASA's activities in low-Earth orbit, or LEO. While the ISS is the world's premier microgravity laboratory, after over 24 years of operation, the station is aging.

NASA must fully utilize the ISS to ensure the maximum return on taxpayers' investment, but also must prepare for the eventual retirement of the station. To that end, this bill authorizes NASA to procure capabilities that will be needed to safely deorbit the ISS at the end of its lifespan. It also authorizes NASA to support the development and use of private LEO platforms.

Next, the bill addresses NASA's science programs. NASA's science missions reveal groundbreaking discoveries that help us understand our place in the universe that can ultimately improve life here at home.

However, throughout this Congress, the Science Committee has heard concerns about the effect cost and schedule overruns are having on the agency's portfolio of science missions.

Given the current constraints on the Federal budget, it is critical that Congress ensure that each dollar NASA spends is used in the most efficient way possible.

The bill stresses the value of a balanced science portfolio with a steady cadence of small, medium, and large missions. It directs NASA to consider how to incorporate innovative commercial solutions into its science programs, which can save money while also facilitating the growth of the U.S. commercial space industry.

The bill also ensures that space technology development is able to keep

pace with the rapid growth in space activities. By encouraging and supporting space technology development, this bill helps drive economic growth to ensure our leadership in space.

Finally, the bill will make aviation safer and more efficient by supporting aeronautics research efforts, including the development of experimental aircraft and next-generation aeronautics technologies. All told, it is a strategic bill that positions the U.S. to remain the global leader in space.

This legislation is the product of months of bipartisan work, and I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for working with me to create a thoughtful bill that addresses our shared priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024. I thank the chairman of the Science Committee, Mr. LUCAS, for his leadership of this bipartisan bill, of which I am an original cosponsor.

I am pleased that we are able to continue our committee's long history of bipartisanship when it comes to supporting NASA and our Nation's pre-eminent science and technology enterprise. I also thank the many members of the Science Committee for their constructive contributions and amendments that made needed improvements to this legislation.

While not perfect, this is a good bill that builds on the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 that was enacted as part of the CHIPS and Science Act. H.R. 8958 reaffirms America's commitment to science exploration, Earth and space science, aeronautics, innovation, education, and inspiration.

Through NASA's triumphs, our Nation has demonstrated to the world what can be achieved when great minds work together. There are countless technologies and services originated in the science program that benefit the everyday lives of Americans. Our investment in civil space has and will continue making remarkable contributions to innovation and economic prosperity here on Earth.

However, many of the dividends that NASA pays are immeasurable. NASA's science and human spaceflight missions have inspired generations of Americans and NASA's outreach and STEM programming have set countless young people on a path to degrees and careers in STEM.

Just last week, we were finally able to honor NASA's hidden figures with their Congressional Gold Medals. We have these women to thank for the success of our space program. Throughout their careers, they faced the unjust cruelties of racism and sexism, and still they persevered. It is with the legacies of Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and all the women computers, mathematicians, and engineers at

NASA and NACA during the space race in mind that we ensure NASA and the rest of our Federal science enterprise help lead the way in building STEM opportunities for all.

Put simply, we can only lead in science and technology with a STEM workforce that represents the rich diversity of our Nation. It is with the legacies of these trailblazing women in mind that this legislation supports NASA's STEM education portfolio, including the Minority University Research and Education Project.

I am pleased this bill provides continuity of policy and purpose for human exploration, the Moon to Mars program, and provides for NASA's continued use of low-Earth orbit to advance science and reduce exploration risks.

The bill directs NASA to both prepare for the safe deorbiting of the International Space Station at the end of its operational life while also planning for a robust and resilient architecture for the future of low-Earth orbit.

This legislation also supports NASA's science and aeronautics portfolios under which essential work is done. For example, NASA's Earth science satellites and research are critical to understanding and responding to global climate change. Under this bill, we will also improve our ability to detect large methane emission events and monitor greenhouse gases. Close to home for me, the NASA Ames Research Center does important aeronautical work to improve aerial responses to wildfires, including by developing and testing drone technology and aerial operations for wildland fire response.

I appreciate and commend the constructive input of NASA and the space and aerospace community as this bill came together. I thank Chairmen LUCAS and BABIN and their staffs for their hard work, cooperation, and consideration of our recommendations. I give special thanks to Ranking Member SORENSEN for his leadership on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee and to Pam Whitney and Ashlee Wilkins on the Democratic staff of the committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and pass the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the subcommittee chairman of jurisdiction.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8958, the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024. I am honored to represent the Johnson Space Center and privileged to chair the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. As an original cosponsor of this bill, I can share with you that it is the result of a lot of hard work.

We were able to reach a bipartisan consensus that keeps NASA on track to return to the Moon, maintain our leadership role in low-Earth orbit, continue

to explore our solar system and universe, and push the boundaries of flight.

All too often, changes in administrations lead to upended plans at NASA. While ever-changing goals and priorities challenge all agencies, it is particularly problematic for NASA, which undertakes extremely complex programs that literally take decades to accomplish.

The bill before us today provides the necessary guidance and support to ensure NASA's success and meet the rising challenge that the Chinese Communist Party poses to the United States in space.

I hope that the other Chamber will seize the opportunity to take up this important piece of legislation before the end of this year so that NASA will have the certainty that it needs to carry out the bold activities that we have tasked it with.

I also thank the chairman of the Science Committee, my friend from Oklahoma, FRANK LUCAS, for his support in drafting this legislation, as well as his leadership on the committee over the past 6 years. I also thank Ranking Members LOFGREN and SORENSEN for their collegiality through this process and for their important contributions to the bill.

Finally, I thank the staff for their tireless work. Charlie Scales, Kelsey McBarron, Vishal Amin, Brent Blevins, and Tom Hammond from the majority staff and Pam Whitney and Ashlee Wilkins from the minority staff all put in a lot of time to get us where we are today. I thank them, as well.

□ 1815

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) to speak on the bill.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUCAS and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology staff for their leadership on this very important bill.

Mr. Speaker, you can't tell the story of my district without also telling the story of NASA, whether it is Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier in the X-1 about 77 years ago, Pete Knight setting the record as the fastest man ever in the X-15 in 1967, the development and first flights of the space shuttle in the seventies and eighties, or now the upcoming first flight of the X-59, which is a commercial supersonic aircraft that will bring supersonic flight back to the United States for the commercial industry.

NASA's DNA is simply ingrained in the Antelope Valley, or as we affectionately call it in my district, the aerospace valley. That is why I am so proud to rise in support of the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

This bill advances the Artemis program, returning Americans to the Moon for the first time in nearly 50 years. It supports our still-emerging commercial space economy, which is

essential for Artemis, national security, and our scientific interests. It also includes my bill, the ACERO Act, to support work already underway at NASA to integrate unmanned aerial vehicles and ground systems into wildfire response, which will help stop fires before they spread.

We need to ensure that our firefighters are equipped like combat warfighters on the battlefield with cutting-edge technology to keep them safe, help them accomplish the mission as quickly as possible, and put the fires out as quickly as possible.

These UAVs will act as a force multiplier for firefighters to help protect communities like those in my district and usher in the next generation of firefighting technology so that our firefighters make sure that they come home safely at night.

This bill is about the next chapter for NASA, a chapter that starts in the aerospace valley and reaches all the way out to the edges of our solar system.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to do the same.

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time to speak on this bill, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 8958, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, NASA has long been a driving force in space exploration, but as I have said previously, we cannot take the decades of American leadership in space for granted. This is especially true as the growing interest in space drives greater activity and competition into the domain, particularly from the Chinese Communist Party.

An effective and efficient NASA is the key to maintaining U.S. space leadership. Congress must provide NASA with clear, forward-thinking guidance.

This is why one of my top priorities on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology this Congress is passage of the bill currently before us.

I fully support the thoughtful guidance this bill provides NASA. It ensures NASA continues making progress toward returning humans to the Moon, developing the best strategy for NASA's future operations in LEO, and promotes a range of scientific research and technological development activities.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Ranking Member LOFGREN and her staff for working with me and my staff to craft this important bill, and I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to see this across the finish line.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8958, 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. LUCAS. 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.

ACCESSING SATELLITE DATA TO ENABLE NEW DISCOVERIES ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6219) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program to identify, evaluate, acquire, and disseminate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6219

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 "Accessing Satellite Data to Enable New Discoveries Act" or the "ASCEND Act".

SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL SATELLITE DATA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 60501 of title 51, United States Code, states that the goal for the Earth Science program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this section as "NASA") shall be to pursue a program of Earth observations, research, and applications activities to better understand the Earth, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future.

(2) Section 50115 of title 51, United States Code, states that the Administrator of NASA shall, to the extent possible and while satisfying the scientific or educational requirements of NASA, and where appropriate, of other Federal agencies and scientific researchers, acquire, where cost effective, space-based and airborne commercial Earth remote sensing data, services, distribution, and applications from a commercial provider.

(3) The Administrator of NASA established the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Pilot Program in 2019 to identify, validate, and acquire from commercial sources data that support the Earth science research and application goals.

(4) The Administrator of NASA has—

(A) determined that the pilot program described in paragraph (3) has been a success, as described in the final evaluation entitled "Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program Pilot Evaluation Report" issued in 2020;

(B) established a formal process for evaluating and onboarding new commercial vendors in such pilot program;

(C) increased the number of commercial vendors and commercial data products available through such pilot program; and

(D) expanded procurement arrangements with commercial vendors to broaden user access to provide commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to federally funded researchers.

(b) COMMERCIAL SATELLITE DATA ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 603 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 60307. Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition Program

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish within the Earth Science Division of the Science Mission Directorate a program to acquire and disseminate cost-effective and appropriate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, and where appropriate, of other Federal agencies and scientific researchers to augment or complement the suite of Earth observations acquired by the Administration, other United States Government agencies, and international partners.

“(b) DATA PUBLICATION AND TRANSPARENCY.—The terms and conditions of commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery acquisitions under the program described in subsection (a) shall not prevent—

“(1) the publication of commercial data or imagery for scientific purposes; or

“(2) the publication of information that is derived from, incorporates, or enhances the original commercial data or imagery of a vendor.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Administrator may—

“(1) procure commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery from commercial vendors to advance scientific research and applications in accordance with subsection (a); and

“(2) establish or modify end-use license terms and conditions to allow for the widest-possible use of procured commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery by individuals other than NASA-funded users, consistent with the goals of the program.

“(d) UNITED STATES VENDORS.—Commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery referred to in subsections (a) and (c) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be procured from United States vendors.(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following information regarding the agreements, vendors, license terms, and uses of commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery under this section:

“(1)(A) In the case of the initial report, a list of all agreements that are providing commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to NASA as of the date of the report.

“(B) For each subsequent report, a list of all agreements that have provided commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery to NASA during the reporting period.

“(2) A description of the end-use license terms and conditions for each such vendor.

“(3) A description of the manner in which each such agreement is advancing scientific research and applications, including priorities recommended by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine decadal surveys.

“(4) Information specifying whether the Administrator has entered into an agree-

ment with a commercial vendor or a Federal agency that permits the use of data and imagery by Federal Government employees, contractors, or non-Federal users.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 603 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“60307. Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition Program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6219, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the ASCEND Act, led by my colleague, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

The ASCEND Act creates a permanent commercial satellite data acquisition program within NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

As the global space sector rapidly evolves, it is critical for NASA to have access to the very best tools and research our Nation has to offer, ensuring its continued leadership as the world's premier space agency.

This bill supports those efforts by enabling NASA to procure remote sensing data from commercial providers under the new acquisition program. By taking this step, researchers will have access to cutting-edge datasets and imagery obtained from the commercial space sector. These resources will play a significant role in advancing research and development in vital areas, such as precision agriculture and natural disaster monitoring.

By utilizing industry data, our NASA researchers can obtain valuable insights that enhance their already innovative work. The more knowledge we acquire, the better we can lead in this field.

The bill also requires the NASA Administrator to submit an annual report to Congress on the uses and impact of commercial data products and licensing agreements. This information will be valuable for us as we monitor and support the program's efforts.

As we look forward to the future, maintaining our leadership in the space sector will depend on various factors, including our collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors. Allowing NASA to expand its commercial data procurement program through the ASCEND Act will only help achieve the agency's current and long-term goals.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KEAN and Representative BONAMICI for

working together to get this bill to the floor today. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the ASCEND Act, which is sponsored by Representatives KEAN and BONAMICI. Their bill would codify the existing program, the Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition program, after NASA successfully demonstrated the viability of purchasing commercial small-satellite data to support NASA's Earth system science programs.

During evaluation of the initial pilot project, the data acquisitions were shown to complement the suite of Earth observations taken by NASA's fleet of satellites and instruments. NASA has continued the activities as the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program. This bill capitalizes on the accomplishments of the initial pilot by authorizing the program.

It also authorizes the Administrator, in carrying out the program, to procure commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery from commercial vendors and to establish or modify end-use license terms and conditions to allow for the use of the procured data and imagery by individuals other than NASA-funded users.

The bill includes measures to support data publication and transparency, reporting to Congress on the program, and the widest possible use of the data procured under the program consistent with program goals.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's sponsors for their work on the ASCEND Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN), to speak on his bill.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Speaker's Office, the majority leader, Chairman LUCAS, and my colleagues for their collaborative efforts in addressing the urgency of passing my bill, H.R. 6219, the Accessing Satellite Data to Enable New Discoveries Act, the ASCEND Act.

I also extend my appreciation to Representative BONAMICI for co-leading the ASCEND Act, which will establish a program through which NASA can procure satellite imagery and data from commercially operated satellites to support and complement its science objectives.

Space, once dominated by government actors, is now home to a growing variety of commercial operators. This commercial space industry includes commercial operators of small satellite constellations that produce remote sensing imagery and data. NASA could obtain cost-effective imagery and data for its science missions by purchasing such products from these commercial providers as one of their many customers.

In 2017, NASA established a pilot program called the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition, CSDA, Program to identify and to evaluate commercial capabilities that could add value to NASA research. The program also established new processes to acquire and use such products.

The CSDA pilot program proved to be a great success, with participating scientists finding commercial datasets to be both reliable and highly valuable for a wide range of research applications.

The ASCEND Act seeks to build upon the success of the pilot program and to permanently authorize the CSDA Program within NASA, thus ensuring the program's continued growth and longevity.

This bill directs the NASA Administrator to establish a commercial satellite data acquisition program within NASA's Science Mission Directorate, allowing scientists and agencies to access cost-effective commercial satellite data products.

The bill also allows the Administrator to both obtain commercial Earth remote sensing imagery and data needed by agencies and scientists and to also encourage growth of private-sector space entities.

Additionally, this legislation requires the Administrator to submit a report to Congress describing the implementation of the program, including the types of data acquired, the sources of that data, its uses within NASA, and any impacts.

Not only does this program benefit NASA scientists, but it also supports federally funded and accredited researchers across various agencies, such as NOAA, USDA, or DOI, as well as Federal grantees, including the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

By utilizing a diverse set of capabilities and data sources, and leveraging advancements in the private sector, we are ensuring that America remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and technological advancements for generations to come.

Now is an important time for Congress to reaffirm our support for this program by enacting it into statute, thus ensuring its continued growth and success for the Federal scientific community.

Access to such timely, high-quality satellite data is essential for improving our understanding of natural disasters, enhancing response capabilities, and mitigating impacts, especially for flood-prone coastal areas like New Jersey. This data will help protect our communities by informing more accurate predictions and better preparation efforts.

The ASCEND Act demonstrates a strong commitment to advancing our scientific capabilities, such as by providing data that would enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts and by supporting commercial space efforts.

This bipartisan legislation reinforces our dedication to promoting sound re-

search and innovation in space exploration and ensuring NASA remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and public service.

□ 1830

Again, I thank the Speaker's Office, the majority leader, and Chairman LUCAS for helping advance this impactful legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers to speak on this bill, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Again, I thank Representatives KEAN and BONAMICI for their bipartisan efforts.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6219, 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.

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:

- S. 2228;
- H.R. 8958; and
- S. 3764.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA 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 (S. 2228) to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes, 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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 257, nays 125, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 440]

YEAS—257

Aderholt	Good (VA)	Norman
Aguilar	Gooden (TX)	Nunn (IA)
Alford	Graves (MO)	Oberholte
Allen	Green (TN)	Owens
Allred	Griffith	Palmer
Amodei	Grothman	Panetta
Arrington	Guthrie	Pappas
Babin	Harder (CA)	Pelosi
Bacon	Harris	Peltola
Baird	Harshbarger	Pence
Balderson	Hern	Perez
Banks	Higgins (LA)	Perry
Barr	Hill	Peters
Bentz	Himes	Pettersen
Bera	Hinson	Pfluger
Bergman	Horsford	Posey
Bice	Houchin	Quigley
Biggs	Houlihan	Reschenthaler
Bilirakis	Hoyer	Rogers (AL)
Bishop (GA)	Hudson	Rogers (KY)
Boebert	Huizenga	Rose
Bost	Hunt	Rouzer
Brecheen	Issa	Roy
Brown	Jackson (TX)	Ruiz
Bucshon	James	Rulli
Budzinski	Johnson (LA)	Rutherford
Burchett	Johnson (SD)	Ryan
Burgess	Jordan	Scalise
Burlison	Joyce (OH)	Schneider
Calvert	Joyce (PA)	Scholten
Cammack	Kaptur	Schrier
Caraveo	Kean (NJ)	Schweikert
Carbajal	Keating	Scott, Austin
Carey	Kelly (MS)	Scott, David
Carl	Kelly (PA)	Self
Carter (GA)	Kiggans (VA)	Sessions
Carter (TX)	Kildee	Sewell
Cartwright	Kiley	Sherrill
Cline	Kilmer	Simpson
Cloud	Kim (CA)	Slotkin
Clyde	Kim (NJ)	Smith (MO)
Cole	LaLota	Smith (NE)
Comer	LaMalfa	Smith (NJ)
Connolly	Landsman	Smith (WA)
Correa	Langworthy	Smucker
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Sorensen
Craig	Larson (CT)	Soto
Crane	Latta	Spanberger
Crenshaw	LaTurner	Spartz
Crow	Lawler	Stanton
Cuellar	Lee (FL)	Steel
D'Esposito	Lee (NV)	Stefanik
Davids (KS)	Lesko	Steil
Davidson	Letlow	Steube
Davis (NC)	Lopez	Strickland
De La Cruz	Loudermilk	Strong
DelBene	Lucas	Suozyi
Deluzio	Luna	Sykes
Diaz-Balart	Luttrell	Tiffany
Donalds	Lynch	Timmons
Duarte	Mace	Titus
Dunn (FL)	Malliotakis	Torres (CA)
Edwards	Mann	Trone
Ellzey	Manning	Turner
Emmer	Massie	Valadao
Estes	Mast	Van Drew
Ezell	Matsui	Van Duyne
Fallon	McBath	Van Orden
Feenstra	McCaul	Vargas
Ferguson	McClain	Vasquez
Finstad	McCormick	Veasey
Fitzpatrick	Meuser	Walberg
Fleischmann	Miller (OH)	Waltz
Fletcher	Miller (WV)	Wasserman
Flood	Miller-Meeks	Schultz
Fong	Mills	Weber (TX)
Fox	Molinaro	Webster (FL)
Franklin, Scott	Moolenaar	Wenstrup
Fulcher	Moore (AL)	Wild
Gaetz	Moore (UT)	Williams (NY)
Garamendi	Moran	Williams (TX)
Garcia, Mike	Moskowitz	Wilson (SC)
Golden (ME)	Moulton	Wittman
Gomez	Mrvan	Womack
Gonzales, Tony	Newhouse	Yakym
Gonzalez, V.	Nickel	Zinke

NAYS—125

Adams	Barragan	Blumenauer
Amo	Bean (FL)	Blunt Rochester
Auchincloss	Beatty	Bonamici
Balint	Beyer	Boyle (PA)

Brownley	Gosar	Neguse
Bush	Graves (LA)	Norcross
Cárdenas	Green, Al (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Carson	Hageman	Ogles
Carter (LA)	Hayes	Omar
Case	Hoyle (OR)	Pallone
Casten	Huffman	Pingree
Castor (FL)	Ivey	Pocan
Chu	Jackson (IL)	Pressley
Clark (MA)	Jacobs	Ramirez
Clarke (NY)	Jayapal	Raskin
Cleaver	Jeffries	Rosendale
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Ross
Cohen	Kamlager-Dove	Ruppersberger
Collins	Kelly (IL)	Salinas
Crockett	Kennedy	Sánchez
Davis (IL)	Khanna	Sarbanes
Dean (PA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scanlon
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Schiff
DeSaulnier	Leger Fernandez	Scott (VA)
Dingell	Levin	Sherman
Doggett	Lieu	Stauber
Duncan	Lofgren	Stevens
Escobar	Magaziner	Takano
Eshoo	McClellan	Tenney
Espallat	McCollum	Thanedar
Fischbach	McGarvey	Thompson (CA)
Fitzgerald	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
Foster	Menendez	Tlaib
Foutshee	Meng	Tokuda
Frankel, Lois	Mfume	Underwood
Frost	Moore (WI)	Velázquez
Fry	Morelle	Waters
Garcia (IL)	Mullin	Watson Coleman
Garcia (TX)	Nadler	Williams (GA)
Garcia, Robert	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Goldman (NY)	Neal	

NOT VOTING—49

Armstrong	Gimenez	Mooney
Bishop (NC)	Gottheimer	Murphy
Bowman	Granger	Nehls
Buchanan	Greene (GA)	Phillips
Casar	Grijalva	Porter
Castro (TX)	Guest	Rodgers (WA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (NC)	Salazar
Cherfilus-	Kuster	Stansbury
McCormick	Kustoff	Swalwell
Ciscomani	LaHood	Thompson (PA)
Costa	Lamborn	Tonko
Crawford	Luetkemeyer	Torres (NY)
Curtis	Maloy	Trahan
DesJarlais	McClintock	Wagner
Evans	McHenry	Westerman
Gallego	Meeks	Wexton
Garbarino	Miller (IL)	

□ 1853

Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mses. SALINAS and VELÁZQUEZ changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. SOTO and ZINKE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on roll call No. 440.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 440.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

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

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Donna Barber, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on September 18, 2024, the Honorable LaMonica McIver was elected Representative to Congress for the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Trenton, NJ, September 19, 2024.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 for a Representative in Congress from the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey, show that LaMonica McIver received 26,119 or 81% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial election results, of the ballots counted so far, that LaMonica McIver has received the highest number of votes for the office of Representative in Congress from the Tenth Congressional District.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election. The deadline to file an election contest is October 20, 2024.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by County Clerks involved, the Board of State Canvassers will meet to certify the Official Special General Election results. Furthermore, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law after the State Board of Canvassers has certified the results of the election.

Sincerely,

DONNA BARBER,
Acting Director, NJ Division of Elections.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
LAMONICA McIVER, OF NEW JERSEY,
AS A MEMBER OF THE
HOUSE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the Honorable LaMonica McIver, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the New Jersey delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Mrs. McIVER appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 118th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
LAMONICA McIVER TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, especially from New Jersey, and I rise today to congratulate and welcome our newest colleague, LAMONICA McIVER, from New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

Mrs. McIVER has served on the Newark City Council since 2018. She served as the council president, and I think, as many people know, Newark is the largest city in the State of New Jersey. It is also the same council where our good friend and distinguished former colleague, Donald Payne, Jr., had served with great distinction.

I point out that she excelled in the Newark public school system and graduated from Bloomfield College before going on to receive her master's degree from Seton Hall University, everything in New Jersey.

Before running for office, she worked in human resources across several public school districts, including personnel director for Montclair Public Schools. She also worked as a public affairs manager for PSE&G, one of New Jersey's major utility companies.

We offer, on both sides of the aisle, our warmest welcome to her and look forward to working with her in the coming days and weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my good friend.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want all Members to know that Mrs. McIVER has experienced a series of firsts.

First, she was the youngest person elected to the Newark City Council in 2018. She then was elected council president in 2022, and she is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress from the State of New Jersey.

We have her family up there, as my colleagues can see.

She has also been a tremendous mentor for young women, in particular. She founded an organization called the Newark G.A.L.S., Inc., which is an organization that has empowered over 3,000 young women throughout the State of New Jersey. We are so proud of her. She is really, more than anything

else, a community activist. That is what she is all about.

She is going to continue in that tradition here, being an advocate for so many important issues. We are ready to work with her, and we are so glad that she is here today, starting out even as we end this session, because she is going to get a jump on all of her activities. She is just such a nice person.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, and I yield back to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mrs. MCIVER, and I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. MCIVER).

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, Leader JEFFRIES, Congressman PALLONE, my great colleagues in the New Jersey delegation, I am deeply humbled and honored that the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District have put their faith in me to give them a bold voice in the United States House of Representatives.

I recognize my mom, my dad, sisters, husband, my bright 8-year-old daughter, and friends and extended family. I thank them so much for traveling here from New Jersey to be with me.

I express my deepest gratitude to those who have provided mentorship and guidance throughout my career. A few of those folks are here today, like my New Jersey State Chairman, Leroy Jones, who is here watching tonight.

Tonight, I walk in the footsteps of those who have come before me. The city of Newark, my lifelong home, has produced fierce, unyielding leaders who have dedicated their lives and careers to the pursuit of justice.

My predecessor, Congressman DONALD M. PAYNE, JR., embodied the vibrant spirit of our city and the people he faithfully served. He was an example to many of us.

As I stand before my colleagues tonight, I pay tribute to him, and both deeply feel and will always miss his presence and his leadership.

While I walk in the footsteps of those who came before me, it is my hope to blaze new trails together on the march toward fully realizing the promise of our great American Nation.

I personally thank my mayor, Ras J. Baraka, who introduced me to politics at the age of 10. It is fitting that he is here tonight with us.

It was in those years that I saw up close how government at all levels could impact daily life in our communities, how even small changes have the ability to add up to transformational progress.

I later had the opportunity and privilege to serve my city as a member of the Newark City Council and as council president.

As I stand here tonight, I am filled with more optimism than ever before that we can accomplish so much together, that we can find common ground, that we can disagree while nurturing our democracy, that we can

bring the voices of our beautiful, diverse communities together, and that we can protect and strengthen the freedoms and opportunities that make America, America.

I cannot be more proud and grateful that the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District have entrusted me to carry forward their will in this House, for which I thank all of them.

May God bless the 10th District, and God bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 432.

NASA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER. 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. 8958) to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) 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 366, nays 21, answered “present” 1, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 441]
YEAS—366

Adams	Calvert	Dean (PA)
Aderholt	Cammack	DeGette
Aguilar	Caraveo	DeLauro
Alford	Carbajal	DeBene
Allen	Cardenas	Deluzio
Allred	Carey	DeSaulnier
Amo	Carl	Diaz-Balart
Amodei	Carson	Dingell
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Doggett
Auchincloss	Carter (LA)	Donalds
Babin	Carter (TX)	Duarte
Bacon	Cartwright	Duncan
Baird	Case	Dunn (FL)
Balderson	Casten	Edwards
Balint	Castor (FL)	Ellzey
Banks	Chu	Emmer
Barr	Clark (MA)	Escobar
Barragan	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo
Bean (FL)	Cleaver	Espallat
Beatty	Cline	Estes
Bentz	Clyburn	Ezell
Bera	Clyde	Fallon
Bergman	Cohen	Feenstra
Beyer	Cole	Ferguson
Bice	Collins	Finstad
Bilirakis	Comer	Fischbach
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Fitzgerald
Blumenauer	Correa	Fitzpatrick
Blunt Rochester	Costa	Fleischmann
Boebert	Courtney	Fletcher
Bonamici	Craig	Flood
Bost	Crockett	Fong
Boyle (PA)	Crow	Foster
Brown	Cuellar	Foushee
Brownley	D'Esposito	Fox
Bucshon	Davids (KS)	Frankel, Lois
Budzinski	Davis (IL)	Franklin, Scott
Burgess	Davis (NC)	Frost
Bush	De La Cruz	Fry

Gaetz	Lopez	Salinas
Garamendi	Loudermilk	Sanchez
Garcia (IL)	Lucas	Sarbantes
Garcia (TX)	Luna	Scalise
Garcia, Mike	Luttrell	Scanlon
Garcia, Robert	Lynch	Schakowsky
Jimenez	Mace	Schiff
Golden (ME)	Magaziner	Schneider
Goldman (NY)	Malliotakis	Scholten
Gomez	Mann	Schrier
Gonzales, Tony	Manning	Schweikert
Gonzalez, V.	Mast	Scott (VA)
Gooden (TX)	Matsui	Scott, Austin
Gottheimer	McBath	Scott, David
Graves (LA)	McCaul	Sessions
Graves (MO)	McClain	Sewell
Green (TN)	McClellan	Sherman
Green, Al (TX)	McCollum	Sherrill
Griffith	McCormick	Simpson
Guest	McGarvey	Slotkin
Guthrie	McGovern	Smith (MO)
Harder (CA)	McIver	Smith (NE)
Harshbarger	Meeks	Smith (NJ)
Hayes	Menendez	Smith (WA)
Hern	Meng	Smucker
Higgins (LA)	Meuser	Sorensen
Hill	Mfume	Soto
Himes	Miller (OH)	Spanberger
Hinson	Miller (WV)	Spartz
Horsford	Miller-Meeks	Stansbury
Houchin	Mills	Stanton
Houlahan	Molinaro	Staubert
Hoyer	Moolenaar	Steel
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (AL)	Stefanik
Hudson	Moore (UT)	Steil
Huffman	Moore (WI)	Steube
Huizenga	Moran	Stevens
Hunt	Morelle	Strickland
Issa	Moskowitz	Strong
Ivey	Moulton	Suozzi
Jackson (IL)	Mrvan	Sykes
Jackson (TX)	Mullin	Takano
Jacobs	Nadler	Thamendar
James	Napolitano	Neal
Jayapal	Neal	Thompson (CA)
Jeffries	Neguse	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (GA)	Newhouse	Timmons
Johnson (SD)	Nickel	Titus
Jordan	Norcross	Tlaib
Joyce (OH)	Nunn (IA)	Tokuda
Joyce (PA)	Obenolte	Tonko
Kamlager-Dove	Ocasio-Cortez	Torres (CA)
Kaptur	Ogles	Trone
Kean (NJ)	Omar	Turner
Keating	Owens	Underwood
Kelly (IL)	Pallone	Valadao
Kelly (MS)	Palmer	Van Dreye
Kelly (PA)	Panetta	Van Dyne
Kennedy	Pappas	Van Orden
Khanna	Pelosi	Vargas
Kiggans (VA)	Peltola	Vasquez
Kildee	Pence	Veasey
Kiley	Perez	Velazquez
Kilmer	Peters	Walberg
Kim (CA)	Pettersen	Waltz
Kim (NJ)	Pfleger	Wasserman
Krishnamoorthi	Pingree	Schultz
LaLota	Pocan	Waters
LaMalfa	Posey	Watson Coleman
Landsman	Pressley	Weber (TX)
Langworthy	Quigley	Webster (FL)
Larsen (WA)	Ramirez	Wenstrup
Larson (CT)	Raskin	Westerman
LaTurner	Reschenthaler	Wild
Lawler	Rogers (AL)	Williams (GA)
Lee (CA)	Rogers (KY)	Williams (NY)
Lee (NV)	Rose	Williams (TX)
Lee (PA)	Ross	Wilson (FL)
Leger Fernandez	Rouzer	Wilson (SC)
Lesko	Ruiz	Wittman
Letlow	Rulli	Womack
Levin	Ruppersberger	Yakym
Lieu	Rutherford	Zinke
Lofgren	Ryan	

NAYS—21

Biggs	Gosar	Norman
Brecheen	Grothman	Perry
Burchett	Hageman	Rosendale
Burlison	Harris	Roy
Crane	Latta	Self
Fulcher	Lee (FL)	Tenney
Good (VA)	Massie	Tiffany

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Davidson

NOT VOTING—43

Armstrong	Evans	Miller (IL)
Bishop (NC)	Gallego	Mooney
Bowman	Garbarino	Murphy
Buchanan	Granger	Nehls
Casas	Greene (GA)	Phillips
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	Porter
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (NC)	Rodgers (WA)
Cherfilus-	Kuster	Salazar
McCormick	Kustoff	Swalwell
Ciscomani	LaHood	Thompson (PA)
Cloud	Lamborn	Torres (NY)
Crawford	Luetkemeyer	Trahan
Crenshaw	Maloy	Wagner
Curtis	McClintock	Wexton
DesJarlais	McHenry	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1912

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.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2024

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 (S. 3764) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026 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 American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 20, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 442]

YEAS—365

Adams	Blunt Rochester	Clarke (NY)
Aderholt	Bonamici	Cleaver
Aguilar	Bost	Cline
Alford	Boyle (PA)	Clyburn
Allen	Brecheen	Clyde
Allred	Brown	Cohen
Amo	Brownley	Cole
Amodei	Bucshon	Comer
Arrington	Budzinski	Connolly
Auchincloss	Burgess	Correa
Babin	Bush	Costa
Baird	Calvert	Courtney
Balderson	Cammack	Craig
Balint	Caraveo	Crockett
Banks	Carbajal	Crow
Barr	Cárdenas	Cuellar
Barragán	Carey	D'Esposito
Bean (FL)	Carl	Dauids (KS)
Beatty	Carson	Davidson
Bentz	Carter (LA)	Davis (IL)
Bera	Carter (TX)	Davis (NC)
Bergman	Cartwright	De La Cruz
Beyer	Case	Dean (PA)
Bice	Casten	DeGette
Bilirakis	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Bishop (GA)	Chu	DelBene
Blumenauer	Clark (MA)	Deluzio

DeSaulnier	Kildee	Quigley
Diaz-Balart	Kiley	Ramirez
Dingell	Kilmer	Raskin
Doggett	Kim (CA)	Reschenthaler
Duarte	Kim (NJ)	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (KY)
Dunn (FL)	LaLota	Rose
Edwards	LaMalfa	Ross
Ellzey	Landsman	Rouzer
Emmer	Langworthy	Ruiz
Escobar	Larsen (WA)	Rulli
Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Rutherford
Españolat	Latta	Ryan
Estes	LaTurner	Salinas
Ezell	Lawler	Sánchez
Fallon	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Feenstra	Lee (FL)	Scalise
Ferguson	Lee (NV)	Scanlon
Finstad	Lee (PA)	Schakowsky
Fischbach	Leger Fernandez	Schiff
Fitzgerald	Lesko	Schneider
Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Scholten
Fleischmann	Levin	Schrier
Fletcher	Lieu	Schweikert
Flood	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Fong	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
Foster	Lucas	Scott, David
Foushee	Luna	Self
Fox	Luttrell	Sessions
Frankel, Lois	Lynch	Sewell
Franklin, Scott	Mace	Sherman
Frost	Magaziner	Sherrill
Fry	Malliotakis	Simpson
Fulcher	Mann	Smith (MO)
Gaetz	Manning	Smith (NE)
Garamendi	Mast	Smith (NJ)
García (IL)	Matsui	Smith (WA)
García (TX)	McBath	Smucker
García, Mike	McCaul	Sorensen
García, Robert	McClain	Soto
Gimenez	McClellan	Spanberger
Golden (ME)	McCollum	Spartz
Goldman (NY)	McCormick	Stansbury
Gomez	McGarvey	Stanton
Gonzales, Tony	McGovern	Stauber
Gonzalez, V.	McIver	Steel
Gooden (TX)	Meeks	Stefanik
Gottheimer	Menendez	Steil
Graves (LA)	Meng	Stevens
Graves (MO)	Meuser	Strickland
Green (TN)	Mfume	Strong
Green, Al (TX)	Miller (OH)	Suozzi
Griffith	Miller (WV)	Sykes
Guest	Miller-Meeks	Takano
Guthrie	Mills	Tenney
Harder (CA)	Molinaro	Thanedar
Harris	Moolenaar	Thompson (CA)
Harshbarger	Moore (AL)	Thompson (MS)
Hayes	Moore (UT)	Timmons
Hern	Moore (WI)	Titus
Hill	Moran	Tlaib
Himes	Morelle	Tokuda
Hinson	Moskowitz	Tonko
Horsford	Moulton	Torres (CA)
Houchin	Mrvan	Trone
Houlihan	Mullin	Turner
Hoyer	Nadler	Underwood
Hoyle (OR)	Napolitano	Valadao
Hudson	Neal	Van Drew
Huffman	Neguse	Van Deyne
Huizenga	Newhouse	Van Orden
Hunt	Nickel	Vargas
Issa	Norcross	Vasquez
Ivey	Nunn (IA)	Veasey
Jackson (IL)	Obermole	Velazquez
Jackson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Walberg
Jacobs	Ogles	Waltz
James	Omar	Wasserman
Jayapal	Owens	Schultz
Jeffries	Pallone	Waters
Johnson (GA)	Palmer	Watson Coleman
Johnson (SD)	Panetta	Weber (TX)
Jordan	Pappas	Webster (FL)
Joyce (OH)	Pelosi	Wenstrup
Joyce (PA)	Peltola	Westerman
Craig	Pence	Wild
Crockett	Perez	Williams (GA)
Kamlager-Dove	Perry	Williams (NY)
Kean (NJ)	Peters	Williams (TX)
Keating	Petterson	Wilson (SC)
Kelly (IL)	Pfleger	Wittman
Kelly (MS)	Pingree	Womack
Kelly (PA)	Pocan	Yakym
Kennedy	Posey	Zinke
Khanna	Pressley	
Kiggans (VA)		

NAYS—20

Biggs	Burchett	Cloud
Boebert	Burlison	Collins

Crane	Hageman	Rosendale
Donalds	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Good (VA)	Lopez	Steube
Gosar	Massie	Tiffany
Grothman	Norman	

NOT VOTING—46

Armstrong	Evans	Mooney
Bacon	Gallego	Murphy
Bishop (NC)	Garbarino	Nehls
Bowman	Granger	Phillips
Buchanan	Greene (GA)	Porter
Carter (GA)	Grijalva	Rodgers (WA)
Casas	Jackson (NC)	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kuster	Salazar
Chavez-DeRemer	Kustoff	Swalwell
Cherfilus-	LaHood	Thompson (PA)
McCormick	Lamborn	Torres (NY)
Ciscomani	Luetkemeyer	Trahan
Crawford	Maloy	Wagner
Crenshaw	McClintock	Wexton
Curtis	McHenry	Wilson (FL)
DesJarlais	Miller (IL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1918

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss votes today due to travel from Illinois to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 440, YEA on Roll Call No. 441 and YEA on Roll Call No. 442.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMAN-
CIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL
VISITOR CENTER FOR THE UN-
VEILING OF A STATUE OF MAR-
THA HUGHES CANNON

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 127 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 127

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

**SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR
THE UNVEILING OF MARTH
HUGHES CANNON STATUE.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on December 11, 2024, to unveil a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon.

(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 agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LITTLE SAIGON VIETNAM WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8057) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8057

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

SECTION 1. LITTLE SAIGON VIETNAM WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, shall be known and designated as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of H.R. 8057, my legislation to designate the U.S. Post Office in Westminster as the Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office.

This recognition honors our Nation's heroes who sacrificed everything to serve our country in Vietnam. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Millions of Americans served in our Armed Forces during the Vietnam war, and 58,000 American soldiers tragically lost their lives.

It will also be deeply meaningful to the vibrant Vietnamese-American community I represent in Orange County. They reside in an area known as Little Saigon, a community which adds great value to our region. The Vietnamese-American community is deeply patriotic, committed to American ideals of freedom and opportunity.

Many of my constituents sought refuge in our great country in the wake of

the Communist takeover in Vietnam. They suffered through grave conditions to make it here, going on to have children and grandchildren who are growing up in the United States.

This tribute would serve as a permanent reminder of our commitment to those who served. It also will stand as a beacon of hope to freedom-seeking people in Vietnam and across the globe.

I am so proud to represent and fight for the Vietnamese-American community. I love representing this patriotic community in Congress. I thank the committee and House leadership for working with me to advance this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Ranking Member RASKIN in support of Congresswoman STEEL's bill.

This bill would name a post office in Orange County, California, known as Little Saigon in honor of the veterans of the Vietnam war. This is truly a symbolic act.

Little Saigon is home to an estimated 140,000 members of the Vietnamese community, one of the largest and most vibrant Vietnamese communities outside of Vietnam and in the United States. Many of its residents came here to the U.S. during the Vietnam war to build a better life for themselves.

The Vietnam war has left an indelible mark on our country and the servicemen and -women who served there. Mr. Speaker, 58,000 soldiers lost their lives during the war, and many more came home bearing the physical and emotional, the seen and unseen, scars of the war. Their sacrifices shall never be forgotten.

It is especially fitting that Representative STEEL's bill honors veterans of a war that so many of the residents of Little Saigon fled to come to America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. STEEL for her courage and for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 8057, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill, remembering the sacrifices of Vietnamese Americans during the Vietnam war. I certainly thank the sponsor of the bill, Mrs. STEEL from California, for her great work on getting this bill through the House.

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 Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8057.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. COMER. 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.

□ 1930

ACCELERATING NETWORKING, CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE, AND HARDWARE FOR OCEANIC RESEARCH ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7630) to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7630

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 "Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act" or the "ANCHOR Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL.—The term "oceanographic research vessel" has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(3) U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—The term "U.S. Academic Research Fleet" means the United States-flagged vessels that—

(A) have been accepted into, and are actively participants administered within, the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System;

(B) are operated as oceanographic research vessels by research universities and laboratories;

(C) receive funding from the National Science Foundation; and

(D) have achieved designation as a member vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet through the standard U.S. Academic Research Fleet evaluation process.

SEC. 3. PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with other Federal agency owners heads of other Federal agencies and the head of any university or laboratory that owns or operates a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the U.S. Senate and the Committee on Space, Science, and Technology of the U.S. House of Representatives a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the Academic Research Fleet.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the telecommunications and networking needs of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, consistent with the typical scientific mission of each vessel;

(2) in accordance with guidance issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute for Standards and Technology, an assessment of cybersecurity needs appropriate for—

(A) the ownership of vessels within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; and

(B) the typical research functions and topics of such vessels;

(3) an assessment of the costs necessary to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

(A) any necessary equipment, such as satellite communications equipment, software, high-performance computing clusters shipboard and shoreside, or enterprise hardware; and

(B) estimated personnel costs in excess of current expenditures, including any necessary training, support, or logistics;

(4) an assessment of the time required to implement any upgrades required to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) under varying budgets and funding scenarios;

(5) a proposal for the adoption of common solutions or consortial licensing agreements, or by centralizing elements of fleet cybersecurity, telecommunications, or data management at a single facility; and

(6) in consultation with any non-Federal owners of a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, a spending plan for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, to provide funding to cover the costs described in paragraph (3).

(c) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Director in preparing the plan required by subsection (a), shall consider the following—

(1) the network capabilities, including speed and bandwidth targets, necessary to meet the scientific mission needs of each class of vessel within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet for such purposes as—

(A) executing the critical functions and communications of each vessel;

(B) providing network access for the health and well-being of deployed personnel, including communications to conduct telemedicine (including mental health care), counseling, interviews with crisis response providers, and other remote individual care and services;

(C) as necessary to meet operations, uploading any scientific data to a shoreside server, including the copying of data off ship for disaster recovery or risk mitigation purposes;

(D) as appropriate, conducting real-time streaming to enable shore-based observers to participate in ship-based maintenance or research activities;

(E) real-time coordinated viewing of—

(i) scientific instrumentation so that it is possible to conduct scientific surveys and seafloor mapping with fully remote subject matter experts; and

(ii) critical operational technology by manufacturers and vendors so that it is possible to carry out maintenance and repairs to systems with limited expertise on each vessel, with fully remote subject-matter experts advising; and

(F) as appropriate, enabling video communications to allow improved outreach to, and other educational services for, K-12 students, including occasional remote classroom teaching for instructors at sea to improve oceanographic access for students; and

(2) In consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate—

(A) the cybersecurity recommendations in the report of the private scientific advisory group known as JASON entitled “Cybersecurity at NSF Major Facilities” (JSR-21-10E) and dated October 2021 as applied to the U.S. Academic Research Fleet;

(B) aligning with international standards and guidance for information security, including the use of encryption for sensitive information, the detection and handling of security incidents, and other areas determined relevant by the Director;

(C) facilitating access to cybersecurity personnel and training of research and support personnel; and

(D) the requirements for controlled unclassified or classified information.

SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF AND REPORT ON PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in coordination with the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, may support upgrades to the cyberinfrastructure and cybersecurity of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet consistent with the plan required by section 3.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years after the submission of the plan required by section 3, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Space, Science, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made in implementing the plan.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7630, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here in support of the ANCHOR Act sponsored by my friend, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.

The ANCHOR Act establishes the crucial need for better cybersecurity in the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. This fleet of 18 vessels operates in the oceans, the Great Lakes, and the polar regions where they conduct crucial research on our marine environments.

They are studying ecosystems and food webs, offshore energy resources, and how we can better forecast and respond to hazards like earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

Much of what we know about the ocean, from the wave dynamics to the deepest trenches, is thanks to research done aboard one of these vessels.

They operate a wide range of specialized equipment, including deep-towing cameras, state-of-the-art acoustic sensors, and sea floor mapping systems. They do this all over the globe, often

sailing to remote locations far from land.

This creates a unique challenge because the fleet needs secure and reliable communications and data transmissions, whether they are just off the coast of California or in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

That means that each individual vessel needs a specialized infrastructure that protects their scientific equipment and ensures the security of their data, both on board and in transmission.

They need this level of security, but they don't have it. This bill will change that. The ANCHOR Act directs the National Science Foundation to submit a plan for much-needed upgrades to our Academic Research Fleet to improve cybersecurity and modernize telecom equipment.

We are directing the NSF to take into account the types of research done on each vessel, where they operate, their specialized equipment, and the necessary bandwidth for communication.

This plan is necessary to protect the taxpayer-funded research that is being performed by our Academic Research Fleet.

My fellow Representatives have often heard me talk about the threat to our research and intellectual property from the Chinese Communist Party.

We have taken strong steps to protect research done at our Federal agencies and in partnership with academic institutions. Now we must take the next step and secure the research being done off our coasts.

I appreciate Representative MIKE GARCIA's work on this issue and his commitment to strengthen our research enterprise and give it the protection it deserves.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the ANCHOR Act and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Academic Research Fleet is made up of an impressive array of marine research assets consisting of large and small oceanographic vessels, sophisticated submersibles, and high-tech autonomous vehicles.

More impressive is the invaluable research conducted by this fleet. It supports critical ocean environmental science that leads to a deeper understanding of our Earth system, improved and continuous assessments of our Nation's marine natural resources, and serves national security interests as well.

This diverse fleet is managed and operated by a diverse group that includes NSF, the Office of Naval Research, Federal research labs, and U.S. universities. These various entities bring with them assorted cyber infrastructure and networking challenges and vulnerabilities as well. This technological struggle has had real detrimental impacts, has hindered the production of needed scientific outputs,

and has placed important expensive projects at risk.

This legislation directs NSF to collaborate with other appropriate agencies and ARF operators on the creation of a networking and cybersecurity improvement plan that could address these challenges by assessing equipment and personnel costs and time requirements for upgrading the fleet and developing a proposal for funding these upgrades.

The Senate companion to this bill, led by California's own Senators Padilla and Sullivan, recently passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee, so we have a real opportunity to get this bill passed and begin the process of closing this unfortunate gap so that the science gets done.

I thank the bill's sponsors, Mr. MIKE GARCIA and Ms. STEVENS, for their work on the ANCHOR Act. I thank the chairman for his continuing bipartisan support on the committee.

We have made tremendous progress this year. I urge everyone to join me in supporting the act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), to speak on his bill.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and thank Chairman LUCAS and the committee staff for their support as well of H.R. 7630, the ANCHOR Act, which protects our scientific infrastructure from CCP espionage.

I also thank my colleague from across the aisle, Ms. STEVENS, for her support in cosponsoring this bill as well.

As I said during the markup of this very important piece of legislation, the U.S. is the proud home to some of the best minds in the world, minds that keep our Nation on the cutting edge of scientific research, driving our national security, our economy, our healthcare, and so much more. Those advantages would immediately disappear if we allow lapses in our research security to occur.

The NSF currently owns 17 ships that make up the Academic Research Fleet. This fleet enables scientists across the Nation to conduct complex research on the ocean, the sea floor, the Great Lakes, remote polar regions, and throughout our Nation's borders maritime regions.

Unfortunately, this fleet is also aging and has become susceptible to cyber espionage from the CCP. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, in 2019 the fleet was the largest target to more than two-dozen cybersecurity attacks by the CCP as part of an elaborate scheme to steal research about maritime technology being developed for military use.

Following these attacks, Mr. Speaker, the NSF ordered an independent advisory group to provide recommendations for strengthening the cybersecurity capabilities of the Academic Research Fleet.

The ANCHOR Act implements these recommendations to protect the fleet and is the tool that the taxpayers will fund to make sure that the research they conduct is secure and protected.

We can't afford to wait, and we can't let China continue to rob us of precious American innovations paid for by our constituents.

I thank Chairman LUCAS, again, for his support of my bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MIKE GARCIA, Congresswoman STEVENS, and Congresswoman LOFGREN, my colleague from California and the ranking member. This is a good piece of legislation. Let's vote for it.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7630, 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.

NEXT GENERATION PIPELINES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7073) to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7073

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 "Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Energy.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), including historically Black colleges and universities (within the meaning of the term "part B institution" in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)), Tribal colleges and universities (as such term is defined in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)), and minority serving institutions (including the entities described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)));

(B) a nonprofit research organization;

(C) a National Laboratory (as such term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801));

(D) a private commercial entity;

(E) a partnership or consortium of two or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) that leverages existing Department efforts; or

(F) any other entity the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(4) TECHNICAL STANDARDS.—The term "technical standard" has the meaning given such term in section 12(d)(5) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note).

SEC. 3. COORDINATION.

In carrying out this Act—

(1) the Secretary shall avoid unnecessary duplication and achieve shared mission goals by coordinating with the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation and across all relevant program offices at the Department of Energy, including—

(A) the Office of Science;

(B) the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management;

(C) the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy;

(D) the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response;

(E) the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy;

(F) the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations; and

(G) any other cross-cutting program office determined appropriate;

(2) the Secretary of Transportation shall ensure participation of and coordination with the Secretary of Energy of—

(A) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation; and

(B) any other program office of the Department of Transportation determined appropriate; and

(3) the Secretary shall coordinate with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. ADVANCED PIPELINE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title III of division D of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 40344. ADVANCED PIPELINE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INITIATIVE.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration initiative (in this section referred to as the 'Initiative') under which the Secretary, through a competitive merit review process, shall award financial assistance to eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects on low- to mid-technology readiness level subjects to achieve deployment of technologies that—

"(1) are applicable to pipelines and associated infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas facilities and underground and above ground gas and liquid fuel storage facilities; and

"(2) involve the development of next generation pipeline systems, components, and related technologies.

"(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary shall select demonstration

projects that best advance research undertaken by the Department and the Department of Transportation and incorporate a range of technology focus areas, which may include the following:

“(1) Advanced leak detection and mitigation tools and technologies.

“(2) Novel materials, including alloy and nonmetallic materials, to improve integrity for new and existing pipelines, such as pipeline coatings, sleeves, and liners, and corrosion resistant materials, including maximum and minimum flow rates and immunity to electrical discharge processes.

“(3) Technologies and methods for retrofitting existing pipelines, resolving material compatibility issues, and minimizing leakage, such as field protective coatings and material treatment.

“(4) Advanced manufacturing approaches for producing, fitting, and coupling pipelines, including the fabrication of higher performance pipeline materials and new extrusion technologies or methods to join ultrahigh strength and corrosion resistant materials at a scale for distribution.

“(5) Advanced sensor technologies and processes that enable real-time or in situ monitoring of pipeline assets to assess and mitigate leaks, both internal and external to the pipeline, which may include the following:

“(A) Wireless sensors, such as surface acoustic wave sensors.

“(B) Advanced and cost-effective electrochemical sensors.

“(C) Distributed fiber optic sensors.

“(D) Autonomous sensor systems, including uncrewed aircraft.

“(E) Optical methods.

“(F) Multi-use platforms for diverse sources.

“(G) Hybrid data-analysis platforms.

“(6) Advanced computational, data analytics, and machine learning models to achieve the following:

“(A) Multiscale modeling, characterization, and optimization of transmission and distribution systems and components to aid in planning for optimized and resilient infrastructure.

“(B) Correlation between sensor and emissions data at all operational points and across a variety of scales to assure system integrity spanning large areas.

“(C) Accurate material lifecycle predictions and simulation platforms to forecast pipeline health.

“(D) Secure real time autonomous monitoring and repair capabilities.

“(E) Mapping and monitoring of structural health parameters, such as corrosion.

“(7) Self-healing and self-repair functionalities, including by chemical treatment methods.

“(8) Autonomous robotic and patch technologies for inspection and repair.

“(9) Dynamic compressor technologies, including retrofit kits for existing compressor systems.

“(10) Strategies and technologies for integrated cybersecurity considerations and countering cyberattacks.

“(11) Technologies and methods to reduce potential environmental impacts, including at the atmospheric and subsurface level, associated with pipelines, liquefied natural gas facilities, and gas and liquid fuel storage facilities, such as equipment failure.

“(12) Tools to evaluate geographical pipeline data for the feasibility of repurposing existing infrastructure for safe and effective transport and use of alternative fuels, blends, and carbon dioxide.

“(13) Tools and technologies applicable to improving the safety, operation, and efficiency of liquefied natural gas facilities and gas and liquid fuel storage facilities.

“(c) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting eligible entities for demonstration projects under the Initiative, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, take the following actions:

“(1) Encourage regional diversity among eligible entities, including participation by such entities located in rural States.

“(2) Prioritize technological diversity among eligible entities.

“(3) Prioritize a diverse mix of energy, substances, fuel sources, and byproducts, including the following:

“(A) Gas and liquid hydrocarbons, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, methane, ethane, and liquefied natural gas.

“(B) Carbon dioxide.

“(C) Hydrogen.

“(D) Biofuels.

“(E) Water.

“(F) Substances in the hydrogen supply chain, including ammonia and liquid organic hydrogen carriers.

“(G) Blends of gases or liquids, including hydrogen blends.

“(H) Any other source the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(4) Prioritize projects that leverage and are complementary to existing energy infrastructure.

“(5) Prioritize projects that leverage matching funds from non-Federal sources.

“(6) Ensure that selected projects are coordinated with or expand on the existing technology demonstration programs of the Department.

“(7) Evaluate projects and topics for technical performance and economic feasibility as part of lifecycle assessments for return on investment impact.

“(8) Prioritize projects that can quantifiably reduce the environmental impacts of pipelines and associated infrastructure on air, water, or soil quality in all regions of the United States, especially in underserved and rural communities.

“(d) LOCATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, demonstration projects under the Initiative shall be located on sites with existing research infrastructure or with the ability to coordinate with existing Department user facilities and research centers.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated for—

“(1) the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and

“(2) the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management,

pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (6), respectively, of section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this section \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 40343 the following new item:

“Sec. 40344. Advanced pipeline materials and technologies demonstration initiative.”.

SEC. 5. JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and in coordination with the demonstration initiative

established pursuant to section 40344 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), as added by section 4, shall establish within the Department a joint research and development program (referred to in this Act as the “Joint Program”) to carry out research projects that—

(1) develop cost-effective advanced materials and technologies for pipeline transportation systems at different scales;

(2) enable the commercialization of innovative materials and technologies for pipeline transportation systems;

(3) support the development of technical standards of innovative materials and technologies for pipeline transportation systems; and

(4) are at a low technology readiness level and not pursued by the Pipeline Safety Research Program of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into or update an existing memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Transportation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to administer the Joint Program. Such memorandum shall require each participating agency to—

(1) identify unique research capabilities to contribute while avoiding duplication of existing efforts; and

(2) include cost sharing and cost reimbursement abilities among participating agencies, including any reviews, approvals, trainings, or resource outlays that will be required.

(c) INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out the Joint Program, the Secretary, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) use existing research infrastructure at—

(A) Department of Energy facilities, including National Laboratories;

(B) Department of Transportation initiatives, including any such initiatives carried out through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; and

(C) the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(2) develop new infrastructure for potential projects, if appropriate.

(d) GOALS AND METRICS.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall develop goals and metrics for each agency in meeting technological progress under the Joint Program, consistent with existing United States energy safety, resilience, and security policies.

(e) SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall ensure the following with respect to the Joint Program:

(1) Projects are carried out under conditions that represent a variety of geographies, physical conditions, and market constraints.

(2) Projects represent an appropriate balance of the following:

(A) Larger, higher-cost projects.

(B) Smaller, lower-cost projects.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, projects are transferred between participating agencies based on the stage of research and capabilities of each agency.

(f) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the Joint Program, the Secretary, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Secretary of Transportation shall, through consultation with the demonstration initiative established pursuant to

section 40344 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), as added by section 4, to identify and advance areas of research most needed for demonstration projects under such demonstration initiative, give priority to research and demonstration projects that—

(1) are likely to be of value to such demonstration initiative; and

(2) are done in coordination with, or advance knowledge critical to, the National Pipeline Modernization Center established pursuant to section 6.

(g) RELATION TO EXISTING LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to change existing agency roles, responsibilities, or areas of expertise as described in section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-355; 49 U.S.C. 60101 note)

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this section.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL PIPELINE MODERNIZATION CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the demonstration initiative established pursuant to section 40344 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), as added by section 4, and the Joint Program and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a National Pipeline Modernization Center (referred to in this Act as the “Center”), which shall focus on collaborating with industry and stakeholders to coordinate and carry out research, development, and demonstration projects focused on commercializing cost-effective products and procedures aligned with the goals and priorities set forth by the Department.

(b) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall administer the Center in conjunction with an eligible entity pursuant to an agreement between the Department and such entity. Such entity shall be selected on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

(c) EXISTING CENTERS.—In administering the Center, the Secretary shall prioritize higher education energy-related research centers in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—An agreement under subsection (b) shall be for a period of not more than five years, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(e) LOCATION.—The Center shall be located in proximity to critical transportation infrastructure connecting to an existing national pipeline transportation system and other Department monitoring assets, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) COORDINATION WITH TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS CENTER.—In carrying out the functions described in subsection (a), the Center shall coordinate and collaborate with training centers of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation to facilitate knowledge sharing among, and enhanced training opportunities for, Federal and State pipeline safety inspectors and investigators.

(g) DUPLICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure the coordination of, and avoid unnecessary duplication of, the activities under this section with the National Center of Excellence for Liquefied Natural Gas Safety established pursuant to section 111 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (49 U.S.C. 60103 note; Public Law 116-260, div. R, title I).

SEC. 7. NIST PIPELINE METROLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall carry out a program of measurement research, development, demonstration, and standardization to—

(1) ensure the integrity of pipeline facilities; and

(2) support pipeline safety, security, efficiency, sustainability, and resilience.

(b) TESTING.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and in consultation with the private sector and international standards organizations, shall support testing, evaluation, and research infrastructure to support the activities described in subsection (a).

(c) ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall allocate up to \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (6), respectively, of section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out—

(1) section 5, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029; and

(2) section 6, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

(b) OFFSET.—Section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1,200,000,000” and inserting “\$1,100,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (6)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”; (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “600,000,000” and inserting “\$445,000,000”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “200,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “and” after the semicolon; (D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “1,000,000,000” and inserting “\$900,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

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

“(D) \$455,000,000 to carry out pipeline research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. 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 the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7073, the Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act, which I am proud to cosponsor.

The United States pipeline network consists of nearly 2.8 million miles of pipeline, enough to wrap around the world at the equator more than 112 times.

Yet, 50 percent of the Nation’s pipeline system is more than 60 years old, and the Department of Energy estimates that as many as 96,000 miles of new pipeline will be needed to handle carbon dioxide capture from power plants and directly from the air.

As the Representative of Cushing, Oklahoma, the pipeline crossroads of the world, I see firsthand the importance of pipeline infrastructure, not just for our energy security but for economic growth in America. This is infrastructure that must be maintained now and well into the future.

A new and modern emphasis on science collaboration, as well as increased industry involvement and public-private demonstration projects, will be required to meet our future energy demands and ensure the continued safety and efficient use of our pipelines.

Not only do pipelines carry the oil and natural gas that currently fuel our economy, but they are also critical in transporting the next generation of fuels like hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and methane.

H.R. 7073 enables that by invigorating Federal research focused on improving pipeline safety and technology.

The bill establishes a demonstration initiative to advance research undertaken by DOE and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. It will also help lab-scale, basic research overcome the “valley of death” through commercial development.

It also establishes a national pipeline modernization center as a central location for industry and stakeholders to collaborate with Federal agencies on pipeline research and development and enable new cost-effective products and procedures.

Simply put, 7073 is necessary for the continued growth of the American energy industry. It will strengthen pipeline infrastructure networks that will be essential to achieving our shared energy, economic, security, and environmental goals.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 19, 2024.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: I write to you concerning H.R. 7073, the Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Specifically, provisions of H.R. 7073 fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that doing so will not prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained within the bill or similar legislation that falls under the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Rule X jurisdiction. Further, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill be included in the Committee Report and *Congressional Record* during consideration of H.R. 7073 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, September 19, 2024.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I am writing concerning H.R. 7073, the Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act, which was introduced on January 22, 2024, and solely referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I appreciate you agreeing to withdraw your request for a sequential referral of H.R. 7073, so that the bill may be considered expeditiously. I acknowledge that forgoing your referral claim now does not waive the right to jurisdictional claims in the future on subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation. Further, I will appropriately consult and involve the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the bill moves forward on issues that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I will include a copy of our letter exchange in the Committee Report and the *Congressional Record* when the bill is considered on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act.

As has been mentioned, a majority of the Nation's pipeline system is more than 60 years old. With this magnitude of aging pipelines operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, it is inevitable that without new inspection and leak detection technologies, catastrophic defects and anomalies will occur more frequently.

Too often we are confronted with news of pipeline failures that cause mass casualties, environmental disasters, damage property, and service interruptions for thousands. There is much that industry can do to secure their assets while contributing to the development of next generation pipelines.

H.R. 7073 seeks to prevent future infrastructure failure and improve pipeline safety and technology through innovation. This bill will improve the work of the DOE and the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration by establishing a demonstration initiative that will help lab-scale, basic research overcome the "valley of death" and achieve commercial deployment. DOE, DOT, and NIST will also be empowered to work together in a joint pipeline research program.

Finally, it directs DOE to establish a national pipeline modernization center, a place for industry and Federal agencies to collaborate on pipeline research and development.

□ 1945

What we have in front of us is much-needed harm reduction legislation. I extend my congratulations to Mr. WEBER and Dr. CARAVEO and my appreciation for their hard work on this legislation. It is a good bill. I support it, and I encourage others, as well, to support it.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) to speak on his bill.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 7073, the Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act.

I introduced this important piece of legislation earlier this year to direct the Department of Energy toward a new and more modern approach to pipeline research and development.

The chairman talked about over 2 million something miles of pipelines in the United States. Well, I am from the great State of Texas, which has over half a million miles of gas and liquid pipelines, so that is about a fourth of the whole pipelines in the United States if my high school math is holding up. This creates \$374 billion, with a b, in total economic output for my State.

That is because pipelines deliver oil and gas safely, reliably, and efficiently. However, as the chairman mentioned, half of all U.S. pipelines are over 60 years old, so we can expect defects and

anomalies to occur more often. It is just a fact of the wear and tear they are under. Imagine driving a car that was over 60 years old, and yet it had never been tended to, which is unbelievable.

Now, that is not to say that pipelines are dangerous, Mr. Speaker. Actually, the truth is quite the opposite, as pipelines safely deliver oil and gas without incident—check these numbers out—24/7, 99.999 percent of the time. That is a pretty good safety record, Mr. Speaker.

As new energy sources emerge, like hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and methane, we can expect pipelines to be the primary source of transportation to American energy independence into the future.

H.R. 7073 encourages new public-private projects in maintenance of our current pipeline infrastructure, and in supporting next-generation systems. Through the technological innovation directed by this legislation, the American energy sector will actually see a strengthened focus on material behavior, leak detection capabilities, and multifuel transportation.

The Next Generation Pipeline R&D Act also brings together industry stakeholders, academia, and Federal agencies to collaborate and coordinate on vital pipeline research needs. It ensures that the Department of Energy focuses on basic research that is actually too low on the technology readiness level for industry to conduct. At the same time, this bill enables industry to be involved and ready to run with the innovation that does come from that kind of research.

Lastly, this bill codifies and updates a multiagency research program that includes the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Transportation. This language updates and builds upon the original memorandum of understanding that was put in place way back in 2004.

H.R. 7073 is a good government bill with bipartisan support, as you have heard here tonight. It strengthens U.S. leadership in oil and natural gas research and actually provides a good return on investment for the American taxpayer. I thank Representatives CARAVEO and OBERNOLTE, as well as Chairman LUCAS and our ranking member across the aisle for cosponsoring and being great partners on this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate, indeed, to have Dr. CARAVEO as a Member of our House with her keen intellect and pragmatic approach to solving America's problems.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. CARAVEO).

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in Colorado we know how critical pipelines are, whether

they are for carrying different types of energy sources or even delivering water to communities from places that are miles away. In fact, according to the Office of Pipeline Safety, there are more than 45,000 miles of pipeline in Colorado.

As one of the leading energy producers in the country, my district is home to miles of oil and hazardous liquid lines and natural gas transmission lines. However, we are also no stranger to experiencing accidents like a leak or break. We need to be doing what we can to ensure this important piece of our energy infrastructure remains safe and effective for years to come.

That is why I am proud to lead the Next Generation Pipeline Research and Development Act with Representative WEBER, which would invest in R&D for our aging pipeline infrastructure while also leveraging public-private partnerships to do so. This bipartisan effort will be a win for keeping our environment clean while maintaining one of the primary conduits for bringing energy to Coloradans.

One of the biggest issues in my district right now is that our pipelines are getting older, particularly those used to transport natural gas, and that makes them more prone to leak. The most prevalent leak we see is methane, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Just one leak can be damaging to the environment, so we need to be making these investments now to secure our pipeline infrastructure. This will also be important as we begin to use pipelines not just for traditional energy sources like natural gas, but for newer sources like hydrogen. The future of our energy grid will rely on a mix of different fuels, and securing our pipeline infrastructure is vital to that future.

Before I close, I will highlight how this bill will help those of us living in the West. As drought continues to affect places like Colorado, water sources are becoming more important to access, especially to keep up with growth. There are plenty of cities in Colorado, including in my district, that rely on pipelines to bring water to consumers, and there is no sign of this stopping. We need to ensure these pipelines are maintained with up-to-date technology, and this bill will make certain of that.

I again thank Representative WEBER for working with me on this bill and for the leadership both Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member LOFGREN have shown on the Science Committee. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close once the gentlewoman from California closes.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I urge that we support and enact this good bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

thank my Science Committee colleagues, Mr. WEBER and Ms. CARAVEO, for leading this bipartisan effort. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7073, 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. LUCAS. 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.

INNOVATIVE MITIGATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR ASPHALT AND CONCRETE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7685) to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7685

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 “Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act” or the “IMPACT Act”.

SEC. 2. ADVANCED CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT PRODUCTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM.—Part I of subtitle C of title V of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) is amended by inserting after section 40522 the following new section:

“SEC. 40523. ADVANCED CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT PRODUCTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADVANCED PRODUCTION.—The term ‘advanced production’ means production of cement, concrete, or asphalt with one or more of the following improvements with respect to the production of commercially available cement, concrete, or asphalt:

“(A) Improved cost-effectiveness.

“(B) Improved quality, durability, engineering performance, and resilience.

“(C) Improved efficiency of resource consumption and material demand.

“(2) ALTERNATIVE FUELS.—The term ‘alternative fuels’ means any solid, liquid, or gaseous materials, or a combination thereof, used to replace or supplement any portion of fuels used in combustion or pyrolysis for low-emissions cement, concrete, or asphalt.

“(3) COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE.—The term ‘commercially available’, with respect to cement, concrete, and asphalt, means that the cement, concrete, or asphalt is—

“(A) readily and widely available for purchase in the United States; and

“(B) produced using a production method of cement, concrete, or asphalt products, as applicable, that is widely in use.

“(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means any of the following:

“(A) An institution of higher education.

“(B) An appropriate State or Federal entity, including a federally funded research and development center of the Department.

“(C) A nonprofit research institution.

“(D) A private entity.

“(E) Any other relevant entity the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(F) A partnership or consortium of two or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

“(5) ENGINEERING PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARD.—The term ‘engineering performance-based standard’ means an existing engineering standard with respect to which the requirements applicable to such standard are stated in terms of required results, with criteria for verifying compliance rather than specific composition, design, or procedure.

“(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(7) LOW-EMISSIONS CEMENT, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT.—The term ‘low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt’ means cement, concrete, asphalt binder, or asphalt mixture that reduces, to the maximum extent practicable, greenhouse gas or directly-related copollutant emissions to levels below commercially available cement, concrete, or asphalt.

“(8) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of advanced tools, technologies, and methods for advanced production and use of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt in order to—

“(1) increase the technological and economic competitiveness of industry and production in the United States;

“(2) expand and increase the stability of supply chains through enhanced domestic production, nearshoring, and cooperation with allies;

“(3) achieve measurable greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions reductions in the production processes for cement, concrete, and asphalt products; and

“(4) create quality domestic jobs.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

“(1) coordinate with the programs and activities authorized under title VI of division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (relating to industrial and manufacturing technologies) and the amendments made by such title;

“(2) coordinate across all relevant program offices of the Department, including the Office of Science, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of Fossil Energy, the Office of Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization, the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, and the Office of Nuclear Energy;

“(3) leverage, to the extent practicable, the research infrastructure of the Department, including scientific computing user facilities, x-ray light sources, neutron scattering facilities, and nanoscale science research centers; and

“(4) conduct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that have the potential to increase domestic production and employment in both advanced and commercially available processes.

“(d) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the program under subsection (b), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year strategic plan identifying research, development, demonstration, and commercial application goals for such program. The Secretary shall submit such plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) identify programs at the Department related to the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that support the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities described in this section, and the demonstration projects under subsection (f);

“(B) establish technological and programmatic goals to achieve the requirements specified in subsection (c); and

“(C) include timelines for the accomplishment of such goals developed under the plan.

“(3) UPDATES TO PLAN.—Not less than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an updated version of the strategic plan under paragraph (1).

“(e) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the program established in subsection (c), the Secretary shall focus on the following:

“(1) Carbon capture technologies for low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, which may include the following:

“(A) Oxycombustion and chemical looping technologies.

“(B) Precombustion technologies.

“(C) Post combustion technologies.

“(D) Direct carbon dioxide separation technologies.

“(2) Materials, technologies, inputs, and processes that—

“(A) produce fewer greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions during production, use, and end use of cement, concrete, and asphalt; or

“(B) provide quality, durability, resilience, engineering, or other performance metrics equal to or greater than commercially available products.

“(3) Medium- and high-temperature heat-generation technologies used for the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt which may include the following:

“(A) Alternative fuels.

“(B) Renewable heat-generation and storage technology.

“(C) Electrification of heating processes.

“(D) Other clean heat-generation technologies and sources.

“(4) Technologies and practices that increase the efficiency of energy use, natural resource consumption, or material demand, which may include the following:

“(A) Designing products that encourage reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling.

“(B) Minimizing waste, including waste heat, from low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, including through the reuse of waste as a resource in other industrial processes for mutual benefit.

“(C) Increasing the overall energy efficiency of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt production processes, including through life cycle assessments.

“(5) Technologies and approaches to reduce greenhouse gas or directly related copollutant emissions from the advanced production of cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(6) High-performance computing to develop advanced materials and production processes that may contribute to the focus areas described in paragraphs (1) through (5), including the following:

“(A) Modeling, simulation, and optimization of the design of cost-effective and energy-efficient products and processes.

“(B) The use of digital prototyping and additive production to enhance product design.

“(7) Advanced sensor technologies and methods to monitor and quantify the performance of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt materials at scale and under a variety of conditions.

“(8) Technologies that can be retrofitted at cement, concrete, and asphalt plants that represent the most common facility types in the United States and in other countries, with consideration for field validation of such retrofits.

“(9) Best practices for data standardization and data sharing tools and technologies, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies.

“(10) Fundamental research in chemistry and materials science to identify the following:

“(A) Novel materials and alternative domestic feedstocks and processing operations for the advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(B) Improved understanding by eligible entities of the mechanisms that determine the performance and durability of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt over time.

“(f) DEMONSTRATIONS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in carrying out the program established in subsection (b), and in collaboration with the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of General Services, industry partners, institutions of higher education, and National Laboratories, shall support demonstrations of advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt that uses either—

“(A) a single technology or practice; or

“(B) a combination of multiple technologies or practices.

“(2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the demonstrations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall select eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects and to the maximum extent practicable—

“(A) encourage regional diversity among eligible entities, including participation by entities located in rural areas;

“(B) encourage technological diversity among eligible entities; and

“(C) ensure that specific projects selected—

“(i) expand on the existing technology demonstration programs of the Department;

“(ii) are based on the extent of greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved; and

“(iii) prioritize leveraging matching funds from non-Federal sources.

“(3) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate—

“(A) not less frequently than once every two years for the duration of the demonstrations under paragraph (1), a report describing the performance of such demonstration; and

“(B) if any such demonstration is terminated, an assessment of the success of, and

education provided by, the measures carried out by such demonstration.

“(4) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the demonstratives under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that sufficient low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt produced through advanced production are commercially available domestically at a price comparable to the price of cement, concrete, and asphalt produced through traditional methods of production.

“(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Commerce (acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology), the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate representatives of relevant standards development organizations, shall provide technical assistance to eligible entities to carry out an activity described in paragraph (2) to promote the commercial application of technologies for the production and use of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—An activity referred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:

“(A) Efforts related to collecting data that could be used in the updating of local codes, specifications, and standards to engineering performance-based standards.

“(B) A lifecycle assessment of the final product.

“(C) An environmental impact comparison between different cements, concretes, and asphalts.

“(D) A techno-economic assessment.

“(E) An environmental permitting or other regulatory process.

“(F) An evaluation or testing activity.

“(G) Any other activity that promotes the commercial application of technologies developed through the program under subsection (b).

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall seek applications for technical assistance under this subsection—

“(A) on a competitive basis; and

“(B) on a periodic basis, but not less frequently than once every 12 months.

“(4) REGIONAL CENTERS.—The Secretary may designate or establish one or more regional centers to provide technical assistance to eligible entities to carry out the activity described in paragraph (2)(A).

“(h) ADDITIONAL COORDINATION.—

“(1) MANUFACTURING USA.—In carrying out this section the Secretary shall consider—

“(A) leveraging the resources of relevant existing Manufacturing USA Institutes described in section 34(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(d));

“(B) integrating program activities into a relevant existing Manufacturing USA Institute; or

“(C) awarding financial assistance, consistent with section 34(e) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(e)), to a person or group of persons to assist the person or group of persons in planning, establishing, or supporting a Manufacturing U.S.A. institute focused on advanced production of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, that are carrying out research and development initiatives to increase industrial competitiveness and achieve measurable greenhouse gas

or directly related copollutant emissions reductions through the advanced production of cement, concrete, and asphalt.

“(i) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate seven years after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(j) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167 (42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).

“(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to amend, alter, or affect the authorities of the Secretary to define, establish, or enforce new environmental industry standards for, or related to, cement, concrete, or asphalt.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 40522 the following new item:

“Sec. 40523. Advanced cement, concrete, and asphalt production research program.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7685, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 7685, the Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies, or the IMPACT Act.

Today, much of the world is reliant on cement and concrete produced in China, which has the world's largest cement industry. It should go without saying that it is deeply troubling to be at the whims of the Chinese Communist Party when it comes to materials that are critical to our national defense and economic security.

Besides that, this dependence comes with severe negative environmental impacts. China's greenhouse gas emissions exceed all of the developed nations in the world combined. In fact, U.S. industrial manufacturing is nearly 28 percent cleaner than our competitors, including China.

If we want a cleaner, healthier environment on top of global security, U.S. leadership in this industry is an absolute must. The IMPACT Act ensures that leadership in the cement, concrete, and asphalt industry. It will increase the competitiveness of the United States while also achieving significant reductions in emissions from manufacturing processes.

Specifically, this bill supports the research and development of innovative

technologies, primarily at the Department of Energy. It builds off of the cross-cutting Industrial Emissions Reduction Technology Development Program established by the Energy Act of 2020 and provides specific direction for the development of advanced tools, technologies, and methods related to cement, concrete, and asphalt production.

Concrete is the second most widely used material in the world only behind water. The demand isn't going to decrease anytime soon, so it is essential we direct the best scientific resources of the Federal Government to help manufacturers meet our environmental goals without reducing the concrete supply that keeps our economy growing.

The IMPACT Act positions our country to rise to that challenge and become a resource for the entire globe.

I thank my Science Committee colleagues, Mr. MILLER and Mrs. FOUSHEE, for cosponsoring this bill and working in a bipartisan fashion. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

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

I rise in support of the Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, otherwise known as the IMPACT Act.

Mr. Speaker, at the Science Committee, we look to address problems beyond the conventional approaches, and we take a broad, long-term perspective. For example, we look for greenhouse gas emissions beyond the smokestack and tailpipe in order to have a holistic image of the climate change challenge we face. The bill before us today seeks to address an often overlooked contributor to carbon dioxide emissions.

Globally, cement facilities account for 8 percent of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, which is about the same amount as one-third of all power plant emissions, really a stunning source of this pollution. The projected demand for cement is expected to increase substantially. To address the challenge, there is a need for Federal investment in next-generation cement, concrete, and asphalt emission reduction technologies.

The IMPACT Act establishes a dedicated program and directs DOE to develop tools, technologies, and methods for the manufacture of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt, using both advanced and currently commercially available production processes.

It also authorizes DOE to provide technical assistance to eligible entities in order to increase the efficiency of current production processes, active engagement that will help the industry adapt and innovate.

Now, in order to carry out this ambitious mission, the Secretary is directed to focus on a range of key technology areas, including carbon capture, resource efficiency, and high-performance computing.

This is actually an exciting bill, and it has potential to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American manufacturing while at the same time reducing a major greenhouse gas contributor.

I thank Representative MILLER and Representative FOUSHEE on their impressive legislation. I hope that all of us will support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER) to speak on his bill.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7685, the Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or more simply, the IMPACT Act.

I introduced this bill with my Committee on Science, Space, and Technology colleague, Mrs. FOUSHEE, because we understand that the production of cement, concrete, and asphalt plays a fundamental role in supporting United States infrastructure, national defense, and economic security.

The cement and concrete industry contributes over \$100 billion to the United States economy and employs over 600,000 people. In Ohio alone, this industry accounts for 18,000 cement and concrete industry-related employees with a payroll over \$900 million.

It is no secret that the processes behind these products are extremely difficult to decarbonize and that American cement and concrete manufacturers must compete in a market that increasingly values lower-carbon products.

The leading companies and associations of this industry have committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and have made impressive progress thus far, reducing its carbon footprint by 21 percent since 2014, but more progress can be made.

With projected demand for cement expected to increase 12 percent by 2050, utilizing the best scientific resources of the Federal Government will help manufacturers further reduce emissions of the products essential to our economy and civilization.

The IMPACT Act will support these resources while strengthening and enhancing the competitiveness of American manufacturing through advanced technologies that can be exported around the globe.

We all want to see cement, concrete, and asphalt production continue to rise and help grow our country. That is critical to our economic well-being. We all want to see this growth go hand in hand with environmental stewardship, leaving our air and water just as pristine for the next generation.

The IMPACT Act builds on previous industrial decarbonization efforts by focusing specifically on cement, concrete, and asphalt. It enables the industry and the Department of Energy to work collaboratively on fundamental

research that will enhance existing production methods and unlock new innovative techniques. This will ensure the world-class tools and technologies at DOE are being used by the very taxpayers who funded them.

It also enables DOE, in consultation with other Federal agencies, to offer technical assistance to entities seeking to promote the commercial application of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt. This ensures that industry can continue its cutting-edge research unencumbered, but if they do hit a roadblock, there are subject matter experts available to assist them.

This bill is the perfect example of how the Federal Government can advance tangible environmental goals for construction material production without sacrificing material performance or, more importantly, economic growth that benefits every citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE) for cosponsoring this bill and working in a bipartisan fashion to get it here today, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate that Representative FOUSHEE is a Member of this body and a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She is a new Member to Congress, but she is an experienced legislator, and I think that background allows her to successfully craft complex but practical and important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHEE).

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7685, the bipartisan Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act, or the IMPACT Act, which will boost the competitiveness of American manufacturing through innovation and development of technologies to decarbonize and improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production.

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing issues of our lifetime, and it is critical that we continue to take significant strides to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors.

Globally, we know that concrete accounts for 8 percent of all carbon emissions, but we can reduce pollution in the cement and concrete production process right now by creating new innovation and manufacturing opportunities here at home that can take the place of aging processes based on fossil fuels.

This bill marks a critical step forward to innovate and decarbonize America's concrete and asphalt sectors, and it will enable partnerships between industry, innovators, and the U.S. Government to enhance existing production methods, unlock new and innovative techniques, and offer tech-

nical assistance to entities seeking to promote the application of low-emissions cement, concrete, and asphalt.

The United States is leading the way into the 21st century, where we know that our Nation is poised to play a critical role in reducing industrial emissions through modernizing our manufacturing processes and implementing clean technology strategies.

This can be seen in my own district, North Carolina's Fourth, where local startup Biomason is helping lead the way in advancing low-carbon concrete and asphalt production.

Just earlier this year, I was proud to join the first-ever White House Concrete Innovation Summit, with innovators, researchers, startups, industry, and leaders from across the country, to further build consensus on our path forward for a more sustainable future.

As we consider the future of American R&D, we must prioritize investments and advancement in materials, science, and manufacturing by fostering and building out an innovation pipeline that creates good-paying, clean American jobs and enhances our competitiveness on the world stage, and this bill does just that.

This bill will also help to achieve measurable and meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions, improve public health, and modernize the current manufacturing processes of sustainable building materials that are essential for our Nation's infrastructure.

I am glad to join Representative MAX MILLER in sponsoring the IMPACT Act, which passed through the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology unanimously. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, which will prioritize innovation in clean manufacturing and production to improve public health and protect our planet.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests, so I am happy to urge all Members to vote for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests, and I simply note this is a good bill. Let's vote for it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7685, 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.

MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1735) to coordinate Federal re-

search and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1735

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 "Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act".

SEC. 2. MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The mathematics taught in schools, including statistical problem solving and data science, is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a STEM skills shortage and employers needing to expend resources to train and upskill employees.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need 1,000,000 additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) The field of data science, which is relevant in almost every workplace, relies on the ability to work in teams and use computational tools to do mathematical and statistical problem solving.

(4) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(5) The STEM workforce relies on computational and data-driven discovery, decision making, and predictions, from models that often must quantify uncertainty, as in weather predictions, spread of disease, or financial forecasting.

(6) Most fields, including analytics, science, economics, publishing, marketing, actuarial science, operations research, engineering, and medicine, require data savvy, including the ability to select reliable sources of data, identify and remove errors in data, recognize and quantify uncertainty in data, visualize and analyze data, and use data to develop understanding or make predictions.

(7) Rapidly emerging fields, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing and quantum information, all rely on mathematical and statistical concepts, which are critical to prove under what circumstances an algorithm or experiment will work and when it will fail.

(8) Military academies have a long tradition in teaching mathematical modeling and would benefit from the ability to recruit students with this expertise from their other school experiences.

(9) Mathematical modeling has been a strong educational priority globally, especially in China, where participation in United States mathematical modeling challenges in high school and higher education is orders of magnitude higher than in the United States, and Chinese teams are taking a majority of the prizes.

(10) Girls participate in mathematical modeling challenges at all levels at similar levels as boys, while in traditional mathematical competitions girls participate less and drop out at every stage. Students cite

opportunity for teamwork, using mathematics and statistics in meaningful contexts, ability to use computation, and emphasis on communication as reasons for continued participation in modeling challenges.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) MATHEMATICAL MODELING.—The term “mathematical modeling” has the meaning given the term in the 2019 Guidelines to Assessment and Instruction in Mathematical Modeling Education (GAIMME) report, 2nd edition.

(6) OPERATIONS RESEARCH.—The term “operations research” means the application of scientific methods to the management and administration of organized military, governmental, commercial, and industrial processes to maximize operational efficiency.

(7) STATISTICAL MODELING.—The term “statistical modeling” has the meaning given the term in the 2021 Guidelines to Assessment and Instruction in Statistical Education (GAISE II) report.

(8) STEM.—The term “STEM” means the academic and professional disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

(c) PREPARING EDUCATORS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING.—The Director shall make awards on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality mathematical modeling education in schools that are private, faith-based, or homeschools, or operated by local educational agencies, including statistical modeling, data science, operations research, and computational thinking. The Director shall encourage applicants to form partnerships to address critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs.

(d) APPLICATION.—An entity seeking an award under subsection (c) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application shall include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity for which such an award is sought, including student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), and students experiencing homelessness and children and youth in foster care.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or local educational agencies to participate in such research activity.

(3) A description of how such research activity may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of students, including students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM, in prekindergarten through grade 12 in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling using problem-based learning with contextualized data and computational tools.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with 1 or more local educational agencies and 1 or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In making awards under subsection (c), the Director shall encourage applications that include—

(1) partnership with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling;

(2) partnership with a local educational agency, a consortium of local educational agencies, or Tribal educational agencies;

(3) an assurance from school leaders to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority;

(4) ways to address critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs;

(5) input from education researchers and cognitive scientists, as well as practitioners in research and industry, so that what is being taught is up-to-date in terms of content and pedagogy;

(6) a communications strategy for early conversations with parents, school leaders, school boards, community members, employers, and other stakeholders; and

(7) resources for parents, school leaders, school boards, community members, and other stakeholders to build skills in modeling and analytics.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives an award under this section shall use the award for research and development activities to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality mathematical modeling education in public schools, private schools (including faith-based schools), or homeschools, including statistical modeling, data science, operations research, and computational thinking, which may include—

(1) engaging prekindergarten through grade 12 educators in professional learning opportunities to enhance mathematical modeling and statistical problem solving knowledge, and developing training and best practices to provide more interdisciplinary learning opportunities;

(2) conducting research on curricula and teaching practices that empower students to choose the mathematical, statistical, computational, and technological tools that they will apply to a problem, as is required in life and the workplace, rather than prescribing a particular approach or method;

(3) providing students with opportunities to explore and analyze real data sets from contexts that are meaningful to the students, which may include—

(A) missing or incorrect values;

(B) quantities of data that require choice and use of appropriate technology;

(C) multiple data sets that require choices about which data are relevant to the current problem; and

(D) data of various types including quantities, words, and images;

(4) taking a school or district-wide approach to professional development in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling;

(5) engaging rural local agencies;

(6) supporting research on effective mathematical modeling and statistical modeling teaching practices, including problem- and project-based learning, universal design for accessibility, and rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance;

(7) designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices within mathematics and statistics courses;

(8) coordinating with local partners to adapt mathematics and statistics teaching practices to leverage local natural, business, industry, and community assets in order to support community-based learning;

(9) providing hands-on training and research opportunities for mathematics and statistics educators at Federal laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry;

(10) developing mechanisms for partnerships between educators and employers to help educators and students make connections between their mathematics and statistics projects and topics of relevance in today's world;

(11) designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring for educators, that combine face-to-face and online experiences;

(12) reduce gaps in access to learning opportunities for students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM;

(13) provide support and resources for students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM;

(14) addressing critical transitions, such as middle school to high school, high school to college, and school to internships and jobs;

(15) researching effective approaches for engaging students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM; and

(16) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this section.

(g) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for awards under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the award. Each recipient of an award under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final project reports.

(h) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of awards made under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such awards and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activities funded through such awards with the findings of other research on student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the awards made under this section.

(i) FUNDING.—\$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2029 is authorized to be used by the Directorate for STEM Education of the National Science Foundation to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. NASEM REPORT ON MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL MODELING EDUCATION IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (in this section referred to as “NASEM”) (or if NASEM declines to enter into such an agreement, another appropriate entity) under

which NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, agrees to conduct a study on the following:

(1) Factors that enhance or barriers to the implementation of mathematical modeling and statistical modeling in elementary and secondary education, including opportunities for and barriers to use modeling to integrate mathematical and statistical ideas across the curriculum, including the following:

(A) Pathways in mathematical modeling and statistical problem solving from kindergarten to the workplace so that students are able to identify opportunities to use their school mathematics and statistics in a variety of jobs and life situations and so that employers can benefit from students' school learning of data science, computational thinking, mathematics, statistics, and related subjects.

(B) The role of community-based problems, service-based learning, and internships for connecting students with career preparatory experiences.

(C) Best practices in problem-, project-, performance-based learning and assessment.

(2) Characteristics of teacher education programs that successfully prepare teachers to engage students in mathematical modeling and statistical modeling, as well as gaps and suggestions for building capacity in the pre-service and in-service teacher workforce.

(3) Mechanisms for communication with stakeholders, including parents, administrators, and the public, to promote understanding and knowledge of the value of mathematical modeling and statistical modeling in education.

(b) PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING.—In the course of completing the study described in subsection (a), NASEM or such other appropriate entity shall hold not less than one public meeting to obtain stakeholder input on the topics of such study.

(c) REPORT.—The agreement under subsection (a) shall require NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, not later than 24 months after the effective date of such agreement, to submit to the Secretary of Education and the appropriate committees of jurisdiction of Congress a report containing—

(1) the results of the study conducted under subsection (a);

(2) recommendations to modernize the processes described in subsection (a)(1); and

(3) recommendations for such legislative and administrative action as NASEM, or such other appropriate entity, determines appropriate.

(d) FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Directorate for STEM Education of the National Science Foundation, the Director shall allocate up to \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section.

SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS.

(a) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—Amounts made available to carry out sections 2 and 3 shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Science Foundation.

(b) SUNSET.—The authority to provide awards under this Act shall expire on September 30, 2028.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1735, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 1735, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, sponsored by my colleagues Representatives HOULAHAN and BAIRD.

Anyone who pays attention to the economy knows the importance of STEM education. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that our need for STEM jobs will increase by nearly 11 percent by 2032.

To fill those jobs and ensure that we have a highly productive workforce, we need to focus on STEM education in our schools. We need to be sure that we are providing a useful STEM education.

We know that many STEM jobs require data-driven decisionmaking, but we are not providing a grounding in that skill in our schools. To this end, H.R. 1735 modernizes our mathematics curriculum by providing competitive grants to support education in mathematical and statistical modeling.

As someone trained in agricultural economics, I understand the value of conducting mathematical and statistical analysis. A solid grounding in these fields helps us predict crop yields, identify the effects of temperatures and water levels, and model commodity markets. Those are just examples from a single industry.

The skills are crucial to a wide variety of professions and help inform computational and data-driven thinking. Statistical analysis underpins everything, from developing artificial intelligence to improving advanced manufacturing.

This bill would allow us to better teach these critical skills through R&D into new curricula and teaching methods. It would also direct the National Academies to conduct a study that will identify best practices for mathematical and statistical modeling education.

I thank Representatives HOULAHAN and BAIRD for their work on this issue over the past several years. This is smart legislation that supports our students and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important one, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, represented by two really impressive Members of Congress, Ms. HOULAHAN and Dr. BAIRD.

This bill would direct the National Science Foundation to invest in K-12 education research and development, with a focus on mathematical modeling.

This bill would help modernize STEM education by supporting the creation of advanced curricula that cover mathematical and statistical modeling, including computational and data-driven thinking.

This is the kind of education our students deserve and what they need for today's society and its technological and data-driven demands.

Members and staff have worked really hard to accommodate many desired changes to this bill, and I believe it is in a state now that should satisfy just about everyone. It has support from the premier educational, statistical, and mathematical organizations in the United States. The Senate companion bill is in a similar good place. It is time for this bill to become law.

This is an important bill that will better prepare our students for careers in STEM, and I hope all of us will join together and support this bill.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) to speak on his bill.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HOULAHAN for her dedication to improving STEM education and for being a great partner to work with on advancing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act provides a much-needed solution to improving the quality of STEM education in America. This bill would advance mathematical instruction in our classrooms by incorporating modern tools and context, with data and computational studies.

Mathematical modeling is taught today, but on a limited basis. Even so, mathematical modeling is the foundation for the important work of our Nation when it comes to research, development, and, ultimately, technological innovation.

While the bill directs the National Science Foundation to grant awards to our institutions of higher education, the bill does not award any new funding. We must work with the resources we already have.

As an animal scientist, I understand the life-changing effects proper mathematical modeling can have on our livestock, our food, and, ultimately, our Nation's well-being.

That is why I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan legislation to ensure that the United States continues to dominate in STEM education, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" for this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to serve in the Congress with Congresswoman HOULAHAN, who has such a spectacular background in science. She is an engineer, former business executive, former teacher, former nonprofit executive, and an Air Force vet. She has it all. Working with Dr. BAIRD, she put together this bill that is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

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Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for yielding me the time to speak on behalf of my bill, H.R. 1735, and I thank so much my colleague, Representative BAIRD, for his tireless efforts to help us get this across the finish line.

It is past time that America's K–12 students enter the 21st century, and this Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act is a bipartisan bill that will help with that and will direct \$10 million in funding, importantly, funding that is already appropriated to the National Science Foundation, toward grant programs, and it will support the modernization of mathematical and statistical modeling education across this fine Nation.

As someone who is educated as a systems engineer, with both undergraduate and graduate degrees, which focused on things like operations research and linear programming and statistical modeling, I have had the privilege of using all of these kinds of maths all during my career and life.

Also, as a former high school chemistry teacher, I saw firsthand that many of my students struggled because they lacked the basic foundations in math that are necessary to succeed in the sciences, and frankly, to succeed in our economy.

These math skills form the basis of all the STEM disciplines, and importantly, they also form the basis of critical thinking and problem-solving as well. Without them, students struggle to keep up, let alone to get ahead not just in math and science but ultimately in our competitive workplace and world.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, which is colloquially known as the Nation's report card, has shown that this is a national challenge. The most recent assessment registered the very largest declines in math scores since we first started assessing them in 1990. The scores of our average fourth graders were down five points. Worse, the average score of our eighth graders recorded an eight-point lower assessment than the last time.

As our students are continuing to recover from the pandemic, now particularly is a very good time to focus on a renewed and modified investment in math and STEM education and skills.

If our students can't get ahead in school, how will they get ahead in the STEM workforce as engineers, as chemists, as nurses, as doctors, and so much more?

As importantly, how will those who do not pursue STEM fields succeed where these same kinds of skills are very, very useful in things such as the trades and manufacturing or any other job in industry?

Thankfully, schools across the country are already developing new tools

and curricula to better connect students and help them learn these challenging topics.

It is crucial though that the Federal Government deliver its financial support to schools that are already leading this effort and that want to in the future.

My colleagues also supported an amendment to the bill ensuring that this funding is broadly available, so students can benefit from it no matter what kind of school they go to. Their adjustment made sure that schools which are private, faith-based, or homeschools also have access to this funding.

I also want to highlight that this funding is all drawn from funds that are already appropriated to the National Science Foundation. This legislation does not represent any new funding authorizations or authorities. It is simply ensuring that the NSF is able to spend the money it already receives to bolster innovation in this very important area.

This bill will go a long way towards providing our very youngest people with the skills that they need to succeed in today's marketplace. It passed with a strong bipartisan majority in the 117th Congress and was passed unanimously out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology last year in this Congress as well.

I once again thank my Republican colleague, Mr. BAIRD, for his work on this legislation. I also extend my deep appreciation to the SST staff and committee who have helped to shepherd this legislation through today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very commonsense, bipartisan measure.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. I would just like to once again thank Congresswoman HOULAHAN, Dr. Baird, and I also thank the chairman. We have had a great run here in the Science Committee this evening with these terrific bills, which I urge all Members to support.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this awesome bill worked on in a very productive fashion by our colleagues.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, we have had a very productive session in the 118th Congress. I thought under the previous committee leadership the two previous sessions it would be hard to beat, but we have accomplished a lot, and we have laid the groundwork for whatever remains of the 118th to tie up a whole bunch of loose ends. That is a testament to the gentlewoman and her staff, and I think to my staff and my colleagues on my side of the room.

The issues we work on, as the gentlewoman and I have discussed many times, are not just today and tomorrow.

It is 50 years, it is 150 years, it is 500 years from now, the net effect.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1735, 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.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF THE WEITZMAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ACT

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7764) to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7764

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 "Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is established the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").*

(b) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—*

(1) *2 voting members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;*

(2) *2 voting members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;*

(3) *2 voting members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and*

(4) *2 voting members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.*

(c) *QUALIFICATION.*—*Members of the Commission shall be appointed to the Commission from among individuals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who possess—*

(1)(A) *a demonstrated commitment to the research, study, or promotion of Jewish American history, art, political or economic status, or culture; and*

(B)(i) *expertise in museum administration;*

(ii) *expertise in fund-raising for nonprofit or cultural institutions;*

(iii) *experience in the study and teaching of Jewish American history;*

(iv) *experience in the study and teaching of combating and countering antisemitism;*

(v) *experience in studying the issue of the representation of Jewish Americans in art, life, history, and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or*

(vi) *extensive experience in public or elected service;*

(2) *experience in the administration of, or the strategic planning for, museums; or*

(3) experience in the planning or design of museum facilities.

(d) **DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.**—The initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(f) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall, by majority vote of all of the voting members, select 1 member of the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

(g) **PROHIBITION.**—No employee of the Federal Government may serve as a member of the Commission.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) **REPORTS AND OTHER DELIVERABLES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and to Congress the report, plan, and recommendations described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(1) **REPORT ON ISSUES.**—A report that addresses the following issues relating to the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, PA, and its environs (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Museum”):

(A) The collections held by the Museum at the time of the report, the extent to which such collections are already represented in the Smithsonian Institution and Federal memorials at the time of the report, and the availability and cost of future collections to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

(B) The impact of the Museum on educational and governmental efforts to study and counter antisemitism.

(C) The financial assets and liabilities held by the Museum, and the cost of operating and maintaining the Museum.

(D) The governance and organizational structure from which the Museum should operate if transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

(E) The financial and legal considerations associated with the potential transfer of the Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, including—

(i) any donor or legal restrictions on the Museum’s collections, endowments, and real estate;

(ii) costs associated with actions that will be necessary to resolve the status of employees of the Museum, if the Museum is transferred to the Smithsonian Institution; and

(iii) all additional costs for the Smithsonian Institution that would be associated with operating and maintaining a new museum outside of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

(F) The feasibility of the Museum becoming part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking into account the Museum’s potential impact on the Smithsonian’s existing facilities maintenance backlog, collections storage needs, and identified construction or renovation costs for new or existing museums.

(2) **FUND-RAISING PLAN.**—A fund-raising plan that addresses the following topics:

(A) The ability to support the transfer, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through contributions from the public, including potential charges for admission.

(B) Any potential issues with funding the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(3) **LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.**—A report containing recommendations regarding a legislative plan for transferring the Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, which shall include each of the following:

(A) Proposals regarding the time frame, one-time appropriations level, and continuing appropriations levels that might be included in such legislation.

(B) Recommendations for the future name of the Museum if it is transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

(b) **NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the initial members of the Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commission may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section, convene a national conference relating to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture of Jewish Americans.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A member of the Commission—

(A) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(B) shall serve without pay.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVICES.**—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission. Such gifts, bequests, or devises may be from the Museum.

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the report, plan, and recommendations required under section 3 are submitted.

(c) **FUNDING.**—The Commission shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the Commission.

(d) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may employ and compensate an executive director and any other additional personnel that are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) **RATES OF PAY.**—Rates of pay for persons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the rates of pay allowed for employees of a temporary organization under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.**—Any individual employed under this subsection shall not be considered a Federal employee for the purpose of any law governing Federal employment.

(3) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), on request of the Commission, the head of a Federal agency shall provide technical assistance to the Commission.

(B) **PROHIBITION.**—No Federal employees may be detailed to the Commission.

(4) **VOLUNTEER SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon request of the Commission, the Administrator of the General Services Administration shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act. The involvement of the General Services Administration shall be limited to providing administrative support to the Commission, and such involvement shall terminate upon termination of the Commission.

(f) **MEETING LOCATION.**—The Commission may meet virtually or in-person.

(g) **APPOINTMENT DELAYS.**—The Commission may begin to meet and carry out activities under this Act before all members of the Commission have been appointed if—

(1) 90 days have passed since the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) a majority of the members of the Commission have been appointed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on bill H.R. 7746.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, pervasive anti-Israel bias has infected our country. Anti-Semitism is on the rise and threatens the safety of all communities and institutions.

Let me be clear. Anti-Semitism has no place in America.

Israel is in a fight for its very existence from the terrorist threat of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran. I strongly support our ally Israel and our Jewish friends.

In the Middle East, our friends in Israel need our support. The Anti-Defamation League has cited nearly 8,900 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States that occurred last year.

Now more than ever, we must ensure that as many Americans as possible are informed about the many contributions of Jewish Americans and their history.

Today, the House must pass H.R. 7764, the commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

The legislation creates a commission to study the transferring of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

This legislation establishes logistical details to make this transfer a reality, including a fundraising plan. The bill could not be more important than right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7764, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7764, as amended. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin, my friend, the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, Mr. STEIL, for his great work and the work of the staff.

This bipartisan bill will establish a commission to study the potential transfer of Philadelphia’s Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1654, when Jews first sought refuge from persecution in the New World, Jewish Americans have contributed to our Nation in countless ways.

They have served at the highest levels of government, won Nobel Prizes, created enduring works of art and literature, and stood at the forefront of nearly every struggle for civil rights and equality in this country.

That legacy extends to my own district in Rochester, New York, where Jewish Americans have been a vital part of our community since before the Civil War.

In the mid-19th century, they built our first synagogue. When the financial crisis of 1857 threatened to devastate Rochester's economy, the Jewish-American garment industry employed scores of residents and helped keep our city afloat.

Today, from the towns of Brighton and Pittsford to Irondequoit and the city of Rochester, Jewish Americans remain an irreplaceable part of our daily lives.

It pains me to see that anti-Semitism in the United States has surged to what the FBI Director has described as "historic levels."

This hatred has been fueled by the villainization of Jewish Americans after the October 7 terrorist attacks, as well as the alarming growth of racism, extremism, and white supremacy across the Nation.

One of the most troubling aspects of this trend is the rise of anti-Semitism among younger generations. For the first time since the Anti-Defamation League began its comprehensive study on anti-Semitism in 1964, these attitudes are now more prevalent among younger people than among older generations.

The ADL also found that 73 percent of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism since the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year and that the number of students who feel comfortable with others knowing that they are Jewish has nearly been cut in half since the October 7 attack.

We must do more to show the invaluable role Jewish Americans have played in our national story and to inoculate people, some of whom are probably well-intentioned, against anti-Semitic stereotypes and online conspiracy theories.

For these reasons and more, now is the time for the Smithsonian to explore adding an American Jewish history museum to its roster.

As the Nation's preeminent institution dedicated to American Jewish history, the Weitzman National Museum should be seriously considered as a turnkey, cost-effective option.

An exhibit at the Weitzman National Museum showcases a 1790 letter from President George Washington to a Rhode Island synagogue in which he became the first leader of a modern nation to recognize Jews as full citizens.

We still have work to do to fully honor the spirit of President Washington's words.

I can think of few better ways to make progress than by bringing the

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History under the Smithsonian umbrella.

This bill is an important first step, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the author of this bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding and for his strong support of this legislation and his poignant and important words. I thank him for taking the time to go into some detail about the experience of his own Jewish community in his Congressional District.

I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 7764, to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

I also thank Representatives TURNER, BOYLE, and MAX MILLER for joining me in leading this bill, and of course, I thank Chairman STEIL and the ranking member for prioritizing it and getting it through unanimously in the Committee on House Administration.

Last year, ADL tracked a 140-percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents from the previous year resulting in a record high since ADL began tracking these instances of hate almost 50 years ago.

According to the American Jewish Committee, nearly two-thirds of American Jews feel less secure in the U.S. than they did a year ago.

To combat the rising hate, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS developed our country's first ever National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism. The strategy notes that we cannot address the root causes of anti-Semitism without awareness and education.

□ 2030

With anti-Semitism skyrocketing, acknowledging the past and acting to build a better tomorrow is more critical than ever.

It will take a whole-of-society effort to do this, and folding the Weitzman National Museum of Jewish History into the Smithsonian is one step toward that goal.

We must uplift Jewish stories and raise awareness of the contributions of Jewish Americans throughout our Nation's history, which the Weitzman does every day.

Taking this critical step to welcome the Weitzman Museum into the larger Smithsonian family would help us share those achievements with the American people from all over the country as its mission is to educate visitors and online audiences about who Jews are and how they contributed to our country.

The museum develops critical in-person and online educational program-

ming, provides professional development for educators, and produces award-winning special and traveling exhibits.

However, its ability to reach a national audience is limited, which is why the best way to amplify its resources is to incorporate it into the Smithsonian Institution.

This powerful institutional integration signals a strong commitment to address the dramatic rise in anti-Semitism. It does that by helping amplify the myriad ways Jewish Americans enrich our Nation.

We need all Americans alike to learn about all the remarkable Jews who served in our government and the military or who won Nobel Prizes, led universities, and made lifesaving medical discoveries our Nation counts on.

The Jewish community's commitment to *tikkun olam*, a commitment to repair the world, is clear across so many generations of Americans.

Bringing the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History into the Smithsonian alongside the African American, Native American, and other pending cultural museums is fitting and essential.

We must shine a light on it to support Jewish Americans and respond to skyrocketing hate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, again, for their support, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member from New York (Mr. MORELLE).

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7764, and I recognize my dear friend, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of American Jewish History tells the story of American Jews and their myriad contributions to every facet of American life, from science and medicine to education and technology to music, theater, philanthropy, civil rights, and the pursuit of justice.

Jewish citizens were critical to building the textile industry in my hometown of Greensboro, North Carolina, and have contributed to so many other facets of our life from civil rights, the arts, healthcare and so much more.

American Jews have worked hard to build our great country. Their story is the American story. Today we face a frightening rise in anti-Semitism. The FBI's 2023 hate crime statistics showed that Jews are the victims of 68 percent of religiously motivated hate crimes, despite being just 2 percent of the population.

History has taught us that when hatred against Jews is allowed to fester, it frequently grows to threaten other

minority groups and undermines the foundations of our democracy.

In the fight against hate and intolerance, education is one of the best tools we have. That is why the first-ever U.S. national strategy to counter anti-Semitism emphasizes the importance of broadening appreciation of Jewish-American heritage.

The Weitzman Museum does just that. It showcases important artifacts and stories from the first arrival of Jews to the Colonies in 1654, all the way to the present day.

Transferring this museum to the Smithsonian umbrella is the right and fitting thing to do. That is why 36 Jewish groups, including the ADL, AJC, and Jewish Federations of North America, support this bill.

This bill marks the first step toward achieving national level commitment to increasing awareness, understanding, and education about American-Jewish history.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in doing the same.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for all the eloquent comments made by all the Members who spoke on the bill. This is vitally important, and I think it bears repeating that having opportunities for people to understand, to learn about the past, and to give us greater understanding is going to lead us to a better country and a better world.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful, again, to the chair of the committee and the sponsors for their work, I look forward to not only supporting the bill but urging my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my colleague, the ranking member, for his work on the bill, as well as the sponsors of this legislation.

This is an opportunity for us to come together to address the rise that we have seen in anti-Semitism and to stand with the Jewish people in this particular period of time of peril that we see in the country of Israel.

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Rep. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ, Rep. MILLER, and Rep. BOYLE for their leadership on this bill.

H.R. 7764 authorizes a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish history to the Smithsonian Institution. Just last week, the House Committee on Administration unanimously passed this legislation out of their committee.

The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia serves as a powerful reminder of the contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the fabric of the United States.

The Weitzman Museum was established in 1976 as the only museum in the Nation dedicated exclusively to exploring and interpreting the American Jewish experience.

This bill is the first step in bringing the Weitzman into the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum, education, and research complex.

By bringing this museum and its collections into the Smithsonian, Congress will ensure that the story of Jewish Americans is shared with the widest possible audience.

I am proud to be one of the lead Members on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7764, 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.

CELEBRATING THREE GREAT CENTRAL VALLEY UNIVERSITIES

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

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate three great Central Valley universities: UC Merced, Fresno State University, and Stanislaus State University, that The Wall Street Journal ranked three out of the top four colleges in America for helping students climb the socioeconomic ladder.

These universities embody the American Dream. They empower first-generation Americans to work hard, get good jobs, and improve their lives.

UC-Merced tops the rankings for social mobility and its commitment to transforming lives. The same values are echoed up and down the valley by Cal State-Stanislaus at number two and Cal State-Fresno at number four.

These schools do more than provide a good education at a reasonable price. They open the door to the American Dream. Going to these valley schools is more than an education. It is an opportunity for valley kids to dream big, work hard, and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Mr. Speaker, sending a student to one of these schools is a dream for so many families in the valley because they change lives. Today, on the House floor, we honor their impact, their dedication, and their relentless pursuit of excellence. I congratulate these universities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL BAXTER

(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 the life of my good friend, Bill Baxter, who passed away recently at 71 years old.

Bill was well-known as a very brilliant businessowner and a very charitable man.

He joined his dad's industrial gas business, Holston Gases, in 1980 after he graduated from the University of Tennessee Law School. Since then, the business grew from one location in Knoxville to 42 branches operating across 10 States.

He also bought the Wort Hotel in Wyoming in 2004 and helped the hotel earn a four-diamond designation from AAA in 2008.

Bill also served as the chairman of the board of the Knoxville Zoo, the commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Economic Development, and he was appointed to the Tennessee Valley Authority board by President George W. Bush.

He had the integrity to resign from the TVA board after 5 years because he wanted to honor a bill that had passed in Congress which imposed 5-year term limits, even though the bill didn't apply to him.

I offer my condolences to Bill's wife of 45 years, Ginger; his sister, Jennifer, and her husband, Frank; his four children and their spouses, Elizabeth and Rick, Jennifer and Jonathan, Joe and Emily, and John and Vivian; as well as nine grandchildren; and everyone else who knew and loved Bill.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, he actually tried to talk me out of running for office, and I often wonder where my life would be if I took his advice. I am glad I didn't, though, Mr. Speaker. Bill was a dear friend, and he will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

LAMONICA McIVER, Tenth District of New Jersey.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-5426. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final interagency guidance — Interagency Guidance on Reconsiderations of Value of Residential Real Estate Valuations [Docket No.: CFPB-2023-0033] received September 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-5427. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's advisory opinion — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Protections for Home Sales Financed Under Contracts for Deed received September 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-5428. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Pichia Pastoris Dried Yeast [Docket No.: FDA-2024-F-3882] received September 4, 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-5429. A letter from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of Additional Sanctions Against Russia and Belarus Under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR); and Corrections [Docket No.: 240820-0220] (RIN: 0694-AJ78) received September 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5430. A letter from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Entity List [Docket No.: 240820-0222] (RIN: 0694-AJ79) received September 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 Foreign Affairs.

EC-5431. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-100 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5432. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Manchester, NH [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1361; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ANE-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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-5433. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Cincinnati, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0542; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AGL-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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-5434. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-108 and Revocation of RNAV Route Q-104; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2502; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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-5435. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Amendment of Multiple United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; and Revocation of RNAV Route T-204; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0157; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-32] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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-5436. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-109; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1850; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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-5437. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Reidsville, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0319; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 8958. A bill to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-701). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 612. An act to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-702, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5794. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in conduct of quality management and administrative investigations by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; (Rept. 118-703). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 8205. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that Byrne grant funds may be used for public safety report systems, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-704). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 1486. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3334) to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8205) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that Byrne grant funds may be used for public safety report systems, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8790) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1469) ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan; and for other purposes (Rept. 118-705). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Agriculture discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 9747. A bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 9748. A bill to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 9749. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to abolish the reorganization authority of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 9750. A bill to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9751. A bill to include certain executive and judicial actions in the baseline calculation by the Congressional Budget Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO):

H.R. 9752. A bill to require a homeland security southwest border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua and associated strategic plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. WATERS, Ms. TLAI, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 9753. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide relief for borrowers of Federal Direct PLUS loans made on behalf of students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 9754. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require maintenance of State funds for school resource officers in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 9755. A bill to require owners and employees of massage wellness spas to undergo fingerprint-based background checks to mitigate the risk of human trafficking and enhance public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 9756. A bill to require that any State or local government that receive Federal funds to operate microtransit services enters into a contract with a private entity for the operation of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 9757. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for direct cash assistance in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; 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. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 9758. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Secretary of the Treasury to jointly carry out a study on decentralized finance; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 9759. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program to combat oil theft in the Permian Basin; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 9760. A bill to establish a community protection and wildfire resilience grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, 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. LOPEZ:

H.R. 9761. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an increased dollar limitation for section 179 property placed in

service in the trade or business of farming; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 9762. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide explicit authority for the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to work with international partners on cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEUSER (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HILL, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LOPEZ):

H.R. 9763. A bill to provide for a limitation on funds for Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 9764. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow additional catch-up contributions for certain family caregivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 9765. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 9766. A bill to establish an inter-agency working group to ensure the security, resiliency, and integrity of undersea cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 9767. A bill to make reforms to provide support for minority depository institutions, community development financial institutions, and minority lending institutions to promote and advance communities of color through inclusive lending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BERA, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 129. Concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as "National Fall Prevention Awareness Week" to raise awareness about, and encourage the prevention of, falls among older adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. WILD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARSON, Mr. ELLZEY,

Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MAST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BACON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H. Res. 1485. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the third Friday of September shall be recognized as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SABLON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CASE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. BERA, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1487. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 23, 2024, to September 29, 2024, as "Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 1488. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 23, 2024, as "National Latino Gastronomic Cuisine Week", and celebrating the vibrant and diverse culinary traditions of Latino gastronomy; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NEUHOUSE, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SORENSON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. MACE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. WALBERG):

H. Res. 1489. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as "National Clean Energy Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 1490. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 23, 2024, as "Mary Church Terrell Day", and calling on Congress to recognize Mary Church Terrell's lasting contributions to the civil rights and women's rights movements; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 1491. A resolution expressing support for the designation of "Public Radio Music Day" and deep appreciation for the

role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 9732.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Child Protection

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 9747.

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

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." in addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

The subject of the bill is the making of continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2025.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 9748.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 9749.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Abolishing the reorganization authority of the Department of Homeland Security.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 9750.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9751.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

CBO reform

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 9752.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require a homeland security southwest border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua and associated strategic plan, and for other purposes

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 9753.

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

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide relief for borrowers of Federal Direct PLUS loans made on behalf of students

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 9754.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 9755.

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

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require owners and employees of massage wellness spas to undergo fingerprint-based background checks to mitigate the risk of human trafficking and enhance public safety.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 9756.

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

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require that any State or local government that receive Federal funds to operate microtransit services enters into a contract with a private entity for the operation of such services, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 9757.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for direct cash assistance in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 9758.

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

"Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

"To require the Securities and Exchange Commission, Commodity Futures Trading

Commission, and the Secretary of the Treasury to jointly carry out a study on decentralized finance."

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 9759.

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 establishment of a program to combat oil theft in the Permian Basin, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 9760.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is

Wildfire management

By Mr. LOPEZ:

H.R. 9761.

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

Article 1. Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Raising the Section 179 deduction amount and tying future increases to inflation

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 9762.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the DHS Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to station DHS personnel, including CISA employees, overseas to collaborate with international partners on efforts to secure critical infrastructure and improve cybersecurity.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 9763.

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 provide for a limitation of funds for Afghanistan.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 9764.

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 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow additional catch-up contributions for certain family caregivers.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 9765.

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 9766.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an interagency working group to ensure the security, resiliency, and integrity of undersea cables, and for other purposes.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 9767.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make reforms to support community financial institutions expand financial access to underserved communities.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 209: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 531: Mr. FONG.
 H.R. 694: Ms. STRICKLAND.
 H.R. 782: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 838: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 884: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 913: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 926: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 927: Mr. PETERS and Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 1045: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 1077: Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 1139: Mr. NEAL and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 1249: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 1262: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 1321: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 1330: Mr. SUOZZI.
 H.R. 1362: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 1369: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 1385: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 1544: Ms. GRANGER.
 H.R. 1572: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MRVAN.
 H.R. 1617: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1666: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 1776: Mr. SOTO and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 1794: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 1833: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 2395: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 2407: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 2424: Ms. BARRAGAN.
 H.R. 2620: Mr. COMER and Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 2630: Mr. HUIZENGA.
 H.R. 2725: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H.R. 2730: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 2769: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 2785: Mr. NEHLS and Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 2871: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
 H.R. 3009: Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H.R. 3170: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 3238: Mr. JAMES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OGLES, and Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 3386: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
 H.R. 3404: Mr. NEHLS.
 H.R. 3409: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 3411: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 3413: Mr. GARBARINO.
 H.R. 3481: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 3514: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 3537: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 3539: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 3548: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 3649: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 3670: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 3850: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 3869: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 3875: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 4002: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 4020: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 4059: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 4089: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 4193: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 4238: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 4263: Mr. CURTIS and Ms. WILD.
 H.R. 4326: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 4333: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
 H.R. 4340: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4432: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. SEWELL.
 H.R. 4549: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4663: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4845: Ms. PETERSEN.
 H.R. 4893: Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 4916: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 4937: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 5073: Mr. FALLON.
 H.R. 5127: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 5159: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 5208: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
 H.R. 5266: Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 5305: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 5342: Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.R. 5371: Ms. ROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 5397: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 5459: Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 5502: Mr. BEYER and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
 H.R. 5530: Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 5566: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 5686: Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 5808: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 5848: Mr. HILL.
 H.R. 5864: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 6013: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 6031: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 6078: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 6302: Ms. BALINT.
 H.R. 6311: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 6358: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 6388: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 6394: Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 6445: Mr. MEUSER, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WATERS.
 H.R. 6451: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
 H.R. 6523: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 6541: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
 H.R. 6652: Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H.R. 6727: Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H.R. 6751: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CASE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. NICKEL.
 H.R. 6831: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 6950: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
 H.R. 6971: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 7012: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7017: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 7027: Mr. LATURNER.
 H.R. 7042: Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 7048: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 7279: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 7297: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. AMODEI.
 H.R. 7334: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 7335: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 7384: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 7389: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 7413: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7571: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 7623: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 7635: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 7641: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 7649: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 7670: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7770: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 7801: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7891: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 7944: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
 H.R. 8018: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 8061: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 8080: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 8164: Mr. THANEDAR.
 H.R. 8193: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 8203: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 8231: Mr. EVANS.
 H.R. 8243: Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 8271: Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. STEVENS.
 H.R. 8303: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
 H.R. 8307: Mr. FULCHER and Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 8331: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. HUIZENGA.
 H.R. 8340: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 8411: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 8505: Mr. MOLINARO.
 H.R. 8545: Ms. HAGEMAN.
 H.R. 8683: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 8702: Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 8706: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 8734: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 8758: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 8777: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
 H.R. 8821: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 8827: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 8903: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 8957: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 8970: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 8996: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 9001: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 9008: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 9082: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 9096: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 9119: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 9168: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 9172: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 9175: Mr. JAMES.
 H.R. 9176: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
 H.R. 9266: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 9274: Mr. BENTZ, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. RULLI.
 H.R. 9276: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 9324: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 9336: Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H.R. 9353: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 9382: Mr. RULLI and Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 9449: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 9462: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. FONG.
 H.R. 9481: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
 H.R. 9501: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 9508: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 9511: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 9546: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 9552: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 9564: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 9568: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 9574: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 9585: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 9646: Mr. OGLES.
 H.R. 9675: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 9678: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BENTZ, Ms. FOXX, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 9679: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 9691: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 9693: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 9699: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. STRONG, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GRAVES of MISSOURI, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RULLI, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MAST, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 9714: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. OGLES.
 H.R. 9724: Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 9725: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, and Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 9734: Ms. CHU, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. BALINT.
 H.R. 9738: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 9740: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
 H.R. 9741: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
 H.R. 9745: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.J. Res. 163: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MAST.

H.J. Res. 167: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.J. Res. 193: Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.J. Res. 203: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. PERRY.

H. Con. Res. 82: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Con. Res. 122: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H. Res. 439: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H. Res. 1069: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H. Res. 1272: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. Res. 1348: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SELF, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. JAMES.

H. Res. 1383: Mr. PALMER.

H. Res. 1412: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H. Res. 1422: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H. Res. 1423: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 1435: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas and Mr. LAWLER.

H. Res. 1436: Ms. SEWELL and Ms. BALINT.

H. Res. 1437: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H. Res. 1443: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Res. 1447: Mr. LALOTA, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H. Res. 1449: Mr. BARR, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 1473: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. LIEU.

H. Res. 1478: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H. Res. 1479: Mr. BACON, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

[Omitted from Record of September 20, 2024]

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 14 by Ms. TITUS on House Resolution 1302: Ms. Escobar and Mr. Garamendi.

Petition 15 by Ms. WILD on House Resolution 1346: Mr. Vasquez.

Petition 16 by Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana on House Resolution 1410: Mrs. Fischbach, Ms. Escobar, Mr. Rutherford, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Mrvan, Mrs. McBath, Ms. Brownley, Mr. Garamendi, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Peltola, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Deluzio, Ms. Waters, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Posey, Ms. Mace, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Mr. Jackson of North Carolina, Mr. Pence, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Nadler, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Mr. Gosar, Mr. Moskowitz, Ms. Salazar, Mr. Veasey, Mr. Williams of New York, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Himes, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Calvert, Ms. Chu, Mr. Nunn of Iowa, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, and Mr. Molinaro.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. COLE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Appropriations in H.R. 9747, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 9747 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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No. 148

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we hide beneath the shadow of Your wings until the danger passes. We cry to You because we have so often received help from Your throne. Thank You for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Lord, continue to provide for all the needs of our lawmakers, giving them strength for struggles and success, for shadows and sunshine, for valleys and mountain summits. Awaken in them such a fresh appreciation for this great land that they will be prepared to pay the high price for freedom.

Today, give us all a love for right so that we may be instruments for Your glory.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday afternoon, we announced that congressional leaders reached a bipartisan agreement to avoid a government shutdown on September 30. This agreement will keep the government open at current funding levels until December 20. This agreement, thankfully, is free of any partisan poison pills and was negotiated in good faith.

I thank the Speaker for working with my team to put this package together over the weekend. Our teams were up early and stayed late into the evening to get it done.

I also wish to thank the House Democratic leader, the Senate Republican leader, and all the appropriators, particularly Senators MURRAY and COLLINS, for helping us get to this point.

The matter is now straightforward. We now have less than a week to pass a funding bill through the House, through the Senate, and onto the President's desk. Both sides will have to act celeritously and with continued bipartisan good faith to meet the funding deadline. Any delay or last-minute poison pill can still push us into a shutdown. I hope and I trust that this will not happen.

Of course, as we proceed, it is important to remember that negotiations didn't have to wait until the last minute. This agreement could have very easily been reached weeks ago, but Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans chose to listen to Donald Trump's partisan demands instead of working with us from the start to reach a bicameral, bipartisan agreement.

Remember, Donald Trump has spent the entire month urging House Republicans to shut the government down if his poison pills weren't passed. That is outlandishly cynical. Donald Trump knows perfectly well that a shutdown would mean chaos, pain, and needless heartache for the American people, but, as usual, he just doesn't seem to care.

It is astounding that anyone seeking the Presidency would think a shutdown is a good thing, but that is who Donald Trump is at his core—cynical and ill-intentioned. He should have learned his lesson years ago when he told Speaker PELOSI and I to shut down the government and said: "I'll take the blame." Well, that didn't work out too well for him, did it?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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I am glad his efforts in this instance are on track to fail. We aren't out of the woods yet, but now that we have reached a bipartisan agreement, I hope we are on track to avoid a shutdown. I believe we will avoid that shutdown. With a few more days of bipartisanship and speed and good faith, we can get the job done—certainly before the deadline of a government shutdown.

ABORTION

Now, Madam President, on reproductive rights and Project 2025, over the weekend, former President Donald Trump said at an event that, if he becomes President, women “will no longer be thinking about abortion.”

He uttered these words in the middle of another one of his incomprehensible rants, where he lamented about the state of women's healthcare. He lamented that “women have been through a lot” and claimed that things will somehow get better if he returns to office.

At the risk of stating the obvious, Donald Trump has zero credibility when it comes to women's healthcare, and it is both ridiculous and insulting for Donald Trump to suggest women won't have to worry about abortion if he returns to the White House. Of course, they will.

Not 1 week ago, a report was published detailing the tragic story of a woman from Georgia who died because her State's abortion bans prevented her from receiving lifesaving care. The story is equal parts heartbreaking and enraging when you read how this woman was denied proper care because she happened to live in the “wrong State.” Worst of all, there are undoubtedly more stories like hers out there.

And, make no mistake, these abortion bans are now a reality largely because of one person—Donald Trump. More than any single individual, Donald Trump is the reason women worry so much about abortion and reproductive health today. After all, it was Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans who appointed three ultra-conservative Justices to the Supreme Court, with the explicit goal of overturning Roe. It was Donald Trump who, again and again, bragged about ending protections under Roe. Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are also the ones who cleared the path for draconian bans at the State level, and as much as they now try to deny it, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are the ones clamoring for the chance to pass a national abortion ban.

Don't take it from me. Senator VANCE, whom Donald Trump chose as his running mate, said, 2 years ago, he would “certainly like abortion to be illegal nationally.” He “certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.” These were the words of Donald Trump's running mate. Statements like these give women plenty of reason to worry about Donald Trump returning to the White House.

Look, when people have their rights taken away, they don't simply stop thinking about the issue.

Former President Trump, that is not how it works. You can't fool people like you are trying to do. When people's rights are taken away, they start worrying about which rights will crumble next.

They wonder: Now that Republicans overturned Roe, what is next? Will women's pregnancies be monitored? Will drugs like mifepristone get banned? Will States start banning IVF?

Now, none of this is theoretical. Many of these ideas are laid out in President Trump's Project 2025, and in a shocker to nobody, an overwhelming majority of Americans thinks the ideas of Project 2025 are toxic. Just yesterday, an NBC poll found that only 4 percent—4 percent—of Americans viewed Project 2025 favorably, and half—more than half—of Americans said they had strongly unfavorable views.

The bottom line is this: Donald Trump and the hard right are the reason reproductive care is at its weakest point in modern history, but as project 2025 makes clear, the MAGA right is just getting started even though most Americans overwhelmingly reject their radical agenda.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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 Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in May 2000, Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon, but while the occupation ended, Hezbollah's appetite for waging war on Israel only grew, and its further deadly attacks on Israel invited the 2006 conflict.

But the history of Israel's fight to defend its northern border and innocent civilians against Hezbollah terrorists bears eerie parallels to the stories of the brutal violence Hamas has perpetrated from Gaza. Israel withdrew there in August 2005, and by 2007, Iran-backed terrorists had bent the enclave to its all-consuming mission, which is war on Israel.

But the most glaring through-lines in Israel's north and south are not the relentless bloodlust of terrorists. They are the predictable delusion of Israel's “friends” and the shameful cowardice of international authorities that claim to stand for peace.

Take, for starters, how the Biden-Harris administration chose to welcome the U.N. General Assembly by signaling its openness—openness—to resuming funding for UNRWA and how it apparently still clings to the fiction that an organization so thoroughly corrupted by Hamas that nearly a dozen of its staff directly—directly—

participated in the October attacks is somehow reformable.

But while the civilized world gathers in one place, the General Assembly might productively spend its time contemplating other pressing questions, for example: Why hasn't the U.N. Security Council managed to enforce resolutions 1559 and 1701 in Lebanon? These resolutions were passed to end and prevent further conflict between Israel and Lebanon by removing the threat Hezbollah posed on Israel's border and to end the threat Hezbollah posed to the State of Lebanon itself.

And why has the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon allowed Hezbollah to build up massive stockpiles on Israel's border, in clear—clear—preparation for war?

Why has the U.N. looked the other way as Hezbollah has expanded its corrosive influence over the institutions of Lebanon's Government?

But setting aside the failures of the so-called international community, this past weekend once again cast a spotlight on America's known naivete toward the glaring facts of Iran-backed war on our friend Israel.

In an interview that might rightly attract scrutiny for its host's obfuscation of the facts on Israel's responses to Hezbollah terrorism, the White House National Security Communications Advisor said out loud what the Biden-Harris administration has been saying by its actual actions for nearly a year:

We've been working since the beginning of the conflict, October 8 . . . to try to prevent an escalation.

So think about that. The only way to claim credit for working to “prevent an escalation” is by pretending like Hezbollah's October 8 attacks—or Hamas's October 7 massacre—weren't actually escalations themselves.

Unfortunately, the administration official also seemed to suggest a moral equivalence—a moral equivalence—between Israel and Hezbollah. He suggested that “military action, by either side” would not be “in either side's best interest” and implied that an Israeli response would itself be escalation—once again, second-guessing Israel's interests, micromanaging their defensive efforts. Blaming Israel for escalation when it is clear—absolutely clear—Hamas and Hezbollah have been the instigators of this conflict. It is a tired playbook.

The administration is telling the world that what America wants is a return to October 6, as if the status quo was either sustainable or peaceful. This, of course, is pure fantasy. Hamas broke a cease-fire on October 7.

Or consider Hezbollah's history as the centerpiece of Iran's “ring of fire” around Israel: Just since the 2006 conflict, Hezbollah terrorists have imported tens of thousands of rockets to target Israel, deployed forces directly to Israel's border, and constructed tunnels that would allow them to emulate Hamas's October 7 invasion.

Recent estimates suggest the terrorists possess up to 200,000 rockets, missiles, drones, and precision-guided munitions, along with 25,000 active-duty militants—all of it pointed south at Israel, and all of it, as Hezbollah's leader has boasted, is from Iran.

Or consider Lebanon itself. Hezbollah is a cancer on the Lebanese State. It wields its power as a sectarian terror squad and leads a long trail of blood through its highest ranks of civilian government and civil society. Sunnis, Christians, Druze, and fellow Shiites—none are immune from Hezbollah's wrath.

Then, again, National Public Radio refers to Hezbollah as a "political" group. Perhaps the administration's officials' confusion is a symbol of their media diet or more likely the foundations of their foreign policy are fundamentally flawed.

Remember the declaration by the President's National Security Advisor early last fall that the Middle East was "quieter than it had been in decades." The absurdity of that boast in light of October 7 is striking enough, but even when it was written, it betrayed the administration's naivete toward glaring and abiding threats to Israel and America's national security interests in the region.

Iran's agents in Syria and Iraq had already fired hundreds of rockets at American forces on this administration's watch. Since last October, these attacks have only metastasized, including into the Red Sea. So was this an acceptable status quo? Was Hezbollah's steady preparation for war? Was Hamas's expropriation of humanitarian assistance in order to build terror tunnels?

The United States ought to stand with our friend Israel as it faces these terrorists down. The goal should not be simply to avoid escalating or to return to the status quo ante but to help Israel defend itself against terrorists bent—bent—on Israel's destruction.

We have a stake in ensuring Israel emerges from this conflict stronger and these terrorist organizations and their Iranian patron weaker. These same terrorists want to expel the United States from the region. We are the Great Satan, in their own parlance. Instead, by their misplaced obsession with escalation, the administration and Washington Democrats are actually making Israel's job harder.

If the President and Vice President want to see an end to the war in Gaza and prevent greater hostilities in Lebanon, then it is time to switch the focus of their diplomatic pressure.

Every time the administration officials try to tie Israel's hand in public comments and every time a U.S. Senator threatens to hold critical security assistance hostage, Hamas, Hezbollah, and their patrons in Tehran are emboldened.

If our colleagues want peace, it is time to show support for a nation founded on peace and resolve toward

terrorists whose reason for existence is chaos and violence.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we are 1 week away from the deadline to fund the government.

It is an embarrassment that we return again and again to this precipice, realizing full well the disaster that shutting down the government creates for our Nation. Yet the House of Representatives goes through these contortions every time, ultimately, giving in to common sense and funding the government, at least temporarily.

I was relieved to hear last night that there is a bipartisan funding agreement reached finally after days of negotiations, one that maintains current funding through December 20 and avoids a government shutdown a month before the election.

Wouldn't it be great if the Senate and the House were to announce some dramatic, positive legislative measure on a bipartisan basis other than keeping the lights on in the Federal Government? That seems to be all they can achieve in the House of Representatives.

Thankfully, the agreement includes necessary provisions related to extending veterans' benefits, including one that enables the only joint DOD-VA facility in the country—one you know well—Lovell, located in North Chicago in our home State, to continue providing healthcare to servicemembers and veterans alike.

Imagine we were just hours away from the possibility of suspending basic lifesaving services at the Lovell institute for our veterans.

I am pleased this bipartisan negotiation led to an agreement free of poison pills and partisan cuts, but it should have been done a long time ago.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think funding the government is a partisan bargaining chip and not one of the most essential tasks in Congress.

Just last week, the House rejected Speaker JOHNSON's partisan government funding plan that would have pushed our job to fund the government until next March in 2025. A half-year delay was being proposed by the Republicans in the House.

It is no surprise that this unserious funding plan did not pass. Not only did the Democrats vote against it, but 14 Members of the Speaker's own party opposed it. He forced the vote anyway, wasting precious time on a proposal that even his own caucus question.

Now time is of the essence. If both sides and both Chambers continue to work in good faith, we can fund the government through December 20 with actions this week, before the September 30 deadline, but it will take cooperation from both Chambers. I hope we can find it.

DREAM ACT

Madam President, on another topic, it has been more than 20 years—20

years—since I introduced a bill known as the DREAM Act.

This legislation would provide a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants known as Dreamers, who were brought to our country as children. The DREAM Act would allow these young people to remain in the only home they have ever known, the United States of America.

In 2010, I sent a letter, joined by then-Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, asking President Obama to stop the deportation of Dreamers.

Twelve years ago, President Obama responded by announcing the DACA Program, which has protected more than 830,000 Dreamers from being deported.

These young people grew up alongside our kids with the same hopes and the same dreams. They came to their classroom each day and pledged allegiance to the same flag. These young people grew up and wanted to serve our country as doctors and teachers and engineers, first responders, and so many more valuable contributions to America. They contribute to our Nation virtually every single day. Yet they live in fear of their lives being uprooted because of congressional inaction and ongoing litigation.

The best way to understand this issue is to hear their stories. That is why, today, I would like to introduce you to the 144th and 145th Dreamers, whose stories I have shared on the floor of the Senate.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, these stories should give us even more appreciation for the contributions that immigrants make to our Nation.

Here are Giovanni and Michael Pimentel. They were born in Mexico and brought to the United States when they were 6 years old. They were raised in Greenville, TX. They had to quickly learn English and found an extra need to "prove themselves" in this new country. They were 6 years old.

They graduated from high school in the top 10 percent of their class and went on to Texas A&M University. Michael graduated from college with a triple major in chemistry, mathematics, and biology. Giovanni graduated with degrees in public health and political science.

Michael went on to earn his master's degree from Stanford University, and he is now pursuing his doctorate in pharmacology. Michael has observed disparities in the care of loved ones undergoing chemotherapy. As a result, he aims to specialize in oncology medication to improve outcomes for cancer patients, regardless of where they are from or what language they speak.

Meanwhile, Giovanni attended Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and graduated with honors. He became a licensed attorney in California in November 2022 and began working in unemployment law. He sat for the Texas bar in July, and his goal is to support the Texas Legislature as a legislative counsel.

To Michael, DACA means hope—hope that the United States will one day accept Dreamers and allow them to remain here without the threat of deportation. To Giovanni, DACA signifies promise—a promise to Dreamers that if they work hard and contribute to America, they will be granted protection and a pathway to citizenship.

It is long past time that we uphold our end of the bargain. Michael and Giovanni are not only role models; they are living representations of the American dream. It is time for us in Congress to protect these Dreamers.

Unfortunately, since President Obama established DACA, Republicans have waged a relentless, unending campaign to overturn this stopgap solution and to deport Dreamers like Michael and Giovanni back to countries they do not even remember.

This war against immigrants is mindless. We need to be safe for sure, but how can we ignore what immigrants have meant to this country? Last week, I went for a routine hospital procedure here in Washington. It was noteworthy that the doctor I had was from Syria, a young woman from Syria, the anesthesiologist was from Germany, and my nurse was from Ethiopia. Do you think I would bemoan these immigrants and want them to return to their country? I thank all three of them for coming to America and making this a stronger and better country and giving quality, professional medical service. It happens day in and day out.

I want to urge my colleagues not to ignore these Dreamers and their lives, which are at stake every single day. They need to live in America without fear of deportation. It is time for Congress to get to work on a bipartisan basis to pass the Dream Act. It was the right thing to do 20 years ago; it is the right thing to do today. These young Dreamers prove my case every single day of their lives.

I thank Members of the Senate who have supported me. We need more in the future.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 4698**

AMENDMENT NO. 3293

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of S. 4698, action on the Peters amendment No. 3292 be vitiated and amendment No. 3293 be considered and agreed to, and the remainder of the order be in status quo.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3292) in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3293) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;” and

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

“(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

“(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

“(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

“(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as my colleagues know, I get a lot of information about wrongdoing in government from whistleblowers. A sig-

nificant part of my investigative activity is driven by whistleblower disclosures. To make that very effective, I have directed my investigative staff to cultivate those whistleblower relationships.

Whistleblowers share information with me that the government likes to hide from Congress and, indirectly, then hiding it from the American people.

Today, I am going to discuss a very concerning problem within the U.S. Postal Service. Based on whistleblower disclosures to my office, I have been alerted that the post office hired a registered sex offender as a letter carrier.

The employment was confirmed in writing by that same Postal Service. Based on whistleblower allegations, this employee disclosed his status as a registered sex offender on his job application.

If accurate, did the Postal Service then even bother to read his application before he was hired? After the Postal Service figured out what they had done, my office has been told via whistleblower disclosures that they put the employee on paid leave.

So I began digging deeper to figure out the extent of this problem at the Postal Service. Since then, the Postal Service has obstructed every effort that I have made to get the information that Congress is entitled to.

Wouldn't the American public like to know how many letter carriers are registered sex offenders? Where are they working? Do they travel near schools, homes, and where children are often seen?

Now, the Postal Service apparently disagrees. The Postal Service was asked by my staff for a list of letter carriers who are registered offenders.

Now, as you might expect, the Postal Service refused. So I and my staff asked for a list of letter carriers on the payroll. The Postal Service later said:

Current employees' names, titles, and duty stations are generally considered to be public information and releasable.

But then the Postal Service refused to provide the information because my staff might cross-reference the names on the public registries. Specifically, the Postal Service said this:

They have a personal privacy interest in protecting the fact that their names appear on a sex offender registry.

The Postal Service also said that it is refusing to provide this information because I “intend to use the provided list to infer what employees appear on the public sex offender registries.”

Now, it is time to get this straight for everybody. The names of Postal Service employees are publicly releasable, as admitted by the Postal Service to me in writing. These offender registries are public, which was also admitted in writing to me by the Postal Service. But the Postal Service says a privacy interest prohibits them from providing the names of all Postal Service letter carriers because my staff might cross-reference them on a public list? What a disgrace.

Further, the Postal Service had the audacity to ask my staff this garbage request, and I am quoting from the Postal Service:

We ask that you agree not to publicly release the names of any employees that you believe appear on a sex offender registry as a condition precedent to the release of a list of letter carriers to you.

Now, that kind of appears to be a shakedown, doesn't it?

In support of its obstruction, the Postal Service cited a 2020 Freedom of Information Act court case, *White Coat Waste Project v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*. The Postal Service claimed that this case allowed them to withhold the information.

Now, there are two problems with that. First, this isn't a FOIA request that I am making. It is a congressional request under the constitutional power of checks and balances of the government to make sure that the executive branch of government faithfully executes the laws. Congress isn't subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Second, in the case, the court held that the government had to produce requested names of government employees, in part, because it "will ensure that the public stays informed about what their government is up to."

Like you often hear me say, transparency brings accountability in our government.

My staff then later asked the Postal Service the following, related to employee names:

So, what's public is being treated as non-public because there's a chance some letter carriers are sex offenders?

The Postal Service's employee answered:

Yes, because you can't put that together without both lists.

The Postal Service conduct is without any legitimate basis. Postmaster General DeJoy and the Postal Service Board need to fix this mess and fix it immediately. When it comes to this matter, our community deserves much better than what they are getting from the Postal Service.

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. CORNYN. Madam 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.

The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as most people know, the majority leader is the only one who can schedule action on legislation on the floor of the U.S. Senate. None of the 99 other Senators can make that happen, which means that the lack of productivity on some very important matters by the U.S. Senate lies squarely at the feet of the majority leader.

And I have to say that our lack of productivity here in the U.S. Senate verges on what can only be described as malpractice. I say that as a recovering lawyer who used to defend cases of alleged malpractice.

But we have wasted valuable floor time on partisan nominees and political show votes and not advanced the fundamental causes that are so basic to governing—things like funding the government, things like passing our annual Defense authorization bill—something we have done more than 60 years in a row. And, unfortunately, it looks like we are headed toward another short-term continuing resolution and a delay on both of these essential tasks, which will damage our military when global conflicts are more tense than at any time in recent memory. And that is not hyperbole.

Earlier this year, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees created something called the Commission on National Defense Strategy. This is a bipartisan group of top national security and defense experts to assess the world's strategic threats to the safety and security of the United States and to analyze any shortcomings in America's preparation.

Well, the Commission's report that came out last week was nothing short of stunning, and I would like to highlight some of its findings. They described China as the most serious and longest term threat to the safety and security and peace in the Indo-Pacific.

Militarily, the People's Republic of China, governed by the Chinese Communist Party, are expanding their forces from air to cyber, to space, and they now have the world's largest navy at nearly 400 warships. And their capacity to build more ships is estimated to be about 230 times greater than ours.

China now possesses missiles and continues to enhance their capabilities, which would put any of our aircraft carriers in the Indo-Pacific at grave risk in the event of a conflict. And as the report states, they may very well use these significant advantages to invade Taiwan by 2027 and attempt to defeat American or other allied attempts to defend Taiwan and its sovereignty.

Turning to Europe, Ukraine continues to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked aggression, which began, really, back in 2014, when they invaded Crimea, but was escalated approximately 2 years ago when they intended to essentially take the entire country.

As the defense strategy report indicates, America's continued support of Ukraine against this invasion by Vladimir Putin's Russia isn't just essential to Ukraine's survival; it is paramount to sending the message to the world that aggressors that seek to invade smaller nations simply cannot win. That is what we call deterrence.

In essence, global security is interconnected, and what happens in the European theater can impact our security in the Pacific theater and around the world.

Of course, in the Middle East, our close ally Israel is defending its very existence, following a brutal and unprovoked attack by the terrorist group Hamas, which is backed by its sponsor Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism.

Iran and its proxies—namely Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis—are more emboldened than they have ever been as they continue wreaking havoc across the region.

More broadly, the Commission's report cautioned against the growing alignment of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. This isn't exactly breaking news, but to see some of the best military leaders in our country put their concerns in writing about this axis of autocracies and their statement that it may lead to coordinated opposition to U.S. interests globally should wake all of us up.

They also called attention to America's deficiencies in terms of our preparation. The military experts point out that our equipment is old, our technology is outdated, our industrial base has shortcomings, our force readiness is not what it should be, and the Department of Defense is too slow to respond because of bureaucratic redtape and the failure of leadership.

Let me repeat. These are among the most admired and talented military minds in the country who are saying these things. This assessment should wake up every American but especially Members of Congress, because it is up to us to respond and to respond appropriately.

And the question is: What are we going to do about it?

My dad was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II and flew 26 bombing missions over Nazi Germany, until he was shot down and captured as a POW. My dad, like so many of the "greatest generation," came back to the United States; they went to school on the GI bill of rights and helped rebuild our country and helped rebuild the rest of the war-torn world. But I know they believed that we would not have any large military conflicts between great powers—again, perhaps that would be the last. But as Bob Gates, the former Secretary of Defense, has reminded us, he said that our holiday from history is over. In other words, war intends to be more the rule than the exception. And the only thing that prevents wars from breaking out in military conflicts is the strength of American power and our willingness to take a leadership role.

Ronald Reagan was exactly right when he talked about peace through strength. So we need to be ready and we need to be prepared and we need to be engaged in order to deter these would-be aggressors around the world.

Exactly how are we going to be prepared? Well, Congress's role is to make sure that we pass the authorities necessary in the Defense authorization bill to enable our warfighters to be prepared and to get the training and

equipment they need in order to deter the next war.

And then there are, of course, passing the appropriations bills that make sure that their pay and their training and their families are taken care of.

Now, the Defense authorization bill that the majority leader has deferred until after the election does really important things, like making sure our defense industrial base is ready to produce the weapons and the materiel that are needed not only by the United States but by our allies around the world.

It also is focused on reforming our acquisition and procurement processes to ensure that our Armed Forces can meet the challenges of this evolving and dangerous threat environment.

September 30 is the end of the fiscal year—otherwise known as the deadline to fund the government for the next 12 months, as well as to provide our military with the authorities and resources it needs to face the security challenges that I have touched on.

The end of the fiscal year, September 30, does not sneak up on us. We know where that date is on the map, and we know that it is our job to be prepared to meet that timeline. Yet the majority leader has failed to put on the floor the sorts of opportunities we need in order to fund the government and to equip our military. And it is simply inexcusable. It isn't for lack of trying by the relevant committees on both sides of the aisle.

Senator MURRAY, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a Democrat, and Senator COLLINS, the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, a Republican, have made serious progress on the appropriations process.

As of July, the Appropriations Committee has approved 11 of the 12 annual funding bills in a bipartisan fashion. On the Defense authorization bill, Chair REED, a Democrat, and Ranking Member WICKER, a Republican, have worked tirelessly to advance the Defense authorization bill out of the Armed Services Committee, which they did more than 2 months ago. But the majority leader has done nothing—nothing—to move these bills on time across the Senate floor.

Again, there is none of the other 99 of us who can do anything about that. That is solely his authority and his responsibility. But he has done nothing, until here we are just days before the deadline.

This is a completely avoidable crisis. I heard the majority whip—the Senator from Illinois—say that it is embarrassing that we find ourselves in this situation. Well, the embarrassment is as a result of the majority leader's failure to even move these bills across the floor. He likes to point across the Capitol to the House—and, yes, the House has its own challenges, but we wouldn't be looking at short-term continuing resolutions in another phony narrative of a government shutdown if the ma-

majority leader and the U.S. Senate had simply done our job and done it on time.

And our military commanders will tell you that short-term continuing resolutions are no way to operate. Every one of these short-term bills, which looks like we are heading toward a December 20 deadline for the next short-term continuing funding bill, has provisions that said there should be no new starts. And, of course, with only a 3-month funding stream, it is almost impossible to plan.

A national defense authorization bill passed in the lameduck doesn't give the military the certainty it needs so that decisions can be made that address our short- and long-term needs.

Postponed defense authorization legislation makes our military less capable, jeopardizing our readiness and leaving citizens at home and abroad more vulnerable to our adversaries who are on the march.

If I can paint a brief picture of the State of the majority leader's Senate, we have less than 5 days before the end of the month—that is why we are hearing all this unnecessary drama and narrative about a potential government shutdown—and we have not considered a single appropriations bill in the Senate, which we could have done starting months ago.

We have wars in the Middle East and in Europe and rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific and beyond that could reach a fever pitch at a moment's notice. And we have defense leaders from every facet of our military saying that the way the Senate is currently operating when it comes to funding the military and providing for the authorities that they need in order to do their job in the defense authorization bill, the Senate's failure to act on a timely basis is making their jobs harder and Americans less safe.

When you add all these factors together, the picture of leadership here in the U.S. Senate is truly pitiful. It is difficult to describe how frustrating and alarming it is when the Senate's leadership fails to act on such basic matters as keeping the lights on and funding the government, or making sure that our military is ready to stop and prevent the next potential military conflict.

It is even more difficult to convey the national security implications that come with the short-term continuing resolutions; although, the Commission's report is the best attempt I have seen recently.

Now, I appreciate the challenges that Speaker JOHNSON has across the Capitol to help Congress avert a shutdown. And I understand they are going to try to pass a 3-month continuing resolution that will take us to December 20, at which time we will play this movie over again, because all we are doing is kicking the can down the road 3 months and failing to do our job on time or the way it should be done.

But let's not forget we could have avoided all of this if the Senate major-

ity leader had scheduled votes on individual government funding bills months ago, as he could have. These are bipartisan bills. So he owns it. And you might say he designed it.

This delay is by design by the majority leader. There is no other reasonable explanation. He does it because he believes this enhances his power to negotiate a final package of spending bills at the end of the year. But the threats to our national security are real, and the embarrassment that the majority whip expressed early is real. But it could all be avoided if he would simply have let the Senate do its job on a timely basis. That is embarrassing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON JENKINS NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jenkins nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HELMY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Crapo	Kelly
Barrasso	Daines	Kennedy
Bennet	Duckworth	King
Blumenthal	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Fischer	Lummis
Britt	Gillibrand	Markey
Budd	Graham	McConnell
Butler	Grassley	Merkley
Cantwell	Hassan	Moran
Capito	Heinrich	Murkowski
Carper	Helmy	Murray
Casey	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Collins	Hirono	Padilla
Cornyn	Hoehn	Peters
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Reed
Cramer	Kaine	Ricketts

Romney	Smith	Warnock
Rosen	Stabenow	Warren
Rounds	Tester	Welch
Sanders	Thune	Whitehouse
Schatz	Tillis	Wicker
Schumer	Van Hollen	Wyden
Shaheen	Warner	Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Lankford	Schmitt
Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Mullin	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—14

Brown	Fetterman	Risch
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Manchin	Vance
Cotton	Murphy	

The nomination was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be notified immediately of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 787.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 787, Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 23, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I rise to offer remarks on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself in recognition of the 140th anniversary of the U.S. Naval War College, which was established on October 6, 1884, in Newport, RI. For the past 14 decades, it has played a critical role in shaping the leadership of our Armed Forces. While the Naval War College's mission has grown over the years, it remains a place of cutting-edge scholarship, helping to strengthen maritime security cooperation, support combat readiness, and develop the future of the Navy.

The Naval War College is a center for research and academic excellence. It provides an advanced course of study for both military officers and civilians and has served as the home of some of our military's most important strategic developments. Students and faculty work closely with the Navy Warfare Development Command and the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group in analyzing national security issues and developing innovative solutions. In addition, the Naval War College has pioneered war-gaming to support combat readiness since its founding and continues to evolve with the modern world offering over 50 events per year to include scenarios beyond the maritime domain such as space, cyber, and humanitarian disaster relief.

The oldest institution of its kind, the Naval War College has played an important role in the education and professional development of some of our country's most accomplished and impactful military officers and civilian leaders. Since the Naval War College's founding in 1884 by Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, more than 50,000 students have earned advanced degrees. Most have gone on to have impressive military careers, leading U.S. servicemembers around the globe and serving at the highest echelons of military and civilian leadership. Esteemed graduates include the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, the current Secretary of the Navy;

General Randy George, the Chief of Staff of the Army; former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and many others from every branch of our Armed Forces.

Throughout its 140-year history, the Naval War College has been a forward-looking institution and has consistently worked to break the mold of traditional military strategy and thinking. As the Naval War College celebrates this impressive milestone, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I know that the faculty, staff, and students will continue this tradition of excellence and innovation.

We are proud of the talented men and women who have made the Naval War College the strong and well-respected institution it is today. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire Naval War College community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO KEN HAMILTON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Ken Hamilton and his retirement from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

On October 31, 2024, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will celebrate Ken Hamilton's retirement after 41 years of service. Throughout his career, Ken has been a strong and effective advocate for the State's agriculture industry.

Ken was born and raised in rural Big Horn County, WY. His dedication to agriculture was sparked from a young age. Ken learned the trade by working on the family ranch, raising sheep and cattle, and trying his hand at irrigated farming practices.

Ken graduated from Manderson-Hyattville High School and earned an associate of arts in pre-law at Northwest College in Powell. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1982.

Ken attended the American Farm Bureau Federation work exchange program in Australia during his senior year at UW. While there, he worked for Checkers Pastoral Company and the Colligan Creek Pastoral Company.

Following his return to the States, Ken began his career at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as a research and field assistant. He gained valuable skills that soon prompted a promotion to director of field services and then administrative assistant. In 2004, he became the executive vice president.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation advocates for farmers and ranchers by protecting private property rights, drafting grassroots policies, strengthening agriculture, and developing educational practices for leadership and advocacy. Ken's life and time at Farm Bureau have been truly dedicated to these principles.

In addition to his work at the Farm Bureau, Ken dedicated his time to various organizations to further conservation efforts and agricultural production. He served on the 2006 Wyoming

Brand Task Force, the State of Wyoming Coal Bed Methane Working Group, the Western Region Air Partnership Dust Forum, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, the Legal Information and Networking Committee, and the American Farm Bureau's general council advisory and the legal information and networking committees.

Ken also served as the Wyoming Capitol Club president, the Wyoming Society of Association Executives president, the Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company secretary, and the Wyoming Farm Bureau general manager.

In response to his unwavering dedication to Wyoming agriculture, Ken was honored in 2015 as one of UW's Outstanding Alumni. In 2023 Ken received a Longevity Award from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Joining in this momentous celebration is Ken's wife Kathy and his son Ian Hamilton.

It is with great honor that I recognize and celebrate Ken Hamilton. He embodies the Cowboy Code to the fullest. His incredible contributions and positive strides within the agriculture industry are remarkable. He represents the best of Wyoming agriculture. Congratulations to Ken Hamilton on his retirement from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 19, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 9468. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on September 19, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation.

H.R. 4790. An act to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality

of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5717. An act to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens.

H.R. 9106. An act to direct the Director of the United States Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 136. 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 "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles".

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 265. An act to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1648. An act to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

S. 2825. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2861. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 4351. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills and joint resolutions were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4790. An act to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5717. An act to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.J. Res. 136. 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 "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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-5938. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting draft legislation to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a preservation program to provide financial incentives and other assistance to properties financed under Section 514 or Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5939. 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 13894 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5940. 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 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5941. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AJ79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5942. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Protections for Home Sales Financed Under Contracts for Deed" (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5943. 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 "Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5944. 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 "Updating Provisions Related to Blocking and Other Actions Related to Specific Property or Interests in Property" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5945. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Apache Trout From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BG94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5946. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1022 Rev 3, Supplement 2, Event Report Guidelines” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5947. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.62 Rev 3, ‘Physical Security Event Notifications, Reports, and Records’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5948. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Interagency Water Workforce Working Group Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5949. A communication from the Executive Director of the Build America Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 Financial Performance” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5950. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs Interim Staff Guidance, DUWP-ISG-02, Radiological Survey and Dose Modeling of the Subsurface to Support License Termination Final (Supplement to NUREG-1757, Volume 2, Rev. 2)” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5951. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Corrections for Seven Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Six Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants” (RIN1018-BG02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5952. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Washoe County Health District” (FRL No. 11263-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5953. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Revisions; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 11685-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5954. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Permitting Provisions Revisions” (FRL No. 11971-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19,

2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5955. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12105-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5956. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Source Performance Standards for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and Group I and II Polymers and Resins Industry; Correction” ((RIN2060-AW29) (FRL No. 9327.1-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5957. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Indiana Nonattainment Area for the 2010 1-hour Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 11529-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5958. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; ID; Revisions to Air Quality Regulations” (FRL No. 11575-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5959. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Source-Specific Air Quality Implementation Plan; New York; Sylvamo Ticonderoga Mill” (FRL No. 11904-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5960. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Sulfur Dioxide” (FRL No. 11913-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5961. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Nitrogen Oxides SIP Call Alternative Monitoring and Dometar Paper Company, LLC” (FRL No. 12065-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5962. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 12071-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-176. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Ohio expressing support for consumer choice in the automotive marketplace and against government-preferred vehicle technology mandates that will harm Ohio’s consumers by prematurely requiring the transition of the automotive fleet from internal combustion powered vehicles to all-electric vehicles; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 155

Whereas, All Ohio residents deserve access to affordable, practical, and technologically neutral options for transportation in the new and used motor vehicle marketplace; and

Whereas, An overwhelming majority of Ohioans have chosen to purchase vehicles equipped with an internal combustion engine; and

Whereas, The median household income of Ohioans from 2017–2021 was \$61,938 as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau; and

Whereas, The average cost of a new all-electric vehicle is more than \$58,000, making the mandated purchase of these vehicles unaffordable and, thus, unattainable for the majority of Ohioans; and

Whereas, 198,000 Ohioans are employed in the automotive sector, which contributes over \$12.1 billion in labor income to the state’s economy; and

Whereas, The CEO of Ford stated that manufacturing electric vehicles requires approximately 40% less labor than internal combustion engine powered automobiles. Therefore, thousands of family-sustaining union jobs are at risk; and

Whereas, PJM, the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia has warned that 40 GW of existing electric generation are at risk of retirement by 2030; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Geological Survey’s assessment of critical minerals, the United States depends on countries that have poor environmental records and antagonistic relations, like China, for many of the minerals necessary for deployment of all-electric vehicles; and

Whereas, Federal and state regulators have failed to adequately consider the cost impact to vulnerable communities, the displacement of American jobs, the capacity of our electric infrastructure, and our ability to bring supply chains governed by hostile-actors to America when encouraging vehicle mandates; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio reaffirm the State of Ohio’s commitment to consumer choice in the automotive marketplace by neither mandating nor prohibiting the purchase of specific vehicle technologies; and be it further

Resolved, That we respectfully urge the Biden Administration to ensure all regulations being promulgated by the U.S. EPA regarding light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles protect American families and workers by being both economically practicable and technologically feasible, which means preventing direct or indirect electric vehicle mandates; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Ohio Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, the Secretary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 4367, a bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-227).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3067. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-228).

S. 3558. A bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-229).

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 837. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee (Rept. No. 118-230).

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. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 5134. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to expand eligibility for individual and public assistance to certain areas and to include cumulative damage from multiple natural catastrophes in the definition of major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5135. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5136. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 5137. A bill to identify property located in the territory of certain foreign trade partners that is owned or controlled by United

States persons, necessary to access a port, harbor, or marine terminal, and has been nationalized or expropriated, and to prohibit certain actions by vessels that have landed at such ports, harbors, or marine terminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 5138. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5139. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to address emerging growth companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5140. A bill to extend by 5 years the term of the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 5141. A bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELMY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5142. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the national program for traumatic brain injury surveillance and registries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 836. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Restaurant Week and the contributions of Hispanic restaurant owners and employees to the restaurant industry; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. Res. 837. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINÉ, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms.

HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SUL-LIVAN):

S. Res. 838. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 17, 2024, as "National Warrior Call Day" and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 839. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Student Parent Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 840. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as "Telehealth Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. GRAMHAM):

S. Res. 841. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 842. A resolution designating the week beginning October 20, 2024, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 843. A resolution designating October 2024 as "National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 844. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors 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. 1028

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1907, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to enhance penalties for theft of a firearm from a Federal firearms licensee.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 4129

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4129, a bill to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4280

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4280, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 4400

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4400, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" for purposes of the securities laws, and for other purposes.

S. 4436

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4436, a bill to improve the safety of infant formula through test-

ing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, and for other purposes.

S. 4528

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4528, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor in recognition of his significance to the nation as an athlete, trailblazer, role model, and equal rights advocate.

S. 4778

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4778, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans under educational assistance programs permanent.

S. 4826

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4826, a bill to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for employment by the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 4900

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4900, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4932, a bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 4967

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4967, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4988, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals who fought for or with the United States against the armed forces

of Imperial Japan in the Pacific theater and the impacted Sashinax people on Attu, whose lives, culture, and community were irrevocably changed from December 8, 1941, to August 15, 1945.

S. 5045

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5045, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to criminal penalties for damaging or destroying pipeline facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 5113

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5113, a bill to delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces and diplomats stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes.

S. 5122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5122, a bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

S. 5124

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5124, a bill to require the United States Secret Service to provide protection to major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and their spouses at the same level of protection provided to the President, and for other purposes.

S. 5132

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5132, a bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 103

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet; Restoring Internet Freedom".

S. RES. 822

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 822, a resolution designating September 2024 as "National Voting Rights Month".

S. RES. 832

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 832, a resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2024, as “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”, recognizing tens of thousands of families in the United States that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 836—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC RESTAURANT WEEK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC RESTAURANT OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES TO THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 836

Whereas Hispanic Restaurant Week is celebrated from September 22, 2024, through October 3, 2024, during the national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2024, through October 15, 2024;

Whereas, in 2020, the Bureau of the Census estimated that 41,817 owners of accommodation and food service businesses were Hispanic;

Whereas the restaurant industry plays a significant role in the economy of the United States as the second-largest private sector employer in the United States;

Whereas 25.9 percent of workers in the restaurant industry are Hispanic;

Whereas, according to a 2023 State of Latino Entrepreneurship report, published by the Stanford Graduate School of Business, during the last decade, Hispanic entrepreneurs have started small businesses, including restaurants, at a higher rate than any other demographic;

Whereas, of the nearly 5,000,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, the restaurant industry has the second highest number of Hispanic owners;

Whereas 8 in 10 restaurant owners started their restaurant industry careers in entry-level positions;

Whereas 63 percent of adults in the United States have worked in the restaurant industry, making it “the Nation’s training ground”;

Whereas the restaurant industry employs more minority managers than any other industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates Hispanic Restaurant Week; and

(2) acknowledges—

(A) the contributions of Hispanic owners and staff of the restaurant industry to the United States economy; and

(B) the fact that the restaurant industry provides restaurant owners, chefs, dishwashers, and other staff the opportunity to work hard, persevere, support their families, and live the American Dream.

SENATE RESOLUTION 837—AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE REFUSAL OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mr. SANDERS submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 837

Whereas the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate (referred to in this preamble as the “Committee”) is currently conducting a duly authorized investigation into the bankruptcy of Steward Health Care Systems LLC;

Whereas, on July 25, 2024, the Committee issued a duly authorized subpoena to Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care Systems LLC, directing him to testify before the Committee on September 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.;

Whereas, on September 4, 2024, counsel for Dr. de la Torre submitted to the Committee objections to the compelled testimony under the subpoena issued by the Committee and indicated Dr. de la Torre’s intent to decline to comply with the subpoena;

Whereas, having considered the legal objections that had been submitted by counsel for Dr. de la Torre, the Committee overruled those objections in their entirety on September 5, 2024, and ordered and directed that Dr. de la Torre comply with the subpoena issued by the Committee to testify at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2024; and

Whereas Dr. de la Torre has refused to comply with the subpoena by the Committee as ordered and directed by the Committee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That pursuant to sections 102 and 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192, 194), the President of the Senate shall certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, detailing the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care Systems LLC, to appear and testify before the Committee, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Dr. de la Torre be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 838—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 17, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING WARRIORS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO TRANSITION FROM THE BATTLEFIELD, ESPECIALLY PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER,

Mr. CRUZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 838

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces and veterans whose connection to one another is key to supporting the members of the Armed Forces and veterans in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty was 492 in 2022;

Whereas, in 2022, the total count of Armed Forces suicide deaths went down, but the overall rate of Armed Forces suicide deaths per 100,000 went up by 3 percent;

Whereas, in 2021, there were 6,392 veteran suicide deaths, and the unadjusted rate of suicide in 2021 among veterans was 33.9 per 100,000;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2021 was nearly 72 percent higher than the rate of suicide in non-veteran adults;

Whereas a greater number of veterans have died by suicide in the 10 years preceding the adoption of this resolution than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who die by suicide have had no known contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas a myriad of factors leads to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can present as or exacerbate mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 17, 2024, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 17, 2024, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces and veterans through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars that can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 839—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL STUDENT PARENT MONTH”

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 839

Whereas student parents are individuals who have children and who attend postsecondary educational institutions;

Whereas student parents make up roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the postsecondary student population, totaling nearly 4,000,000 individuals;

Whereas 70 percent of student parents are women, and 62 percent of student mothers are single parents;

Whereas 54 percent of single mothers who are enrolled at an institution of higher education work 20 hours or more per week and 43 percent work 30 hours or more per week, which requires those individuals to balance school, work, and caring for their dependents;

Whereas 51 percent of student parents are students of color, particularly female students of color, with mothers representing—

(1) 40 percent of Black postsecondary students;

(2) 36 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native postsecondary students;

(3) 35 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander postsecondary students; and

(4) 26 percent of Hispanic postsecondary students;

Whereas 47 percent of student parents are military-connected students;

Whereas approximately 813 surviving military spouses are using education benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for surviving dependents;

Whereas 84 percent of military spouses have some college education or credential and, on average, make 25 percent less than their civilian counterparts;

Whereas 42 percent of student parents attend community colleges and 30 percent attend public or private nonprofit 4-year institutions of higher education;

Whereas the cohort of single mothers currently enrolled in higher education will save approximately \$19,900,000,000 in public assistance spending;

Whereas 44 percent of student parents report food insecurity, and 60 percent report housing insecurity;

Whereas $\frac{3}{5}$ of student parents live at or near the poverty line and 52 percent of student parents are Federal Pell Grant recipients;

Whereas, on average, student parents have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers, but student parents are 10 times less likely to complete a bachelor's degree within 5 years than students without children;

Whereas a low-income student parent who earns a degree or credential boosts the income of that individual and the earning potential of the children of that individual when those children become adults; and

Whereas student parents are uniquely motivated to excel in their courses of study but often face challenges, including lack of affordable child care and balancing work responsibilities while attending postsecondary educational institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the contributions and achievements of student parents in seeking and completing a postsecondary education; and

(2) designates September 2024 as “National Student Parent Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 840—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 840

Whereas telehealth allows a health care practitioner to furnish health care services to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the health care practitioner;

Whereas telehealth played a significant role in supporting access to quality health care services for millions of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency and continues to be important beyond the end of the public health emergency;

Whereas Medicare beneficiaries used 88 times more telehealth services during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic than they did in the prior year;

Whereas 25 percent of Medicare beneficiaries received at least 1 telehealth service in 2023;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who received a telehealth service were satisfied with their experience;

Whereas, in 2023, telehealth was a routine health care modality with 13 percent of Medicare beneficiaries using telehealth in the last quarter of the calendar year;

Whereas telehealth is a common care modality for Medicare beneficiaries to receive behavioral health services, with half of common psychotherapy services furnished under the original Medicare fee-for-service program delivered by telehealth in 2022;

Whereas Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics use telehealth to deliver services to rural and underserved populations;

Whereas, following the unprecedented use of telehealth services in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, telehealth now represents a critical component of health care delivery;

Whereas legislative efforts to increase telehealth access have received bipartisan support in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to help improve access to health services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

Whereas “Telehealth Awareness Week” unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, health care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes the impact of telehealth in delivering health care services for patients across the United States; and

(3) urges that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness about the benefits of telehealth;

(B) highlight resources for health care providers and patients regarding telehealth;

(C) collect and analyze data on the impacts of telehealth; and

(D) promote continued access to telehealth for all communities and across settings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 841—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. GRAHAM)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 841

Whereas each year more than 14,500 children under the age of 19 in the United States are diagnosed with cancer;

Whereas every year more than 1,500 children in the United States lose their lives to cancer;

Whereas childhood cancer is the leading cause of death from disease after infancy and one of the leading causes of death overall for children in the United States;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for children with cancer in the United States has increased from 58 percent in the mid-1970s to 85 percent in 2024, representing a significant improvement from previous decades;

Whereas 60 to 90 percent of children in the United States who survive cancer will develop at least one chronic health condition, and some survivors may face a late effect from treatment that can be severe or life-threatening; and

Whereas childhood cancer occurs frequently and spares no racial or ethnic group, socioeconomic class, or geographic region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2024 as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) requests that the Federal Government, States, localities, and nonprofit organizations observe the month with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public knowledge of the risks of childhood cancer;

(3) encourages survivors of childhood cancer to continue to receive ongoing monitoring and care throughout their adult lives;

(4) recognizes the human toll of childhood cancer and pledges to make the prevention of and cure for childhood cancer a public health priority;

(5) reminds the people of the United States of the bravery of children who are diagnosed with cancer; and

(6) commends and honors the courage of such children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 842—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 20, 2024, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 842

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including from schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character, which are intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 20, 2024, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 843—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 843

Whereas in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401), a specific learning disability—

(1) is defined as a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations;

(2) includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia; and

(3) does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disabilities, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage;

Whereas a specific learning disability is the most prevalent disability of students who are served by parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), impacting 34 percent of all students who received special education services;

Whereas, for academic year 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that—

(1) more than 95 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in reading; and

(2) more than 93 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in math;

Whereas the math and reading scores reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress for academic year 2022 indicate that Black and Hispanic students with a specific learning disability experience greater opportunity gaps than White and Asian students;

Whereas research shows that students with specific learning disabilities can achieve success commensurate with their peers, if given appropriate instruction and support;

Whereas developmentally appropriate universal screening should begin as early as possible to assess which students demonstrate the most pervasive risk factors for specific learning disabilities; and

Whereas research rooted in the science of reading establishes an evidence base of effective instructional methods for developing reading skills for students with or at risk for specific learning disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month”; and

(2) calls on State and local education agencies to continue to meet the needs of students with specific learning disabilities through a free and appropriate public education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 844—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 844

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exon-

eration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;”;

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

“(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

“(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

“(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

“(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following law clerks and fellows to the Senate Judiciary Committee be granted floor privileges until September 28, 2024: Simone Montgomery, Isha Sharma, Kenneth Mok, and Charles Alldredge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 838, S. Res. 839, S. Res. 840, S. Res. 841, S. Res. 842, S. Res. 843, S. Res. 844.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Sfraga nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Sfraga nomination ripen at 12 noon; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture has been invoked on the Sfraga nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555, ripen upon the disposition of the Sfraga nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 23, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ROSE E. JENKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for four Roll Call votes in the House on Friday, September 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 436, Motion to Recommit H.R. 5717; NAY on Roll Call No. 437, Passage of H.R. 5717; NAY on Roll Call No. 438, Passage of H.J. Res. 136; and YEA on Roll Call No. 439, Passage of H.R. 9106.

HONORING JAN MARTINSON

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize someone who has been an important part of the Phoenix West Valley for many years, Jan Martinson.

As former President of the Sun City West Republican Club and a longtime political activist, Jan has been instrumental to the success of the West Valley.

As a leader, Jan has been an advocate for educating community members on their civic duties and supporting Republicans and their beliefs. Jan's efforts have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and the State of Arizona.

I am thankful for Jan's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was unable to be in D.C. on Thursday, September 19, 2024, and on Friday, September 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 432, H.R. 3724, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 433, H.R. 3724, the Accreditation for College Excellence Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 434, H.R. 4790, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 435, H.R. 4790, the GUARDRAIL Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 436, H.R. 5717, On motion to recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 437, H.R. 5717, the Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 438, H.J. Res. 136, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted

by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Year 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles," and YEA on Roll Call No. 439, H.R. 9106, the Enhanced Presidential Security Act.

RECOGNIZING JAVIER CUEBAS

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the exemplary leadership and community service demonstrated by Javier Cuebas. He has dedicated over two decades to community advocacy, public service, and the empowerment of underrepresented voices. His advocacy and public service have earned him the prestigious Commitment to Service and Leadership Award from the Friends of Puerto Rico organization.

Mr. Cuebas served as the National Latino Advisor for President Biden's campaign during the 2020 election. He played a vital role in launching a comprehensive and culturally competent outreach campaign aimed at securing Puerto Rican votes. As chair of Grupo 21, Mr. Cuebas championed the increased diversity in the Federal Government's executive branch, presenting over 200 candidates to the current administration and mobilizing national support for Senate confirmations. His work has uplifted individuals who had not been included in the political process.

Throughout his career, Mr. Cuebas has advised various government agencies and non-profit organizations including the COVID response and the National Institute for Drug Abuse, helping to address issues ranging from Environmental Justice to treatment of migrants at the border. His portfolio is astonishing and always focuses on supporting people.

Javier Cuebas has contributed to so many through his work on Capitol Hill, assistance in three presidential elections, and his work as a bilingual spokesperson and political commentator. His work exemplifies the spirit of advocacy and commitment that uplifts our society. I want to say thank you to Mr. Cuebas and I look forward to his many future successes.

HONORING MY GRANDCHILDREN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, as my time in the U.S. House of Representatives is coming to an end, I want to recognize my grandchildren. After six years in Congress, I have decided to return home to Arizona to spend more time with my husband, my 95-year-old mother, my sister, my brother, my three chil-

dren, and my five grandchildren. I am very blessed that they all live within a 20-minute drive from my home.

My oldest grandchild, Jeremiah Stelp, age 14, loves to play football. He now plays on the high school football team. Jeremiah excels in school and helps his mom around the house.

Malachi Stelp, age 11, loves Anime and driving off-road on his quad. He also helps his mom with chores around the house.

Ellie Lesko, age 5, is so cute. She has blonde hair and rosy cheeks and loves everything about Spiderman, including toys, backpacks, shoes, and clothes.

Brandon Stelp, Jr., age 4, comes running up to me and hugs me with a big smile that melts my heart. He loves his mud trucks and has a great imagination.

Grace Stelp, age 2, loves wearing dresses, changes her clothes multiple times a day, has curly long locks of hair and has a feisty attitude.

After my son, Joey Lesko, marries Cherie Arel in October 2024, I will have an additional official granddaughter, Scarlett, who is Cherie's daughter. Scarlett is full of energy and life and I'm looking forward to her officially joining our family.

I have been blessed with a wonderful family. May God continue to bless each and every one of us for years to come.

HONORING PROFESSOR GREGORY KASTER

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Professor Gregory Lawrence Kaster. Professor Kaster was a beloved educator and community member, who left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

A Chicago Native, Professor Kaster attended Northern Illinois University in Park Forest, Illinois to earn his Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees, then earned his doctorate from Boston University. While there he met his best friend and soon to be wife, Kate Wittenstein, with whom he would have celebrated 40 years of marriage this fall.

Greg and Kate had a shared passion for Liberal Arts and lifelong dedication to making the world a better place. In 1986, they both became professors in the History Department at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Together they helped to develop the History Department into what it is today, and Professor Kaster would teach there for the rest of his life.

Professor Kaster had many teaching and research interests, including the history of labor, the 1960s, masculinity in America, abolitionism, the Civil War, dissent, and many more. In 2018, he received the Edgar M. Carlson Award—the College's highest teaching honor. He was also the inaugural holder of the

• 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.

James and Patricia McPherson Endowed Professor of American History position from 2019 to 2023. Throughout his distinguished tenure, he was known as a trusted advocate, mentor, and friend to students and faculty alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Professor Kaster. His powerful legacy will live on through his loved ones and the generations of students whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF
CENTRAL OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Korean, Vietnam, and WWII War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who are visiting their memorials on the WWII Memorial through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon. When I have the opportunity to meet these heroes, I am reminded of President Ronald Reagan's words: "The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave." Our veterans embody this spirit, having fought valiantly in Korea, Vietnam, and WWII to preserve the freedoms we hold dear. Their courage and dedication REMIND us that the price of liberty is always worth paying. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: George Adams, Valton Albert, Donald Bemis, Michael Donnelly, Charles Hagadone, William Hagadone, Kenneth Hart, Joseph Hironaka, Joseph R. Hironaka, Robert Houk, Neil Hummel, Paul Lofland, Katherine Berg, Matthew Markovic, Kevin Maher, Melvin Mook, Kevin Krieger, Thomas O'Neil, Richard Patten, Robert Penney, James SantaMaria, Michael Shellito, Robert Smith, William Smith, Keith Elzner, Larry Stoke, Steven Strable, Robert Verlezza, Duane Whitehead. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, President Harry S. Truman once stated, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and every citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily faced danger and adversity to preserve our country and way of life. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY CARMEN CANTOR

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding service and

leadership of Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor. With over three decades of commitment to public service, she has made significant contributions to U.S. territories and the international community as a whole. Her work as Assistant Secretary has earned the prestigious Commitment to Service and Leadership Award from the Friends of Puerto Rico organization.

Ms. Cantor's career has spanned across the federal government where she succeeded at every stop. She worked as an executive within multiple bureaus of the State Department. She also held significant positions such as Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the Foreign Agricultural Service and Director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Federal Maritime Commission, where she championed equal rights and opportunities.

Currently, Ms. Cantor works as the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs. She carries out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for U.S. territories, administers federal assistance under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), and oversees international engagement, thereby advancing the Department of the Interior's mission and U.S. foreign policy.

Assistant Secretary Cantor was born in Puerto Rico and raised in the city of Mayagüez, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, embodying the values of education and perseverance.

I want to thank Assistant Secretary Cantor for her tremendous dedication to public service. I look forward to watching her continued success.

HONORING ALEXANDER KOLODIN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Alexander Kolodin from Legislative District 3, covering the north and east valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Alexander is a phenomenal attorney and a staunch conservative. Since joining the Arizona Legislature in January 2023, Representative Kolodin has worked to influence and pass policies that benefit his constituents, while remaining absolutely true to his conservative values. He was extremely instrumental in helping the Rio Verde Foothills community regain a critical water supply in 2023, laboring across both sides of the aisle to find a successful solution.

Representative Kolodin has also sought to work on proposals to strengthen the state's election laws to help restore trust in our systems. He is a member of the Arizona Freedom Caucus, helping to ensure that conservative policies and processes are prioritized.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Kolodin's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SANTA
CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF-CORONER
JIM HART

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant for his superb service to the people of Santa Cruz County, California, Sheriff-Coroner Jim Hart.

A native of Scotts Valley, Jim Hart has served our community with the County Sheriff's office for 36 years, beginning as a Deputy in October, 1988. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1998; to Lieutenant in 2006; became Chief Deputy of Corrections in 2011; and was elected Sheriff-Coroner in 2014. On August 7, 2024, he announced that he will retire on December 6, 2024.

Sheriff Hart proclaims Santa Cruz County as a wonderful place to live and work and says he wouldn't trade his career as Sheriff for any other, calling it an honor and privilege to serve. During his tenure, his leadership brought us through many difficult times including the CZU Fire, the COVID-19 pandemic, the killing of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller and the protests following the killing of George Floyd. He served at the onset of the fentanyl crisis and formed a team to respond to it, and he instituted community policing in the County, advocated for bail reform and supported immigrant communities.

When Sheriff Hart saw the U.S. Capitol being attacked on January 6, 2021, he called me to make sure I was safe, bringing me great comfort as I was hiding with colleagues on that fateful day. I will never forget his kind words.

Sheriff Hart and his wife Jackie are the proud parents of four children: Samantha, Elle, Nadene and Noah. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno and has been an adjunct faculty member at Cabrillo College and Bethany University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring this great man of enormous integrity and professionalism and wish him every blessing in his retirement. We are a better community and a stronger country because of Sheriff Hart's leadership, making him a national treasure.

CELEBRATING THE URBAN
LEAGUE OF UNION COUNTY'S
80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate the Urban League of Union County on their 80th Anniversary. Since 1944, the Urban League has worked in Union County to assist African Americans and other underserved communities in achieving social and economic equality by providing education, housing, health services, and promoting economic self-reliance and civil rights. By working to ensure the success of individuals and families in Union County, the Urban League is truly working to

make New Jersey's 7th Congressional District a better place. I am honored to have such an amazing organization in the 7th District, and I look forward to seeing what they will continue to achieve in the future.

CELEBRATING NEON

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable achievement of the Northside Economic Opportunity Network as they break ground on their Food Entrepreneur Collective Kitchen.

NEON is an invaluable nonprofit in my district that fosters local entrepreneurship to help open and support small businesses in North Minneapolis.

North Minneapolis is a vibrant, diverse community full of drive and creativity—including aspiring small business owners striving to serve their neighborhoods. Due to historic disinvestment, it is also one of the Nation's most severe food deserts. NEON's transformative project will help to address both concerns.

Almost half of NEON's 1,000+ clients are food entrepreneurs, each of whom face the significant barrier of the Northside's lack of a commercial kitchen to grow their business. Thanks to NEON, this will no longer be the case. Their Food Business Incubator will be more than a commercial kitchen—it will provide an innovative, collaborative venue for these Northside entrepreneurs to start, thrive, and grow their business ventures. And, it will create an environment for a new generation of Northside entrepreneurs to give back to their community.

Team NEON, under Warren McLean's steadfast leadership, has worked tirelessly to make the dream of this Northside commercial kitchen a reality. I am immensely proud to have played a role in this amazing project by providing my first Community Project Funding award for \$1,000,000 for this project. Ever since, NEON has been a shining example of what these awards can accomplish and their immeasurable impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating NEON on this momentous occasion. Congratulations to Team NEON.

RECOGNIZING JULIO ROLDÁN
CONCEPCIÓN

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Julio Roldán Concepción, the Mayor of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. His leadership these last four years has helped to grow and improve Aguadilla for all members of the community. His and his Administration's hard work helped Aguadilla to earn the Beacon of Economic Growth Award, presented by the Friends of Puerto Rico Organization.

Prior to his mayorship, Mr. Roldán spent his time helping and protecting his community. After high school, the Mayor joined the na-

tional guard to serve his country and community. Shortly after this, Mr. Roldán worked as a corrections officer to uphold the law in society.

In addition to his work in the armed services and corrections, Mr. Roldán worked as an insurance broker assisting individuals understand and navigate the difficulties of the insurance industry. He eventually opened his own general agency where he even assisted individuals over the radio.

One of Mayor Roldán's crowning achievements prior to his mayoral position was his assistance in Aguadilla's 2017 recovery efforts. In September of 2017 he carried out the distribution of more than 45,000 pounds of essential supplies to families and communities. After talking to and touring communities, Mr. Roldán announced his run for mayor in 2020.

I want to thank Mayor Roldán for his lifetime of hard work, and for his work the past four years for the people of Aguadilla. Furthermore, I want to honor the city of Aguadilla's 250th year and look forward to seeing their continued growth.

HONORING GINA MALONEY

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Gina Maloney, Chairwoman of Republican Legislative District 5. District 5 includes the eastern most part of the 8th Congressional District and a population of over 239,000.

Gina has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for her leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF
SOUTHERN OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Korean, Vietnam, and WWII War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who are visiting their memorials on the Capitol Plaza through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon. When I have the opportunity to meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of President Ronald Reagan, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." Our veterans embody this spirit, having fought valiantly in Korea, Vietnam, and WWII to preserve the freedoms we hold dear. Their courage and dedication remind us that the price of liberty is always worth paying. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth Amburn, Jack Crockett, Jack Fitzgerald, Ronald Greene, Michael Grover, Roger Heegard, Ronald Hemphill, Gary Hoffman, Freddy Humble, Kevin Johnson, Wayne Kleckner, Richard Little Jr., Kenneth Marvin, Terry Moore, Gerald Newcomb, Terry Peariso, Ray Rose, David Schwab, Colben Keith Sime Jr., Jack war"Smith, Robert Stangier, Gregory Storey, Dale Vincent, Richard Vowell, William Wilde, Curtis Williams, David Young, Steven Eggert, Nathan Greene, Shasta Little, Kevin Pierson, Roy Starbeck, and Israel Wallace, Tyr Symank, Robert Symank. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, General Douglas MacArthur once said, "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and every citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily faced danger and adversity to preserve our country and way of life. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASADENA LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is proudly held in Pasadena, Texas.

The Pasadena Rodeo began in 1949 to commemorate the city's farming and ranching roots as heavy industry began to replace farmland. Its founders' goal was to unite the growing city, offer opportunities for local youth, and illustrate how the business community, the cowboy, and rural lifestyles could come together in harmony. An important rodeo component was, and still is, promoting the values of being a cowgirl or cowboy: following through on one's commitments, setting goals, and achieving those goals both personally and professionally.

For 75 years, attending the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo has been a tradition for many families and businesses across the region. It continues to exhibit and pay tribute to the community's deep ties to its agricultural history and rich cowboy culture. Its livestock show now includes the Deer Park, La Porte, League City, and Pasadena school districts, with 12 high schools participating and hundreds of students packing the Ag Barn and exhibition spaces to showcase animals and projects. It has also grown to include an annual livestock auction, parades, carnivals, fairs, barbeque competitions, and several other events for thousands of visitors to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely congratulate everyone involved in the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo, both past and present, for 75 years of success. May God continue to bless the people of Pasadena and the Pasadena Rodeo for many decades to come.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
CINDY H. HAYGOOD

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment and service of Brigadier General Cindy H. Haygood and her 36 years of service to the Louisiana National Guard. Brigadier General Haygood first joined the National Guard in 1988 and was commissioned in 1994 through the State Officer Candidate School of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Throughout her involvement in the Louisiana National Guard, Brigadier General Haygood has never shied away from an opportunity to serve. Brigadier General Haygood not only assisted in mobilization efforts for four major military operations, but she also simultaneously served as the Deputy Director of the Louisiana Military Department and the Assistant Adjutant General.

BG Haygood was also a trusted member of our state and local community, and she was on speed dial during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, Brigadier General Haygood assisted many agencies in crisis management planning, and under her leadership the Louisiana National Guard was able to save lives and ensure public safety in Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana and our Nation have benefitted from Brigadier General Haygood's contributions, and we, along with her family, Bill, Madeline, and Lauren, are grateful for everything she has done. I thank Brigadier General Haygood.

HONORING FRANK STEELE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Frank Steele, Chairman of Republican Legislative District 24. This district is in the southeastern portion of the 8th Congressional District, encompassing areas of Peoria, Glendale, and Phoenix. The district has a population of over 234,000.

As Chairman, Frank is a leader willing to work tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. His role is critical to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for his leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF SUSAN
ROWE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the indomitable spirit and extraordinary life of Susan Rowe; a true icon whose legacy transcends the ordinary.

Born on February 20, 1956, to Jo Ann and John Warren Smith, Susan was not just a woman; she was a force of political activism and civic engagement, embodying the essence of California's Democratic traditions.

Raised in Anderson, Indiana, Susan lived through her passion for singing and dancing in plays and musicals. After graduation from Anderson High School in 1974, Susan attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana where she was a ballet major and a member of Alpha Phi sorority. Susan attended both high school and college with her eventual husband Michael Rowe. Susan and Mike were married on June 25, 1983, at St. Mary's Church in Anderson Indiana. Their love would endure for many years to come.

Although Susan spent a significant portion of her life in the Hoosier state, she managed to make a major impact as a Central Californian who changed a countless number of lives.

Susan honorably advocated for and served the people of the Central Valley for twenty years as a dedicated and relentless grassroots volunteer for the California Democratic Party. She was a tireless champion of democracy in which she contributed greatly by getting out the vote, promoting voter registration, and encouraging and recruiting candidates to run for public office.

For her efforts, Susan was rightfully recognized in 2004 and in 2015 when she was twice awarded the CDP Regional Volunteer of the Year Award. Her work and leadership skills were recognized as she served honorably in several leadership positions. She was elected to a two-year term in 2007-08 as Regional Director of Region 8 of the statewide party. Beginning in 2005 and until her passing she served as the chair of the Madera County Democratic Central Committee and also served multiple terms as the Vice-Chair of the Rural Caucus of the California Democratic Party. Additionally, Susan promoted political freedoms and activities as evident in her co-founding of the California Latina Democrats in Fresno.

In Susan's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced activism, supported the democratic process, and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her family: her husband Michael Rowe and her brother Carlton B. Smith of Indianapolis. May we draw inspiration from Susan Rowe's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Susan Rowe, a true Californian and inspiration to the Central Valley.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE
CHOTVACS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Marie Chotvacs, who has selflessly served the United States, most prominently on the House Committee on Appropriations, for nearly 23 years. Her commitment to our country has benefited Congress tremendously, and her dedication to service has set an example for generations to come.

Anne Marie entered federal service through a highly competitive Presidential Management Intern program at the U.S. Department of Commerce. There, she reviewed budget and policy proposals, served as a liaison to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, and prepared briefings, testimony, and talking points for senior Department officials.

While at the Commerce Department, she was detailed to the Office of Management and Budget during the development of the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2002 and the House Committee on Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations process. What she didn't realize at the time was that the latter detail would pave the way for a successful career on the most powerful committee in Congress.

In March of 2004, Anne Marie officially joined the House Committee on Appropriations as a Professional Staff Member, working for a handful of subcommittees. Just a few years later, I was named the Lead Republican of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Anne Marie's drive and hard work earned her the position of Minority Clerk for the Subcommittee, which is where I really got to know Anne Marie. In 2015, I had the honor of becoming the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Given her foreign policy expertise, it was a natural transition for Anne Marie as she continued as the lead policy staffer for the Subcommittee, ultimately becoming the Staff Director and Majority Clerk.

Serving on such a wide-ranging, impactful subcommittee, she knew it was important to conduct strict oversight of foreign programs and initiatives and made it a point to travel to all continents and more than 50 countries, ensuring taxpayer resources were being utilized responsibly and as intended by Congress. During her time on the Subcommittee, she was named in the National Journal's "Five Staffers to Watch on Foreign Aid," a befitting accolade.

After more than 12 years with the House Committee on Appropriations, Anne Marie had the opportunity to leave the federal government and work as the Senior Director of International Operations and Policy for The Boeing Company, managing a team representing the company's international commercial and defense business interests.

When I was elected by my colleagues to be the Lead Republican of the House Committee on Appropriations for the 116th Congress, I knew immediately I wanted Anne Marie to be the Minority Staff Director, the top Republican staffer for the Committee. In this well-deserved

role, she counseled Members of Congress on more than \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding and drove legislative outcomes by coordinating across 12 subcommittees. It is no secret that the 116th and 117th Congresses were full of unprecedented events, and as expected, Anne Marie remained a steady force, navigating through the longest government shutdown in history and the COVID pandemic. She was once again acknowledged for her outstanding work in 2019 when she was named in "Key Players for the Fall Season" by Congressional Quarterly.

When Republicans gained the Majority for the 118th Congress, Anne Marie was elevated to Clerk and Staff Director of the Full Committee, where she led a team of more than 100 staff working with Members of Congress, Executive Branch agencies, foreign governments, and external stakeholders to develop appropriations legislation. In a particularly tense Congress, I know we wouldn't have accomplished what we did without her work as Clerk and Staff Director. She navigated one of the most difficult appropriations processes in recent history, finding common ground on controversial issues and winning key Republican priorities in the final Fiscal Year 2024 bills.

Anne Marie's breadth of experience is a rare find on Capitol Hill, having had a hand to completing 20 appropriations cycles. She rose through the ranks from Agency Detailee to Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee Majority and Minority Clerk, Minority Staff Director, and finally to Full Committee Clerk and Staff Director. Anne Marie has been an exceptional leader—her reputation and experience are unmatched.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Anne Marie as she leaves the halls of Congress. While she departs with a successful career on the Hill behind her, I know she won't stop achieving great things, and I am excited to see all that she accomplishes in her next chapter. I wish the best to Anne Marie, her husband Chuck, and her son Charlie, who will be turning three this December. Anne Marie will be incredibly missed in Congress—especially by me, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VIORENE
WOMACK

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Viorene Womack, a remarkable member of our community who spent decades tirelessly volunteering and donating her time to help those around her.

After moving to the South Sound in 1960, Mrs. Womack joined the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Tacoma, where she served as a Sunday School Teacher, President of the Young Women's Christian Council, Church Secretary, and was honored as 'Mother of the Year' in 1975.

Mrs. Womack volunteered for 15 years with El Shaddai Christian Ministries' Food Bank, ensuring families in need had food for their tables, and served as both president and vice-president of COGIC's Executive Hospitality Board. In 2008, she received the Lifetime

Achievement Award from COGIC in Lakewood, WA.

Mrs. Womack was deeply committed to the children of this community, being a foster parent to more than 20 children in Pierce County, Washington.

Although she passed away this past month, those of us who were fortunate to know her will always remember the time and energy she dedicated to her community. I am grateful to not only have known Viorene, but to have had the honor of calling her a friend.

HONORING FRANK CARROLL

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Senator Frank Carroll from Legislative District 28, covering the northwest valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Before his service in the Arizona Legislature, Frank was a hardworking grassroots advocate for the west valley, ensuring that likeminded elected officials received support and that men and women on the ground had ample opportunity to petition their government.

Since entering office in 2019, Senator Carroll has fought for conservative values and common-sense solutions for his constituents. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the Transportation, Technology and Missing Children Committee, and a member of the Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee.

Senator Carroll is a strong proponent of economic prosperity, border security, election integrity, consumer choice, the Second Amendment, and life.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Senator Carroll's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HEARNE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Walter Hearne on the occasion of his retirement from Federal service. For the last 22 years, Walter has served the United States House of Representatives, and more specifically the House Committee on Appropriations, in an exemplary and dedicated fashion as a professional staff member.

His long and impactful career began after completing study at James Madison University where Walter completed his undergraduate degree magna cum laude with distinction followed by a Master of Public Administration. It was clear from the beginning that Walter would excel in whatever he attempted.

Walter began his career on Capitol Hill as a staff assistant on the Senate Budget Committee, where he led several special research projects for the staff director, including on reform issues associated with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and the Vice President's budget proposals during the 2000

presidential campaign. He also had his first taste of the Federal budget process by assisting with the development and enactment of the fiscal year 2002 budget resolution.

I like to think that dabbling with a budget resolution piqued Walter's interest in the business of appropriations, but however it came to pass, in mid-2002, Walter joined the House Appropriations Committee as a professional staff member on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee and later on the Transportation and Treasury Subcommittee. One can tell Walter has served the Committee for a long time because neither of these subcommittees exist today in this composition.

After cutting his appropriations teeth by reviewing budget requests of organizations such as the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Federal Election Commission, and the Office of Personnel Management, Walter was asked to join the staff of the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs Subcommittee. For the next 7 years, Walter would shepherd the enactment of 14 appropriations bills, including supplemental bills for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and national emergencies, as well as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Further, Walter was instrumental in enabling the Chairman of the Subcommittee to successfully implement major military construction initiatives to provide billions of dollars in increased funding to improve quality of life for troops and their families, such as new child development centers, medical facilities, and unaccompanied housing, as well as additional funding for the National Guard and Reserves.

In 2011, Walter brought his discerning eye and unflappable demeanor to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, where he would stay until the end of his service to our nation. Over the following 14 years, Walter would consistently prove to be a tremendous source of knowledge to the chairs of the Subcommittee, the numerous defense clerks, and his staff colleagues alike. Walter had a major role in the enactment of 15 appropriations bills, while serving as the lead staffer on Air Force issues during a critical period of modernization that included research, development, and procurement of systems such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, B-21 bomber, Sentinel, KC-46 tanker, and numerous classified programs. He later took on a larger role in the Subcommittee's oversight of the Intelligence Community. In addition to Walter's consistent and valuable informal leadership, the Committee tapped him to assume the Subcommittee staff director and clerk responsibilities under emergency circumstances. In this capacity, Walter successfully guided the Subcommittee through House floor debate and passage of the 2018 Defense Appropriations Act.

Throughout his storied career, Walter has been a trusted advisor to the Members of the Committee on both sides of the aisle. On a personal note, I am grateful for his counsel as the Subcommittee navigates a challenging period for the defense and security of our Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Walter for his service to our country and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ANNABETH SURBAUGH

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Annabeth Surbaugh. Throughout her career, Annabeth was a pioneer in Johnson County, Kansas. A community leader and trailblazer for women, Annabeth changed the way county governments were structured across the state of Kansas and was a standard-bearer for everyone who followed in her footsteps.

Annabeth's community-building began early in life at McCluer High School in Florissant, Missouri, where she created a Welcoming Committee to help fellow students adjust to the challenges of starting at a new school. She continued her education at The University of Missouri, Columbia, earning a bachelor's degree in retailing. After graduating from college, Annabeth moved to Johnson County, Kansas to start her family. She stayed home with her children for more than 10 years before starting her own business, an interior design firm.

Her career in public service began with her work preserving historic neighborhoods and ensuring her local fire department had access to enough water to keep her community safe. In 1988, Annabeth was elected to the Rural Water Board No. 2 of Johnson County, becoming the first woman to hold that position. Later, she led the merger of that water board with the larger Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, improving the reliability of her community's water supply. Shortly thereafter, she would become the first woman to chair the newly consolidated WaterOne Board.

In 1992, Annabeth won a seat on the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, on which she served for 18 years. In office, she led the effort for government reform, including the creation of the first county charter in the state of Kansas. With a county charter in place, positions such as county treasurer and county clerk became appointed rather than elected, and county commissioner elections became non-partisan. The charter also changed the position of commission chair to be publicly elected instead of rotated among the members. In 2002, Annabeth was elected the first county-wide elected chair.

Annabeth didn't stop with government reform. Her accomplishments on the Johnson County Commission also included championing for increased energy efficiency in development projects, opposing the creation of an unpopular beltway in the county, and creating a criminal legal council to determine the root causes of behavior that leads to incarceration and provide alternative solutions to traditional incarceration. Annabeth cared about everyone, and she fought for everyone.

Annabeth Surbaugh passed away on August 28, 2024, surrounded by her friends and family. She leaves behind a legacy that has shaped the subsequent leaders of Johnson County and the community activists that have followed in her footsteps.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for Annabeth Surbaugh and her lifetime of public service and advocacy. She set the standard for what

a citizen activist and public servant should be, and we can all learn from her exemplary life.

RECOGNIZING CHAPEL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to recognize Chapel Hill Elementary School in Perry Hall, Maryland for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024 by the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon School award validates and celebrates the hard work of students, educators and families, among others, that strive everyday to achieve exemplary academic excellence. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole, is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Chapel Hill Elementary has been selected as part of a small group of 356 public and private schools across the United States as a result of their hard work and dedication to its students.

I congratulate Principal Nancy Hill, the wonderful teachers, educators and staff, as well as the dedicated students and families at Chapel Hill Elementary for this great achievement.

HONORING CANDACE CZARNY

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Candace Czarny. Candace is a leader in the Republican Legislative District 3, which includes the northern most areas of the 8th Congressional District and a population of over 236,000.

Candace has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for her leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT NEWLEN'S DEDICATION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, since July 3, 2023, Robert R. Newlen has faithfully served as Interim Director of the Congressional Research

Service (CRS). Today, I want to recognize Newlen for his exemplary service and leadership during this time. Newlen has been an excellent partner to Congress and a laudable leader of CRS.

Newlen has had a long career of public service and as a servant to Congress. Newlen served at the Library of Congress for 42 years, including serving as the Deputy Librarian of Congress. Newlen served within CRS from 1975 until 2010, starting as a temporary clerk and rising to multiple senior leadership positions including Assistant Director of Knowledge Services Group. In 2017, Newlen left the Library of Congress as the Deputy Librarian of Congress. Before agreeing to serve as Interim Director, Newlen was the Executive Director and Director of Strategic Initiatives of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation in Phoenix, Arizona.

CRS serves as an essential resource that strengthens our capacity to legislate every day. Yet CRS is beset by many of the challenges that have risen in today's diverse and complex media and information environment.

As Interim Director, Newlen acted as a perceptive leader who was quick to identify the challenges that the agency faces and was responsive in his immediate work to address them. From day one, Newlen recognized the need for robust leadership and effective communication throughout the agency. To that end, we have witnessed Newlen's efforts to empower CRS experts and incorporate the feedback and perspectives of every employee of the agency. Newlen recognized the information technology challenges that CRS faces and has diligently partnered with key stakeholders to effectively address these challenges.

Newlen's leadership during this time has been essential to turn the agency to face the modern needs and challenges of Congress. He has been a transparent and collaborative partner to me, Congresswoman BICE, the Committee, and to Congress.

I want to express my gratitude that Newlen has agreed to temporarily continue his service to this institution as an advisor to the new Director, Karen Donfried to support and assist her in her new role.

While more work remains to improve and modernize the Congressional Research Service, we are appreciative of Interim Director Newlen's efforts.

On behalf of the Committee on House Administration: Robert Newlen, we thank him for his service to improving Congress.

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding foreign policy, border security and small businesses.

DEAR FRIEND, Three years ago, 13 U.S. servicemembers were killed in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the final days of the Afghanistan withdrawal.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs recently released the report on its investigation of during and after the rushed withdrawal, "Willful Blindness: An Assessment of the Biden-Harris Administration's Withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Chaos that Followed."

The committee found that the Biden-Harris administration was determined to withdraw from Afghanistan no matter the costs, prioritizing the optics of the withdrawal over the security of U.S. personnel and failing to plan for all contingencies.

The administration's hasty decisions and disregard for U.S. personnel on the ground during the withdrawal led to the deaths of 13 of our military members by a terrorist attack on Aug. 26, 2021, the deadliest day for our military in Afghanistan since 2012.

This catastrophic withdrawal not only resulted in the deaths of our servicemembers, it has also weakened U.S. national security, with Afghanistan once again becoming a haven for terrorists, and has damaged U.S. credibility on the world stage after abandoning our Afghan allies to Taliban revenge killings.

This tragedy was preventable, and the Biden-Harris administration has yet to take accountability for its failures or even meet with the Gold Star families of our fallen soldiers. Americans will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made in defense of our nation by:

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, from Salt Lake City, Utah

Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, from Lawrence, Massachusetts

Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, from Sacramento, California

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, from Indio, California

Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, from Omaha, Nebraska

Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, from Logansport, Indiana

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, from Rio Bravo, Texas

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, from St. Charles, Missouri

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, from Jackson, Wyoming

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, from Rancho Cucamonga, California

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, from Norco, California

Navy Hospitalman Maxton W. Sowiak, 22, from Berlin Heights, Ohio

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, from Corryton, Tennessee

STANDING UP TO COMMUNIST CHINA

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) represents the greatest threat to American values and national security in our lifetime, and we must counter the CCP's efforts to gain leverage over our nation and beyond. President Xi Jinping has gone so far as to say that he will do whatever it takes to bring Taiwan under his control, including through military force.

From securing our supply chains and protecting American technology to defending American biosecurity and drug manufacturing, the nearly three dozen bills that the House advanced are a step toward reducing China's leverage over the U.S. and strengthening U.S. dominance.

Just one of the bills that I am co-sponsoring and voted for that would directly affect Western North Carolina is the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act, which amends the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to be included on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for agriculture-related issues. It also requires CFIUS to review

and potentially block purchases of farmland by foreign adversaries that pose a national security risk.

We cannot allow enemies of the U.S. to buy up America's farmland, which poses a food and national security threat, and I will continue to work with the House to combat the CCP's aggression here at home and overseas.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S "AMERICA LAST" FOREIGN POLICY

Over the past three and a half years, the Biden-Harris administration's policies have put Americans last, diminishing our national security and draining hard-working Western North Carolinians' hard-earned savings.

This administration's failed policies have caused sky-high inflation, record-high gas prices and an unprecedented invasion of our borders.

During my district work period, constituent after constituent—including many small-business owners—have shared about the effects of high prices on running a business.

Meanwhile, thousands of illegal immigrants continue to flood our borders, endangering the safety and well-being of every American.

The radical, sanctuary-city policies are incentivizing illegal immigration, and your hard-earned tax dollars should not be used to serve illegal immigrants and further signal to the world that America's borders are open.

To reverse such harmful policies that are rewarding illegal immigration and to protect women from sex offenders and abusers, I voted for the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act and the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act and will continue to push for policies that serve the best interests of our citizens and nation.

CHAMPIONING MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

The National Federation of Independent Business is a voice for small businesses across our nation, and I'm grateful to have been selected for this year's Small Business Guardian Award.

As someone whose background is in business, I understand the challenges that Main Street faces, including heavy-handed government regulations. We need more pro-growth, pro-small-business policies so that small businesses can thrive and create jobs.

WELCOMING WNC CHAMBER MEMBERS TO DC

It was a privilege to welcome members of WNC Chambers of Commerce for their retreat during which they focused on problem-solving and opportunities to improve workforce development and local economies.

America's risk takers and job creators have long been under attack from Washington, and I'm striving to reduce regulations, create a better tax climate, and help develop a workforce that provides opportunity and fuels our economy by fixing how Washington works.

With my warmest regards,

CHAD EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted NAY on Roll Call No. 429. I intended to vote YEA.

HONORING BOB GOMEZ

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Bob Gomez. Bob is a leader in Republican Legislative District 3, which includes the northern most areas of the 8th Congressional District and a population of over 236,000.

Bob has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. His efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for his leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 135 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Hanover volunteer Fire Department of Hanover, Illinois for celebrating their 135th anniversary.

In the 1800's, Hanover's fire protection was virtually non-existent. The Hanover community rallied together to organize a fire company and purchased a Button hand fire engine in the summer of 1889. Later in 1890, a 414-pound fire alarm bell was gifted to the fire company by the ladies of Hanover and a tower was built on the North side of the town hall to house it.

On January 29, 1924, a new volunteer fire company was organized by twenty-two men. In the summer of 1942, the War Public Works Fire Station was built and was used by the Hanover Fire Department until another building, located at 201 Fillmore Street, was completed in 1970. The Hanover Fire Department remains at that Fillmore Street location to this day.

The illustrious history of the Hanover Fire Department is a testament to the strong spirit of community present in Illinois and demonstrates the importance of first responders and their service. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to support Illinois communities like Hanover and their emergency first responders who honorably serve their communities.

For 135 years, the Hanover Fire Department has served the residents of Hanover and Hanover Township and is possibly the oldest and largest volunteer fire department in Illinois. Today, we celebrate the Department and commend its multitude of volunteer fire fighters for their dedication to Hanover. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Hanover Volunteer Fire Department of Illinois for a successful 135 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF MARGARITA GONZALEZ

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Margarita Gonzalez, a Tampa trailblazer and outspoken advocate for our diverse Hispanic community. Margarita served the City of Tampa for nearly 30 years as the City's first Hispanic community liaison and in other important roles Margarita was a beloved champion for Tampa's Hispanic families and small business owners, and she leaves behind a vibrant legacy that will support Tampeños for decades to come.

Margarita and her family fled Cuba and arrived in Florida on July 4, 1966. At age 12, she was one of the first Cuban refugee students in the Hillsborough County Schools. She always knew the importance of education, and despite not knowing any English, she was motivated to work hard, learn English and get involved in school activities.

After graduating from Leto High School, Margarita began working on her bachelor's degree at Hillsborough Community College. For the next 13 years, Margarita attended college classes while juggling full-time jobs. She never gave up on her studies because she personally understood the irreplaceable value of an education. "After losing everything, I realized that a person's biggest asset is their education," said Gonzalez. "Knowledge and skills cannot be taken away from you."

She worked for the Tampa Port Authority and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and continued her education by completing a bachelor's degree in public relations and communications from the University of South Florida. In 1987, Margarita began working for the City of Tampa and Mayor Sandy Freedman, doing community relations and interpretation work. Margarita saw a need for Hispanic members of the community to learn about the opportunities and services the city provided. It was then that Margarita began producing and hosting two Hispanic television shows, *Nuestra Tampa* and *Community Affairs Report*.

Throughout her nearly 30 years of service to the City of Tampa, Margarita's responsibilities included community relations, communications, coordinating the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council, establishing the city's International Affairs Office, and as a human rights investigator, which is important to support a diverse, respectful and inclusive community for our neighbors, families and businesses. While serving our City, Margarita established the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Committee, which is committed to preserving and celebrating Tampa's vibrant Hispanic culture. Margarita also ensured that part of Hispanic Heritage Committee's work is to provide mentoring and scholarship programs to local students.

Margarita won many awards for her service work, including Hispanic Woman of the Year by Tampa Hispanic Heritage, the 2019 Latina Lideres Award by the *Latin Times*, the 2023 Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame inductee, and the 2021 Tampa Bay Lightning Hero award, among many others. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve as a member of

the Superbowl Task Force in 1991 and chairperson of the Tampa Hillsborough County Youth Council.

Margarita made it her life's work to ensure that students in need were supported. She was a founding member of the Hispanic Professional Women's Association (HPWA) and Foundation (HPWF) and served on the boards of many other community service organizations. Through the HPWF and the donation of \$50,000 she received as a Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero Award recipient, Margarita established The Margarita Gonzalez HPWF Latino Endowed Scholarship, her own endowment at USF for local high-achieving, Spanish-speaking students with demonstrated need. Margarita was able to attend college herself because of scholarships, and she said it was "a dream come true" to be able to give back in this way Margarita hoped that supporting future generations would inspire them to support others as well.

Margarita was a truly selfless and charitable leader. She also was a devoted daughter and loving caretaker to her mother, Angela Elba Gonzalez. Margarita's legacy will continue to live through her mother, her sister Elba Cruz and husband Hiram and her nephew and godson Michael Cruz, his wife Rebecca and their two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Margarita Gonzalez for her lifelong dedication to education and service. It is selfless community servants like Margarita that make Tampa the welcoming and generous place it is today. Our community is eternally grateful for her immense contributions. I trust that Margarita Gonzalez's legacy will inspire others to serve their neighbors and live the American Dream.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SAM
MARTINEZ

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sam Martinez and to commemorate how his legacy has inspired change in Congress.

This week, the House of Representatives will consider the Stop Campus Hazing Act. This bill was brought to my attention by the advocacy of Mr. Martinez's family, and I co-sponsored this bill shortly after meeting his parents. Today, I address the House as a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Martinez was a Bellevue resident and Washington State University student whose life was tragically cut short on November 12, 2019, at the age of 19. He was a beloved son, brother, and friend, and my heart is with the community he leaves behind.

Mr. Martinez was born in 2000 to parents Hector Martinez and Jolayne Houtz. He grew up as a brother to Ariana Martinez in Bellevue, Washington, and throughout his life he was surrounded by friends and loved ones. Those who loved him remember his fierce athleticism on the soccer pitch, his dry sense of humor, his intelligence, his commitment to volunteer work locally and abroad, and his loyalty to his

friends and family. He was in the Bellevue School District's Spanish immersion program and graduated from Newport High School in June 2019. In the fall of 2019, Mr. Martinez matriculated at Washington State University, where he planned to study business and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Speaker, as the House considers the Stop Campus Hazing Act this week, let us remember Mr. Martinez and call attention to this critical issue that impacts students like Mr. Martinez nationwide. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones as we honor his legacy today.

HONORING BASIL FERNIMOS

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize someone who has been a force in the North Phoenix area, Basil Fernimos. Basil is a founding member of the North Valley Constitutional Republican Club.

As a passionate constitutionalist, Basil has been responsible for organizing and leading conservative efforts in the northern parts of our congressional district.

I am thankful for Basil's efforts and dedication to bring awareness and educate the public. I sincerely appreciate his service to the 8th Congressional District and to the state of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSION QUILTERS FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention, the outstanding work of Mission Quilters which recently completed their 10,000th quilt that will be donated to global communities in need of basic supplies.

Mission Quilters is a group of about 20 volunteers at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, who gather every Thursday morning to stitch quilts. This tradition dates to 1985, when Carol Langseth, the wife of the church's then-pastor, had the goal of creating handmade quilts to provide comfort to those in need around the world. I am very pleased to report that just last week, the group reached a milestone with their 10,000th quilt. These quilts are distributed both locally and to communities in nine countries, through the Lutheran World Relief organization.

Mission Quilters relies on the donations of materials from individual quilters and other organizations. These materials are then cut and used to create a variety of quilts. Volunteers participate in the process by sewing and layering the quilt squares. Working together, they produce at least four quilts per week. In fact, the quilts produced by Mission Quilters could cover 185 football fields and stretch 22,222 yards. The finished quilts are first used

to adorn the pews of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church and, after being blessed, are sent to various parts of the world.

For nearly 40 years, Mission Quilters have donated their quilts to countries such as Georgia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Angola, Mali, Guatemala, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mission Quilters' quilts have also comforted Syrian refugees in Lebanon, as well as in other parts of the world that are affected by war. Locally, they have kept our communities warm, by distributing their quilts through organizations such as North Side Housing and Supportive Services in Chicago, WINGS, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for those in need.

The men and women of Mission Quilters embody public service at its best. As their representative in Congress, I am deeply honored to recognize the significant contributions of Mission Quilters. They have helped to bring families together and provided support to those affected by war and natural disasters through their quilting. It is for this impact that I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Mission Quilters.

CELEBRATING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. LINDA T. SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AltaMed Health Services Corporation on its 55th anniversary. As the nation's largest system of independent Federally Qualified Health Centers, AltaMed has been delivering quality health care and empowering communities for over half a century.

AltaMed was founded in 1969 as the East LA Barrio Free Clinic, a small volunteer-run clinic funded solely by grants and donations. Today, AltaMed is California's premier community health network, encompassing more than 60 service delivery sites throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and staffed by a culturally and linguistically competent workforce of more than 5,000 employees. It provides care to more than 500,000 individuals and their families through two million encounters annually, delivering the full continuum of services including pediatrics, comprehensive primary care, obstetrics and gynecology, dental care, behavioral health, youth services, HIV/AIDS services, and senior services through its operations as the largest Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in California. To this day, AltaMed is committed to providing quality care without exception and working to address health disparities in our communities.

In 1982, AltaMed began offering senior services by opening its first Adult Day Health Care Center in East Los Angeles, providing medical and rehabilitative care to older adults. In 1996, AltaMed made the transition to PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), a world-class managed-care program that uses a unique team-based approach to provide frail older adults with medical, social, nutritional, and rehabilitation services. This program makes it possible for those who meet nursing home eligibility requirements to remain

at home, enjoying the comfort and reassurance of familiar surroundings while receiving the care they need. AltaMed currently serves over 3,000 older adults at 12 PACE locations in Los Angeles and Orange County.

With the passing of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, more Americans are insured today than ever before—including the 20 million uninsured Americans who gained access to comprehensive health coverage. AltaMed led widespread efforts through its service delivery sites to enroll and provide resources to newly eligible individuals, becoming Covered California's top certified enrollment entity for several years in a row, and earning a grant through the state's Navigator Program.

AltaMed's commitment to addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to eighty percent of patient health outcomes and dedication to advancing social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion is exemplified through its programming and service delivery approach. In 2017, it launched the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity which works to inform and support the elimination of health disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities through innovation, education, research, and community engagement.

The following year, AltaMed launched a first-of-its-kind effort to make service sites serve as civic engagement hubs for patients and community. Through this civic engagement campaign, AltaMed supports local voter information, education, and mobilization efforts, provides community workshops on the citizenship process, and facilitates dialogue around public policy and advocacy.

AltaMed was also on the frontlines when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, and sprang into action. Early on, it established mobile testing and evaluation sites throughout its communities to ensure patients could continue to access care. In 2021, leveraging the experience and success of its My Vote. My Health campaign, AltaMed launched a public health vaccination campaign called ¡Andale! ¿Qué Esperas? reaching more than 4.45 million Latinos in the state. By the end of that ten-month campaign effort, it had helped vaccinate over 130,000 people against COVID-19 leading a coalition of Community Health Centers throughout the state.

This is all to show how AltaMed has led the way to ensure their patients have access to culturally and linguistically concordant care while also addressing health care workforce challenges. In 2020, it welcomed the first cohort of AltaMed Family Medicine Residents to a new residency program. Two years later, it launched a licensed vocational nurse to registered nurse pathway program and other training programs, supporting over 160 nurses to advance their careers. And this year, AltaMed became the first clinic in Southern California to participate in the state's Licensed Physicians from Mexico Pilot Program (LPMPP), welcoming seven physicians who provide culturally and linguistically aligned care to Spanish speaking patients.

On November 8, 2024, AltaMed will commemorate its 55th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating AltaMed on this historic milestone as an exceptional health care leader, advancing quality care for Latino, multi-ethnic, and underserved communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and helping other Community Health Centers throughout the state scale up their ef-

forts to address health disparities through transformational change.

HONORING ANTHONY KERN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Senator Anthony Kern from Legislative District 27, covering the northwest valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Senator Kern is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a Member of the chamber's Appropriations and Transportation, Technology and Missing Children Committees. He has won awards for his strong conservative principles in the Arizona Legislature, including the Hero of the Taxpayer and the Friend of the Family. Senator Kern also enjoys a 100 rating from the Arizona Free Enterprise Club.

He has worked hard in the State Legislature to help secure the border, protect life and family values, defend the Second Amendment, safeguard school choice, increase economic prosperity for individuals, families, and business owners, and stand with law enforcement.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Senator Kern's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

APPRECIATING PHILLIP TRULUCK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the anniversary of the passing of the Florence-born Phillip Truluck on October 6, 2022, I am grateful for his contributions to Congress while at the House Republican Study Committee and during his long tenure as the valued leader of the Heritage Foundation. He is missed.

The following obituary was published upon his death:

A son of South Carolina, Phil was born in Florence, South Carolina, on June 18, 1947 and passed away October 6, 2022. He spent his childhood and teenage years in Lake City, where he attended public schools. His beloved mother, Ethel Mason Truluck, taught him American History and famously refused to grant him the well-deserved annual history award for fear of appearing partial. He later went on to earn a B.S. in Finance at the University of South Carolina. His leadership skills were recognized early and he was elected President of Chi Psi fraternity.

Perhaps to make up for the history award, his mother arranged for Phil to go to Washington and work for then Senator Strom Thurmond—as a driver and envelope stuffer. Cream rose to the top and he went on to work in several congressional offices, as Deputy Director of the House Republican Study Committee and, for over 38 years, as a leader of the Heritage Foundation.

Along the way, he met, courted and married Ann Wroblewski on January 6, 1979. Mason Martha was born ten years later, followed by twins, Walker Edward and Sutton

Arthur. Phil liked to say he went from man to man to zone defense in 30 months.

Phil was a born developer—of people and real estate. As Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Phil managed the day-to-day running of Heritage. An astute policy analyst, strategic leader and gifted executive, Phil ensured the rigorous training and intellectual equipping of a generation of conservative leaders as they passed through Heritage's doors. He claimed many scholars, commentators, and members of Congress as former employees and enjoyed pointing out that so and so "had been at Heritage." Heritage was never far from his thoughts. When called for jury duty and asked if he had any connection to law enforcement, he replied that well, actually, (former Attorney General) Ed Meese reported to him. He was quickly dismissed.

A frustrated architect and contractor, over the years he initiated and managed the physical transformation of Heritage from a townhouse on Capitol Hill to the block long 250,000 square foot complex in the shadow of the Capitol that it is today. Along the way he realized he loved the challenges of acquisition and renovation. During the years when there was no project at Heritage, he put his skills to work in the Washington residential real estate market. He and Ann moved seven times in 37 years—in contiguous zip codes.

Christmas vacations usually required a passport. He believed traveling together was the best present he could give his family—his favorite trip was floating down the Nile in perfect weather on Christmas day. He also traveled the world to attend meetings of the Mont Pelerin Society and for 20 years spent the weekend after New Year's at Sea Island attending The Awakening. The August congressional recess meant several weeks at High Hampton in the western North Carolina mountains. After retirement, he and Ann split their time between beautiful Cashiers, NC, and Charleston, SC. He also took up oil painting, concentrating on landscapes in the mountains and water and marsh scenes from the Low country.

He was an easy man to like, with a ready smile and a kind heart. His optimism was contagious and he rarely raised his voice. He was kind, gracious and gentle. His integrity was unquestioned and his word was his bond. He was proud of his children for their accomplishments but principally for their character.

While raised a Southern Baptist, he attended Catholic Church with his family every Sunday, believing that a family should worship together. After the children were grown, he found a home in the Episcopal Church and became a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers. He attended Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Wroblewski; their children and their spouses Mason (and Hunter), Walker (and Karen), and Sutton (and Ashley); and grandchildren, Halliday and Myers Morris; his sister, Linda (and Ted) and brother, Mason.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 5105, to require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024, S. 4900, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, S. 131, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, S. 2924, to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, S. 5067, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, S. 4898, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster, S. 3926, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, S. 5098, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, S. 5133, to establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions, S. 5109, to amend section 3520A of title 44, United States Code, to extend the Chief Data Officer Council's sunset and add new authorities for improving Federal agency data governance, including to enable reliable and secure adoption of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, S. 5093, to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, S. 5092, to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, S. 5099, to prescribe requirements relating to the management of the Federal property commonly known as Plum Island, New York, S. 5102, to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, S. 3181, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit", S. 4404, to designate the facility

of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office", S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the "First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office", S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office", 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", H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building", H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building", H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office", H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the "Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office", H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "John Mercer Langston Post Office Building", H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the "Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building", H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the "Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building", H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the "George Henry White Post Office Building", and H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the "Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building".

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD-538

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine economic risks from housing unaffordability, focusing on the costs of inaction.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 4489, to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the "Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building," and for other purposes, H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse", the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and 43 General Services Administration resolutions.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 4425, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, H.R. 8282, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, and the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kristen Sarri, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador-At-Large for Global Health Security and Diplomacy, Elizabeth K. Horst, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Troy Fitrell, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, Kelly Adams-Smith, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, Tracey Ann Jacobson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Peter W. Lord, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, all of the Department of State.

S-116

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety

To hold hearings to examine preparing workers for AI.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine FAA oversight of Boeing's broken safety culture.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine sexual assault in U.S. prisons two decades after the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 465, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, S. 2908, to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land, and S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4444, to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, S. 4633, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 4705, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth

To hold hearings to examine providing small business relief from remote sales tax collection.

SD-215

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 254, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 373, to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, S. 482, to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with certain authorities with respect to projects affecting the Klamath Basin watershed, S. 620, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, S. 739, to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, S. 914, to establish an energy threat analysis center in the Department of

Energy, S. 1553, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2156, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to authorize additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2506, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, S. 2620, to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2742, to establish the Fort Ontario National Monument in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2743, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 2784, to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to adjust the boundary of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, S. 2867, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 2927, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, S. 2991, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, S. 3123, to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, S. 3195, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 3241, to establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the Natchez Historical Park, S. 3346, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 3474, to redesignate the Hulls Cove Visitor Center at Acadia National Park as the "George J. Mitchell, Jr., Visitor Center", S. 3534, to authorize the Pines Foundation to establish the Fire Island AIDS Memorial, S. 3542, to amend the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act to modify the boundary of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, S. 3543, to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, S. 3544, to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic

Shrine as the “Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center”, S. 3593, to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, S. 3596, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite, S. 3617, to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, S. 3631, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, S. 3790, to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, S. 3985, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 4016, to amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend amounts in the Colorado River Dam fund, S. 4129, to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota, S. 4164, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Cahokia Mounds and surrounding land in the States of Illinois and Missouri, S. 4209, to provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, S. 4216, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 4218, to designate the visitor center for the First State National Historical Park to be located at the Sheriff’s House in New Castle, Delaware, as the “Thomas R. Carper Visitor Center”, S. 4222, to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve in the State of California to include the land within the Castle Mountains National Monument, S. 4227, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, S. 4228, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center”, S. 4242, to extend the authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, S. 4245, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs, S. 4259, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, S. 4310, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, S. 4347, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, S. 4424, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, to acknowledge and support the longstanding use of cultural burning by Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, S. 4431, to reinstate the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 4432, to allow certain Federal minerals to be

mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 4451, to require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study on reservation systems for Federal land, S. 4454, to provide for the establishment of an Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, S. 4457, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 4576, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot program, S. 4607, to designate the America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark, S. 4664, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the use of artificial intelligence to support the missions of the Department of Energy, S. 4851, to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property, S. 4932, to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program, S. 4936, to require a study relating to the Minidoka National Historic Site, S. 4974, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, S. 4994, to modify the boundary of the Vicksburg National Military Park in the State of Mississippi, S. 4996, to amend Public Law 89–108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, S. 4999, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes, S. 5000, to prohibit the use of amounts from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund to implement a certain record of decision, S. 5005, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 5011, to establish the Integrated Water Management Federal Leadership Committee, to provide for improved drought resilience and dam safety, S. 5012, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, S. 5013, to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, S. 5014, to provide for the establishment of a Water Project Navigators Program, S. 5125, to provide for certain improvements to the housing and workforce programs of Federal land management agencies, H.R. 359, to establish Fort San Geronimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 3448, to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America’s battlefields, H.R. 4984, to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development, H.R. 5443, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real

property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution, and an original bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island, New York.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the public health impacts of PFAS exposures.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2305, to improve the requirements for making a determination of interchangeability of a biological product and its reference product, S. 2780, to require sponsors of drug applications and holders of approved applications to provide certain submissions and communications to the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, S. 4436, to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, S. 4583, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue priority review vouchers to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases, S. 5103, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, an original bill entitled, “Medical Graduate Investment Act”, and other pending calendar business.

SD-562

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2220, to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, S. 2140, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to patent subject matter eligibility, S. 4713, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S. 2082, to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, and Bobby Jack Woods, to be United

States Marshal for the Eastern District
of Kentucky, Department of Justice.

SD-G50

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomina-
tions of Marcus D. Graham, of Ten-

nessee, to be a Member of the Farm
Credit Administration Board, and Julie
Brinn Siegel, of the District of Colum-
bia, to be a Commissioner of the Com-
modity Futures Trading Commission.

SR-328A

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6323–S6337

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5134–5142, and S. Res. 836–844. **Page S6332**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 4367, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. (S. Rept. No. 118–227)

S. 3067, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–228)

S. 3558, to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–229)

S. Res. 837, authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee, with a preamble. (S. Rept. No. 118–230) **Page S6332**

Measures Passed:

National Warrior Call Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 838, expressing support for the designation of November 17, 2024, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection. **Pages S6332, S6337**

National Student Parent Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 839, designating September 2024 as “National Student Parent Month.” **Pages S6332, S6337**

Telehealth Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 840, supporting the designation of the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as “Telehealth Awareness Week.” **Pages S6332, S6337**

National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 841, designating September 2024 as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.” **Pages S6332, S6337**

National Character Counts Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 842, designating the week beginning October 20, 2024, as “National Character Counts Week.” **Pages S6332, S6337**

National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 843, designating October 2024 as “National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.” **Pages S6332, S6337**

National Forensic Science Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 844, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week. **Page S6337**

DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the passage of S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, action on Murray (for Peters) Amendment No. 3292, in the nature of a substitute, be vitiated, and Durbin (for Peters) Amendment No. 3293, in the nature of a substitute, be considered and agreed to, and the remainder of the order be in status quo. **Page S6326**

Conway Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. **Page S6329**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, 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 H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building”. **Page S6329**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6329**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6329**

Sfraga Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination ripen at 12 noon; that if cloture has been invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building”, ripen upon disposition of the nomination of Michael Sfraga. **Page S6337**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 69 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 249), Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S6323–26, S6326–29**

Messages from the House: **Page S6330**

Measures Referred: **Page S6330**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6330–31**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S6331–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6332–34**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S6334–37

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6337**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6337**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—249) **Pages S6328–29**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6337.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 9747–9767; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 129; and H. Res. 1485, 1487–1491, were introduced. **Pages H5645–47**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5648–49**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 8958, to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–701);

S. 612, to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–702, Part 1);

H.R. 5794, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in conduct of quality management and administrative investigations by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–703);

H.R. 8205, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that Byrne grant funds may be used for public safety report systems, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–704); and

H. Res. 1486, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3334) to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8205) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that Byrne grant funds may be used for public safety report systems, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8790) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1469) ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–705). **Page H5645**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Lesko to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5565**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Pages H5566–67**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Ralph B. Lassiter, St. Mark Baptist Church, Omaha, NE. **Page H5567**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Mobility Aids On Board Improve Lives and Empower All Act: S. 1549, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations concerning accommodations for powered wheelchairs; **Pages H5567–68**

Reuse Excess Property Act: S. 2685, to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available; **Pages H5568–69**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Robert Hayden Post Office”: S. 3639, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Robert Hayden Post Office”; **Pages H5569–70**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office”: S. 3640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office”; **Page H5570**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the “Sojourner Truth Post Office”: S. 3851, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the “Sojourner Truth Post Office”; **Pages H5570–71**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”: H.R. 6633, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”; **Pages H5571–72**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph

William Kittinger II Post Office Building”: H.R. 5867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building”; **Pages H5572–73**

Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, and Research, and AED Training in the Schools Act of 2024: H.R. 6829, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy; **Pages H5573–75**

Amending title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement with respect to the determination of residency of certain individuals serving in the Armed Forces: H.R. 8108, amended, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement with respect to the determination of residency of certain individuals serving in the Armed Forces; **Pages H5575–76**

NAPA Reauthorization Act: S. 133, to extend the National Alzheimer’s Project; **Pages H5576–77**

Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act: S. 134, to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer’s Project Act; **Pages H5577–78**

Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act: H.R. 3884, amended, to amend title XI of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program providing for sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment; **Pages H5578–80**

Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act: H.R. 2706, amended, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants; **Pages H5580–82**

Give Kids a Chance Act: H.R. 3433, amended, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations; **Pages H5582–87**

Seniors’ Access to Critical Medications Act: H.R. 5526, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished under the Medicare program; **Pages H5587–88**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for covered outpatient drugs furnished under the Medicare program, and to provide coverage of external infusion pumps and non-self-administrable home infusion drugs under such program”; **Pages H5587–88**

Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act: H.R. 7189, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program; **Pages H5588–89**

Online Dating Safety Act: H.R. 6125, amended, to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members; **Pages H5589–91**

Department of Homeland Security Policy Issuance Review Act: H.R. 6231, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H5591–92**

Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act: H.R. 7832, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations; **Pages H5592–94**

Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act: S. 794, to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism; **Pages H5594–95**

Producing Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security Act: H.R. 9459, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority; **Pages H5595–96**

DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024: S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H5597–98**

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2024: S. 3764, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 20 nays, Roll No. 442; **Pages H5598–H5600, H5628**

GAO Database Modernization Act: S. 679, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Com-

troller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective; **Pages H5600–01**

IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act: S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program; **Pages H5601–03**

Building Chips in America Act: S. 2228, to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 257 yeas to 125 nays, Roll No. 440; **Pages H5603–06, H5625–26**

NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024: H.R. 8958, amended, to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 366 yeas to 21 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 441; **Pages H5606–23, H5627–28**

Accessing Satellite Data to Enable New Discoveries Act: H.R. 6219, amended, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program to identify, evaluate, acquire, and disseminate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration; **Pages H5623–25**

Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act: H.R. 7630, amended, to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; **Pages H5629–31**

Innovative Mitigation Partnerships for Asphalt and Concrete Technologies Act: H.R. 7685, amended, to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production; **Pages H5635–38**

Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act: H.R. 1735, amended, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections; and **Pages H5638–41**

Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act: H.R. 7764, amended, to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution. **Pages H5641–44**

Oath of Office—Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey: Representative-elect LaMonica McIver presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a copy of a letter received from Ms. Donna Barber, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held September 18, 2024, the Honorable LaMonica McIver was elected for Representative to Congress for the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey. **Pages H5626–27**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 432. **Page H5627**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 127, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon. **Page H5628**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program Act: H.R. 3208, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program; **Pages H5596–97**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office”: H.R. 8057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office”; and **Page H5629**

Next Generation Pipelines Research and Development Act: H.R. 7073, amended, to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems. **Pages H5631–35**

Senate Referrals: S. 288 was held at the desk. S. 4698 was held at the desk. **Page H5592**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H5592.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5625–26, H5627–28, and H5628.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SANCTIONING TYRANNICAL AND OPPRESSIVE PEOPLE WITHIN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ACT; KEEPING VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF OUR STREETS ACT; FIX OUR FORESTS ACT; ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR KEY OFFICIALS IN THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONMAKING AND EXECUTION FAILURES THROUGHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN; CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3334, the “Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party Act”; H.R. 8205, the “Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act”; H.R. 8790, the “Fix Our Forests Act”; H. Res. 1469, ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan; and H.R. 9747, the “Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3334, the “Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party Act”, H.R. 8205, the “Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act”, H.R. 8790, the “Fix Our Forests Act”, and H. Res. 1469, Ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3334, the “Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party 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 Foreign Affairs or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs

now printed in the bill, 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 the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, 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. 8205, the “Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–51 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 the Judiciary or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 8790, the “Fix Our Forests 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 Natural Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part C of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only the amendments printed in part D of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and con-

trolled 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 D of the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 1469, Ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of the resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 1469. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides that Section 3(j) of House Resolution 5 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: “(3) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, ‘non-governmental capacity’ shall mean any capacity except representing the executive branch of the United States government”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, Chairman McCaul, Chairman Cole, and Representatives Crow, Self, Amo, Fitzgerald, Nadler, and DeLauro.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D881)

H.R. 7377, to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases. Signed on September 20, 2024. (Public Law 118–81)

H.R. 9468, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Signed on September 20, 2024. (Public Law 118–82)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine women’s health care, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine cyberspace under threat in

the era of rising authoritarianism and global competition, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest in Federal contracting to protect America's future, focusing on safeguarding the homeland, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court's immunity decision, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled "GAO Uncovers Biden-Harris FAFSA Failures", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "An Assessment of the State Department's Withdrawal from Afghanistan by America's Top Diplomat", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on the Committee Report, Recommending the House of Representatives find Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Foreign Affairs; H.R. 8683, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to monitor efforts by the People's Republic of China to build or buy strategic foreign ports, and for other purposes; H.R. 9564, to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Houthis, and for other purposes; H.R. 9719, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to modify requirements regarding management of the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes; H. Res. 1348, urging the Government of Nigeria to immediately release Tigran Gambaryan from imprisonment; H.R. 9172, to establish the Precursor Chemical Destruction Initiative to promote bilateral counterdrug interdiction efforts with the governments of specified countries, and for other purposes; H.R. 9718, to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes; H. Res. 1449, condemning the global rise of antisemitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism; H. Res. 1435, raising concern about the proposed constitutional reforms in Mexico; and H.R. 9082, to direct the Secretary of State to host regular Summits of the Americas, and for other purposes, 10:15 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "The

Future of FAMS: Evaluating the Federal Air Marshal Mission", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "An Outage Strikes: Assessing the Global Impact of CrowdStrike's Faulty Software Update", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Defending America from the Chinese Communist Party's Political Warfare, Part III", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, hearing entitled "Tracking Progress: Examining the Department of Defense's Financial Management Practices", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled "Implementation of Boeing's Comprehensive Action Plan", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "VA Accountability: What has Happened to Hampton", 3 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing on "Reforming Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): States' Misuse of Welfare Funds Leaves Poor Families Behind", 10:15 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine Russia's shadow war on NATO, 2 p.m., 210-CHOB.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 24 through
September 27, 2024

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building" (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution).

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 25, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: September 25, to hold hearings to examine economic risks from housing unaffordability, focusing on the costs of inaction, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 25, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 26, business meeting to consider S. 254, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 373, to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, S. 482, to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with certain authorities with respect to projects affecting the Klamath Basin watershed, S. 620, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, S. 739, to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, S. 914, to establish an energy threat analysis center in the Department of Energy, S. 1553, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2156, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to authorize additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2506, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, S. 2620, to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2742, to establish the Fort Ontario National Monument in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2743, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in

the State of New York, S. 2784, to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to adjust the boundary of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, S. 2867, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 2927, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, S. 2991, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, S. 3123, to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, S. 3195, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 3241, to establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the Natchez Historical Park, S. 3346, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 3474, to redesignate the Hulls Cove Visitor Center at Acadia National Park as the “George J. Mitchell, Jr., Visitor Center”, S. 3534, to authorize the Pines Foundation to establish the Fire Island AIDS Memorial, S. 3542, to amend the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act to modify the boundary of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, S. 3543, to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, S. 3544, to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the “Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center”, S. 3593, to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, S. 3596, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite, S. 3617, to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, S. 3631, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, S. 3790, to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, S. 3985, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 4016, to amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend amounts in the Colorado River Dam fund, S. 4129, to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota, S. 4164, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Cahokia Mounds and surrounding land in the States of Illinois and Missouri, S. 4209, to provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, S. 4216, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 4218, to designate the visitor center for the First State National Historical Park to be located at the Sheriff’s House in New

Castle, Delaware, as the “Thomas R. Carper Visitor Center”, S. 4222, to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve in the State of California to include the land within the Castle Mountains National Monument, S. 4227, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, S. 4228, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center”, S. 4242, to extend the authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, S. 4245, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs, S. 4259, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, S. 4310, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, S. 4347, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, S. 4424, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, to acknowledge and support the longstanding use of cultural burning by Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, S. 4431, to reinstate the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 4432, to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 4451, to require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study on reservation systems for Federal land, S. 4454, to provide for the establishment of an Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, S. 4457, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 4576, to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot program, S. 4607, to designate the America’s National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark, S. 4664, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to promote the use of artificial intelligence to support the missions of the Department of Energy, S. 4851, to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property, S. 4932, to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program, S. 4936, to require a study relating to the Minidoka National Historic Site, S. 4974, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, S. 4994, to modify the boundary of the Vicksburg National Military Park in the State of Mississippi, S. 4996, to amend Public Law 89–108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, S. 4999, to amend the Aquifer

Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes, S. 5000, to prohibit the use of amounts from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund to implement a certain record of decision, S. 5005, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 5011, to establish the Integrated Water Management Federal Leadership Committee, to provide for improved drought resilience and dam safety, S. 5012, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, S. 5013, to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, S. 5014, to provide for the establishment of a Water Project Navigators Program, S. 5125, to provide for certain improvements to the housing and workforce programs of Federal land management agencies, H.R. 359, to establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 3448, to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America’s battlefields, H.R. 4984, to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development, H.R. 5443, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution, and an original bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island, New York, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 25, business meeting to consider S. 4489, to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building,” and for other purposes, H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the “Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse”, the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and 43 General Services Administration resolutions, 10 a.m., SD–406.

September 26, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the public health impacts of PFAS exposures, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: September 24, to hold hearings to examine women's health care, 10 a.m., SD-215.

September 25, Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth, to hold hearings to examine providing small business relief from remote sales tax collection, 3 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 24, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine cyberspace under threat in the era of rising authoritarianism and global competition, 10 a.m., SD-419.

September 25, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 4425, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, H.R. 8282, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, and the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kristen Sarri, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador-At-Large for Global Health Security and Diplomacy, Elizabeth K. Horst, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Troy Fitrell, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, Kelly Adams-Smith, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, Tracey Ann Jacobson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Peter W. Lord, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: September 24, to hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity, 10 a.m., SD-562.

September 25, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine preparing workers for AI, 2 p.m., SD-562.

September 26, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2305, to improve the requirements for making a determination of interchangeability of a biological product and its reference product, S. 2780, to require sponsors of drug applications and holders of approved applications to provide certain submissions and communications to the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, S. 4436, to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, S. 4583, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic

Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue priority review vouchers to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases, S. 5103, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, an original bill entitled, "Medical Graduate Investment Act", and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 24, to hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest in Federal contracting to protect America's future, focusing on safeguarding the homeland, 10 a.m., SD-342.

September 25, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 5105, to require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024, S. 4900, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, S. 131, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, S. 2924, to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, S. 5067, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, S. 4898, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster, S. 3926, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, S. 5098, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, S. 5133, to establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions, S. 5109, to amend section 3520A of title 44, United States Code, to extend the Chief Data Officer Council's sunset and add new authorities for improving Federal agency data governance, including to enable reliable and secure adoption of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, S. 5093, to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, S. 5092, to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, S. 5099, to prescribe requirements relating to the management of the Federal property commonly known as Plum Island, New York, S. 5102, to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, S. 3181, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit", S. 4404, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert

Austin Olson Post Office”, S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the “First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office”, S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the “Representative Maxine Bell Post Office”, 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”, H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building”, H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the “Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building”, H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the “U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building”, H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office”, H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office”, H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the “John Mercer Langston Post Office Building”, H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”, H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building”, H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”, and H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the “Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building”, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

September 25, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine FAA oversight of Boeing’s broken safety culture, 2 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 25, business meeting to consider S. 465, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, S. 2908, to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land, and S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4444, to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, S. 4633, to provide for the settlement of the water rights

claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 4705, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 24, to hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court’s immunity decision, 10 a.m., SD-106.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-226.

September 25, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine sexual assault in U.S. prisons two decades after the Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2 p.m., SD-226.

September 26, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2220, to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, S. 2140, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to patent subject matter eligibility, S. 4713, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S. 2082, to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, and Bobby Jack Woods, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 24, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

September 25, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, September 26, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “United States Postal Service’s Role in 2024 Election Mail Readiness”, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 9716, the “Increasing Baseline Updates Act”; H.R. 9751, the “Executive Action Cost Transparency Act”; H.R. 9714, the “CBO Oversight Act”; H.R. 9711, the “Congressional Budget Office Scheduling Reform Act”; H.R. 9686, the “HEALTH Panel Act”; and H.R. 8068, the “Stop the Baseline Bloat Act of 2024”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, September 25, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Innovative Teacher Preparation: Properly Equipping America’s Educators”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 25, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Regulatory Recipe for Economic Uncertainty: The Endless Basel Endgame and an Onslaught of Hurried Rulemaking Undertaken by the Administration”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Vanishing Independence: How FHFA’s Political Agenda Endangers Homeowners and Taxpayers”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Foreign Policy, Interrupted: How Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Blunt America’s Impact Abroad”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3169, the “Port Crane Security and Inspection Act of 2023”; H.R. 3386, the “Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4406, the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2023”; H.R. 5729, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to establish a Homeland Intelligence Experts Group, and for other purposes; H.R. 5840, the “Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act”; H.R. 7311, the “Combatting International Drug Trafficking and Human Smuggling Partnership Act of 2024”; H.R. 7365, the “VETS Safe Travel Act”; H.R. 8119, the “PEARL Act”; H.R. 9469, the “Pipeline Security Act”; H.R. 9668, the “SHIELD Against CCP Act”; H.R. 9689, the “DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program Act”; H.R. 9722, the “CATCH Fentanyl Act”; legislation on the Tren de Aragua Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act; legislation on the Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2024; legislation on a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to abolish the reorganization authority of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; legislation on the Cyber PIVOTT Act; legislation on the Strengthening Cyber Resilience Against State-Sponsored Threats Act; legislation on the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative Act; legislation on the DHS International Cyber Partner Act of 2024; legislation on the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act; and legislation on the Northern Border Coordination Act, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

September 26, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Given the Green Light: Open Border Policies and Threats to Law Enforcement”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

September 26, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, joint hearing entitled “Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing: Migrant Children Victims of the Biden-Harris Administration”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 25, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7137, the “Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2024”; H.R. 9563, the “Protecting Americans from Russian Litigation Act of 2024”; H.R. 9151, the “Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2024”; and H.R. 9732, the “Protection of Child Victims from Online Predators Act”, 3:15 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 26, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Examining Puerto Rico’s Electrical Grid and the Need for Reliable and Resilient Energy”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 26, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 9678, the “Federal Lands Amplified Security for the Homeland Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

September 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Desecrating Old Glory: Investigating How the Pro-Hamas Protests Turned National Park Service Land into a Violent Disgrace”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, September 25, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Kitchen Table Economics: How Failed Biden-Harris Policies Continue to Hurt Consumers”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “The Border Crisis: The Cost of Chaos”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled “Meddling with Medicare: The Biden-Harris Cover-Up”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 9671, the “Department of Energy Artificial Intelligence Act of 2024”; H.R. 9710, the “Small Modular Reactor Demonstration Act of 2024”; H.R. 9720, the “AI Incident Reporting and Security Enhancement Act”; and H.R. 9723, the “National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 25, Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Avenues to Success: Examining Workforce Training Programs for Employees”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7671, the “Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act”; and H.R. 9750, the “Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024”, 9 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Examining the Role and Effectiveness of Building Codes in Mitigating Against Disasters”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Always

Ready: A Day in The Life of a U.S. Coast Guard Sentinel”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “A Negotiated Rulemaking at Work: Stakeholder Perspectives on Implementation of the Entry Level Driver Training Rule”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, September 25, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Everyday Heroes: Supporting the Veteran Caregiver Community”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

September 26, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “Ensuring Timely Access: Challenges in VA Scheduling”, 9 a.m., 360 Cannon.

September 26, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Digital GI Bill in Disarray:

Holding the Biden-Harris Administration Accountable for VA’s Costly Mismanagement”, 1 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Ongoing Investigation of the Butler, Pennsylvania Security Failure: The Secret Service’s Reliance on State and Local Law Enforcement”, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: September 24, to hold hearings to examine Russia’s shadow war on NATO, 2 p.m., 210-CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building” (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution).

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Sfraga until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 8790—Fix Our Forests Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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