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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Remind us again, eternal God, that in You all things were created, in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible. Allow that awareness to touch our very beings, that we would realize that all that is, and we ourselves, find life and purpose in You.

Whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through You and for You. As we come to appreciate Your majesty, may Your authority penetrate our consciousness in such a way that we desire nothing more than to yield to Your will in all that we do or decide.

Grant that we would also find not just comfort in Your omnipotence, but courage in Your omnipresence, that as we venture into the day You have laid before us, we would find that in You all things are held together.

Into Your hands we commend our prayers as we pray them in Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CORREA 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

A NEW PATH FORWARD

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives met yesterday to certify President Trump's electoral victory.

Over the past 4 years, President Biden's administration has imposed needless regulations on the American energy industry, has spurred record-high inflation, and has left our southern border wide open.

The election results in November were a message from the American people that they want a new path forward, and that path begins today. It is now time to get to work to secure our border and to lower prices for the American people.

Together, with the House and with the Senate, I am confident that President Trump will be able to continue the progress that was made during his first administration to once again make America great.

PROTECT BANGLADESH'S RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the violence and persecution of Hindus and other religious minorities in Bangladesh.

During Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971, an estimated 300,000 to 3 million people were killed, mostly Hindus. Hindus in Bangladesh continue to be targeted today, with their homes and businesses being destroyed and their temples vandalized.

Since the ousting of the former Prime Minister last August, these attacks have increased again, with over 2,000 incidents reported in August alone.

I have engaged with the State Department and called for action in upcoming Senate confirmation hearings, but we must do more.

I urge my colleagues to act now to protect Bangladesh's religious minorities. The world is watching, and we cannot let history repeat itself.

IN RECOGNITION OF DECKER PLOEHN

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true leader from my district, Mr. Decker Ploehn, Bettendorf's city administrator, who has recently been named the Quad Cities Most Influential Leader for 2024.

Decker's leadership is defined by his dedication to his community and his remarkable ability to build relationships that foster growth, collaboration, and positive change.

His work has helped transform Bettendorf into a thriving city, with impressive developments like the I-74 bridge and the TBK Bank Sports Complex. His tireless efforts have been instrumental in securing funding and advancing projects that benefit the entire region.

Decker's impact extends beyond the city's infrastructure. He is a passionate mentor, a devoted volunteer, and a trusted resource for countless organizations.

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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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Whether he is emceeding a fundraiser, advising local leaders, or volunteering his time to nonprofits, Decker consistently proves that his success in leadership is rooted in service to others.

Decker's contributions have truly shaped our community, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

I congratulate Decker on this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I take this moment to wish my older sister, Marianne, a very happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIO FRENK

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate UCLA's next chancellor, Dr. Julio Frenk.

Having served as president of the University of Miami and dean of Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Frenk is bringing decades of experience to UCLA.

Dr. Frenk was born in Mexico, where he discovered his passion for public health and service and spent 6 years as Mexico's secretary of health.

I am excited to see Dr. Frenk bring his leadership and experience as he serves the Bruin community and keeps UCLA as a top public university in the country.

We welcome Dr. Frenk to the Bruin family, and I look forward to working with him on behalf of our constituents, our students, our educators, and our community. I look forward to continuing to do more good things.

I thank Dr. Frenk for his service to the Bruin community.

IN RECOGNITION OF PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn State women's volleyball team's victory in the national championship.

Penn State made history with its 3-1 win over Louisville in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in front of a record crowd of over 21,860 fans. This was the Nittany Lions' eighth national title in the program's history.

This victory didn't happen by chance. It is the result of relentless hard work, discipline, and teamwork. These women showed us what it means to commit fully. At every practice, every set, and every match, they gave their all.

This success is possible because of the incredible leadership of the coaching staff, whose mentorship has shaped this team not only into champions, but also into outstanding young leaders.

Penn State Coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley became the first woman coach

to win the NCAA Division I volleyball title.

The road to the championship wasn't easy for Coach Schumacher-Cawley. In October, she announced she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

This championship win isn't just about a trophy. It is about a story of strength, resilience, and the values that define Penn State. These women make us all proud to wear blue and white.

I congratulate Penn State women's volleyball on their national championship. We are.

HONORING CARLSBAD MAYOR DALE JANWAY

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and an honorable New Mexican, Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, who passed away on December 30, 2024.

Mayor Janway served Carlsbad with integrity and distinction as mayor for 13 years. He was deeply involved in his community and made remarkable progress during his tenure. He worked with leaders of all political stripes to improve the city's infrastructure, including the Double Eagle water project, which we worked on together.

Although we came from different parties, Mayor Janway was a good friend and was always willing to work together for the good of his community. He had a passion for educating youth so that they would become thoughtful, engaged citizens. He helped to create jobs, improved the lives of Carlsbad families, and protected critical industries.

The mayor also proudly served his country in the Army National Guard. Mayor Janway exemplified leadership, leaving behind a legacy that reminds us all to serve with kindness and with purpose.

I thank Mayor Janway for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR JAMIE MELCHERT

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

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our December Veteran of the Month, Major Jamie Melchert, who was born in Sedalia, Missouri.

Major Melchert enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1998 and completed two combat tours, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also completed additional overseas missions in Guatemala and Germany.

Jamie says his most memorable service was in Afghanistan, where he led a group of 170 soldiers into a harsh combat zone for a year of duty, enduring frequent attacks during over-the-road convoys.

He is most proud of bringing every soldier there home to their families.

He received many honors for his service and retired in 2017. He now lives in Columbia, Missouri, with his beloved family, working full-time for the State of Missouri's Office of Administration, helping veterans find employment.

I thank Major Melchert for his dedication and service.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, a peacemaker, environmentalist, and humanitarian, President Jimmy Carter's work left an indelible mark on our country and the western New York community.

He was no stranger to my district, visiting for speeches at the University at Buffalo and Canisius University, campaign rallies in Cheektowaga and Tonawanda, and even making a stop at Niagara Falls State Park while celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his beloved wife, Rosalynn.

During his Presidency, he established the Superfund program, supporting the cleanup of toxic sites across western New York, including Love Canal.

Following his term in office, he set the standard for the post-Presidency and saved millions of lives by advancing global health, including through his efforts to end childhood malaria fatalities and destigmatize HIV.

He was a man of faith who loved his family and loved our country.

Let us mourn our Nation's loss, celebrate a life well lived, and learn from his legacy of always putting country before self.

May President Jimmy Carter rest in peace.

JEOPARDIZING NATIONAL SECURITY WITH MISGUIDED POLICIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in another one of the eleventh-hour, thumb-the-nose-at-the-American-people moves, the Biden administration has decided to transfer 11 Guantanamo detainees from the war on terror back to Oman, which is a reckless move that puts American lives at risk and is an insult and a slap in the face to those who have fought for freedom in that area and who have tried to stop the likes of al-Qaida. Our soldiers, our fighting people, and everybody who has cared at all about that has to be taking this as a slap in the face because justice never was done.

These detainees, many of whom have ties directly to terrorism, are being resettled without facing justice. This action weakens our national security and

signals a dangerous leniency to those who have plotted against our country.

Despite the administration's claims, releasing these individuals only increases the likelihood that they will return to their extremist roots and try to maybe pull off another 9/11 along with the cells that are already in this country. We have already seen a recycling through of some who were released during the Obama era.

This prioritizes political agendas, especially at the very end of this term, over the security of the American people and those who have fought so hard.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

□ 1115

THANKING MICHIGAN'S 12TH DISTRICT

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I thank the incredible families of Michigan's 12th Congressional District for sending me back to Congress. I am truly honored to be able to be your voice in the people's House.

As one of the only Members of the United States Congress who created neighborhood service centers, we have already returned over \$6.2 million directly back into the pockets of many of my neighbors, invested \$52 million in our communities, and assisted more than 10,000 of our families who needed help.

As we begin the 119th Congress, I am determined more than ever to continue to fight for clean air, clean water, ending utility shutoffs, holding corporate polluters accountable, lowering the cost of living for working families, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and growing the Congressional Mamas Caucus, as well as, of course, ensuring equality and justice for all.

To my residents, I thank them for believing in me. I will always have their backs, and I will never sell out.

CONGRATULATING GALVESTON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce on an incredible milestone—180 years of outstanding service to our community.

Since its founding in 1845, the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce has been an absolute cornerstone of economic development, business growth, education, and enhancing the quality of life in the Galveston area.

The chamber proudly represents over 750 members across diverse sectors, in-

cluding small businesses, education, research, healthcare, government, non-profit organizations, and religious groups—truly embodying the spirit of collaboration and progress.

As the oldest chamber of commerce in Texas, we are blessed to have this remarkable institution in our community and in my district. It is under the outstanding leadership of President Gina Spagnola and her exceptional team, and the chamber continues to make an enduring impact on Galveston and beyond with her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate President Gina Spagnola and the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce on 180 years of absolute excellence.

REMEMBERING DR. BOB NICHOLS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to grieve the loss of Dr. Bob Nichols, who passed away on December 20.

Dr. Nichols was a renowned professor at Young Harris College with an impressive 35-year teaching career at the school. He taught math and coached tennis at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Gainesville State College, and Young Harris College.

Dr. Nichols was an All-American tennis player during his time at Georgia Tech and earned a spot in the Georgia Tech Sports Hall of Fame.

Dr. Nichols impacted thousands of students during his 42-year teaching career. In September 2011, Young Harris College named their campus tennis complex in honor of Dr. Nichols.

Additionally, Dr. Nichols designed a strong advising program and was the chair of the mathematics and science division at Young Harris College.

The college's board of trustees awarded him professor emeritus status in 2010 for his decades of dedicated service, and he received several other remarkable awards.

Dr. Nichols will always be remembered as an outstanding coach, an outstanding mentor, and a friend to all.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up the bill (H.R. 29) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RULLI). Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 29

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 “Laken Riley Act”.

SEC. 2. DETENTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS WHO COMMIT THEFT.

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “, or”;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E)(i) is inadmissible under paragraph (6)(A), (6)(C), or (7) of section 212(a), and

“(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms ‘burglary’, ‘theft’, ‘larceny’, and ‘shoplifting’ have the meaning given such terms in the jurisdiction where the acts occurred.

“(3) DETAINER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a detainer for an alien described in paragraph (1)(E) and, if the alien is not otherwise detained by Federal, State, or local officials, shall effectively and expeditiously take custody of the alien.”.

SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.

(a) INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.—Section 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

“(3) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention and removal requirements under paragraphs (1) or (2) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this paragraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this paragraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”.

(b) APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF ALIENS.—Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “or release”; and

(B) by striking “grant, revocation, or denial” and insert “revocation or denial”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging an action or decision by the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security under this section to release any alien or grant bond or parole to any alien that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on

the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(c) PENALTIES.—Section 243 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the requirement to discontinue granting visas to citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents as described in subsection (d) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of State on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(d) CERTAIN CLASSES OF ALIENS.—Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Attorney General” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the limitation under subparagraph (A) that parole solely be granted on a case-by-case basis and solely for urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit, that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(e) DETENTION.—Section 241(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “During the removal period,” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—During the removal period,”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention requirement under subparagraph (A) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(f) LIMIT ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Section 242(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252(f)) is amended by adding at the end following:

“(3) CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an action brought pursuant to section 235(b)(3), subsections (e) or (f) of section 236, or section 241(a)(2)(B).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. 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. 29.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the brutal murder of Laken Riley was foreordained the day Joe Biden took office and reversed the successful Trump policies that had finally secured our borders.

Since that day just 4 years ago, more than 7.8 million illegal aliens have been deliberately allowed into our country—a population the size of the State of Washington, our 13th largest State.

Very little is done to vet these millions of illegal migrants. We don’t know how many terrorists and violent criminals are among them, and worse, the Democrats don’t seem to care.

We know that the number of terrorists we are apprehending has skyrocketed and that violent international crime cartels and violent foreign gangs are now operating freely in our communities, often protected from deportation and detention by the Democrats’ sanctuary laws.

One of these criminals has now been convicted of the brutal murder of Laken Riley. How many such monsters have the Democrats deliberately allowed into our country we do not know, but we are slowly, painfully, and tragically finding out victim by victim.

In this case, the murderer was paroled into this country through a shocking abuse of this power by the Biden administration. He was repeatedly arrested for theft and other crimes in sanctuary jurisdictions and each time released back onto our streets.

Just months before Laken Riley’s murder, this murderer was arrested for theft, but he was released. ICE did not take him into custody because of a Biden administration policy that shields many criminal aliens from arrest and deportation.

Sadly, this is exactly what those who voted for Joe Biden in 2020 voted for because this is exactly what the Democrats promised to do.

Fortunately, those who voted for Donald Trump in 2024 voted to stop this tragic travesty of our immigration laws because that is what he has promised to do and will begin doing over the Democrats’ objections beginning at noon on January 20.

During his first term, President Trump proved that the President on his own authority can secure our borders. President Biden proved that a President determined to undermine and make a mockery of our immigration laws can willfully open those borders to the most violent criminals, terrorists, gangs, and cartels on this planet and use the Democrats’ sanctuary laws to protect them.

This national nightmare will end at noon on Inauguration Day, but what of future Presidents?

The Laken Riley Act would require ICE detention for illegal aliens who are charged with, arrested for, or convicted of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense.

H.R. 29 further requires the Department of Homeland Security to issue a detainer for those illegal aliens and take custody of them effectively and expeditiously. It would also allow States to bring a civil action against derelict Federal officials who refuse to enforce these laws.

Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas, I am looking at you.

This bill passed the Republican House in March of last year, but Senate Democrats stopped it cold. I said at the time that, today, the name on the bill is Laken Riley. Tomorrow, it will be another victim of these policies, another son, daughter, or loved one.

It won’t stop until this administration is stopped, and that can only be done by the American people. Thank God, the American people have done exactly that. They have given this Congress and this President the tools and mandate to secure our borders and remove every person who has broken into our country by violating our laws.

Without this law, a future Democratic President could once again release dangerous illegal aliens back onto our streets to prey on our people and destroy innocent lives like Laken Riley’s. This bill would stop them.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration brought us back from a devastating pandemic and the Trump economic crisis by investing in American workers, American manufacturing, and American infrastructure. Our policies for the working-class majority instead of the tiny rapacious billionaire class pulled our economy back from the brink.

Today, our Nation’s economic strength is “the envy of the world,” as The Economist magazine put it, with

an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent, wages rising across America, and the gross domestic product growing at a robust 3.1 percent.

Moreover, the murder rate is way down in America. Unlawful immigration at the southern border is now below where it was when Donald Trump left office 4 years ago. The roaring stock market, which is what Trump and his billionaire entourage care about, just completed its strongest 2 years in a quarter century.

Now, it is time to make sure all Americans enjoy the benefits of this astonishing economic growth. We should be coming together today to increase the minimum wage, to lift children out of poverty, and to strengthen unions, Social Security, Medicare, and the middle class. Donald Trump is instead assembling a billionaire Cabinet from the top 0.0003 percent of the wealthiest Americans, drawing the top tier of his new administration from poolside cocktail hour at Mar-a-Lago and setting up the broligarchs and the plutocrats to plunder an even larger share of government contracts and public resources.

Trump campaigned on the seductive promise of bringing down the high post-COVID-19 prices for rent, groceries, consumer goods, and healthcare, but now he is preparing to give power over the economy to his team of globetrotting, dictator-dealing CEOs and billionaires, the very people responsible for exploiting the pandemic to increase prices in the first place.

I doubt the billionaire oligarchs have any interest in bringing down the cost of living for the working middle class in America, but if they do, Democrats stand ready to work with them. After all, we are the ones who dramatically lowered prescription drug prices in Medicare, capping out-of-pocket monthly expenses at \$35 a month. I had constituents who were paying \$500 a month for insulin as diabetics before that, and it is capped now at \$35 a month. We capped annual total out-of-pocket expenditures for prescription drugs at \$2,000 a year.

It was the MAGA Republicans deep in the pocket of Big Pharma who categorically and vehemently opposed us every step of the way on lowering prescription drug prices in Medicare.

If our colleagues now have good policy proposals for continuing to lower prices as we have done, which is what they campaigned on, by all means, bring the proposals forward. Let's see them.

Democrats have repeatedly crossed the aisle to hammer out bipartisan compromise. Last year, President Biden and Senate Democrats worked with the ultraconservative Republican Senator JAMES LANKFORD to arrive at a tough bipartisan border security deal, but President Trump aggressively tanked the deal, openly expressing his preference for rallying against a border crisis rather than actually developing a border solution.

Now, today, the Republicans are on the floor but not with their long-awaited, entirely missing policy solutions to the problems of inflation or immigration. Instead, their bill today is an empty and opportunistic measure. It is not, like the compromise they tanked in the last Congress, a bill for greater border security or better technology in the ports of entry, expanding legal pathways to immigration and citizenship for millions of people, or addressing huge immigrant visa backlogs. No, this bill would upend 28 years of mandatory immigration detention policy by requiring that any undocumented immigrant arrested for theft, larceny, or shoplifting be detained even if they are never convicted or even charged with a crime.

This is a radical departure from current law, which since 1996 has generally required mandatory detention only for persons who are criminally convicted or who admit to having committed certain serious crimes—that is, when criminal guilt is certain and established beyond a reasonable doubt.

□ 1130

Under this bill, a person who has lived in the United States for decades, say for most of her life, paid taxes, and bought a home, but who is mistakenly arrested for shoplifting would not be free to resume her life. Rather, she would be detained and deported even if the charges are dropped and even if the police admit that the arrest was mistaken.

Consider a young Dreamer or TPS recipient who is with a group of friends after school and someone in the group shoplifts, stealing a candy bar. To scare the whole group straight, everyone is arrested, whether they were involved in the shoplifting or not. However, nobody is charged, and the charges are dropped. For most of the kids, it is a humiliating afternoon and a valuable life lesson, but for one of them, a young person who has been in America lawfully for years with his or her family, the consequences would be devastating under this legislation—mandatory detention and deportation from the country just for having been arrested, even if never charged.

It seems to me passing strange, Mr. Speaker, that our friends are taking this position when they do not even believe that the criminal justice system can be trusted when a jury unanimously convicts someone who has had the best legal representation money can buy in the State of New York on 34 different felony criminal counts after an extended criminal trial with all due process protections, including cross-examination and the right to counsel being afforded.

If the criminal justice process cannot be trusted to identify a truly guilty person even when that person has been arrested, charged, indicted, prosecuted, represented at every stage, given an opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses, and to testify personally, and

then is unanimously convicted by a jury of his peers beyond a reasonable doubt, how can the criminal justice process be trusted to identify a truly guilty person just with an arrest and no indictment, no prosecution, no cross-examination, no neutral adjudication by an impartial judge, no fact-finding, and no criminal conviction by a 12-person jury beyond a reasonable doubt?

Mandatory detention has always been reserved for people who are convicted of crimes and actually commit crimes. Expanding the detention requirement to include every person who has merely been accused of or arrested for, even if not charged for shoplifting, for example, collapses the distinction between actual conviction on serious events versus simply being charged with or arrested for something very minor even if the charges don't even lead anywhere.

Congress has never even appropriated sufficient resources to detain all non-citizens who do fall under the currently serious mandatory detention categories. Even President Trump, during his first term, never tried to detain all migrants theoretically subject to mandatory detention. Therefore, this extremely elastic new provision adds nothing to the equation other than more empty rhetoric and greater bureaucratic bloat.

The bill also seeks to give State governments authority and control over the Federal immigration system by trespassing on the Article II executive power in a way that eight out of nine Justices on the Supreme Court completely repudiated 2 years ago as a blatant violation of the separation of powers.

The bill seeks to give State attorneys general precisely what the Supreme Court has denied: constitutional standing to sue the Federal Government in court for perceived violations of sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act so States can block Federal immigration policies, capsizing the Supremacy Clause and expanding judicial power to encroach upon executive discretion under Article II.

In June of 2023, the Supreme Court in the United States v. Texas emphatically rejected the alleged standing of States to sue the Federal Government to alter the government's immigration arrest policies. This bill attempts a legislative bypass of this constitutional decision in U.S. v. Texas written by Justice Kavanaugh and joined by eight of nine Justices on the Court.

In rejecting the States' standing argument, the Court observed, among other things, that lawsuits alleging insufficient arrests or prosecution run against the executive branch's exclusive Article II authority to enforce immigration law, which includes the discretion to determine enforcement priorities in the face of a chronic lack of resources and shifting public safety, public welfare, and foreign policy needs and priorities.

If this bill were to become law, both provisions would have the perverse effect of undermining the Federal Government's efforts to prioritize the detention and the deportation of the truly most dangerous convicted felons. With the vastly expanded new statutory scope and new authority for States to get legal standing on steroids, the government can be sued by a State for not detaining everyone charged with or not even arrested for the pettiest of crimes like shoplifting.

This bill tries to give States standing to sue for harms as small as \$100, dramatically shifting power from the executive branch to the courts and the Federal Government to the States, both in ways considered completely dubious by the Supreme Court.

Like many of the immigration-related bills the GOP is now advancing, this one seems to follow a simple strategy: Pick a crime, paste into it a template immigration law covering convicted criminals, and then require detention or deportation of certain persons merely accused of committing the crime or arrested for committing the crime. No due process is required at all. This allows us to get up and demonize immigrants without doing anything to fix the immigration system and to act tough without actually making America safer or solving any of the problems within the immigration laws.

We should be working together on comprehensive, meaningful reform. My colleague from California invites us to believe that the only crimes committed by undocumented aliens are those who entered during the Biden administration. Well, in fact, if you look at it, hundreds of thousands, 500,000 crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in the first Trump administration, and over 1.1 million people who crossed during the first 4 years of his administration were eventually released from custody.

One of the people released from custody, an undocumented alien, is charged with murdering 19-year-old Adam Luker from Alabama. Why don't we have a bill named after Adam Luker? Is it because of the inconvenient fact that the undocumented alien who killed him came in under Donald Trump? I would hate to think so. However, we can find lots of cases like that.

That is not what we should be doing here in Congress. We should be seriously confronting the problems in a serious way together rather than just trying to make partisan hay out of other people's tragedies in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not move the ball forward on any of the problems facing America, and they are being moved under closed rules without a hearing, without any legislative scrutiny. This means that no Member—not only just Democrats, but Republicans, too, no Member—can offer any amendments to repair the gaping flaws and gaps in these slapdash political bills.

I would urge our colleagues to take a much more serious approach here. The murder of Laken Riley was an un-

speakable and appalling crime, a heinous act, and no parent, no family should ever have to bear such a calamity. We must take clear steps to make sure that people who commit crimes like this are punished to the full extent of the law. I trust that my friends agree that those who commit horrific, violent crimes like these must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

This bill fails to take any meaningful action to improve our broken immigration system and to prevent crimes like this from occurring again, whether the undocumented aliens entered under a Democratic administration, as they have, or a Republican administration, as they have. We are asked to vote on a bill that fails to address any of the real issues at stake, and we are foreclosed from offering any amendments to improve this sloppy and political product.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

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

I want you to listen to what my friend just said, that we shouldn't be placing illegals in detention simply for being charged with a crime; and, besides, shoplifting is no big deal anyway.

Listen to what he is actually suggesting. Current law requires the detention of every illegal alien who crosses our border. Every one.

The Democrats have studiously ignored this law, and now they are saying ignore this law even if the illegal has now been charged with committing other crimes as well. Let them back onto the streets, as they did with Laken Riley's murderer. If a few innocent teens happen to get raped and murdered along the way, well, too bad.

The Democrats have told us for 4 years that their refusal to enforce our immigration laws is because they are prioritizing more dangerous offenders. That is precisely what this bill does. It prioritizes dangerous offenders, and yet the Democrats are still opposing it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), the author of this measure. Mr. COLLINS represents Laken Riley's hometown and her grieving family in this House.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support the Laken Riley Act.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we record into history exactly what happened to this young lady.

This young lady didn't have a care in the world. She was just out for a jog, enjoying the day, when an illegal criminal took her life away. He didn't even have any remorse. He never hesitated.

This legislation could have prevented her death. Her murderer was in our

country illegally and was a known criminal. He had abused a child in New York City and was flown to Athens, Georgia, a sanctuary city, all of this on the taxpayers' dime, where he was once again cited for shoplifting. Every part of our system failed Laken that day, and there is nothing we can do to bring her back.

I will tell you what, we can make sure this never happens again. Right now, ICE is unable to detain and deport illegal criminals who commit these minor-level crimes, but the Laken Riley Act will fix this and give ICE and our local law enforcement the tools to get these criminals out of our country and make our communities safer.

We need to get these people off the street. These criminals are getting bolder and bolder while our communities become more and more unsafe. Our lax policies gave her murderer the courage to kill Laken Riley. We have got to make sure that this doesn't ever happen again.

Mr. Speaker, he bashed her head in with a rock. This is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable. People need to know what this animal did to her. I am going to tell you what, they also need to know how she fought back. Laken fought back with every ounce in her body. When I spoke to the family about this bill last year, I told them I would never let it go. I will fight with every ounce that I have to make sure that no family has to suffer a loss like they have to these illegal criminals.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day in America, it is a sad day when we allow these thug criminals to invade our homes, our country, and impose their violence and their will on the American people. We have the opportunity today, we have the opportunity to fix this, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in voting "yes."

I will leave you with an excerpt from a statement made by Laken Riley's family:

The Laken Riley Act has our full support because it would help save innocent lives and prevent more families from going through the kind of heartbreak we have experienced. Laken would have been 23 on January 10. There is no greater gift that could be given to her or our country than to continue her legacy by saving lives through this bill. Every single Member of Congress should be able to get behind this purely commonsense bill that will make our country and communities safer.

Mr. Speaker, God help us. God help us.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 29.

I start by expressing my deepest condolences to Laken Riley's family. Her death was a tragedy, and we all mourn her loss. May her memory be a blessing.

□ 1145

I wish that we were considering legislation that was worthy of her name. Instead, the Republican majority is beginning this new Congress right where

they left off in the last one, with legislation that targets and scapegoats immigrants, but does nothing to address the real problems in our broken immigration system, all while ignoring basic due process and constitutional principles.

Among other things, this legislation would subject to mandatory detention any undocumented immigrants who are merely charged with committing an act of theft or shoplifting, even if they are innocent.

This means if someone is merely accused of shoplifting, someone who might be innocent, who might be the victim of mistaken identity, and who has not had the opportunity to clear his name, would be subject to mandatory detention.

This bill is so broad that it would lead to the detention of people who have committed no crime and have no intention of harming anyone. That flies in the face of all notions of basic due process and reason. It is both pernicious and absurd.

Where will the Federal Government get the resources to detain all these people? Congress has never appropriated, and no administration has ever requested, sufficient resources to detain all noncitizens who fall under the mandatory detention categories. Even President Trump, during his first term, never tried to detain all migrants subject to mandatory detention. It was far too costly, even for him.

Since this bill is so sweeping, even Dreamers and people living here on temporary protected status, people who may have lived in this country for decades and shortly after their birth, could be subject to the bill's harsh provisions.

If that weren't bad enough, the bill also declares that States have standing to sue over certain immigration provisions so long as the State or its residents suffer even the most trivial financial harm. This appears to be a ham-handed attempt to circumvent recent Supreme Court rulings limiting States' standing to sue the Federal Government over immigration enforcement matters.

Merely declaring that the States have standing to sue does not make it so. This provision is almost certainly unconstitutional. Unfortunately, the lack of attention that Republicans pay to such matters perfectly sums up their entire approach to immigration.

Instead of working toward serious solutions to serious problems, they are content to simply play politics and consider it a job well done. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), who has done work on our subcommittee on this issue.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, again, our hearts go out to the Laken Riley family. We think about them. This bill is named for Laken Riley, but it has an impact far greater.

Once again, we must acknowledge that we can no longer take the famed empty words of sympathy from those across the aisle in the Biden-Harris administration because they refuse to do anything meaningful to stop the carnage or even slow down the border surge that has been going on.

Illegal aliens who commit crimes must not be released into our communities. Our colleagues cannot even use the term of art that is in the statute: "illegal alien." They cannot even use that. They conflate legal immigration with those who enter our country illegally. They call them undocumented immigrants. That is what they do.

They don't ever stand up for the American people. Instead of taking the mandate of an overwhelming popular vote victory and electoral college victory by this incoming President Donald Trump on the issue of border security, they let it go. They ignore it.

In fact, places like San Diego—you know what San Diego just did? They declared themselves a super sanctuary city. Nobody is going to be held for ICE.

You get to explain to the victim of Nicholas Jose Francisco, a 25-year-old illegal alien from Guatemala, charged with molesting and raping a 5-year-old little girl. In New York City, there is more than 58,000 illegal aliens with a criminal record who have been charged with a crime on their streets.

You get to explain and apologize to the victim of the 31-year-old illegal alien from Mexico who was recently arrested for breaking into a woman's home and raping her. This goes on and on because my colleagues don't want to hold these people in detention.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, you get to explain to the victim of the 28-year-old illegal alien who tortured and burglarized a Dallas woman just a month or two ago.

You can stand up and say we are not bringing meaningful legislation. You can stand up and say that you feel real bad for Laken Riley and her family. How about all the other victims of illegal aliens who have committed crimes? You know the first thing they did that was illegal? They entered our country. Democrats want to protect them. Republicans want the law enforced.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, in fact, the Democrats got behind a bipartisan border security bill, which beefed up law enforcement at the border, which beefed up judges at the border, and that was tanked by Donald Trump and by Republicans in the House.

They are the ones, Mr. Speaker, who refuse to engage in meaningful legislative work to get the job done here. Democrats won't be lectured by our colleague that we don't stand up for the American people.

The author of this legislation actually yesterday sent out a tweet, a so-

cial media statement, characterizing the January 6 violent assault on this Chamber where 140 officers were wounded, injured, and hospitalized by a rampaging mob this way: "On this day in history, 2021," said the gentleman, "thousands of peaceful grandmothers gathered in Washington, D.C., to take a self-guided, albeit unauthorized, tour of the U.S. Capitol Building." I like that touch, "albeit unauthorized."

Earlier that day, President Trump held a rally, where supporters walked to the Capitol to peacefully protest the certification of the 2020 election. During this time, some individuals entered the Capitol, took photos, and explored the building before leaving."

Well, isn't that sweet. We see exactly how much faith and confidence they really have in the American criminal justice system and how much they really stand on the side of law enforcement. Yeah, it was a just a leisurely stroll by a bunch of peaceful grandmothers on January 6.

These are the people that now are inviting us to dramatically change the immigration laws without even a hearing as to what it is going to mean in any particular case.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, Laken Riley was, by all accounts, a remarkable young woman, whose life was tragically cut short by a horrific act that should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones who grieve her death.

I understand, as a mother myself, fully why in the face of such senseless violence, especially against someone so young, there is an urge to do something, anything, to feel like you are actually helping to fix the problem.

Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to fix the immigration system or to prevent future tragedies like this. It is simply an attempt to score cheap political points off of a tragic death, and in the process, it unfairly sweeps up many more innocent lives with no due process.

Let us be clear: This is the Republican playbook over and over again. Scare people about immigrants, never propose anything that actually solves an outdated and arcane immigration system that desperately needs Congress to allocate resources and update legal pathways to make the immigration system work for everyone.

My Republican colleagues simply want to preserve a broken immigration system as a campaign issue so that they can scapegoat and demonize immigrants all to distract the American people from their real goals of making working people pay for another Republican tax scam that benefits billionaires and the wealthiest.

Just look at the rules package that they just passed. Out of the 12 bills included in that, not a single one does anything to secure the border, to fix

the broken immigration system, to lower costs for working people, to address the housing crisis, tackle the extraordinary levels of income inequality in this country, or tamp down on inflation.

Those were the promises of the Trump campaign, but not a single one of those things is actually included in the first bills that they are bringing to the floor without hearings.

Let's talk about what this bill actually does. This bill goes far beyond subjecting those who are convicted to or admit to committing a theft offense to mandatory detention. What this bill actually does is subject any undocumented immigrant to mandatory detention for merely being arrested or charged with committing an act of theft, larceny, or shoplifting, along with those who are convicted or who admit to committing such acts.

Under this bill, a DACA or TPS recipient could be subjected to mandatory detention for crimes that are extremely low-level or for something that is not even a crime without even having had a fair day in court, without a conviction.

Let's be clear, we are talking about people who have been in this country for decades. Many of us in Congress are parents. Imagine your child is with a group of kids grabbing an after-school snack at a 7-Eleven and one of them chooses to just snatch a little candy bar off the shelf.

The shop owner calls the police, and all the kids are arrested for shoplifting. If your child is a DACA recipient, someone who has lived here nearly their entire life, they are now subject to mandatory detention under this bill.

Unfortunately, there are countless real-life examples of people getting wrongfully arrested for crimes that they didn't commit. In 2019, a man in New Jersey was arrested for shoplifting and trying to hit a police officer with a car because facial recognition software falsely identified him as the perpetrator.

He spent 10 days in jail, even though he was actually 30 miles away from where the crime was committed. If he had been a DACA or a TPS recipient, and this bill had been enacted, he would be subject to mandatory immigration detention even though he was innocent of the crime of which he was accused.

People deserve to have their day in court and are innocent until proven guilty. That seems to be something that the majority has forgotten or doesn't seem to care about unless the alleged criminal is the President-elect.

The upcoming administration is poised to bring back their no-priority immigration enforcement priority guidelines in which a convicted murderer would be the same priority for deportation as an undocumented mom who has been living in this country for 20 years.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, imagine how much money a sweeping mandatory detention proposal like this will cost the Federal Government at a time when Republicans are talking a big game about cutting budgets, but not this one. Why? Because this is a great boon to those for-profit detention companies who make enormous profits for mandatory detention when there are far more effective and cheaper ways to address the issue.

Who pays for all this? The taxpayers. Even in a Republican trifecta, ICE has limited resources to detain and remove folks. However, in this bill, like President Trump's enforcement priorities, we seek to use those resources on people who committed low-level crimes or even no crime at all. That makes no one safer and costs a lot of money.

Finally, this bill also bizarrely attempts to give State attorneys general the authority to try and stop the administrations from carrying out important policy priorities by giving them standing to sue in Federal court under various sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act. That entire section of the bill, likely unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this overly broad, deeply flawed legislation.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, this bill is going to go a long way to reverse the lawlessness of the Biden-Harris administration. I will tell you a story for a moment.

A criminal illegal alien entered the country with known gang tattoos and was allowed through Biden's porous border. He made his way to the State of Wisconsin where he had warrants issued in Dane County for strangulation, suffocation, false imprisonment, battery, and disorderly conduct. He was not detained and deported, as he should have been, because Dane County is a sanctuary county.

□ 1200

He then made his way to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was arrested for simple property crimes. He was not detained and deported, as he should have been as a criminal illegal alien, because Minneapolis is a sanctuary city.

He then made his way to a small town of 5,600 people, Prairie du Chien, my hometown, where he brutally raped a mother and savagely beat her daughter over a period of days and was finally arrested for domestic battery, strangulation, suffocation, physical abuse to a child, disorderly conduct, and two counts of second-degree sexual assault.

None of this needed to happen if the law was adhered to. None of this would have taken place if this person was detained and deported for a simple property crime. Enough.

It is the Federal Government's primary responsibility to protect its citizens. My Democratic colleagues are refusing to do this, and it is shameful. It is time to protect our American citizens against criminal illegal aliens, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strongly support this bill.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 29, the Laken Riley Act.

For the past 4 years, the American people have suffered under the Biden administration's disastrous open-border policies that have allowed millions of illegal aliens to flood our communities.

One of those illegal aliens was Jose Ibarra. In 2023, he was caught shoplifting. Despite multiple arrests on his record in addition to his illegal status, he was released under the Biden administration. Months later, as we all know, he murdered 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley.

There is no other way to put it. Her death is a direct result of President Biden's deliberate refusal to enforce our laws. It is the Federal Government's job to defend our borders and protect our citizens, and our government has failed us.

Fortunately, a new leader is taking office soon. This past November, Americans demonstrated that they are fed up with the left's refusal to secure our border. I am proud to be part of a Republican majority that will work with the new administration to strengthen our laws to ensure the safety of every American.

While I am confident that the Trump administration will secure our border and, yes, empower ICE to do its job, we must not allow our security to depend on whether or not a Republican occupies the White House. We in this Congress must ensure there are no future Laken Rileys.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 29, the Laken Riley Act.

This bill is in remembrance of Laken Riley, the 22-year-old nursing student who was tragically murdered last year in my home community of Athens, Georgia, by an illegal alien from Venezuela who should have never even been in our country.

After illegally crossing the southern border in 2022, Laken's murderer was released through the Biden administration's weaponization of the parole program. The following year, he was arrested by the NYPD for acting in a manner to injure a minor and for committing a motor vehicle license violation.

According to an Athens-Clarke County Police Department report, this illegal alien went on to shoplift in Georgia just weeks after his encounter with law enforcement in New York.

Clearly, this illegal alien had a pattern of criminal history, one that started when he accepted Joe Biden's invitation to illegally enter our country. He should never have been allowed to reside in the United States illegally, and ICE should have immediately issued a detainer after he committed these crimes. Ultimately, if ICE had been aware and then issued a detainer, this criminal illegal alien would not have even been in the United States to commit the horrific murder of Laken Riley.

We must enact changes now to protect our communities across the country from facing additional avoidable tragedies.

Thankfully, H.R. 29 provides a commonsense solution to do just that. This legislation requires ICE to issue detainees and take custody of illegal aliens who commit crimes like theft, burglary, and larceny.

The local jurisdiction, the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, was a sanctuary city, and that is another problem. That is a big problem. The sanctuary policy hampered the Athens-Clarke County Department of Police Services and the Clarke County Sheriff's Office from recognizing and acting upon an ICE detainer, which could have prevented Laken's murder.

Time and time again, communities and families throughout our Nation have been devastated by heinous crimes committed by illegal aliens. In fact, this past October, the Peach State faced another unspeakable tragedy. In Habersham County, in my home district, Ms. Mimi Rodriguez-Ramirez was brutally murdered by an illegal alien from Mexico. She was just 25 years old and left behind a young daughter and a loving family.

The citizens of Clarke County and Habersham County are hundreds of miles from any border but are still being brutally victimized by illegal aliens. Enough is enough. These preventable tragedies must come to an end.

As a cosponsor of this critical legislation, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Laken Riley Act. After all, one of the most formidable ways that Congress can deliver justice for Laken Riley, Mimi Rodriguez-Ramirez, and their families is by passing this legislation to prevent additional avoidable tragedies from victimizing the law-abiding citizens of our Nation.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to address one thing before we start. It was again mentioned about the bipartisan bill. The bipartisan bill was a bad bill. It didn't stop catch and release. It didn't expedite immediately to the country of origin. It didn't rebuild the wall. It didn't have a stay in Mexico policy. It was words. It wasn't actions. It wasn't good. That is why people didn't vote for it. That is why it wasn't successful.

Speaking about words, though, when I came here today, I thought about a lot of words. I hear a lot of words, a lot of debate, a lot of discussion. To the family of Laken Riley and to so many others across the United States of America, words don't matter. Condolences don't count. Speeches don't do it. Words will never replace her life.

In life, we have all gone through tragedies sometimes, so we often say: My God, why did this happen? Why did this car accident happen? Why did this person get cancer? Whatever it is.

This is different. We know why it happened. It happened because of the administration allowing illegals, some of whom—not all of whom but some of whom—were criminals into our country, feeding them, clothing them, transporting them, housing them, paying for them. Men and women are breaking their backs in this country to make a living, but we are paying for it.

We know how it happened. We know how it happened to the New York City woman who was set on fire. We know how it happened to State Trooper Christopher Gadd in Washington State when he died because of an illegal alien. We know how it happened to Lizbeth Medina from the great State of Texas. She was 16 years old, and her life was snuffed out. That is never okay.

Laken Riley fought for her life. You hear about her last 20 minutes on this Earth. She fought, and she fought with everything she had. She didn't want to be raped. She didn't want to be brutalized.

I don't want to curse here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this individual then took a rock and bashed her head in until she was unrecognizable.

Do you know what? Condolences aren't going to do it. I say it to my friend on the other side of the aisle, the ranking member. Feeling bad, feeling sorry, is not going to do it. It doesn't make the difference.

All of us here, most of us have been mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, daughters, or sons. You can't imagine

how her family feels. People say, "I know how you feel." No, I don't know. I don't know. You don't know.

There is something we can do. All this bill does is detain people who have done something wrong, who have broken the law already, and who have the potential to do even worse. All of these cases that I mentioned and many more would not have occurred if we had this law in place.

Don't give condolences. Vote for the bill.

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

Madam Speaker, I am moved by the words of the gentleman from New Jersey who said: Don't give us words. Words don't matter. Speeches don't cut it. Speeches don't do it.

It sounds like an absolute echo of what you hear from our colleagues whenever there is an explosion of gun violence in any of our communities. We hear thoughts and prayers, lots of words, but no action.

The fact that there is sympathy or condolences, I agree with the gentleman, is not enough. We need real public policy changes that will be effective and that will be constitutional.

That is what the discussion is about today. Will these policy changes, in fact, be effective? Will they be constitutional or not?

I agree that we should move from the situation of identifying and empathizing with people who have suffered terrible family tragedies and private tragedies to effective public policy. That is our job as legislators.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, perhaps we should take all the criminals off the streets, starting with those who shouldn't have been in our country in the first place, which is what this bill does.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I support this important legislation that would take concrete policy steps toward addressing the problem of open borders created by this administration.

We listened to the gentlewoman from Washington on the other side talk about the cost of implementing the legislation. That requires a certain amount of hubris to claim to be worried about the cost of implementing a piece of legislation when the cost of the open borders that have been created by this administration and embraced by the other side are clearly evident.

I have been to the border. We have seen the impact that open borders have had on the educational systems, the transportation systems, the housing systems, and the agriculture systems. All across this country, our Nation is a nation of border communities now because we are all being impacted by these open borders.

Back in 2022, Laken Riley's horrific murder shocked the Nation. Also

shocking was the fact that her murder was preventable. It was preventable by enforcing the laws of this country. After his arrest for crossing the border illegally in 2022, he was paroled into the United States. Months before murdering Laken Riley, he was arrested for theft. Local authorities in Georgia released him, and ICE didn't lodge a detainer for the alien. Unfortunately, these two actions directly contributed to the murder of Laken Riley.

This legislation that bears her name would require ICE to arrest illegal aliens who commit theft offenses and, importantly, would mandate that these aliens are detained until they are removed from the country. It further requires that the Department of Homeland Security issues a detainer for these illegal aliens and take custody of them effectively and expeditiously.

While we anxiously await President Trump's inauguration and know that his administration will follow and enforce immigration law and take steps to advance the enforcement of our borders, the Laken Riley Act ensures that all administrations are held accountable, including the previous one, and that our immigration laws are followed.

Madam Speaker, I support this important legislation, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the bill.

□ 1215

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), the chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support and full support of H.R. 29, the Laken Riley Act. It is long overdue that we actually take law and order seriously, that we enforce the laws that are on the books.

Laken Riley is not an isolated incident, unfortunately. Jocelyn Nungaray from Texas, mother Rachel Morin, and many others, were innocent women who were horrifically killed by illegal aliens, and their families are going to be mourning their loss of life for the rest of their lives.

Violent criminals like the ones who committed this heinous act and others continue to pour over our border daily, which is why we desperately need to pass this act today.

This legislation will protect American communities by requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement to issue detainers, mandatory detention for those who are here illegally who also commit theft. It is pretty simple. There should be nothing controversial about this.

In fact, I am interested to see how my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who vote against this go back to their districts, Madam Speaker, and say: I don't stand for law and order because I don't want illegal aliens who are here committing theft, rape, murder, or any other offense, to be detained. How can you go back to a district and say that?

In Texas, by the way, good news. With the Laken Riley Act, you now have standing to sue the Federal Government when they don't do this, when they don't enforce the laws on the books. You have standing to sue the Federal Government for failing to uphold the laws that are on our books.

My heart goes out to Laken Riley's family. My heart goes out to other people who have had to watch as this administration has stood by and done nothing to protect our country, our communities, and the sanctity of the safety that we as Americans should always have. Let's go home and let's be proud, in a bipartisan way, that we are willing to uphold the law.

I stand in full support of the Laken Riley Act.

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

In answer to the distinguished gentleman, he stated precisely what the law is now. He said: How can we go back to our districts and not defend the immediate deporting of people who have committed theft? That is what the law is. They want to change the law to go from someone who has actually committed theft, or been convicted of theft, to people who have been charged with it, even if the charges have been dropped, or arrested for it, even if charges were never brought in the first place.

I think that the misstatement of the meaning of this legislation speaks very deeply to what an opportunistic exercise this really is.

What the gentleman was asking for is the law today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I remind my friend that the law also requires every illegal alien to be detained until their case is adjudicated, which is what the Democrats have ignored these last 4 years.

This bill simply says if on top of that the illegal is charged with a crime, they need to be detained and taken off the streets.

The murderer of Laken Riley was charged but not convicted. Had he been treated as the detainer law requires, he would have been deported and Laken Riley would be alive today.

I am prepared to close when the gentleman is ready. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 3¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close, and I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for this debate.

I must say that the legislation before us and the approach that it embodies reflect a profound disrespect for our criminal justice system and for our constitutional values.

To begin with, they want to change the mandatory detention provisions

which we have had since 1996 on a bipartisan basis for the last 28 years. We have operated on the basis of criminal conviction, which is obviously congruent with the constitutional demands and values that we have in our country.

Now, without having a legislative hearing, they want to radically revise the statutes to say that it is sufficient for somebody to have been charged with or arrested for an offense like shoplifting or theft, even if the charges are dropped and even if charges are never brought after an arrest is made. It seems to me that they are backtracking from purported fidelity to our constitutional values.

Similarly, they want to essentially overthrow Justice Kavanaugh's 8-1 decision in the United States v. Texas from just a couple of years ago where the Supreme Court determined that States do not have standing to go to court to say that they don't like the way that a particular administration is allocating its resources and implementing a public policy.

Now, if they want to argue that there is a law that is unconstitutional, they can argue that, but they can't go to court and simply say that the executive branch is implementing the law in a way that a particular State doesn't like. Yet, they want to occasion that massive shift of power, as Justice Kavanaugh characterized it, so that the States would essentially be able to control Federal immigration policy.

I am still reeling from reading the author of this legislation's statements yesterday, which I think also speak to a fundamental disrespect for the rule of law, which says: Since January 6, hundreds of peaceful protesters have been hunted down, arrested, held in solitary confinement, and treated unjustly. Countless hours and taxpayer dollars have been spent pursuing innocent grandmothers and raiding President Trump's home while terrorists and millions of illegal immigrants continue to cross our Nation's borders.

That is the fundamentally demagogic and lawless approach to this whole debate that they have taken. Our body was invaded by a mob of insurrectionists who injured 140 officers, wounding them and hospitalizing them, and they cannot even acknowledge that as a fact but instead change the subject to millions of people crossing the border illegally, which over the decades has undoubtedly happened under both Democrats and Republicans. That is what we should be working on today.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleague that the riot at the Capitol 4 years ago was an abomination. I have said so repeatedly whenever the subject arises. There is no excuse for it.

I would also remind the gentleman what Justice Kavanaugh said in the United States v. Texas. That is where the Supreme Court ruled the States

currently don't have standing to sue to enforce these laws. What he actually says was, the ruling was, it would require a change in law: elevating de facto injuries to the status of legally cognizable injuries redressable by a Federal court. That is what Justice Kavanaugh said we needed to do. That is exactly what this bill does, by the book, and yet the Democrats still oppose it.

To my Democratic colleagues, I ask them: How many more laws with names attached to them do we need to pass before they take this crisis seriously?

How many American citizens must die at the hands of illegal aliens before we all agree that these tragedies are all preventable, lest the name of my child or your child be the one attached to an H.R. number before the Democrats can vote "yes" on these commonsense bills?

How much more blood must be shed before we can all join in calling for an absolute end to the Democrats' reckless open borders and sanctuary city policies that have threatened our safety, devastated our families, and are in the process of destroying our country? The American people have now spoken clearly on this issue. Enough is enough.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the bill. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1300

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 1 p.m.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 29) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, 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 passage of the bill. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 264, nays 159, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 6]
YEAS—264

Aderholt	Garbarino	Mannion
Alford	Gill (TX)	Massie
Allen	Gillen	Mast
Amodei (NV)	Gimenez	McBath
Arrington	Golden (ME)	McCaul
Babin	Goldman (TX)	McClain
Bacon	Gonzales, Tony	McClain Delaney
Baird	Gonzalez, V.	McClintock
Balderson	Gooden	McCormick
Barr	Goodlander	McDonald Rivet
Barrett	Gosar	McDowell
Baumgartner	Graves	McGuire
Bean (FL)	Gray	Messmer
Begich	Green (TN)	Meuser
Bentz	Greene (GA)	Miller (IL)
Bergman	Griffith	Miller (OH)
Bice	Grothman	Miller (WV)
Biggs (AZ)	Guest	Miller-Meeks
Biggs (SC)	Guthrie	Mills
Bilirakis	Hageman	Min
Boebert	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moolenaar
Bost	Harder (CA)	Moore (AL)
Boyle (PA)	Haridopolos	Moore (NC)
Bresnahan	Harrigan	Moore (UT)
Buchanan	Harris (MD)	Moore (WV)
Budzinski	Harris (NC)	Moran
Burchett	Harshbarger	Morelle
Burlison	Hayes	Moskowitz
Bynum	Hern (OK)	Mrvan
Calvert	Higgins (LA)	Murphy
Cammack	Hill (AR)	Nehls
Carey	Hinson	Newhouse
Carter (GA)	Horsford	Norman
Carter (TX)	Houchin	Nunn (IA)
Ciscomani	Hoyle (OR)	Obernolte
Cline	Hudson	Ogles
Cloud	Huizenga	Onder
Clyde	Hunt	Owens
Cole	Hurd (CO)	Palmer
Collins	Issa	Pappas
Comer	Jack	Perez
Costa	Jackson (TX)	Perry
Courtney	James	Pfluger
Craig	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler
Crane	Johnson (SD)	Riley (NY)
Crank	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	Joyce (PA)	Rose
Cuellar	Kaptur	Rouzer
Davids (KS)	Kean	Roy
Davidson	Kelly (MS)	Rulli
Davis (NC)	Kelly (PA)	Rutherford
De La Cruz	Kennedy (UT)	Salazar
Deluzio	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise
Diaz-Balart	Kiley (CA)	Schmidt
Donalds	Kim	Scholten
Downing	Knott	Schrier
Dunn (FL)	Kustoff	Schweikert
Edwards	LaHood	Scott, Austin
Elizy	LaLota	Self
Emmer	LaMalfa	Sessions
Estes	Landsman	Sewell
Evans (CO)	Langworthy	Shreve
Ezell	Latta	Simpson
Fallon	Lawler	Smith (MO)
Fedorchak	Lee (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Feenstra	Lee (NV)	Smith (NJ)
Figures	Letlow	Smucker
Finstad	Levin	Sorensen
Fischbach	Loudermilk	Spartz
Fitzgerald	Lucas	Stanton
Fitzpatrick	Luna	Staub
Fleischmann	Luttrell	Stefanik
Flood	Lynch	Steil
Fong	Mace	Steube
Foxx	Mackenzie	Strong
Franklin, Scott	Malliotakis	Stutzman
Fry	Maloy	Subramanyam
Fulcher	Mann	Suozi

Sykes
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Torres (NY)
Tran

Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—159

Adams	Frost	Omar
Aguilar	Garamendi	Pallone
Amo	Garcia (CA)	Panetta
Ansari	Garcia (IL)	Pelosi
Auchincloss	Goldman (NY)	Peters
Balint	Gomez	Pettersen
Barragan	Green, Al (TX)	Pingree
Beatty	Himes	Pocan
Bell	Houlihan	Pou
Bera	Hoyer	Pressley
Beyer	Huffman	Quigley
Bishop	Ivey	Ramirez
Bonamici	Jackson (IL)	Randall
Brown	Jacobs	Raskin
Brownley	Jayapal	Rivas
Carbajal	Jeffries	Ross
Carson	Johnson (GA)	Ryan
Carter (LA)	Johnson (TX)	Salinas
Casar	Kamlager-Dove	Sánchez
Case	Keating	Scanlon
Casten	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Castor (FL)	Kennedy (NY)	Schneider
Castro (TX)	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Cherfilus-	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
McCormick	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Chu	Larson (CT)	Simon
Cisneros	Latimer	Smith (WA)
Clark (MA)	Lee (PA)	Soto
Clarke (NY)	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Cleaver	Liccardo	Stevens
Clyburn	Lieu	Strickland
Cohen	Lofgren	Swalwell
Conaway	Magaziner	Takano
Connolly	Matsui	Thanedar
Correa	McBride	Thompson (CA)
Crockett	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
Crow	McCollum	Tlaib
Davis (IL)	McGarvey	Tokuda
Dean (PA)	McGovern	Tonko
DeGette	McIver	Torres (CA)
DeLauro	Meeks	Trahan
DelBene	Menendez	Turner (TX)
DeSaulnier	Meng	Underwood
Dexter	Mfume	Vargas
Dingell	Moore (WI)	Vasquez
Doggett	Morrison	Veasey
Elfreth	Moulton	Velázquez
Escobar	Mullin	Vindman
Espallat	Nadler	Wasserman
Fletcher	Neal	Schultz
Foster	Neguse	Waters
Foushee	Norcross	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Ocasio-Cortez	Williams (GA)
Friedman	Olshewski	

NOT VOTING—11

Brecheen	Garcia (TX)	Sherrill
DesJarlais	Gottheimer	Waltz
Evans (PA)	Grijalva	Wilson (FL)
Fields	Ruiz	

□ 1327

So 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. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 6.

ADJOURNMENT FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, January 9, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-2. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's Major final rule — Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions [Docket No.: CFPB-2024-0002] (RIN: 3170-AA42) received January 3, 2025, 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-3. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Pursuant to Section 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 Regarding FY 2022 Peacekeeping Operations Funds; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-108; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-092; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-073; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-7. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-101; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-8. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-055; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-9. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-029; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-10. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 21-065; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-11. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting Statement Of Disbursements Covering The Period of October 1, 2024 To December 31, 2024 (H. Doc. No. 119-5); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-12. A letter from the Senior Advisor for Oversight, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Presumptive Service Connection for Bladder, Ureter, and Related Genitourinary Cancers Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter (RIN: 2900-AS21) re-

ceived January 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-13. A letter from the Senior Advisor for Oversight, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans Legacy Grants Program Improvements (RIN: 2900-AS13) received January 3, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. SESSIONS:

H.R. 216. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 with respect to the determination of violations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 217. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program authorized by the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself, Ms. MACE, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 218. A bill to authorize State enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 219. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on menopause care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. CASAR):

H.R. 220. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide coverage for infertility treatment and standard fertility preservation services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. ONDER, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. SELF, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 221. A bill to abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 222. A bill to establish a national commission on fiscal responsibility and reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 223. A bill to prohibit funding for the implementation and enforcement of Federal red flag orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. EMMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 224. A bill to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 225. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 226. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FONG (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 227. A bill to allow a period in which members of the clergy may revoke their exemption from Social Security coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 228. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and adjust for inflation the above-the-line deduction for teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 229. A bill to prohibit the implementation of the Rock Springs Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 230. A bill to prohibit the implementation of the Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Buffalo, Wyoming Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 231. A bill to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 232. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount individuals can deduct for certain State and local taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 233. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal funds to institutions of higher education that conduct painful biomedical research on dogs and cats; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 234. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

H.R. 235. A bill to recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New

York; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. WEBBER of Texas, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 236. A bill to prohibit certain telework employees from receiving certain annual adjustments to pay schedules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 237. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem foods containing xylitol as misbranded unless the label or labeling of such foods contains a warning specifying the toxic effects of xylitol for dogs if ingested, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 238. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify that artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies can qualify as a practitioner eligible to prescribe drugs if authorized by the State involved and approved, cleared, or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 239. A bill to direct the heads of certain departments and agencies of the Federal Government to publicly disclose all assassination records and information relevant to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 240. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for the preemption of certain State overtime laws for agricultural employees; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Res. 17. A resolution condemning Turkey for its illegal occupation of Cyprus and encouraging President Trump to make the resolution of the Cyprus problem a top foreign policy priority; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Res. 18. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. CLYDE, and Mrs. LUNA):

H. Res. 19. A resolution providing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House should not adjourn until the annual appropriation bills within the jurisdiction of all the subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for the current fiscal year are enacted into law; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H. Res. 20. A resolution establishing the Select Committee on Electoral Reform; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 216.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 217.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 218.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 219.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 220.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 221.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 222.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 223.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 224.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 225.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 226.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, which states the Congress shall have the power “to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof.”

By Mr. FONG:

H.R. 227.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 228.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 229.

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

Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 230.

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

Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 231.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 232.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 233.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 234.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 235.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 236.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 237.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 238.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 239.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 240.

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

Article 1

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FONG, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 22: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. EMMER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 23: Mr. ROSE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KEAN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 25: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 26: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 27: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FRY, Mrs. HOUCHIN, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 29: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MESSMER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 30: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 31: Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 33: Mr. FINSTAD and Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 35: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 38: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 45: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 54: Mr. GOSAR and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 71: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 75: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 142: Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 174: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 175: Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 176: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 178: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 179: Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 210: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. PANNETTA, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 211: Ms. TITUS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CROW, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 212: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. COLLINS.

H. Res. 15: Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.



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No. 3

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, who extends daily to our lawmakers compassionate love, we praise Your Holy Name.

Lord, in a challenging world where we often find ourselves waiting to exhale, You remain our shelter for every storm. Relieve the shadows of pessimism and cynicism, as we face a world often filled with despair.

Lord, bring our Senators from the fatigue of doubts to the buoyancy of hope. Make their lives unflickering lights that transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Give them an unflinching certainty that You are Sovereign.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as the 119th Congress kicks off, I look forward to continuing my work for Iowans. As President pro tempore of the Senate, Iowa is No. 1 with my leadership.

I look forward to working with my colleague Senator JONI ERNST to represent

the people of Iowa and bring their views to the policymaking tables. The two of us will work with our colleagues—Congresswoman MARIANETTE MILLER-MEEKS, Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON, Congressman ZACH NUNN, and Congressman RANDY FEENSTRA—across the Capitol to represent the good people of Iowa. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

I just emphasized the Iowa delegation putting Iowa first. I do that at the same time we remember the voter mandate of the last election to put America first. We will work with President Trump to bring that goal to fruition.

ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. On another point, yesterday, January 6, was Christmas Day for many Christians of the Orthodox faith. But during the Soviet Union—if you remember the history of the Soviet Union—Christmas had to be celebrated in secret, lest the communist authorities would find out and you would be punished.

The godless Soviet regime encouraged celebrating the new year with a visit from Grandfather Frost, a secular Russian folk character, in place of “Jolly Old St. Nick.” In a repeat of history, “KGB Dictator Putin”—now President Putin, supposedly—banned Santa Claus in occupied Ukraine. Christmas caroling, Nativity scenes, and any mention of St. Nicholas were reportedly banned in Russian-occupied Ukraine for fear of spreading Western influence. A video recently came out showing the Russian military shooting down Santa’s sled over Russia to the praise of Grandfather Frost. This is a war on Christmas, communist style.

In Russia today, religious expression outside of the state-controlled church is discouraged. And in Russian-occupied Ukraine, all Protestant churches have been closed. The head of the Russian church is a KGB guy who answers

directly to KGB Putin. It is no wonder, then, that only 16 percent of Russians say religion is very important to them, and only 7 percent attend church weekly. It is also no wonder that most Ukrainians chose to celebrate Christmas with the West on the 25th, even while under rocket fire from Russia.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, later today, President Jimmy Carter will arrive here at the Capitol for the last time. He will lie in state until Thursday in the Capitol Rotunda so Americans can pay final respects to our Nation’s 39th President.

It is the great American story—how a man or woman can rise from humble origins to the highest levels of government or business or academia—and it was Jimmy Carter’s story.

Born in 1924 in Plains, GA, he grew up on a peanut farm, in a house that had no running water or electricity. President was probably not the first thing people would have thought of when considering his future career. Most might have thought that he would end up running the family farm, as, indeed, he did for a while.

But he decided to also dip his toe into politics, and, within 14 years, he had gone from taking up office in the

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Georgia State Senate to taking up of office as President of the United States.

His Presidency was notable for a number of things, including successful brokering of a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, an agreement that stands to this day. But it was, perhaps, his post-Presidency that came to define his legacy the most.

Jimmy Carter left office in 1981, and during the four decades that followed, he dedicated himself to making a difference to the causes of peace and human rights and to improving the wellbeing of his fellow man. Together, with his wife Rosalynn, he founded the Carter Center, which, among other things, works for the eradication of disease in some of the poorest areas of the globe. Among the center's successes is the almost whole eradication of Guinea worm disease, a painful and devastating tropical disease whose cases numbered in the millions at the time the Carter Center was beginning its work. Through the first 10 months of 2024, there were just seven reported cases—an incredible legacy for anyone, but just part of President Carter's.

President Carter is also known for his work with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for those in need. And I do mean his work. President Carter didn't just lend his name or image to Habitat. He built houses. He nailed it, drilled it. He installed toilets. Well into his nineties, you could find him in a hardhat on worksites, participating like any other volunteer.

In one early Habitat project, he and Rosalynn worked in New York City. The former First Lady and the former President spent the week sleeping in the basement of a church with other volunteers—a characteristic example of unpretentiousness from a couple who lived all their lives in a modest house in Plains, GA, that they built long before the Presidency.

All told, the Carter Work Project at Habitat for Humanity has worked on 4,447 homes in 14 countries, including homes in Eagle Butte, in my State of South Dakota, which the Carters worked on during a 1994 trip to our State. It is unknown how many more homes have been built by volunteers who came to know about Habitat for Humanity through President Jimmy Carter.

It would be wrong to mention Jimmy Carter's years of service without mentioning what animated them. Jimmy Carter saw his service as a natural outgrowth of his faith in Jesus Christ. "One of the best ways to practice my faith as a Christian," he would say, "is to participate in Habitat projects every year." His life was about putting his religious principles into practice, whether that was through Habitat for Humanity or through his other work.

And, of course, anyone attracted by his example who wanted to learn more about the Christian faith could head down to Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, GA, to his Sunday school class, which he taught into his nineties.

Madam President, I cannot close without mentioning Jimmy Carter's 77-year-long marriage to his beloved wife Rosalynn, who preceded him in death a year ago. And while I join all Americans in mourning the death of President Carter, I rejoice at the thought that he and Rosalynn are again together before the face of their Father.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Carters' children—Jack, Chip, Jeff, and Amy—and with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I look forward to paying my respects to this public servant later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 5

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess today from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference lunches.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week, 14 people were killed in a terrorist attack in New Orleans, and an explosion in Las Vegas injured several others. The FBI has warned that other attacks that copycat what happened in New Orleans could be a threat. Cities like New York and population centers like Long Island need to be prepared. There is one Federal program that stands as the cornerstone for anti-terror preparedness for places like New York City and Long Island—the Urban Area Security Initiative, known as UASI.

Today, I am announcing that I will request \$615 million for UASI in the upcoming funding negotiations this spring. UASI is one of our best firewalls for staying vigilant against terrorist threats. My request of \$615 million will help communities like New York City, Long Island, and the entire metropolitan area stand ready against acts of terror.

Last year, I was proud to deliver \$2.3 million in UASI funding for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. That is over \$4.5 million in anti-terror funds just for Long Island this last year. I know these funds are critical for these communities and for people's safety on the island. I am also proud last year that we delivered another \$150 million to New York City in this funding. We must keep this robust funding going this year too.

UASI funds help pay for everything needed to keep people safe—from training and joint anti-terror operations across the city and Long Island to emergency medical equipment to better tools for Homeland Security officers for intelligence sharing and for so much more.

We need UASI funds to keep people safe here in the Nation's Capital too. Over the next few weeks, millions will come for the inauguration and for paying homage to former President Carter, and many people will be moving in and out of the city as the government enters a period of transition. Strong UASI funding is vital to ensuring security during all of these events.

I want to be clear: Any effort to cut this anti-terror program, especially right now, cannot stand. We in New York and on Long Island use these funds on a rolling basis. We need these funds. And to repeat: UASI funds are a firewall at a time potential copycat attacks, like the FBI has warned, are happening.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Jimmy Carter, this morning, Special Air Mission 39 took off from Georgia, carrying the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, so he may be honored here in the Capitol one last time.

For the next 2 days, President Carter will lie in state in the Rotunda of the

U.S. Capitol Building, joining the small and distinguished list of eminent Americans who have earned this honor. Later today, I will join Leader THUNE and other congressional leaders in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to place a wreath on President Carter's casket on behalf of the U.S. Senate.

Today and tomorrow, Americans will brave the snow and cold temperatures to pay their respects to one of the most decent men ever to hold the Office of the President. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word—kind, honorable, intelligent, humble, and deeply patriotic. These are virtues he brought to the Oval Office in an era when trust in government was arguably at a low in the 20th century.

But just as admirable as the legacy President Carter built after holding the most powerful job in the world, after leaving office, he established the Carter Center to continue his work on human rights, on spreading democracy, on fighting disease; and we all know about his work with Habitat for Humanity where he could often be found outside, building houses for families in need, well into his nineties. That was President Carter at his core. He never stopped serving others until his final day. America was lucky to have him as a citizen, as a President, and as a moral compass of our time.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, on the 119th Congress, as the 119th Congress begins, our Nation faces an uncertain future. Americans still see high prices every time they go to the store, when they go to the pharmacy, when they refill their tanks, and pay their cable and internet bills. We have done a lot of work over the last few years to slow inflation down, but the new majority must continue the work we have begun.

Donald Trump and Republicans made a slew of very bold promises on the campaign trail to fix our country's big problems. In some of these promises, they say they will fight for working people despite decades of doing the opposite and proposing things that would hurt them. Democrats will hold Republicans' feet to the fire to ensure they are accountable to the American people. Promises to help working people sound nice, but they mean nothing without real results, and too many of Republicans' promises, like tax cuts for the very wealthy, will actually make things worse for working people.

In the coming weeks, there will be one early sign that shows whether or not Republicans intend to keep their promises to fight for working people, and that is who they support through the nomination process. These nominees are going to be the faces of the new administration. They will be responsible for applying its policies. They will, in effect, be the ones responsible for following through, day-to-day, on the promises made on the campaign trail.

So the American people want to know: Will the President-elect's nominees follow through on cutting costs for the American people, or will they return to cutting sweet deals for mega corporations and the wealthiest people in this country?

Will they help their corporate contractors cozy up to foreign entities and oligarchs, all while undermining our national security?

Will they spend time settling scores for President-elect Trump, or will they actually help keep America safer?

Will the President-elect's nominees keep their promises to serve America, or are they just going to serve the swamp?

We remember what happened during the first Trump administration. The swamp wasn't drained so much as doubled and tripled and more. Even during the last campaign, Donald Trump promised oil executives huge tax breaks if he won. That would be the opposite of the promises he made to the people.

These are the kinds of things we need to know from the President-elect's nominees. We need to be fair but thorough and give every nominee a chance to make their case while also subjecting them to some tough scrutiny. That is, after all, what any reasonable job application process demands, whether you are an average person applying for a job or somebody being nominated for a very important Cabinet position.

So that is what we Democrats intend to do. That is what we will do. It is no different than what we intend to do on the legislative side. I will repeat what I said last week: Democrats are ready to work with anyone, regardless of party, to make life better for working people.

Let me mention one example from last week. On January 1, because of what the Democratic Senate and President did, the \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap that Democrats passed in the Inflation Reduction Act went into effect. Thanks to that policy, millions of Americans with Medicare Part D will save thousands of dollars each year on prescription drugs. If Republicans want to strengthen policies like these and help Americans save millions more on healthcare spending, Democrats are open to working together.

But our promise to Republicans also comes with a warning. Democrats will not hesitate to fight back if Republicans use their new majorities to hurt working families of America.

If Donald Trump and Republicans use their new majorities to push the same old GOP policies of tax cuts for billionaires, cuts to healthcare, cuts to Medicare and Social Security, trickle-down economics, Democrats will fight back.

If Republicans use their new majority to push policies that make life even

more expensive for families, we will stand opposed.

If Republicans go after Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid in people's paychecks, they will have to go through us.

The choice is now in the hands of our Republican colleagues. They are now in the majority. They now have the responsibility. We and the American people will be watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the threats to America's security and our Republican effort to fight back.

On New Year's Day, 14 Americans were killed in a heartbreaking, deadly act of terrorism. Dozens of our fellow Americans were seriously injured as well in the carnage. These are people who were just celebrating the new year.

Their attacker was a terrorist. He flew an ISIS flag. It was off the back of his truck. As a result of the terrorist attack, he destroyed families, destabilized a community, and broke the hearts of so many, many Americans.

The shock of this attack is matched only by the urgency of the message that it sends to our country. The message is this: It is time to restore America's security and America's strength. Lives depend upon it.

To keep America safe, we need to refocus our government on the priorities that matter to the people of this Nation. We have seen this in realtime in terms of the danger of the distorted priorities of the last administration. Their priorities were a wide open border, a woke Pentagon leader, a weaponized and distracted FBI, a feckless foreign policy, and, of course, a weak President.

The current President's absence of leadership has made America and the world less safe. In 4 short years, our enemies have been emboldened; they have grown stronger; they are more aggressive; and they are more dangerous.

America once worked to deny terrorists a safe haven. Now the terrorist strongholds are back. Today, terrorists control Afghanistan. They control parts of Syria. They attack American troops from bases in Yemen. And this is only part of it.

Today, we face a serious security situation right here inside the United States. The New Orleans terrorist appears to have been radicalized while here in America. Over the past 4 years, over 300 individuals on the Terror

Watchlist—our own Nation's Terror Watchlist—have crossed into our country boldly and illegally. Those 300, they are just the ones that we know about.

We also know that Iran—the world's No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism—is actively funding anti-Jewish protests on our college campuses. President Biden did nothing. Instead of showing strength, he kept our borders open and continued to ignore Iran's aggression.

Weakness in the White House put us here. Returning to strength will help lead us out. In 13 days, our weak and wavering President will be replaced by a President who is respected for strength and for boldness.

We have seen failure up close. Americans will now get a very good look at what strong leadership looks like once again.

President Trump and Senate Republicans will act for Americans' safety. The Senate is going to work to confirm President Trump's strong nominees through a fair and speedy process. It is important for the President to have his national security team in place as quickly as possible. Especially right now, personnel is policy, and President Trump's team is ready to act.

The President's nominees are not a return to business as usual. No, not at all. They are motivated. They are skilled. They are committed to the safety and security of every American. Our national security depends on confirming them. The New Orleans attack proves it.

To my colleagues, I would remind each and every one of them that the Senate's power of advice and consent is no excuse to delay and deny or to try to search and destroy.

Last month, a sleeping woman in New York City was set on fire in the subway. She died. Her killer was an illegal immigrant. He was deported under President Trump and snuck back into this country under President Biden. Since 2023, he has lived—this illegal immigrant criminal murderer—in taxpayer-funded shelters here in this country. That is what we have seen the last 4 years.

The current President's actions invited and allowed 10 million people to cross into our country illegally. Our cities are overrun and overwhelmed.

It was weak border policies that got us here, put us in this position, and it is strong border policies that are going to get us back to safety. That means funding a border wall, deporting illegal immigrant criminals, and restoring successful policies such as "Remain in Mexico."

Our goal is to empower President Trump to enforce the law.

Republicans are also going to work to restore deterrence through strength and then what we have seen as the politicization of our military. Without a military focused on lethality, we can't be strong.

If these actions are taken, peace and safety, security and strength are not just possible, they will be coming very soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as you know, last Friday, the Senate swore in new leaders for the 119th Congress, and in 2 weeks, the new Commander in Chief will be sworn in for a second time.

We are 6 days into a new year, and people around the country are making resolutions for the new year—everything from health to fitness, books to read, financial goals to meet—and as Republicans, now is a good time for us to do the exact same thing. We have our work cut out for us to help clean up the mess that President Biden and Senate Democrats have left us from the last 4 years.

I believe our first and most urgent task is to confirm President Trump's nominees for his Cabinet. The President won the election, and he is entitled to his team, absent extraordinary circumstances. It is simply impossible for the new administration to tackle the mountain of work waiting for them without their team of advisers who will lead critical government Agencies.

Without the President's Cabinet in place, he cannot get the job done that he was elected to do on November 5. With his Cabinet in place, we can get to work to implement the agenda that Texans and Americans across the country elected a trifecta of Republican leaders to accomplish.

The top of our list of priorities is, of course, to secure the southern border. I represent a State with 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, and, sadly and tragically, under the previous administration's open border policies, it has been an unmitigated disaster.

The crisis at the southern border is one that President Biden quite literally invited with his campaign rhetoric and with his administration's policies. He invited this crisis. This was perhaps the one campaign promise that he delivered on. The Biden administration set out to reverse many, if not all, of President Trump's policies from his first term, including the "Remain in Mexico" policy and title 42.

Under President Biden's watch, the Border Patrol was overwhelmed with record numbers of illegal migrants crossing the border. Border Patrol encountered more than 370 people on the Terror Watchlist crossing between ports of entry during the Biden administration. We know there were roughly a dozen people who were part of the

conspiracy that resulted in the death of 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001, and now here we have 370 people on the Terror Watchlist that crossed between ports of entry during the Biden administration. Well, that compares with well under 10 per year under the Trump administration. But I think the point is pretty obvious: This is dangerous.

Those are only the aliens who the Border Patrol encountered or apprehended. Remember that President Biden also set records for "got-aways." That is what the Border Patrol calls the people who simply evaded law enforcement—aliens who fled because, frankly, they were up to no good.

As of May, more than 1.7 million "got-aways" had made their way into the United States under their watch. These are just people who triggered various cameras and sensors and were able to evade law enforcement. Surely there were more that were able to make their way into the interior of the United States. Again, under President Biden's border policies, all you have to do is turn yourself in and you would be released into the interior, but these are people that could not even risk that because of either their criminal records or their intention to do harm, including carry drugs into the United States.

Since the Biden administration established the word "asylum" as a magic word that resulted in their release into the interior, we can be pretty sure that many of those evading Border Patrol have something else to hide.

Human trafficking and drug trafficking by the cartels have caused enormous and often untold suffering for the people of my home State of Texas and Americans as a whole. Fentanyl, which is now the leading cause of death of young people in America 18 to 45, is manufactured—or the precursors are manufactured in China and trafficked through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Countless migrants released into the interior of our country have failed to show up for their day in court, showing others looking to make the dangerous journey to the United States that they might also be able to make it and suffer zero consequences.

All of these actions—or lack of actions—from the Biden administration have sent a clear signal that the laws of the United States will not be enforced.

You know, law enforcement depends on our great men and women in blue to investigate crimes and to deter other people from committing crimes, but deterrence is a very important element that has simply been lost by the Biden administration's open border policies.

Given the fact that most people who come to the United States know, under the Biden administration, that they will simply be released, there is no reason for them to believe that they will not be released as well, and so there is zero deterrence. That is getting ready to change under President Trump.

Now, speaking of breaking the law without consequence, violent crime is another problem plaguing Texans and American cities across the country. Leftwing mayors and city governments have advanced soft-on-crime policies in major cities from Chicago to Los Angeles and from New York to San Francisco. What has been the result? Well, criminals have noticed that there are no consequences to them committing crimes in these cities. The lack of consequences is an incentive, an encouragement for them to continue stealing, breaking, and murdering.

That is all beginning to change under a new administration. Republicans are prepared to take steps necessary to prevent and ensure that ramifications for these crimes exist. We have done so before, and we are going to do so again.

During President Trump's first administration, I was proud to partner with him on legislation to lock up violent criminals and ensure justice for victims. One of my top priorities for the new year is to do everything I can to build on the great work we accomplished under President Trump's first term to make sure that our communities, our cities, and our streets are once again safe.

Another way that we will keep our citizens safe is by ensuring that Second Amendment rights are safeguarded. The Trump administration will end President Biden's assault on the Second Amendment—the right to keep and bear arms—as well as the Biden administration's bad-faith interpretations of Second Amendment-related legislation.

I look forward to leading my Senate colleagues in reintroducing my Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act and working with the Trump administration and our cosponsors here in the Senate to get this legislation across the finish line.

Now, I know some folks from places like New York or maybe San Francisco might say: You are actually going to make it easier for people to carry a firearm legally?

Well, the answer is, already the vast majority of States have licensing regimes where responsible, law-abiding citizens can exercise their Second Amendment rights by getting a license to carry a firearm, including Texas and including the District of Columbia. I happen to have a license in both jurisdictions. Many States have gone simply to a nonlicensed status so that people can exercise their Second Amendment rights.

I would reiterate, America and Americans have nothing to fear from law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights. Those are not the people we should be concerned about. We should be most concerned about people who are criminals who cannot legally carry a firearm or people with mental health incapacities who are currently prohibited under existing law from carrying or owning or possessing a firearm. Those are existing laws that are enforced, given the

National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Now, while our safety and security start at home, in our communities, and at our borders, it also extends around the world. As I have said before from this floor, we now have the most dangerous geopolitical environment that we have had since World War II.

Texans voted resoundingly for President Trump in this last election in part because of his pledge to hold China accountable. China threatens the peace in the Indo-Pacific by threatening to invade its neighbor Taiwan and interrupt freedom of commerce and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.

One of the ways that we can hold China accountable is to pass my legislation to address outbound investment in China. I just had a chance to visit with the new Treasury Secretary nominee, and I told him it was really strange to me when you look historically at how we dealt with the Soviet Union and how we dealt with China, both of which are ruled by communist governments.

Many years ago, at the beginning of the Cold War, George Kennan, a famous diplomat, wrote something called the "Long Telegram," where he said you are not going to change communist Russia. It is an ideological obsession they have. You are not going to change their minds. So what you need to do—what the free world needs to do—is to contain them. And that is what the Cold War was all about, leading ultimately to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Strangely enough, the U.S. position toward China was just the opposite. Under President Clinton, he invited them into the World Trade Organization, believing that somehow by engaging in more trade with the rest of the world, that somehow China and the Communist Party would change. Well, as Xiaoping, one of the former leaders of communist China, said: Hide your motives and bide your time. And that is exactly what China has done.

China has now become the manufacturing center for the world. When you are buying inexpensive consumer products, that is one thing, but when you consider the vulnerability of our supply chains and things that China makes and does—like processes critical minerals, which it does 90 percent of the critical minerals of the world that we need for a variety of products, including military weapons—that represents a huge vulnerability. Well, we need to know who is investing in what industries in China because, right now, the rough estimate of the market value of American-based investment in China in 2020 was \$2.3 trillion.

China has built its economy—which, by itself, should not be a big concern—but they now have become a rival to the United States. If they played by the rules, that would be one thing. But China is famous for not honoring intellectual property laws and stealing all the technology they can. And they are using their economic power, which is

synonymous with their military power because they have something called civilian-military fusion laws, which said if the private sector creates a new innovative product, they have to share it with the People's Liberation Army and the Communist Party in China.

My point is, my outbound investment piece of legislation says we need to know who is investing money in China and what that is being used for. I could care less if people want to build more Burger Kings or Starbucks in China. I am not worried about that. But when you start talking about advanced semiconductors, when you start talking about serial intellectual property theft, when you look at some of the weapons systems and the airframes China has been creating, they bear a remarkable resemblance to those we built here in the United States because they have engaged in massive theft through cyber attacks and through intellectual property theft.

But it is simply foolish for the United States to continue to blindly invest billions of dollars in the very defense systems and technologies that the Chinese Communist Party could use to our detriment in the Indo-Pacific.

Our colleague Senator SULLIVAN from Alaska just retired as colonel from the Marines. He puts it very poignantly. He says: American investors are going to fund the very military buildup that will result in the death of my marines if China were to invade Taiwan.

To me—and I am sure to all of us—that is simply unacceptable. Right now, we are flying blind, and that needs to change.

While some might be concerned about lost investment potential in China, there are plenty of opportunities here at home and in other parts around the world, as we see more friendshoring and nearshoring, to create dependable supply chains to Asia, India, and elsewhere.

Well, there is another area where I expect President Trump to make a big difference, and that is in the energy sector and primarily to do this through regulatory reform. For the past 4 years, the Biden administration has put the wistful dreams of climate activists ahead of the interests of ordinary Americans, particularly those in my home State of Texas.

And he is certainly not letting the door hit him on the way out. Today—I think that was actually yesterday—President Biden announced one last nail in the coffin by issuing a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing in certain Federal waters preventing new drilling.

But nevertheless, Republicans will not be dissuaded from our task to reverse the damage of the Biden administration and unleash this huge asset, which is American energy. By removing burdensome regulations from our energy sector, by improving the permitting process so we can actually build things like the capacity to

produce electricity that would drive data centers and artificial intelligence, and by increasing our exports of things like natural gas so our friends and allies don't have to depend on Russia to keep the lights on or to heat their homes, we can create both growth for our economy here at home and we can improve our natural security posturing, including shoring up our vulnerable supply chains. Rather than forcing Europe to rely on Russia for its energy sources, we can increase their reliance—and they are eager to have it—on American energy, particularly liquefied natural gas.

This would be a big win for America and a big win for my State as well and a big loss for the “axis of evil”—Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea that are working together to undermine the United States and the West.

We have a lot to do and very little time to do it. We have an opportunity to pass huge wins for President Trump and, more specifically, for the American people. And that comes first through the budget reconciliation process. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and it is not an opportunity we can afford to squander. We can't let this go to waste by not taking this occasion to finally address our skyrocketing debt. And the only way we can do that is not only be responsible in the way we handle things like discretionary spending but to dig deeper into the areas that the Federal Government spends like mandatory spending.

I know Medicare and Social Security are particularly fraught. And without bipartisan support, it is really hard to save Social Security and Medicare, particularly if the Democrats aren't going to be willing to help. But there is about \$700 billion a year that the Federal Government spends that has mandatory spending. That means it is on autopilot, and we never go back to revisit it to see if it is still a priority, which continues to grow at 5, 6, 7, 8 percent a year. And until and unless we deal with this mandatory spending, we are never going to deal with this mountain of debt now approaching \$36 trillion.

We have now finally gotten to the point where we are paying more money for interest on the national debt than we are on our own defense, which is 2.7 percent of our GDP. We finally kicked the can down the road to the point we have run out of road. That is true both in terms of our fiscal condition and in terms of our national security.

We can't let this opportunity go to waste. As I said, we need to take a hard look at both our mandatory discretionary spending, and we also need to take a look at how the Tax Code has been transformed into a welfare system. About \$200 billion a year go to pay for the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit.

Democrats have been successful in decoupling any sort of work requirement for able-bodied adults. That needs to be reinstated because when it comes

to assessing the people who deserve help and need our help, able-bodied individuals should not be able to ride the backs of the American taxpayers. They need to do like everybody else does who is able-bodied, and that is to be a producer, not somebody who lives off the beneficence of the American taxpayer.

We have a lot of work to do, but this is an incredible opportunity that I trust we will not squander. The time to address these problems is now. We put it off long enough. I know it is easy to say let's do the easy things now, and we will do the hard stuff later. But later never seems to come so we have to deal with these now.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess pursuant to the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:25 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CONSTITUTING THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 16, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 16) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for the purpose of S. Res. 16, the majority committee membership resolution, the blank spaces with respect to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Energy and Natural Resources; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Special Committee on Aging are there to preserve the ratios on those committees negotiated between the Democratic leader and myself. It is my intention to place Senator elect Jim Justice of West Virginia on those committees by subsequent resolution when he is sworn in on January 14, 2025.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 16) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

CONSTITUTING THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 17, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 17) to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 17) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 9

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 9) to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LORIE TUDOR

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Lorie Tudor who is retiring from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) after an accomplished career, including the last 4 years as its director.

Tudor started at ARDOT in 1981 as a clerk typist and served the agency for 14 years before departing to obtain an engineering degree. She then returned after graduating from the University of Memphis in 1997 to begin working as a civil engineer.

In March of 2020, she became ARDOT's first female director. Facing the COVID-19 pandemic and an emergency closing of the Hernando de Soto I-40 Mississippi River Bridge in 2021, as well as other major endeavors, her steady hand and trusted leadership made the transformation of our State's transportation network possible.

Tudor embodies the Arkansas spirit of service. Her commitment to the organization, its staff, and its role within communities across the Natural State has been essential.

During her 41-year tenure at ARDOT, she helped secure a stable and reliable funding stream; guided the completion of the Connecting Arkansas Program, which modernized our State's transportation systems; played an important role in several interstate designations; oversaw the final stages of construction of the Bella Vista Bypass; and ensured progress on key projects including I-30 and I-69, as well as the Thomas B. Schueck Highway.

She is a dedicated public servant who has spent her career striving to make Arkansas better. Tudor's expertise has been widely recognized, including her selection as president of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and appointment to the State Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors in October 2020, on which she served as president in 2023.

Director Lorie Tudor has served ARDOT and our State with incredible devotion and skill. I am grateful for all she has contributed to improve our State's transportation infrastructure and appreciate our valuable partnership. I know her impact will continue to be felt for generations to come and wish her the best of luck in retirement. ●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 9. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

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-1. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Natural Grass Sod Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Referendum Procedures" (RIN0581-AE07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment of Customer Funds by Futures Commission Merchants and Derivatives Clearing Organizations" (RIN3038-AF24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations to Address Margin Adequacy and to Account for the Treatment of Separate Accounts by Futures Commission Merchants" (RIN3038-AF21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Antideficiency Act Reports Compilation"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of five (5) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6. 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 Authorizations for Payments for Legal Services" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Re-

serve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Presidential \$1 Dollar Coin Program"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9. 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 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-10. 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 14115 of February 1, 2024 with respect to the situation in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11. 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 13466 with respect to North Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-12. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2025-2027 Enterprise Housing Goals" (RIN2590-AB34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-13. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2024 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-14. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "CFPB College Banking and Credit Card Agreements, December 2024"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-15. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EDGAR Filer Access and Account Management" (RIN3235-AM58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-16. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Submission of Certain Materials Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; Amendments Regarding the Focus Report" (RIN3235-AL85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-17. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions" (RIN3170-AA42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-18. A communication from the President of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the American Relief Act, 2025

pursuant to section 251 (b) (2) (A) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate in the office of the President of the Senate on December 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-19. A communication from the Executive Assistant, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; Bicycling" (RIN1024-AE80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-20. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers" (RIN1904-AD79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-21. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters" (RIN1904-AF65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 9. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth; read the first time.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 21. A bill to require each Executive department to establish policies and collect information regarding teleworking employees of the Executive department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 22. A bill to establish a competitive bidding process for the relocation of the headquarters of Executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 23. A bill to require the head of each Executive agency to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to the headquarters of the Executive agency to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 24. A bill 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"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 25. A bill to impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the Polluter Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 26. A bill to exclude locality adjustments from average pay for purposes of computing the amount of retirement annuities of new employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 27. A bill to prohibit certain telework employees from receiving certain annual adjustments to pay schedules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 28. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 29. A bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BANKS):

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 16. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 17. A resolution to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 16—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 16

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Boozman (Chair), Mr. McConnell, Mr. Hoeven, Ms. Ernst, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Tuberville, _____, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Ms. Collins (Chair), Mr. McConnell, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Graham, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Hagerty, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Mullin, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Rounds.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Wicker (Chair), Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Budd, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Banks, Mr. Sheehy.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Scott (SC) (Chair), Mr. Crapo, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Hagerty, Ms. Lummis, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Banks, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Moreno, Mr. McCormick.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Cruz (Chair), Mr. Thune, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Young, Mr. Budd, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Moreno, Mr. Sheehy, Mrs. Capito, Ms. Lummis.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Lee (Chair), Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Risch, Mr. Daines, Mr. Cotton, Mr. McCormick, _____, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Hoeven.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mrs. Capito (Chair), Mr. Cramer, Ms. Lummis, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Crapo (Chair), Mr. Grassley, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Thune, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Young, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Tillis, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Marshall.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Risch (Chair), Mr. Ricketts, Mr. McCormick, Mr. Daines, Mr. Hagerty, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Lee, Mr. Paul, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Curtis, Mr. Cornyn.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Cassidy (Chair), Mr. Paul, Ms. Collins, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Hawley, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Banks, Mr. Crapo, Mrs. Blackburn.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Paul (Chair), Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Hawley, Mr. Moreno, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Scott (SC).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Grassley (Chair), Mr. Graham, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Schmitt, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Crapo.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Cotton (Chair), Mr. Risch, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Moran, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Young, Mr. Rubio.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Scott (FL) (Chair), Mr. McCormick, _____, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Scott (SC).

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Graham (Chair), Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Moreno, Mr. Scott (FL).

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Ms. Murkowski (Chair), Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Daines, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Moran.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Schmitt (Chair), Mr. Cotton, Mr. Budd, Mr. McCormick, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. McConnell (Chair), Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Hagerty, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Boozman.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Ms. Ernst (Chair), Mr. Risch, Mr. Paul, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Young, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Budd, Mr. Curtis, _____, Mrs. Blackburn.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Moran (Chair), Mr. Boozman, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Banks, Mr. Sheehy.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Lankford (Chair), Mr. Risch, Mrs. Fischer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 17—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 17

Resolved, the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Ms. Klobuchar (Ranking), Mr. Bennet, Ms. Smith, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Booker, Mr. Luján, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Welch, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Schiff, Ms. Slotkin.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mrs. Murray (Ranking), Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mrs.

Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Ossoff.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Reed (Ranking), Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Ms. Warren, Mr. Peters, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Slotkin.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Ms. Warren (Ranking), Mr. Reed, Mr. Warner, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Kim, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Cantwell (Ranking), Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Markey, Mr. Peters, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Kim, Ms. Blunt Rochester.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Heinrich (Ranking), Mr. Wyden, Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Gallego.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Whitehouse (Ranking), Mr. Sanders, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Markey, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Schiff, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Smith, Mr. Luján, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Welch.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mrs. Shaheen (Ranking), Mr. Coons, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Sanders (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Markey, Mr. Kim, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Ranking), Ms. Hassan, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Kim, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Slotkin.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Ranking), Mr. Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Reed (ex officio), Mr. Schumer (ex officio).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Ranking), Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Merkley (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr.

Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Padilla.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Padilla (Ranking), Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Welch.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Markey (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Blumenthal (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Hassan, Mr. King, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Slotkin.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mrs. Gillibrand (Ranking), Ms. Warren, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Kim, Ms. Alsbrooks.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Ms. Hassan (Ranking), Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Kelly.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Coons (Ranking), Mr. Schatz, Mrs. Shaheen.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Schatz (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Luján.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8; 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 the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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 3:32 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 11 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING BEVERLEY
ROBERTA SULZBERGER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Beverley Roberta Sulzberger, a dedicated Floridian, trailblazer in the modeling industry, and philanthropist, on the occasion of her passing on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at the age of 88.

Born in Morristown, New Jersey, on September 22, 1936, Beverley's family relocated to South Florida during her teenage years in the 1950's. Her remarkable beauty and charisma led her to a career in print and photo modeling, where she gained widespread recognition for her grace and charm.

In the 1950's, Beverley became one of the pioneering Tupperware ladies and models, an image immortalized in Alison J. Clarke's book, "Tupperware: The Promise of Plastic in 1950's America," published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. Her presence was also a familiar sight on billboards along Biscayne Boulevard in Miami, and promoting tourism for Nassau, Bahamas, as a swimsuit model.

Beverley's cinematic journey included a role in Frank Capra's "A Hole in the Head," and her modeling career took her to New York, where she graced the runway for renowned designers, including Lilly Daché.

In 1962, Beverley met Judge Eugene W. Sulzberger, her future husband, and their whirlwind romance led to marriage in 1963 at Church by the Sea in Bal Harbour, Florida. They built a life together in North Miami, raising two sons.

Beverley's passion for real estate culminated in her election as President of the Miami Beach Association of Realtors in 1992. Beyond her professional achievements, Beverley's philanthropic efforts included co-founding the Women's Auxiliary at St. Thomas University and funding nursing scholarships at the University of Miami and Barry University. Her dedication to education and community welfare left a lasting impact on many.

Beverley's legacy is one of warmth, love, and unwavering support for her family, who deeply cherish her memory. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Eugene W. Sulzberger; her sons, Eugene C. Sulzberger and Eric W. Sulzberger; her sister, Patricia Kyle; and her brother, Edwin Leonard.

HONORING NASSER CHIDIAC

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Nasser Chidiac, who was tragically lost in a car accident at the age of 50 on December 7, 2024. An inspiration to all those who crossed his path, Mr. Chidiac will forever be remembered for his quiet grace and dedication to giving back to others.

Mr. Chidiac was born in Meyasseh, Lebanon in 1974. He was the youngest of six siblings. Four years ago, he came to the United States with a dream to inspire young minds and provide for his family still living in Lebanon. For three years, he taught mathematics at Tempe High School while driving for Uber at night.

At Tempe High School, his students and colleagues remember him as not just an educator, but also a mentor, friend, and dedicated Buffaloes fan. While Mr. Chidiac's passion for teaching was evident, his true impact lay in the way he connected with his students, who remember Mr. Chidiac as someone who always took the extra time to ensure understanding, offer words of encouragement, and check in on their personal well-being. He rarely missed an opportunity to cheer on his students, whether it was in the classroom or on the court sidelines.

Mr. Chidiac's humility, generosity, and meticulous work ethic will leave a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of all who knew him. Our thoughts are with his family, students, and colleagues as they process this devastating loss.

I thank Mr. Chidiac for his dedication to our youth, his family, and the greater community. Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 429 of the 118th Congress, which was H.R. 7909 the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act, I voted in error NAY, when I fully intended to vote YEA. I am here to set the record straight: I strongly support legislation that deports the worst violent criminals, including sex offenders. There should be zero tolerance for sex offenders in our society.

● 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.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S35–S43

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 9, 21–29, S.J. Res. 1, and S. Res. 16–17. **Page S42**

Measures Passed:

Majority Party's Membership on Certain Committees: Senate agreed to S. Res. 16, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S40**

Minority Party's Membership on Certain Committees: Senate agreed to S. Res. 17, to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S40**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S36, S41**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S40, S41**

Executive Communications: **Pages S41–42**

Additional Statements: **Page S41**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 3:32 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S43.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 216–240; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 17–20, were introduced. **Pages H62–63**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H63–64**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened at 1 p.m. **Page H61**

Laken Riley Act: The House passed H.R. 29, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, by a yea-and-nay vote of 264 yeas to 159 nays, Roll No. 6. **Pages H53–61**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 9th. **Pages H61–62**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1205)

S. 141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services

for veterans. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–210)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–211)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–212)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–213)

H.R. 4136, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Plano, Texas, as the “U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–214)

H.R. 4955, to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the “Henry Parham VA Clinic”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–215)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–216)

H.R. 6116, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, as the “Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–217)

H.R. 6162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the “LaBruce ‘Bruce’ Tidwell Post Office Building”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–218)

H.R. 6188, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the “Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–219)

H.R. 6244, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the “1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–220)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–221)

H.R. 6750, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the “Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–222)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–223)

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”. Signed on January 2, 2025. (Public Law 118–224)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Wednesday, January 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 23—Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Stanton, Greg, Ariz., E5
Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E5
Torres, Ritchie, N.Y., E5



Congressional Record

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