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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 13, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

HONORING THE LARGEST EXPANSION IN VETERANS' HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, January 13 in Washington, we are in a little bit of a hiatus waiting for a new administration and a new Congress to begin the process of bringing forward new policy proposals and a budget.

In the meantime, in the last 13 days, we have seen, I think, groundbreaking, exciting developments for the people of this country as a result of legislation that was passed in 2022 and 2023 and implemented by the Biden administration.

The first is the PACT Act. In 2022, after 5 years of hard-fought advocacy by veterans' groups all across the country, this measure opened the door for veterans of the Vietnam war era and also the Middle East era, who suffered horrible cancers, heart disease, and life-threatening conditions, to make sure that they could connect to the VA healthcare system to get the help they need.

Basically, what it did in 2022 was allow veterans who served in those parts of the world in those conflicts who suffered from 23 different illnesses—we are talking about cancers, heart disease, and life-threatening illnesses—to be able to avoid the gymnastics of having to prove to the VA where they were on such and such a date and how they were exposed to a burn pit or to Agent Orange.

As a result of that, we have seen over 1.4 million veterans nationwide have their PACT Act claims approved and over 384,000 Vietnam, Gulf war, and post-9/11 veterans get newly enrolled in the healthcare system. Six million toxic exposure tests were done as a result of this law.

Last week, on January 8, Secretary McDonough of the VA announced that another five illnesses are going to be added to the presumptive eligibility structure of the PACT Act claim system. Again, we are talking about very serious illnesses in terms of additional cancers and myelomas which today don't get the benefit of that fast-track process of getting their claims approved and getting the help that they need.

This is making a big difference in my district, the Second Congressional District of Connecticut, which is home to the oldest submarine base in our Nation's history, with about 9,000 sailors and many retirees serving in the area there. Over 4,025 veterans in the district have filed PACT Act claims. That is more than double the rest of the congressional districts in the State of Connecticut.

This has made a meaningful difference in the lives of people who wore the uniform of this country and, because of their service, incurred service-connected injuries that for many years had long been denied health coverage.

I congratulate Secretary McDonough as he leaves his post for the swift implementation of the 2022 law.

CAP ON OUT-OF-POCKET COPAYMENTS IN MEDICARE PART D

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that a $2,000 out-of-pocket cap is going to be initiated for seniors on the Medicare part D program.

Fifty-three million seniors across the country use part D and because of the copayment structure, many of them pay in excess of $2,000 out of pocket.

Starting on January 1, because of the Inflation Reduction Act and the prescription drug reforms that took place as a result of that, there will be a hard cap that no one will have to pay more than $2,000 during a calendar year for prescription drug coverage for people who suffer from chronic illnesses, such as MS and other cancers.

This is a life-changing transformation in terms of both their healthcare coverage and delivery but also their financial circumstance, which for many years, despite part D being enacted back in 2002, they were incurring costs far in excess of $2,000. The numbers are in the hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of people who are going to benefit because of that new cap.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Secretary Becerra for the swift implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, which unfortunately was a very tough

vote that took place in 2023, but it is paying off in real-life benefits for 53 million elderly and people on disability who rely on the Medicare system to get their lifesaving medication and drugs.

This is real change that means something in real life for people. Hopefully, with this new Congress, we are going to follow up with this. We can extend that prescription drug benefit by passing the Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act, which would extend these Medicare cost controls for prescription drugs to working-age families, to people's employment-based plans.

Why not? Why should they have to pay more than their fellow Americans for healthcare and people all across the globe? Let's pass that law. Let's help the Americans in this country in this next Congress.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FORCING OUT-OF-TOUCH MANDATES ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, even as his time in office is coming to an end, President Biden and his administration are still forcing out-of-touch mandates on the American people.

To confront President Biden's Green New Deal agenda, I am proud to reintroduce the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, which passed this House in a bipartisan manner in the last Congress. This legislation would ensure that California is unable to move forward with a ban on the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles.

This dramatic change would alter the way that vehicles across our Nation are sold at a time when our electric grid is not prepared to meet the demands of a fully electric fleet. It is time to put a stop to the Biden administration's far-left agenda. It is time to allow American drivers to be able to choose the vehicle that they want to drive.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT SAFE STREETS AND SECURE BORDERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the election in this past November was a loud and clear signal from the American public that they want a secure border and safe streets. That is why my Republican colleagues and I are quickly moving legislation to secure our border and ensure that violent criminals are removed from our communities.

The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act would make any sexual offense committed by illegal immigrants a deportable offense and would ensure that they are banned from these United States. This commonsense legislation is just one step toward creating safer streets and communities for Pennsylvania families and for all Americans.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as President Trump prepares to begin his second term in office, the Biden administration is trying to limit his ability to ensure that our Nation is energy dominant once again, this time by banning drilling from certain Federal lands.

Like President Trump, I know that energy independence moves us away from relying on foreign actors for our energy resources while also helping our allies remove their dependence on adversarial nations, as well.

As vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I look forward to working with President Trump and his administration to unleash our Nation's energy production. Together, we as Americans can lower prices at the pump and protect our national energy security.

PROTECTING OUR KIDS IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I will start by welcoming all of our new Members to the 119th Congress and to this esteemed Chamber. I look forward to finding a way that we can work together to better our country.

I am introducing myself as one of the proud co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. I am here to tell you that protecting our kids is not a partisan issue.

I am inviting you to join us in protecting our most valuable asset in this country, our future workforce, our children.

In any given year, there are 390,000 children and youth who experience foster care in the United States. Foster care impacts every congressional district across the country, regardless of whether it is red or blue or urban or rural.

Our Members come from all over the country and have vastly different backgrounds and experiences. However, we all share one thing in common, and that is the commitment to finding solutions that aim to improve the lives of children in care.

Last Congress, we made great strides in child welfare policy by working across the aisle to deliver real results for children and families. In July last year, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act passed unanimously through the Ways and Means Committee. In September, it passed this House by a vote of 405–10.

This bill provided the first major increase in child welfare funding in almost 20 years and reauthorized title IV-B funding for another 5 years. It also included provisions to prevent States from separating families solely on the basis of poverty; strengthen the Indian Child Welfare Act; recover overdue child support by intercepting Federal tax funds; expand evidence-based services to prevent abuse and neglect; and support foster youth transitioning out of care, among other important provisions.

I am so proud to say that the Supporting America's Children and Families Act was signed into law by President Biden on January 4, 2025.

This feat was made possible by bipartisan efforts from members of the Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. This bill is proof that we have one theme uniting us regardless of party: Our children and youth deserve loving, stable, and safe homes.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, your fresh ideas and new perspectives will help address the ever-changing challenges that foster youth in our country face. You will hear directly from advocates, child welfare professionals, and even children and families with lived experience on how we as policymakers can better the foster care system.

The caucus' largest event is shadow day where our members spend the day with a former foster youth. This allows us to learn about issues facing children involved in the child welfare system directly from people with lived experience. Our goal is to turn their feedback into action.

If you care about the well-being of our most vulnerable children and families, like I know all of you do, please join us as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. We will be having our welcome back event on Tuesday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to noon, and it is open to Members and staff willing to learn about issues related to foster youth. I hope to see you there.

□ 1215

SOLVING FIRE CRISIS IN THE WEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, it is everywhere. You can't avoid it in the news, and it shouldn't be avoided. It is so horrible. The fires we have now in southern California are devastating so much there, so much value, so much loss, and up to 24 lives lost now. It is an incredibly unnecessary happening that has been raging in L.A. It happens every year with the Santa Ana winds.

Up in the northern California area that I represent, we have had that devastation already many times: The town of Paradise, town of Greenville, town of Canyondam, and others were completely obliterated.

Our Governor Gavin Newsom has been up there to see those fires, especially the Paradise one when President Trump came to Paradise and visited to see the devastation. At the time, President Trump asked him and others: What are you doing to clear the land in

such a way that makes it less fire prone, to rake the forest floor?

Then people made fun of that word, ''rake,'' which is actually a technical term for some of the equipment used in forestry to make sure areas can be a little more fire safe by thinning trees, removing brush, and removing dead material on that.

The question is, as Governor Newsom goes out on site and waves his arms and tells us it is someone else's fault, then what has he learned in the last 6 years? More importantly, what has he applied since he had this photo op in Paradise as the new Governor of California? It looks like not much, not much action.

Certain promises were made to be aggressive on land management in California and certain claims were made, but the actual numbers are one-fifth of the amount claimed that had been treated, the work that had been done in California.

We have seen time after time more and more fires: the Camp fire in Paradise listed here, 85 lives lost, 90 percent of the homes; the Carr fire near Redding; the Zogg fire on the other side of Redding; the Park fire last year, 400,000 acres from Chico all the way up to Mount Lassen; the Dixie fire, 1 million acres. This is all northern California. Now southern California is getting international coverage, and rightfully so.

What are we going to do? What is Newsom going to do? Well, he wants to blame it on climate change. Time and time again, we are hearing about climate change and we are hearing about carbon dioxide. Here is the same chart I show off and on on this floor: Carbon dioxide represents 0.04 percent of the atmosphere. It has barely changed. Look at the rest of the chart, what isn't CO_2. They want to just make it a climate change story.

What are we doing to make things more fire resilient in southern California?

This is the Santa Ynez Reservoir just up the hill from Pacific Palisades. The portion on the right here is what it looks like more or less when it is full. Here is what it looks like presently. It is empty. It has been empty since last February. They have been fooling around for nearly a year supposedly repairing the cover over the thing. It holds 117 million gallons of water.

They report to us that there are three one-million gallon tanks that ran out, the third one by 3 a.m. on the night of the fire above Pacific Palisades. What would another 117, approximately 40 times the storage of those three tanks, have been able to do for them had it been available, had the maintenance been done?

Well, the Governor is going to start an investigation on it now, kind of like when he starts an investigation on high gas prices due to policies he does that drive up the cost of fuel, make fuel and the refineries not available, and quit drilling for fuel in California, which we have so much abundance of near that Bakersfield area, et cetera.

What are we doing here? Why is this reservoir empty? Why has it been empty for nearly a year to make a little repair in the cover that may have been able to be done by reservoir staff? It is incompetence at all levels here.

What do we have going on? Is there enough water supply? He says, well, we have plenty of water.

Presently, this is Shasta Dam in northern California, and it is dumping water right now. It is dumping water out. It still has a million acre-feet of space left, but it is dumping water because they want to have room at the top to conserve for more weather. Okay. I guess I understand that.

However, what are they doing with that water down below? Newsom's plans have stopped the delta pumps from running at full capacity to fill other water systems around the State, such as San Luis Reservoir, which is about 70 percent full right now and doesn't have a storage problem for flood, as well as making sure the aqueducts are filling all the other reservoirs such as the one we just looked at, Santa Ynez. They could fill that in a short amount of time. The amount of water that runs out wasted, running through the delta in an hour, would fill that Santa Ynez Reservoir. It would take a long time locally because they have to rely on either wells or coming from some other water source we haven't quite ascertained yet because it is hard to find information.

Is Governor Newsom going to help or is he going to be a detriment and just go on camera and blame everybody else and blame the President? We need real work done to make fire conditions much safer in California and the West.

MAKE 199A DEDUCTION PERMANENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's 2017 tax package created section 199A, a 20 percent small business deduction to help small businesses and family farms like those in my district. In fact, three out of four small business employers in this country have benefited from this tax provision.

Unfortunately, this deduction is one of many set to expire this year. The National Federation of Independent Business has circulated a petition, which has over 100,000 signatures, urging Congress to make this vital tax deduction permanent and stop a massive tax hike on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to our local businessowners and join me in supporting making the 199A deduction permanent.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy God, You who never change, nor change Your mind, accompany us into this day. Shine Your steady light onto our proceedings and reveal Your unwavering wisdom. Illumine every good and perfect gift that You offer us this day.

May we approach with alacrity the tasks ahead, but never let us deceive ourselves to think that we can do them all on our own, but let us seek Your assistance in our efforts. As we commit ourselves to our labors, let us not assume that it is our own strength which will carry the weight of the day, but our reliance on You to enable us to bear our burdens.

Remind us again that all we have and all that we strive to do were Yours to give us and Yours to entrust, however long, into our keeping. In the time that we have, may we steward Your gifts with integrity and in accordance with Your divine counsel.

Let us then be quick to listen and slow to speak, rejoicing in the privilege we have to serve You again this day.

Unto You we offer our prayers and do so calling on the strength of Your 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 Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the fall of the dictator Assad of Damascus is equivalent to the fall of the Berlin Wall, liberating central and eastern Europe, now leading to liberating the Middle East and North Africa.

It is known that war criminal Putin and the regime in Tehran have lost a murderous puppet. War criminal Putin is trying to evacuate his bases. The Iranian regime is pivoting to support the Houthis in Yemen to attack American shipping. The terrorist regimes in Moscow and Iran are more vulnerable than ever.

President Donald Trump wants to achieve peace through strength, working with our allies, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, we know that he will be restoring the Abraham Accords, which will bring security for Israel and stability for the people of Syria and Lebanon, including the legitimate Governments of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Donald Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

REJECT TRUMP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans leaked their plans for how they are going to cut taxes for their rich friends at the expense of regular working people. News flash: It is awful, awful, awful.

A recent analysis of the Trump tax plan found that it would, on average, cut taxes for the richest 5 percent of Americans and raise taxes on everyone else, the 95 percent of the population who do not hang out at Mar-a-Lago.

To pay for this sick and twisted plan that screws over regular people, they want to totally gut the Federal programs that help regular people. They want to cut the SNAP benefits by hundreds of billions of dollars, slashing the food budgets of millions of Americans by nearly a third. They want to rip healthcare away from people and block access to economic security programs for hardworking American families.

That is the Republican playbook: Attack regular people and shower corporations and the ultrarich with tax breaks and hope that it trickles down.

Let's reject this disgusting plan and invest in our anti-poverty safety net. Let's support our middle class and let's end hunger now.

FOREST MISMANAGEMENT IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am showing you what a managed forest looks like here and an unmanaged forest looks like here.

In my district in northern California and much of the West, forests burn millions of acres year after year, such as a million-acre fire in my district a couple years ago, 600,000 acre, and on and on it goes. It occurs because the lands are not managed, not allowed to be managed by environmental lawsuits and such.

Governor Newsom, the Governor of California, promised after 6 years in office, when he came to my district in Paradise, to do more. He said: We have done all this acreage. We have done all this work. He actually overstated the figure by five times.

Here we have now the situation in southern California where this brush is catching on fire. In the high winds, it is just a tinderbox that blows into the neighborhoods and burns down Pacific Palisades and all the others affected like that.

They have suspended their brush program there, so Gavin Newsom can't point and say we have done all this great stuff here and blame everybody else like he does, waving his arms around. Instead, they have not done the work, and they have put people in danger, as well as the issue with water in California flowing out to the Pacific instead of being stored to help keep their storage facilities full so they can fight fires. It is mismanagement.

OPPOSE TIKTOK BAN

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of Congress to speak out against the ban on TikTok that will take place in 6 days, on January 19. I call on President Biden and President-elect Trump to put a pause on this ban so 170 million Americans don't lose their free speech. Millions of Americans' livelihoods will be ended if this ban takes place.

We need to be for free speech. We can protect Americans' data, we can protect us from foreign interference on algorithms, but we should not ban TikTok. I call on others to join me in standing up for free speech and opposing this TikTok ban.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on January 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., said to contain the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk of the House.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119–2)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

In the last four years, America has overcome some of the most challenging economic conditions in our history. When I took office, our economy was in the grips of worst pandemic in a century, and decades of trickle-down policies had left us especially vulnerable to its shocks. Hundreds of thousands of businesses had closed, and millions of Americans risked losing their homes. Unemployment was high and the risk of long-term damage was real.

My Administration responded with a new economic playbook to rebuild our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down. Since then, we've made historic investments in our nation and in the industries of the future. We've stood by unions and helped to create a record 16 million jobs. We've fought to lower costs for consumers, and to give small businesses a fair chance to compete. Today, our economy has not only recovered, it has emerged stronger, laying the foundation for a promising new chapter in the American comeback story.

My Council of Economic Advisers has prepared this report examining actions taken to both ease the pandemic's immediate impact and strengthen our economy over the long-term, to help ensure we learn the right lessons as a nation and to build on the historic progress we've made.

Our work began right away with the American Rescue Plan, one of the most consequential recovery packages in history. To reopen our economy, we knew we had to defeat COVID–19, so we launched unprecedented vaccination efforts. We got immediate economic relief out to tens of millions of families who needed it most. We expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty in half to its lowest rate in history. And we sent funding directly to every state, city, and town in the nation, keeping police on the beat and teachers in the classroom, families in their homes and small businesses on their feet, preventing a wave of scarring bankruptcies, defaults, and evictions.

At the same time, the pandemic had snarled supply chains and set off widespread labor shortages, driving up costs worldwide. In response, my Administration immediately convened businesses and labor to unclog our ports and get goods flowing. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine further increased food and gas prices. In response, I directed the largest release of fuel from our strategic reserve in history to ensure that our energy markets were well supplied, and we challenged oil and gas companies to reinvest record profits in domestic production, which has reached an all-time high under my Administration. And we took steps to promote competition across industries, boosting transparency and lowering costs for consumers.

Our approach worked. Inflation is down significantly from its peak and is now close to pre-pandemic levels. Together, we've achieved the elusive ''soft landing'' of lower inflation, steady employment, strong economic growth, and rising real wages—which most observers said was impossible.

But ending the economic crisis alone was never enough. I ran for President to set the American economy on a stronger long-term course, by breaking from the trickle-down orthodoxy that has failed our nation for decades. That theory holds that by cutting taxes for the very wealthy, benefits will trickle down to everyone else. But in truth, not a lot has ever trickled down onto most folks' kitchen tables. Instead, inequality grew and America slid deeper into debt.

I have a different approach. I believe the best way to build America is to invest in America, in American products and American people. And the best way to grow our economy is to grow the backbone of our nation: the middle class. That's what my Investing in America agenda has done, through landmark laws that shore up our infrastructure, our manufacturing base, and our people. Together, these are some of the most significant investments in America since the New Deal.

For decades, American infrastructure has been neglected. But our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is finally modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit systems, and more; removing every lead pipe in America, so every child can drink clean water; and providing affordable high-speed internet for every American, no matter where they live. And it's making sure these projects are done with American products and American workers, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying new jobs, many of them union jobs.

For too long, American factories have moved overseas, taking vital industries with them. Now, our CHIPS and Science Act is bringing manufacturing home, already attracting nearly $450 billion in manufacturing investments to build massive new semiconductor factories, equipping America to lead the industries of future. At the same time, our Inflation Reduction Act is making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history, not only putting America on track to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and promoting our energy abundance and security, but also creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying clean-energy jobs.

I know all too well, Americans still too often struggle to afford life-saving prescription drugs, and sometimes are even forced to choose between medicine and rent. It's wrong. The Inflation Reduction Act also takes historic steps to change that, capping total out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicare at $2,000 a year; slashing insulin for seniors to $35 a month, down from as much as $400; and finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices across the board. And it has expanded health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, bringing the share of uninsured Americans to record lows.

The impact of these efforts is just starting—and the full effects will be felt over the next decade—but there is no question that our nation today is the best-positioned on earth to win the competition for the 21st century. We've laid a foundation of possibilities that will make life a little easier for millions of Americans and can propel America forward for decades.

Today, we hand the incoming Administration the world's strongest economy. The next four years will determine if America builds on that strength, or slides back into the old trickle-down approach that only benefits those at the very top. I believe that the transformative investments we've made are already deeply rooted in our nation, and therefore too costly, politically and economically, to reverse. At this inflection point, I hope that our playbook serves as a model for how to fight for the middle class and give working families a fair shot, forging a stronger, more secure and prosperous America for generations to come.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 9, 2025*.

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

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

AMTRAK EXECUTIVE BONUS DISCLOSURE ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 192

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 ''Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act''.

SEC. 2. AMTRAK REPORTS AND AUDITS.

Section 24315(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting '', and make available to the public on the website of Amtrak,'' after ''submit to Congress''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) provide the annual base pay and any bonus compensation paid to a member of the executive leadership team (including the chief executive officer, president, and officers) of Amtrak, including the criteria and metrics used to determine any such bonus compensation; and''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 192.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 192 was introduced by Representative ROUZER, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor on this bill. The bill is intended to ensure that annual bonuses awarded to Amtrak's top executives are made public at the beginning of every calendar year.

Amtrak relies heavily on government subsidies, and during more than 50 years of existence, it has never made a profit. Nonetheless, Amtrak executives have been awarded generous six-figure bonuses despite financial losses and service issues.

The disclosure of such huge payouts rightfully outrages the public and members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill is a

strong step toward transparency and accountability for Amtrak executives and Amtrak's board of directors, which awards the bonuses.

I very much appreciate the gentleman from North Carolina Representative ROUZER's work on this legislation, and I would urge adoption by the House.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act. This bill would require Amtrak to post the executive leadership team compensation annually on the Amtrak website.

Congress already requires the Nation's intercity passenger railroad to submit this information to Congress. This bill would increase transparency of the information to the public and require it to be posted online as well, as Amtrak has now done for the last 2 years.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act, which increases accountability and transparency at Amtrak by requiring public disclosure of taxpayer-funded bonuses given to its top executives.

Amtrak was created 55 years ago by Congress as a for-profit entity to relieve our Nation's vital freight railroads of their obligation under law to provide what had proved to be an unprofitable intercity passenger rail service.

Since then, Amtrak has done no better. They have failed to ever make a profit and struggle to provide adequate service.

Even with the post-pandemic improvements in ridership, staggering financial losses remain. In 2023, Amtrak lost more than $1.7 billion despite collecting $11 billion in taxpayer subsidies and almost $22 billion in advanced funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Amtrak's delays and customer service failures were front and center the day after Christmas just a month ago when the Northeast Corridor train didn't board any passengers at Washington's Union Station. Mr. Speaker, 100 customers were stranded during the busiest travel time of the year when operations should be the most efficient.

Amtrak is also hampered with project delays. Delayed projects lead to cost overruns and significant revenue losses. For example, its new Acela II train service for the Northeast Corridor is more than 3 years behind schedule with no firm date on when it will enter service. This delay has led to a $140 million loss in revenue according to a 2023 OIG report. Relying on government bailouts to make up for losses must end.

Despite this track record, no pun intended, the Amtrak board of directors awarded the company's 15 executives more than $9 million in bonuses during the last 2 years. Congress, Amtrak employees, and the public were shocked and outraged, and rightly so, to discover such generous and questionable awards paid largely by taxpayers.

The Transportation Workers Union, which represents 1,500 Amtrak service workers, said that these bonuses are an affront to every Amtrak worker and American taxpayers, which is why the TWU endorsed this bill during the previous Congress when it last passed the House.

While Amtrak has taken steps to be more transparent about their executives' bonuses, they only did so after a hearing before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Congressional oversight and influence should not be necessary for this information to be made public, but unfortunately, it is. It is why this bill has been brought to the floor today, to require Amtrak to publish its annual executive bonus awards on its website, providing passengers, employees, and taxpayers with transparency regarding how their tax dollars are being spent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GRAVES, Representatives FREDERICA WILSON, TROY NEHLS, and DAVID ROUZER for working together to bring this very important legislation forward to increase transparency for the American people. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is a good bill. It should pass.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 192 provides the necessary transparency for Amtrak. This legislation passed the House last Congress under suspension of the rules by voice vote, and I look forward to it passing again today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 192.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 152) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 152

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act''.

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

''(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

''(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

''(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

''(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

''(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

''(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

''(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

''(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee

on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

''(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

''(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

''(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

''(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 152.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 152, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, is a commonsense bill that is going to streamline and consolidate the collection of information following a disaster.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are often many Federal agencies involved in disaster response and recovery.

I have experienced firsthand just how frustrating it can be when these Federal agencies fail to work together following a natural disaster.

That is why I am proud to support H.R. 152, which would address this concern by amending the FEMA-led working group created in the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

Specifically, the working group is going to develop a plan to make the collection of information from disaster survivors less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming. This working group is also going to coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to identify ways to reduce duplication and streamline the Federal damage assessment process.

I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) for his leadership on this legislation.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 152, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments following disasters.

After a major disaster, there is no time to wait for bureaucracy. However, Federal recovery assistance following disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims.

The Federal Government can and should be doing this smarter.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, which aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster assistance.

Unfortunately, none of us are strangers to the effects of natural disasters, and we have all had these problems in our hometowns.

Right now we are seeing how these events threaten lives, damage property, and strain local, State, and Federal resources.

In the aftermath, millions of Americans are left seeking help to rebuild their lives and their communities.

However, when seeking necessary Federal relief, applying for disaster assistance can be a frustrating and confusing process. This leads to delays, frustration, and even disqualification from receiving the aid.

This is where my bill comes in. H.R. 152 works to eliminate inefficiencies and expedite the application process by ensuring only one information submission is needed.

Survivors are already facing difficult circumstances, and the application process should not add to their stress.

H.R. 152 represents a crucial step forward toward achieving a more effective disaster recovery system that prioritizes the needs of Americans and ensures they receive the help in a timely manner. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as stewards of taxpayer dollars, we need to ensure that we are spending our money as efficiently as possible.

Government should work. As we have seen in fires in Oregon, hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida, and currently the horrific fires in Los Angeles, when people suffer from a natural disaster, it is imperative that they get the help that they need. They have lost everything, and the last thing we should be doing is dragging them through duplicative bureaucracy.

That is why this bill is so important. This bipartisan bill passed the House on suspension in the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses. This bill will help disaster survivors by taking a step toward streamlining the Federal Government's fragmented approach to disaster assistance.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and, hopefully, the Senate will move it through. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 152 is a good government bill that will help improve disaster recovery efforts. It has previously passed the House in the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 152.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1645

POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 153) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 153

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 ''Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency, shall establish a subpage within the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to publish the information required to be made available to the public under this section.

(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make available to the public on the subpage established under subsection (a) the information described in subsection (c), and ensure that any data asset of the agency is machine readable.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subsection is, with respect to disaster assistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

(1) the total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during such quarter;

(2) the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expended or obligated to projects or activities; and

(3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including—

(A) the name of the project or activity;

(B) a description of the project or activity;

(C) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;

(D) any award identification number assigned to the project;

(E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance number assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the location of the project, including ZIP Codes; and

(G) any reporting requirement information being collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

(e) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may enter into an agreement with a private entity, including a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required under this section.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''covered Federal agency'' means—

(A) any agency providing assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) the Small Business Administration; and

(C) the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term ''disaster assistance'' means any funds that are made available by the Federal Government in response to a specified natural disaster, including—

(A) any assistance provided by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration as a result of a disaster declared under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(B) any assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for—

(i) activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(ii) flood insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) any assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient''—

(A) means any entity that receives disaster assistance directly from the Federal Government (including disaster assistance received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual; and

(B) includes a State that receives disaster assistance.

(4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term ''specified natural disaster'' means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

(B) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(C) an emergency declared by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(D) any other natural disaster for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 153.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 153, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act, will increase transparency for post-disaster Federal assistance. H.R. 153 will do this by requiring agencies that provide Federal disaster assistance to update a central website quarterly with information on their disaster assistance programs. That way, the American taxpayer can see exactly where their hard-earned dollars are going.

H.R. 153 passed the House in the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses, and I urge continued support for this commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) for his leadership on this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 153. This bill would create a new online system for tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance.

People should know how and where their disaster funds are being spent without wading through reams of government paperwork. The legislation simplifies the data collection process for Federal disaster recovery projects. To increase transparency, this bill would also create a page on USAspending.gov where anyone can track agency disaster recovery activities and the amount of assistance expended by the agency on a quarterly basis.

Federal agencies need to be accountable to the victims of disasters and to the taxpayers who funded these agencies' really important work. We also need to allow Federal disaster victims peace of mind when they are at their most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me and support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), who is the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on my bill, H.R. 153, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act, which aims to improve transparency in the Federal disaster assistance process.

When disaster strikes, the priority is to save lives and to help communities recover. However, in doing so, one of the biggest challenges in the aftermath of a disaster is ensuring that aid is distributed fairly and timely to those who need it most.

Transparency builds trust in government. Without clear information, communities may feel left in the dark about how aid is being allocated. This is where the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act comes in.

This bill requires FEMA to publicly share key information about the damage caused by disasters and how assistance is being distributed. It ensures the public can track recovery efforts in real time and understand how resources are being allocated. This helps communities, local governments, and organizations involved in recovery make more informed decisions.

The bill also mandates that FEMA provide detailed, easy-to-access data, such as the extent of the damage, the areas affected, and the estimated cost of recovery.

Ultimately, this bill holds FEMA and the government accountable to the American people. By strengthening trust, H.R. 153 is a vital step toward building a more transparent, responsive disaster recovery system.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the House passed this bipartisan bill on suspension in the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses. I look forward to the Senate taking up this bill, given how important it is with the massive natural disasters that we are seeing. I certainly hope that we in Congress fund the IT infrastructure so that we can get this done and get this done quickly.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I hope we can continue to show support for this commonsense accountability measure. It is going to help improve transparency for Federal disaster spending.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 153.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES TO WIDEN ELECTRICAL RESILIENCE ACT OF 2025

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 164) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 164

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 ''Promoting Opportunities to Widen Electrical Resilience Act of 2025'' or the ''POWER Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ELECTRIC UTILITIES.—

''(1) HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—An electric utility may carry out cost-effective hazard mitigation activities jointly or otherwise in combination with activities for the restoration of power carried out with assistance provided under this section.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.— In any case in which an electric utility facility receives assistance under this section for the emergency restoration of power, the receipt of such assistance shall not render such facility ineligible for any hazard mitigation assistance under section 406 for which such facility is otherwise eligible.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 164.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, following a natural disaster, electric utilities work tirelessly to restore power to their customers. However, because of FEMA's problematic interpretation of section 403 of the Stafford Act, once power is restored, even with temporary measures, electric utilities are deemed ineligible for reimbursement for permanent work and mitigation efforts.

As a result, electric utilities are treated differently from all other critical infrastructure, even though building mitigation into our power systems reduces the costs of future disasters.

H.R. 164 is going to address this by clarifying that electric utilities may build in mitigation measures that provide essential assistance and that it does not disqualify electric utilities from permanent work eligibility later in the disaster recovery process.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 164, my legislation with Representative EZELL. This bill empowers publicly owned electric utilities to implement hazard mitigation improvements during disaster recovery.

When disasters strike, they leave a trail of destruction, including damaged energy infrastructure that needs to be immediately repaired to restore power. At the same time, this can present an opportunity to improve the resilience of power infrastructure to reduce the risk of outages or fires in the future.

I have spoken with many FEMA employees, and they feel like they have their hands tied because of rules that are in place that prevent them from being able to fund investments in resilience and infrastructure.

As we are seeing more extreme weather because of climate change, we need to step up and spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently and better. That means that we have to change this law because the current law prevents FEMA from reimbursing utilities for hazard mitigation as they make temporary disaster repairs. This leads to wasted opportunities, more frequent power outages, and higher costs passed on to ratepayers.

Commonsense solutions, like H.R. 164, are more critical than ever to keep energy costs low for American families. This bill maximizes FEMA's resources and helps communities protect critical infrastructure, leading to lower costs for utilities and families in the wake of future disasters. More importantly, it allows us to use taxpayer dollars to invest in resiliency as we are seeing more extreme weather coming at us every single day.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I want to publicly thank Representative HOYLE for her work on the bill. It is a great bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL).

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 164, the POWER Act, which would allow public electric utilities to implement cost-effective hazard mitigation activities as part of power restoration.

Public power utilities are essential in ensuring our communities have access to reliable and resilient electricity, especially in the aftermath of major disasters. Current law says that if States and localities get cost reimbursements from FEMA for certain disaster recovery activities, like restoring power, then that could make them ineligible for future hazard mitigation funds. Our communities should not have to make either-or decisions when it comes to restoring critical infrastructure in the wake of natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead this bill alongside Representative HOYLE, and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the costs of recovering from increasingly frequent severe weather events often raise the price of Americans' electric bills. This bill would help public power make their systems more resilient at the time of repair, increasing efficiency and cutting overall costs.

I can't think of a more important set of bills to be passing at this time as the first bills coming up on suspension. These bills invest in our infrastructure and help FEMA be more transparent and utilize taxpayer dollars more efficiently.

Again, I thank my colleague, Representative EZELL, for prioritizing and moving this bill forward.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this legislation is going to provide a whole lot of needed clarity to ensure that electric utilities are not penalized

for acting quickly to restore power to those impacted by natural disasters.

This legislation passed the Chamber under suspension of the rules by voice vote last December, and I look forward to the House approving it again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 164.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 189) to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 189

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 ''Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act''.

SEC. 2. LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Securities and Exchange Commission may not lease general purpose office space. The Administrator may lease such space for the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 585 and this chapter.''.

(b) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) may not be construed to invalidate or otherwise affect a lease entered into by the Securities and Exchange Commission before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT LEASING AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review described in subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall complete a review under which the Comptroller General shall update the 2016 report of the Comptroller General (GAO–16–648) with a specific focus on the following:

(1) Updating the information included in Appendix II: Federal Entities That Reported Having Independent Leasing Authority for Domestic Offices and Warehouses of such report.

(2) Determining to what extent Federal entities with independent leasing authorities have had such authorities rescinded or amended and the number and amount of office and warehouse space such entities lease.

(3) Determining to what extent have agencies with independent leasing authority utilized the General Services Administration for leasing, including utilization of delegation of authority.

(4) Identifying progress made on implementing the recommendations in such report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 189.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2012, the Securities and Exchange Commission violated Federal law by signing a lease for 1.4 million square feet that cost taxpayers over $566 million.

Investigations conducted by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as SEC's inspector general, found that the SEC had exceeded its authority with this lease. Investigations also found that the SEC had a history of mismanaging its leasing authority.

Recent actions taken by the SEC seem to indicate that the agency has not learned from the past. This is why I urge support of H.R. 189, which would revoke the SEC's leasing authority for general office space and bring them in line with current leasing practices through the General Services Administration.

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

□ 1700

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 189, the Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act.

This bill revokes the independent real estate leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Congress granted the SEC independent leasing authority in 1990, which means the SEC does not use the GSA, the General Services Administration, for its real estate needs, as many government agencies do.

While some Federal agencies have used their independent real estate leasing authority successfully, since securing their own authority, the SEC has wasted time and taxpayer dollars with failed procurements.

For example, in 2010, after the SEC leased 900,000 square feet of space in the Constitution Center building in Washington, D.C., the SEC's own inspector general found that the SEC had overestimated the amount of space needed, attempted to eliminate competition among building owners, and violated the Antideficiency Act.

After this incident, the SEC pledged to Congress that the agency would use the GSA to handle its real estate procurements, but the SEC has yet to follow through on that pledge and has since canceled procurements, had lawsuits, and wasted taxpayer dollars.

Congresswoman NORTON introduced an identical bill during the 118th Congress. That bill, H.R. 388, passed both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House of Representatives on voice votes. Unfortunately, H.R. 388 was not even considered by the Senate.

It is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to the GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm.

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

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, which the House passed in the 117th and 118th Congresses. I thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for bringing this bill to the floor again.

This bill would revoke the independent real estate leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission and direct the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on independent real estate leasing authority in the Federal Government.

While a number of Federal agencies have independent real estate leasing authority, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate leasing practices. In 2005, the SEC disclosed that it had underbudgeted costs of approximately $48 million for the construction of its headquarters near Union Station.

In 2007, after moving into its headquarters, the SEC shuffled its employees to different office space at a cost of over $3 million without any cost-benefit analysis or justifiable explanation.

In 2010, the SEC conducted a deeply flawed analysis to justify the need to lease 900,000 square feet and to commit over $500 million over 10 years, overestimating its space needs by over 300 percent.

In addition, the SEC failed to provide complete and accurate information and

prepared a faulty and backdated justification and approval after it had already signed the lease.

In August 2016, the General Services Administration and the SEC entered into an occupancy agreement to authorize GSA to secure a new 15-year lease. In December 2016, GSA, with the approval of the SEC, submitted a prospectus to Congress for approximately 1.3 million square feet, which Congress approved in 2018.

In 2019, GSA had received final bids, resolved all protests, and even selected a final bidder. A month later, the SEC canceled the occupancy agreement, citing concerns about the value of the purchase option, which the SEC refused to document to Congress.

The SEC effectively vetoed the entire 3-year procurement process despite not having the authority or funding to exercise the purchase option without GSA's involvement.

Finally, after much back and forth between the two agencies, GSA entered into a lease for a new SEC headquarters in September 2021, which GSA terminated in October 2024.

While the SEC has said it will continue to have GSA do its leasing in the future, the SEC's history of egregious leasing conduct, squandering hundreds of millions of dollars, makes this bill necessary.

The SEC's conduct risks undermining the reputation of GSA and the Federal Government among developers and building owners who participate in Federal lease procurements. The threat of uncertainty ultimately drives up the cost of all GSA real estate procurements.

It is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm. As the SEC has demonstrated over three decades, it is incredibly inefficient, wasteful, and redundant to have the SEC do real estate procurements when GSA exists for that very reason.

Like other Federal agencies, the SEC will continue to have input into GSA's real estate decisionmaking process, but GSA would have the ultimate authority.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, since securing its own real estate leasing authority, the SEC has wasted time and money with failed procurements. It is past time for the SEC to cede that authority back to the GSA.

My colleague, Congresswoman HOLMES NORTON, has explained this very thoroughly and clearly.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 189, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, by ensuring that the SEC continues to use GSA for its space needs, H.R. 189 is going to help reduce costs and protect taxpayers against wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her work on this bill. The legislation was agreed to in the House last Congress under suspension of the rules, so I look forward to seeing that happen again.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 189.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY SALARY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 144) to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 144

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 ''Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act''.

SEC. 2. SALARY DISCLOSURE; EXCEPTION TO REPORT ELIMINATION.

Section 9 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''a financial statement'' and all that follows through ''$1,500 a year'' and inserting ''a report of the total number of employees at the management level or above, to include all executives and board members, that shall include the names, salaries, and duties of such employees, that are receiving compensation at or greater than the maximum rate of basic pay for grade GS–15 of the General Schedule'';

(2) by striking all that precedes ''The Board shall'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 9. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

''(a) REPORT ON COMPENSATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—''; and

(3) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXEMPTION.—The information concerning salaries of employees of the Corporation contained in, or filed with, the report described in paragraph (1) is exempt from—

''(A) disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

''(B) the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (Public Law 117–263).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 144.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 144, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act.

This legislation simply reinstates an annual reporting requirement for the Tennessee Valley Authority to disclose to Congress the salaries for upper-level management.

I thank Representatives COHEN and BURCHETT for their bipartisan work on this legislation, which passed this Chamber in March of last year under suspension of the rules by a voice vote.

This bill continues years of work to make the TVA more transparent for its customers and the communities that it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 144, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's remarks, and the gentleman is certainly an embodiment of the virtue of waivers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 144, bipartisan legislation to promote additional transparency over the salary structure of the Tennessee Valley Authority, otherwise known as the TVA.

As was said, the bill passed the House last Congress on suspension by a voice vote.

The TVA is the Nation's largest government-owned wholesale power producer, supplying power to 10 million people across the States of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky.

This legislation corrects a change that was enacted in 1995 that removed the requirement for TVA to disclose the management structure and salaries of its executives. Today, TVA has approximately 13,000 employees, and the median salary is $160,000. They have, in essence, 6,500 Congresspeople on salary doing TVA's work. That is absurd.

The head of the TVA, whose salary has been reported, makes $10 million a year. Mr. Lyash is a fine fellow. He is really a nice guy, and he does a good job. He was working for a Canadian firm before he got hired to run TVA, where he was making $2 million or $2.5 million. I don't know if he is four times better than he was in the state of Canada, but he is making that.

The executives, whose salaries they have to disclose, are making $2 million to $6 million each annually.

The public should know about these salaries, what they are getting, and the salaries that are spent at TVA.

Last Congress, a fair compromise was reached between our legitimate congressional oversight responsibilities

over TVA and the need of TVA to retain and maintain a pool of talented, diverse, and effective management staff and executives.

This bill would help ensure that Congress has the ability to provide effective oversight of the TVA and its management and executives.

My prime cosponsor is TIM BURCHETT. Representative BURCHETT has been a friend of mine since we served in the Tennessee General Assembly together, and we raised the speed limit to 70. It had been put down to 60. It didn't hurt that Mr. Sundquist had kind of a heavy foot and helped us with that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for his cosponsorship. I urge passage of H.R. 144, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), my very good friend from Memphis, Tennessee, the home of Al Green.

We had a lot of good times in the State senate. We brought some famous people to the floor, such as our dear friend Steve Cropper, who is in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Some of his guitars are in the Smithsonian. There were many others, Isaac Hayes.

STEVE and I actually sang the theme from ''Shaft'' on the senate floor. I am sure somebody will dig for that, and hopefully, that has been erased from history.

We brought Isaac Hayes. I almost forgot about Isaac. We had a great relationship with those folks.

People often ask me why I am friends with Congressman COHEN. He is probably my oldest friend up here, truth be known. He is correct that we did sponsor a bill to raise the speed limit. I think I asked for 85, knowing we would take 70, in the house.

In the week prior to that, I had actually brought Peyton Manning to the house floor, and I think I could have probably passed communism and gotten 100 miles an hour if I wanted to that week because that was the most popular I had ever been in the legislature.

Truth be known, the reason I am such good friends with STEVE COHEN is I lost my daddy years ago, and my dad was my hero. He really was. He and my mama were exceptional people.

STEVE was the first person to call my mama and offer his condolences. I always remembered we were at the graveyard working and trying to get the site at the veterans cemetery, and I remember mama said: Oh, STEVE, you shouldn't have called. This is costing you money.

I will never forget that. That was my sweet mama. She loved STEVE. She prayed for STEVE. I don't know if it did any good, Mr. Speaker. I know it doesn't have anything to do about the bill, but I just think America needs to know about these things.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am still here.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, yes, he is.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the TVA Salary Transparency Act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is an American public power company providing electricity to over 10 million people in Tennessee and six surrounding States. TVA employs over 10,000 people, some of whom make millions of dollars per year. That is millions, Mr. Speaker, and this is in Tennessee.

Tennesseans deserve to know how TVA operates and compensates their executives, especially when TVA covers a region that is 65,000 square miles and the compensation is to the tune of millions of dollars.

There is no such thing as too much transparency, and I hope our friends in the media cover this. The TVA Salary Transparency Act requires TVA to report to Congress on the salaries of employees making more than $123,000 annually or the highest pay rate available for Federal employees. Specifically, TVA must report on those employees' names, salaries, and job responsibilities.

I have continuously advocated for greater transparency from TVA in other areas as a State legislator, as mayor, and now as a Congressman. Passing this bill is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Representative COHEN for his work on this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support this bill. It will provide transparency to the millions of folks who rely on the Tennessee Valley Authority.

□ 1715

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I will say that the bill has been well explained. It is an important and a good bill. All that Representative BURCHETT said about his father, Dean Burchett, a rich Tennessean, and Mrs. Burchett is true. They were wonderful people.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 144 is a commonsense bill. It is going to increase transparency at the TVA, and it is going to ensure that the Transportation Committee conducts appropriate oversight over the agency's actions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 144.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 192, and

H.R. 152.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

AMTRAK EXECUTIVE BONUS DISCLOSURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 8]

YEAS—407

Adams	Barragán	Bonamici
Aderholt	Barrett	Bost
Aguilar	Baumgartner	Boyle (PA)
Alford	Bean (FL)	Brecheen
Allen	Beatty	Bresnahan
Amo	Begich	Brown
Amodei (NV)	Bell	Brownley
Ansari	Bentz	Buchanan
Arrington	Bera	Budzinski
Auchincloss	Bergman	Burchett
Babin	Beyer	Burlison
Bacon	Bice	Bynum
Baird	Biggs (AZ)	Calvert
Balderson	Biggs (SC)	Cammack
Balint	Bilirakis	Carbajal
Barr	Bishop	Carey

Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—27

Boebert
Casar
Davidson
Dunn (FL)
Gomez
Grijalva
Harshbarger
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunt
Johnson (TX)
McClain
Miller-Meeks
Moulton
Norman
Pelosi
Pettersen
Rose
Salazar
Sherman
Sherrill
Swalwell
Wagner
Waltz
Whitesides
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1853

Mrs. BEATTY changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 152) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 5, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 9]

YEAS—405

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
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Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
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Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten

Schrier	Strickland	Valadao
Schweikert	Strong	Van Drew
Scott (VA)	Stutzman	Van Duyne
Scott, Austin	Subramanyam	Van Orden
Scott, David	Suozzi	Vargas
Self	Sykes	Vasquez
Sessions	Takano	Veasey
Sewell	Taylor	Velázquez
Shreve	Tenney	Vindman
Simon	Thanedar	Walberg
Simpson	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman Schultz
Smith (MO)	Thompson (MS)	Waters
Smith (NE)	Thompson (PA)	Watson Coleman
Smith (NJ)	Tiffany	Weber (TX)
Smith (WA)	Timmons	Webster (FL)
Smucker	Titus	Westerman
Sorensen	Tlaib	Wied
Soto	Tokuda	Williams (GA)
Spartz	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
Stansbury	Torres (CA)	Wilson (SC)
Stanton	Torres (NY)	Wittman
Stauber	Trahan	Womack
Stefanik	Tran	Yakym
Steil	Turner (OH)	Zinke
Steube	Turner (TX)	
Stevens	Underwood	

NAYS—5

Biggs (AZ)	Crane	Roy
Burchett	Gosar	

NOT VOTING—24

Barr	Hunt	Salazar
Boebert	McClain	Sherman
Davidson	Miller-Meeks	Sherrill
Dunn (FL)	Moulton	Swalwell
Gomez	Norman	Wagner
Grijalva	Pelosi	Waltz
Harshbarger	Pettersen	Whitesides
Hoyer	Rose	Williams (TX)

□ 1900

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating wildfire affecting my district and Southern California, I was not present for today's vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8, H.R. 192 The Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 9, H.R. 152 The Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 31

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Turner of Ohio, Mr. Wittman, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Graves, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Jackson of Texas, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Gimenez, Ms. Mace, Mr. Finstad, Mr. Luttrell, Mrs. Kiggans of Virginia, Mr. Moylan, Mr. Mills, Mr. McCormick, Mr. Gooden, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Van Orden, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Harrigan, Mr. Messmer, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Crank, Mr. Hamadeh of Arizona.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Issa, Mr. Biggs of Arizona, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Tiffany, Mr. Massie, Mr. Roy, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Cline, Mr. Gooden, Mr. Van Drew, Mr. Nehls, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Mr. Kiley of California, Ms. Hageman, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Fry, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Knott, Mr. Harris of North Carolina, Mr. Onder, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Gill of Texas, Mr. Baumgartner.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Turner of Ohio, Mr. Gosar, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Biggs of Arizona, Ms. Mace, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Perry, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Burchett, Ms. Greene of Georgia, Ms. Boebert, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Langworthy, Mr. Burlison, Mr. Crane, Mr. Jack, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Gill of Texas.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mrs. Radewagen, Mr. Bergman, Ms. Mace, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Van Orden, Mr. Luttrell, Mr. Ciscomani, Mr. Self, Mrs. Kiggans of Virginia, Mr. Hamadeh of Arizona, Mrs. King-Hinds, Mr. Barrett.

Mr. MOORE of Utah (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SARA ''MANDY'' REECE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO PCOM

(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 congratulate Dr. Sara ''Mandy'' Reece on her appointment to dean of the School of Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine known as PCOM.

Dr. Reece has been a part of the Georgia PCOM community since 2010, having served as the interim dean, vice chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and director of Interprofessional Education.

Before joining the PCOM community, Dr. Reece served as a pharmacy director and diabetes educator at District 2 Public Health in Gainesville, Georgia.

Dr. Reece's appointment as dean is only one of her many accomplishments, among being named the PCOM School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year for Pharmacy Practice in 2019 and Faculty Preceptor of the Year in 2022 and 2023.

In Dr. Reece's new role as the dean, she will continue to advance the great mission of PCOM School of Pharmacy throughout the State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely congratulate Dr. Reece on her accomplishments and share the excitement with the Georgia PCOM community.

HONORING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor President Jimmy Carter and the legacy he leaves behind as the former President from my State of Georgia.

President Carter was the small-town son of a farmer and a nurse. He carried with him humble sensibilities, strong values, and a commitment to faith that reinforced his servant leadership first in the Navy and then in the highest office in the land. His work before and after his Presidency reminds us all that our capacity for impact is independent of the title that we wear or the place that we call home.

President Carter cared deeply about peace and prosperity across our world, and his commitment to God's people is one that those of us from Georgia remember as we, ourselves, represent and serve our home State.

Though he has departed this world, we know that his legacy will live on not only through the work of the Carter Center but through those of us inspired by his life and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I hold the Carter family and all who know President Carter in my heart during this time.

RECOGNIZING ELK COUNTY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL COACH AARON STRAUB ON HIS THOUSANDTH CAREER WIN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Elk County Catholic High School basketball coach, Aaron Straub.

For 45 years, Coach Aaron Straub has led the Elk County Catholic High School basketball teams, beginning as the girls' head coach before taking over the boys' program in 1983.

Earlier this year, Coach Straub made history after celebrating his thousandth career win.

Few basketball fans have witnessed this moment in Pennsylvania, as Straub is believed to be just the third scholastic basketball head coach in State history to achieve this accomplishment. It was only fitting to reach this milestone in the gymnasium that bears his name.

That feat is not just about winning basketball games. Coach Straub has helped countless young men and women develop over nearly half a century, helping to ensure their athletic, academic, and personal success.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Straub on this thousandth career win and wish him and the Crusaders good luck for the rest of their season.

CONGRESS FINALLY RIGHTED THE WRONGS THAT HARMED MANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the Biden administration entered its final days in office, I was honored to participate in a joyous White House ceremony where the President signed the Social Security Fairness Act into law.

After a gnawing 40-year struggle, Congress finally righted the wrongs that harmed many public employees. These include teachers, mail carriers, firefighters, police officers, librarians, postal workers, locomotive engineers, school cooks, nutrition personnel, and so many more.

Finally, the Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the harmful Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. These reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for more than 2.8 million Americans and over 270,000 Ohioans who have served our communities.

In a time of severe partisanship, 327 House Members and 76 Senators voted for this bipartisan legislation.

This is a great example of working to find the big middle to benefit the American people, millions of them who worked and earned their way forward.

Mr. Speaker, every single Ohioan and American should now enjoy their benefits.

CONGRATULATING FLORA SPELLER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM WORKING 46 YEARS AT McDONALD'S

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, after an incredible 46.5 years of working at the local McDonald's in Williamston, North Carolina, Flora Speller, affectionately known as Ms. Flo, is hanging up her uniform and retiring.

She started work on June 29, 1978, at 18 years old. At that time, a Big Mac was 90 cents, and since, she has become a beloved fixture in the community.

Nearly half a century, she has not just served meals; she has built strong community relationships with her customers and coworkers. She loves her customers, and they love her.

Ms. Flo described McDonald's as her second home. When asked, she plans to travel more, however, she is contemplating returning to work part time. Where? At McDonald's.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Flo on her retirement and thank her for the 46.5 amazing years.

□ 1915

CONGRATULATING SPEAKER DESTIN HALL

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina's speaker of the house, Destin Hall. Last week, I had the privilege of passing the gavel to him, and I have full faith and confidence that he will ensure that our statehouse will continue to serve the people of North Carolina with integrity, purpose, and dedication.

As a mentor and a colleague, I have watched Destin grow into an exceptional leader who listens, collaborates, and fights tirelessly for the people of North Carolina. His commitment to his constituents and his vision for a stronger, more prosperous State make him uniquely suited to this role.

At this critical time, as we work to rebuild western North Carolina, address inflation, and strengthen our communities, I know Speaker Hall will guide the North Carolina State House with wisdom and resolve. It has been an honor to work alongside him, and I look forward to the positive impact he will make as speaker of the statehouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–14. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Investment of Customer Funds by Futures Commission Merchants and Derivatives Clearing Organizations (RIN: 3038-AF24) received January 9, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–15. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulations To Address Margin Adequacy and To Account for the Treatment of Separate Accounts by Futures Commission Merchants (RIN: 3038-AF21) received January 9, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–16. A letter from the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation (RIN: 1601-AB16) received January 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–17. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission' final rule — Daily Computation of Customer and Broker-Dealer Reserve Requirements Under the Broker-Dealer Customer Protection Rule [Release No.: 34-102022; File No.: S7-11-23] (RIN: 3235-AN28) received January 10, 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–18. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–19. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of State 2025 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment [Public Notice: 12633] (RIN: 1400-AF90) received January 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. FULCHER (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 331. A bill to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YAKYM (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 332. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that floor plan financing includes the financing of certain trailers and campers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP:

H.R. 333. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 334. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish technical and procedural standards for artificial or prerecorded voice systems created through generative artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. COLLINS):

H.R. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the National Firearms Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 336. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 337. A bill to provide technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 338. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase surface water and groundwater storage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 339. A bill to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to streamline the consideration by State and local governments of requests for modification of certain existing wireless facilities and telecommunications service facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 340. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services carry out activities to streamline regulatory oversight of human cell and tissue products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 341. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide States the authority to limit blocking grade rail crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 342. A bill to require that the flag of the United States of America be flown at its highest peak on Inauguration Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MANN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BOST, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. MESSMER):

H.R. 343. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 344. A bill to condition the receipt of certain grants by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on exempting certain drivers from congestion fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 345. A bill to require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 346. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 347. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 348. A bill to require a report on oligarchs and parastatal entities of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 349. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to increase enforcement with respect to violations of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 350. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act to direct district attorney and prosecutors offices to report to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 351. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to prohibit congestion or cordon pricing in a value pricing program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 352. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to prohibit cordon pricing in the Central Business District Tolling Program for New York City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 353. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the child tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 354. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations on expensing of depreciable business assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 355. A bill to remove aliens who fail to comply with a release order, to enroll all aliens on the nondetained docket of an immigration court in the Alternatives to Detention program with continuous GPS monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 356. A bill to assign the responsibility for conducting prosecutions for violations of the laws of the District of Columbia to the head of a local prosecutors office designated under local law of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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

H.R. 357. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide limitations on Federal teleworking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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

H.R. 358. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit insider trading by Members of Congress and their spouses, to amend title 18, United States Code, to extend the length of the post-employment ban on lobbying by Members of Congress, to repeal the automatic adjustment in the pay of Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 359. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 360. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Oyster Reef Restoration and Conservation Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BABIN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RULLI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 361. A bill to authorize the President to seek to enter into negotiations with the Kingdom of Denmark to secure the acquisition of Greenland by the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 362. A bill to establish the Virgin Islands visa waiver program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 363. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain amounts from the tested income of controlled foreign corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 364. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the residence and source rules to provide for economic recovery in the possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the residence and source rules to provide for economic recovery in the possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 366. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to cover into the treasury of the Virgin Islands revenue from tax on fuel produced in the Virgin Islands and entered into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the source rules for personal property sales in possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 368. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain bona fide residents of the Virgin Islands who are shareholders of corporations organized under the laws of the Virgin Islands are not treated as United States persons for purposes of determining certain inclusions in gross income with respect to such corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 369. A bill to provide for the elimination of the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 370. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any State or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutionally protected prayer in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 371. A bill to prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that no employee of the Internal Revenue Service has a seriously delinquent tax debt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 372. A bill to require certain welfare programs to deny benefits to persons who fail a drug test, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 373. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the authority of States and localities to regulate conduct, or impose penalties or taxes, in relation to rifles or shotguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 374. A bill to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service and redirect them to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 375. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Improvements (LCRI)''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MANN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. VAN DUYNE):

H. Con. Res. 3. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H. Res. 31. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. FEDORCHAK:

H. Res. 32. A resolution congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. BERA, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASE, Mr. TRAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LIEU, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. CHU, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. CARSON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

H. Res. 33. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself and Mr. MASSIE):

H. Res. 34. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should drop all charges against Edward Snowden; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 35. A resolution recognizing the 112th Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. VALADAO):

H. Res. 36. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish the Committee on the Elimination of Nonessential Federal Programs; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. PALMER):

H. Res. 37. A resolution recognizing the 4th anniversary of the Trump administration's Secretary of the Air Force announcing Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, as the preferred location for United States Space Command Headquarters; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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. FULCHER:

H.R. 331.

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

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

Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 332.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP:

H.R. 333.

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

Article I, Sec. 8, cl. 1: to provide for the common defense and general welfare.

Article I, Sec. 8, cl. 12: to raise and support armies.

Article I, Sec. 8, cl. 14: to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

Article I, Sec. 8, cl. 16: to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

Article I, Sec. 8, cl. 18: to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 334.

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

Article 1 Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 335.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 336.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 337.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:
H.R. 338.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 339.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 340.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. DAVIDSON:
H.R. 341.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
''Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:
H.R. 342.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. FOXX:
H.R. 343.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; whereby the Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Furthermore, this bill makes specific changes to existing law, in accordance with the Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5, which states that ''No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
[Page H235]
By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:
H.R. 344.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. HARDER of California:
H.R. 345.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 346.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. KEATING:
H.R. 347.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 section 8
By Mr. KUSTOFF:
H.R. 348.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.
By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 349.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 350.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 351.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 352.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
By Mr. MOORE of Utah:
H.R. 353.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. MOORE of Utah:
H.R. 354.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. NEHLS:
H.R. 355.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 356.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 357.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 358.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 359.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:
H.R. 360.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution
By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 361.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 362.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 363.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 364.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 365.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 366.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 367.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 368.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 369.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 370.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 371.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 372.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Ms. TENNEY:
H.R. 373.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. TENNEY:
H.R. 374.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. TOKUDA:
H.R. 375.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.J. Res. 17.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 5 of the Constitution
By Mr. PALMER:
H.J. Res. 18.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 21: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MACE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COLE, Mr. SELF, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 26: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 28: Mr. WIED, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. RULLI, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BARR, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. DOWNING, and Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 30: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BARR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DOWNING, and Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 31: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 32: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 33: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. STANTON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BARR, and Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 35: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 38: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 45: Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SIMPSON, and Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 54: Mr. ROY, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 66: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 71: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 103: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 142: Ms. LEE of Florida, Mrs. HOUCHIN, and Mr. FRY.

H.R. 151: Mr. ROSE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 152: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 153: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 174: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 175: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 176: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 179: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 186: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 203: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 207: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 210: Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 211: Mr. POCAN, Mr. TURNER of Texas, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 219: Ms. TITUS and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 220: Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 221: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. CRANK, and Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 247: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 250: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 253: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 254: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 260: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona and Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 273: Mr. CRANK, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FALLON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 282: Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. TURNER of Texas.

H.R. 283: Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 284: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 288: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 304: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 307: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 317: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 323: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 326: Mr. BABIN and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

H.J. Res. 10: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. BACON, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. ONDER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mrs. BICE.

H. Res. 8: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H. Res. 23: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. CROCKETT.

H. Res. 29: Ms. BONAMICI and Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 30: Mr. MFUME, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. VARGAS.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *119th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 *No. 6*

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROGER MARSHALL, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we whisper our prayer vocally before Your throne of grace. You have invited us to come to You with all our needs. We thank You for our requests that You have already answered. We have sought and found. We have knocked and walked through open doors.

By Your Grace and mercy, strengthen our lawmakers for their journey. Prepare them for the ravages of the valley and the chill of the mountain summits. Guide them, Great Redeemer. They are pilgrims in this land. They are weak, but You are mighty. Inspire them to keep their eyes on You and not the challenges that seem too difficult to solve.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER MARSHALL, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARSHALL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication of the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President, received during the adjournment of the Senate.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, January 10, 2025, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated January 10, 2025 said to contain the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisors. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 3:55 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

JACKIE BARBER,
Secretary of the Senate.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LAKEN RILEY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 5, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this week, the American people will see for the first time what kind of Trump administration they are going to get in the coming years: one that will fight for working people or one that will fight for the swamp?

Over the next 4 days, over a dozen of the President-elect's nominees will testify in committee and make their case to the country. These hearings, in a very real way, are the opening salvo for holding the Trump administration accountable to the public.

So, today, I want to talk a little bit about how Senate Democrats will approach these hearings to uphold our promise to stand up for America's working and middle class. These hearings will be the very first real opportunity to see the Trump administration's view on who they will fight for—working people or the special interests?

Our approach will be this: We will use these hearings to show the contrast between Donald Trump's agenda of helping the special interests—especially the very wealthy—and the Democrats' agenda to fight for working Americans.

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

Nominees should expect tough, candid, but fair questioning. They should come prepared to be honest about everything—their backgrounds, their experiences, and their commitment to increasing opportunity for all Americans, not just those at the top. They will also be asked tough questions about where they stand on the President-elect's stated policies on things that will hurt the middle class, such as tariffs, tax cuts for the wealthy, and undermining policies that lower drug prices.

If the President-elect's nominees demonstrate they are qualified and committed to lowering costs, increasing wages, and strengthening our security, Democrats will take that very seriously. But if the President-elect's nominees are going to push policies that make inflation worse and put more money in the pockets of special interests, or duck those important questions, they will be put on the record about their views for all the American people to see.

That is why Democrats have insisted on regular order for the President-elect's nominees. A thorough nominations process ensures the American people know precisely who these nominees are and who they will fight for.

Unfortunately, a troubling pattern emerged last week from some Republican chairs who seem eager to rush the nominations process without fully getting all the necessary documentation.

Getting documents is not trivial busy work. These are financial disclosures, ethics agreements, and FBI background investigations.

If these nominees have something to hide, these documents could show it. So it is important we don't rush to hearings without examining the record first.

The more Senate Republicans try to rush the process without the proper documentation, the more Americans will ask themselves: What are Republicans and their nominees trying to hide?

How can Americans trust, for example, that Donald Trump's Cabinet will be free from conflicts of interests if Republicans hold hearings before anyone is getting a chance to review financial disclosures?

How can Americans trust that these nominees will serve the public interest if we don't first examine all their ethics agreements?

How can Americans trust that Senate Republicans will do what is best for the American people if they are more focused on keeping Donald Trump happy than examining every nominee carefully?

If these nominees will push policies that make Americans' lives worse, Americans deserve to know it, and we can determine that with a complete, thorough, and exhaustive nomination process.

On Mr. Hegseth, tomorrow's hearing with Pete Hegseth is a good example of why a thorough and tough nominations process is so important.

Mr. Hegseth is Donald Trump's pick to be Secretary of Defense—arguably, the most important position in the entire Cabinet. If confirmed, Mr. Hegseth would oversee a workforce of over 3 million people and handle issues of life and death on a regular basis. His job will be to keep our troops safe and keep our country safe. If there is any Cabinet position that ought to have a steady and drama-free individual, it is certainly Secretary of Defense.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hegseth's background is deeply troubling, to put it generously. We all have read reports about his radical views, his alleged excessive drinking, the allegations about sexual assault, and his failures in the financial stewardship of multiple organizations. These are such serious allegations for such an important job. So why would the Armed Services Committee wish to rush through these hearings, particularly when the documents are not available to all the members of the committee, including the FBI background check?

Mr. Hegseth will have an opportunity to answer questions about these allegations and about his record as well as his views. He can expect his hearing to be tough but respectful, candid but fair.

The stakes during tomorrow's hearing will be very high—not just for the nominee but for the entire country. It is not hard to imagine an emergency situation where the Secretary of Defense has to make quick and steady decisions about our military. Is someone with Pete Hegseth's alleged history really the kind of person we want at the helm in a very, very important situation—dangerous situation—like that? Is that really in the best interest of Americans' safety? That is something Senators should ask themselves during tomorrow's hearing, and, of course, they should ask Mr. Hegseth questions about it.

When it comes to a job like Secretary of Defense, there can be zero question—zero—that the nominee is up for the job. Unfortunately, Mr. Hegseth's record leaves too many unanswered questions. Let's hope we get real answers and real documentation before anyone votes for Mr. Hegseth for Secretary of Defense.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. President, on Laken Riley, today, the Senate will vote on the motion to proceed on the Laken Riley Act. The Senate invoked cloture on this bill last week with a strong bipartisan vote. As I said last week, Democrats want to have a robust debate where we can offer amendments and improve this bill.

This issue is very important. Americans deserve for us to debate the issues seriously, including by considering amendments from the Democratic side. We are going to ask our Republican colleagues to allow for debate and votes on amendments. I hope my Republican colleagues will allow for it.

JANUARY 6

Mr. President, finally, on the January 6 pardons—not finally; next to finally—Donald Trump has promised to spend the first hour of his Presidency pardoning the violent mob which stormed the Capitol and attacked our police officers on January 6.

Instead of focusing on helping working families or lowering healthcare costs or making life better for the American people, Donald Trump's very first priority seems to be pardoning the January 6 rioters.

And yesterday, on FOX News Sunday, the Vice President-elect JD VANCE—feeling the heat that these pardons are not very popular with the American people—said that while those who committed violence should not be pardoned, he implied that those who did not commit violence could deserve to be pardoned.

The people who invaded the Capitol on January 6, whether they committed violence or not, should not be pardoned. They unlawfully broke into the Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power. What they did is a serious crime. There is no gray area here. There would be nothing more insulting to our democracy and to the memory of those who died in connection with that day than letting rioters walk free. We would be saying, in effect, that you could storm the Capitol, engage in violence against police officers or be part of a crowd that engaged in such violence, and try to overturn a free and fair election, and then walk away with no consequences—no consequences.

Rioters who broke into the Capitol on January 6 to try and stop the peaceful transfer of power and subvert our democracy do not deserve a Presidential pardon. Whether they committed violence or not, no one who participated in one of the darkest, most shameful days in American history should be pardoned.

TRIBUTE TO PINA FRASSINETI WAX

Mr. President, finally, on a Holocaust survivor on Long Island whom I met with this morning, one of my favorite things about serving as the senior Senator from New York is that I get a chance to travel around the State and meet so many exceptional New Yorkers.

This morning, on Long Island, I had a chance to meet an especially exceptional New Yorker, a living legend, a 100-year-old woman named Pina Frassineti Wax, a Holocaust survivor and proud Long Island resident. She was sheltered by Catholic nuns in a convent for 2 years to keep the Germans from sending her to the concentration camps.

And these days, there are so many Holocaust deniers, people who say it never existed or was ''exaggerated,'' and then there are so many more young people who know nothing about the history of the Holocaust, that those who survived it are very, very important to our history, to helping us understand what happened, to be a living witness to this awful, awful, awful

genocide that occurred against the Jewish people.

Ms. Wax is such a survivor. She combined her 100th birthday with constantly reminding people of the horrors of Nazi Germany and what was done to the Jewish people.

So, this morning, it was my honor to present her with a flag flown over the Capitol, expressing the Senate's recognition of her extraordinary life.

After enduring so much tragedy during one of the darkest chapters of human history, Pina has dedicated her life to teaching, loving, learning, and preserving the memory of the Holocaust.

And even at 100 years old, she is showing no signs of slowing down. She is whip smart, as energetic as ever, and still going very, very strong. People like her give all of us hope that, in the end, compassion and courage will always endure over hatred and fear—always.

Long Island is lucky to have her; New York is proud to call her one of our own; and the world is much better off because of her.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, by now, I think a lot of Americans know the story of Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student at Augusta University in Georgia with her whole life ahead of her. Laken was murdered last February while out on a run at the Athens campus of the University of Georgia.

Her killer was arrested the next day, and it quickly became clear that he should never have had the opportunity to get near Laken Riley because he should never have been in the country in the first place. Laken's killer had entered the country illegally, been released into the interior, and had subsequently been arrested in New York City and later issued a citation for shoplifting in Georgia a few short months before Laken's murder.

After his New York City arrest, he was released before Immigration and Customs Enforcement could issue a detainer—a request that police hold an individual—so that he could be taken into immigration custody. So this individual, here in the United States illegally and subsequently involved in two crimes, was free on the University of Georgia campus last February when Laken Riley went running.

It is already a problem that we are releasing huge numbers of individuals here illegally into the interior of the country. It is unthinkable that an individual like Laken's killer would be released back into society. Laken's killer should have been detained long before he had a chance to get near her last February.

Shortly after Laken was killed, Senator KATIE BRITT, together with Senator BUDD, introduced legislation that would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain individuals charged with theft, burglary, or shoplifting. It is a commonsense measure that should be an unquestioned ''yes'' for every Senator, and I am very pleased that the Senate is finally taking up this bill after Democrats blocked a vote on it last year.

The fact that 33 Democratic Senators voted in favor of moving to the bill on Thursday was an encouraging sign that at least some Democrats might be serious about wanting to work with Republicans to address border and immigration security, and I hope that proves to be true. It would be incredibly disappointing if Democrats move to the bill simply to attempt to load it down with poison pills or unrelated measures.

This is not—I emphasize ''not''—a comprehensive immigration bill. It is an attempt to right one wrong: the fact that individuals already here illegally who have been charged with various property crimes are not required to be detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is an attempt to ensure that no other family will have to suffer the pain suffered by Laken Riley's. So I hope that Democrats will work with us in a serious fashion to actually pass this legislation.

After 4 years of chaos at our southern border under President Biden, there is a lot of work to be done on both the immigration and border security fronts. The kind of unchecked illegal immigration that we have experienced at our southern border under President Biden serves as an invitation to terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals to enter our country.

Currently, Senate Republicans are working on a major package that will include substantial funding for a variety of border and immigration security needs, including increasing the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and Border Patrol agents, increasing detention space, and providing the barriers and technology that we need to secure the border. I look forward to taking up that package.

In the meantime, however, we have a bill before us today that will address one problem in current immigration law and, perhaps, prevent other families from suffering the pain that Laken Riley's has suffered. Let's get it done.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 23

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

LAKEN RILEY ACT—Motion To Proceed—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to legislation known as the Laken Riley Act.

The loss of a child is something no parent should have to endure. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Laken Riley—by any measure, an outstanding young woman. We should do everything possible to make sure this type of tragedy never occurs again.

But I do have concerns about some of the language in this legislation.

Let me give you an example. This bill would mandate immigration detention for an undocumented immigrant if they are arrested for shoplifting—even if they are never charged or convicted for that offense.

Most people, having paid a little attention to law enforcement review, television, movies, know the process. You steal a candy bar, a hand on the shoulder, clerk says: Wait a minute. What are you doing here? Next thing you know a policeman is called in; he arrests you for shoplifting. They then take you in and charge you with that crime. You make a plea, guilty or not guilty. Ultimately, it is resolved by a trial of some nature. That is the ordinary process.

The question is whether someone should be deported the very first time that the hand reaches your shoulder with candy bar in hand but no charge of any crime. That is what this bill does. That is going a little bit too far as far as I am personally concerned.

This bill would mandate immigrant detention if they are arrested for shoplifting, not convicted, even if they are never charged or convicted.

Current law requires mandatory detention of individuals with serious criminal convictions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE. This has been on the books for a long time. It is the right thing to do. I don't want dangerous people coming into this country, and I don't want anyone dangerous and undocumented to stay in this country, period.

Existing law gives ICE discretion to detain undocumented immigrants on a case-by-case basis. ICE assesses each case individually so the Agency's limited resources are used effectively to protect national security and public safety.

This bill, as currently written, would eliminate ICE's discretion to prioritize

detention and deportation of dangerous individuals. Instead, it requires—requires—ICE to treat a child arrested for shoplifting candy the same as an adult convicted of child abuse. Why?

In practice, this would overwhelm ICE detention facilities and make America less safe. Let me tell you some of the numbers of this what appears to be simple bill. ICE told my office that this legislation would require them to detain more than 65,000 immigrants, but Congress has only provided ICE with funding to detain 42,000, and the Agency is already holding nearly that many.

So if this legislation becomes law, ICE would be forced to release tens of thousands of other immigrants who were detained under ICE's current policies, which prioritize those who pose a threat to public safety.

This bill would also grant State attorneys general the standing to sue if the State disagrees with many unrelated decisions made by Federal immigration authorities.

It would require Federal courts to prioritize these cases to the greatest extent possible. This would rob Federal judges of the ability to control their courtrooms and grind their dockets to a halt.

These standing provisions would also undermine the supremacy of the Federal Government over immigration and border security, which is established by our Constitution.

They could also dramatically reduce legal immigration to our country. Because of the way it is drafted, the Department of State, under any administration, could be blocked from issuing any visas to nationals from a certain country, like India or China.

Perhaps some of my colleagues think they are pretty good policy goals, but they have nothing to do with the tragic murder of this young woman.

If we are going to consider this bill, we must have a chance to offer amendments to fix a few of these problems and assure the bill would accomplish its goal.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA JO BONDI

Mr. President, this week the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for Pam Bondi—President-elect Trump's choice for Attorney General. I appreciated meeting with Ms. Bondi last week to discuss issues of great importance to the American people. She is impressive. She is clearly a professional, a trusted attorney, and has an amazing background. I appreciated meeting with her.

The significance of the Attorney General cannot be overstated. The Department of Justice is responsible for safeguarding civil rights and liberties, promoting public safety, and ensuring economic opportunity and fairness. An independent Attorney General is essential. The Justice Department leader must be loyal to the Constitution above all else—including the President.

But during his first term, then-President Trump used the Department of Justice as his personal attorneys. He tried to thwart the Mueller investigation, protect political allies, and even overturn the result of the 2020 Presidential election.

Unfortunately, Mr. Trump has pledged that during his second term he will weaponize the Justice Department to seek revenge on his political enemies. The President-elect has made it clear that he values one thing above all else in an Attorney General: loyalty. I have no reason to believe President-elect Trump has changed his litmus test for Attorney General or his views on how the Justice Department should operate.

In fact, I fear that he found someone who can pass his loyalty test. We will see at the hearing.

The obvious concern with Ms. Bondi is whether she will follow the bipartisan tradition of the post-Watergate era and oversee an independent Department of Justice that upholds the rule of law.

Ms. Bondi is one of four personal lawyers to President-elect Trump whom he has already selected for Department of Justice positions. She was a leader in an effort to overturn the 2020 election; she has echoed the President's calls for prosecuting his political opponents; and she has a troubling history of unflinching loyalty to the President-elect.

In addition, she has a record of hostility to fundamental civil rights, including reproductive rights, voting rights, and LGBTQ rights.

Every President has the right to nominate individuals to serve in key Cabinet positions. However, the Senate has the constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on these nominations. This week's hearing will provide an opportunity to learn more about her, her nomination, and her vision.

The American people deserve an Attorney General who will protect their fundamental rights, demonstrate independence and integrity, and remain faithful to the Constitution, the country, and the rule of law.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. BUDD assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

TIKTOK BAN

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to address the profound economic, social, and political importance of TikTok's creators and the serious consequences of a nationwide TikTok ban.

When the Senate passed legislation last year authorizing a ban on TikTok, it was bundled with essential foreign aid measures. Critically, the Senate never held a direct vote on the TikTok ban itself. This rushed process left many of my colleagues with the impression that ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, would divest from the platform, rendering the ban unnecessary, as its proponents had suggested.

Back in April, I took to this Chamber floor to warn that such an approach was ill-considered. Today, with TikTok on the brink of being banned in the United States, my concerns have become a reality because what we are learning is that the TikTok law is indeed a TikTok ban.

As the January 19 deadline approaches, TikTok creators and users across the Nation are understandably alarmed. They are uncertain about the future of the platform, their accounts, and the vibrant online communities they have cultivated.

Supporters of the law have often dismissed TikTok as trivial, characterizing it as a platform dominated by juvenile dance videos and seemingly inconsequential content. They were wrong then, and they are wrong now. TikTok, like all social media platforms, has flaws, but TikTok is also critical for millions of creators to earn a living, for young people to express themselves, and for Americans of all ages to foster community, share a laugh, and learn something new. Yes, sometimes these laughs come from the shared experience of attempting to learn and recreate a funny dance video, but just as often, TikTok provides a space for meaningful political conversations on everything from gun violence to climate change.

Most recently, TikTok users have been sharing harrowing videos of the devastating wildfires that have destroyed thousands of homes in California. These personal videos have provided a firsthand account of the tragedy, creating a virtual gathering space for shared stories, mutual support, and urgent calls for assistance to this climate change-created catastrophe.

Over the past 24 hours, I have received millions of views on my TikTok videos advocating for an end to the ban. One of these videos has over 20,000 comments and counting. That is tens of thousands of users reaching out to make their voices heard. I have been tagged in hundreds of stories over the past 24 hours as TikTok users have posted short videos explaining why TikTok is important for their lives.

Meredith Lynch, a writer and comedian from my home State of Massachusetts, currently residing in Los Angeles, said:

> Here in Los Angeles I know I personally—and I know so many other people have been relying on this app during the fires. It is a way in which we are spreading [information that the] community [needs], it is a way in which we are spreading resources.

Rae, a user who has recently been diagnosed with thyroid cancer, explained:

> Because of TikTok I was able to come on here and share my story . . . I was able to participate in the creator rewards program. That money is going to help me pay for my cancer surgery.

Mary, a disability rights advocate and low-income, single mother living in Rhode Island, shared that she plays ukulele on TikTok for tips, which pays for her groceries. She explained:

> While the district failed me, I found a community on TikTok.

This is just a small sample of the thousands of stories that TikTok users are posting about the app's importance in their lives.

If my colleagues remain unmoved by these personal accounts, they should consider the political implications of the TikTok ban. The 170 million Americans that use TikTok each month will be furious when their favorite platform goes dark. That is 170 million Americans—170 million reasons to think very carefully about their position on the TikTok ban.

Make no mistake, these communities cannot be replicated on another app. Creators and small businesses cannot rebuild their audiences overnight. Many have stated that thanks to TikTok's unique culture, it is impossible to develop a similar following on another platform. Users cannot transfer their followers and communities to a new platform.

A ban would dismantle a one-of-a-kind informational and cultural ecosystem, silencing millions in the process.

The stakes are very high over the next week, and that is why I will soon introduce the Extend the TikTok Deadline Act to extend the deadline by which ByteDance must sell TikTok or face a ban, and it should be extended by an additional 270 days.

Now that my colleagues understand that the TikTok ban is real, we need time to have a deeper conversation about how to address the national security risk caused by ByteDance's ownership of TikTok. We need time to understand the ban's implication on TikTok's creators and users. We need time to consider alternative ideas.

This legislation does not repeal the original legislation; it merely allows for more time.

Let me be clear. TikTok has its problems. Like every social media platform, TikTok poses a serious risk to the privacy and mental health of our young people in our country. In fact, TikTok paid a fine for violating my law, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, just a few years ago. I am proud of my law, and I am proud that the Federal Trade Commission took action under my law. But they have also done the same kind of action against American companies and fined them for doing the very same thing to children in our country online. So it is not just a TikTok issue; it is American companies that actually set the example for how young people in our country get abused.

Last year, I sent a letter to the Department of Justice urging it to quickly review the allegations that TikTok had violated COPPA yet again. I will continue to hold TikTok accountable for such behavior, but I will hold every American company, from Instagram to Facebook, all the way down the line, that is doing the very same thing to the children in our country.

A ban on TikTok does not solve the problem because young people in our country are still going to be going to American sites that will abuse them. And the Surgeon General tells us that there is a mental health crisis amongst young people in our country. This doesn't solve the problem. If we are going to deal with it, let's deal with it, but let's step back and understand that it is not just a TikTok issue; it is social media in general.

A TikTok ban would impose serious consequences on millions of Americans who depend upon the app for social connections and for their economic livelihood. We cannot allow this to happen.

I will urge the U.S. Senate to adopt my legislation to give the whole process an additional 270 days for us to debate it in a way in which we did not debate it last year on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask that the vote begin at this moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The question occurs on the motion to proceed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (MR. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Alsobrooks	Cruz	King
Baldwin	Curtis	Klobuchar
Banks	Daines	Lankford
Barrasso	Duckworth	Lee
Bennet	Durbin	Lummis
Blackburn	Ernst	Marshall
Blumenthal	Fischer	McConnell
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	McCormick
Boozman	Gillibrand	Moran
Britt	Grassley	Moreno
Budd	Hagerty	Murkowski
Cantwell	Hassan	Murphy
Capito	Hawley	Ossoff
Cassidy	Heinrich	Paul
Collins	Hickenlooper	Peters
Coons	Hoeven	Reed
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Kaine	Rosen
Cramer	Kelly	Rounds
Crapo	Kennedy	Rubio
Schmitt	Sullivan	Welch
Schumer	Thune	Whitehouse
Scott (FL)	Tillis	Wicker
Scott (SC)	Tuberville	Wyden
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Young
Sheehy	Warner	
Slotkin	Warnock	

NAYS—10

Booker	Markey	Smith
Hirono	Merkley	Warren
Kim	Sanders	
Luján	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—6

Fetterman	Mullin	Padilla
Graham	Murray	Schiff

The motion was agreed to.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up Ernst amendment No. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. Thune], for Ms. Ernst, proposes an amendment numbered 8.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To include crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the list of offenses that, if committed by an inadmissible alien, require mandatory detention)

Beginning on page 2, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

''(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, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,'';

(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', 'shoplifting', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TOGETHER WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON JANUARY 10, 2025—PM 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

In the last four years, America has overcome some of the most challenging economic conditions in our history. When I took office, our economy was in the grips of worst pandemic in a century, and decades of trickle-down policies had left us especially vulnerable to its shocks. Hundreds of thousands of businesses had closed, and millions of Americans risked losing their homes. Unemployment was high and the risk of long-term damage was real.

My Administration responded with a new economic playbook to rebuild our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down. Since then, we've made historic investments in our nation and in the industries of the future. We've stood by unions and helped to create a record 16 million jobs. We've fought to lower costs for consumers, and to give small businesses a fair chance to compete. Today, our economy has not only recovered, it has emerged stronger, laying the foundation for a promising new chapter in the American comeback story.

My Council of Economic Advisers has prepared this report examining actions taken to both ease the pandemic's immediate impact and strengthen our economy over the long-term, to help ensure we learn the right lessons as a nation and to build on the historic progress we've made.

Our work began right away with the American Rescue Plan, one of the most consequential recovery packages in history. To reopen our economy, we knew we had to defeat COVID–19, so we launched unprecedented vaccination efforts. We got immediate economic relief out to tens of millions of families who needed it most. We expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty in half to its lowest rate in history. And we sent funding directly to every state, city, and town in the nation, keeping police on the beat and teachers in the classroom, families in their homes and small businesses on their feet, preventing a wave of scarring bankruptcies, defaults, and evictions.

At the same time, the pandemic had snarled supply chains and set off widespread labor shortages, driving up costs worldwide. In response, my Administration immediately convened businesses and labor to unclog our ports and get goods flowing. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine further increased food and gas prices. In response, I directed the largest release of fuel from our strategic reserve in history to ensure that our energy markets were well supplied, and we challenged oil and gas companies to reinvest record profits in domestic production, which has reached an all-time high under my Administration. And we took steps to promote competition across industries, boosting transparency and lowering costs for consumers.

Our approach worked. Inflation is down significantly from its peak and is now close to pre-pandemic levels. Together, we've achieved the elusive ''soft landing'' of lower inflation, steady employment, strong economic growth, and rising real wages—which most observers said was impossible.

But ending the economic crisis alone was never enough. I ran for President to set the American economy on a stronger long-term course, by breaking from the trickle-down orthodoxy that has failed our nation for decades. That theory holds that by cutting taxes for the very wealthy, benefits will trickle down to everyone else. But in truth, not a lot has ever trickled down onto most folks' kitchen tables. Instead, inequality grew and America slid deeper into debt.

I have a different approach. I believe the best way to build America is to invest in America, in American products and American people. And the best way to grow our economy is to grow the backbone of our nation: the middle class. That's what my Investing in America agenda has done, through landmark laws that shore up our infrastructure, our manufacturing base, and our people. Together, these are some of the most significant investments in America since the New Deal.

For decades, American infrastructure has been neglected. But our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is finally modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit systems, and more; removing every lead pipe in America, so every child can drink clean water; and providing affordable high-speed internet for every American, no matter where they live. And it's making sure these projects are done with American products and American workers, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying new jobs, many of them union jobs.

For too long, American factories have moved overseas, taking vital industries with them. Now, our CHIPS and Science Act is bringing manufacturing home, already attracting nearly $450 billion in manufacturing investments to build massive new semiconductor factories, equipping America to lead the industries of future. At the same time, our Inflation Reduction Act is making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history, not only putting America on track to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and promoting our energy abundance and security, but also creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying clean-energy jobs.

I know all too well, Americans still too often struggle to afford lifesaving prescription drugs, and sometimes are even forced to choose between medicine and rent. It's wrong. The Inflation Reduction Act also takes historic steps to change that, capping total out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicare at $2,000 a year; slashing insulin for seniors to $35 a month, down from as much as $400; and finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices across the board. And it has expanded health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, bringing the share of uninsured Americans to record lows.

The impact of these efforts is just starting—and the full effects will be felt over the next decade—but there is no question that our nation today is the best-positioned on earth to win the competition for the 21st century. We've laid a foundation of possibilities that will make life a little easier for millions of Americans and can propel America for decades.

Today, we hand the incoming Administration the world's largest economy. The next four years will determine if America builds on that strength, or slides back into the old trickle-down approach that only benefits those at the very top. I believe that the transformative investments we've made are already deeply rooted in our nation, and therefore too costly, politically and economically, to reverse. At this inflection point, I hope that our playbook serves as a model for how to fight for the middle class and give working families a fair shot, forging a stronger, more secure and prosperous America for generations to come.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 23. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

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. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 70. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Ansarallah and its officials, agents, or affiliates for acts of

international terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 71. A bill to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in bathrooms on passenger rail cars; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 72. A bill to remove aliens who fail to comply with a release order, to enroll all aliens on the ICE nondetailed docket in the Alternatives to Detention program with continuous GPS monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 73. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to provide that the supplemental security income benefits of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities shall not be reduced by reason of marriage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 74. A bill to require the Attorney General to submit to Congress a report relating to violence against women in athletics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 75. A bill to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 76. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 77. A bill to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking for major rules; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 78. A bill to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 79. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum educational requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 80. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the prevention of improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 81. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 82. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KIM (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 20. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 21. A resolution designating October 10, 2025, as ''American Girls in Sports Day''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 22. A resolution concerning the National Collegiate Athletic Association policy for eligibility in women's sports; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 23. A resolution recognizing the 4th anniversary of the Trump administration's Secretary of the Air Force announcing Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, as the preferred location for United States Space Command Headquarters; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 21

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 23

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 42

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to establish the Southern Border Wall Construction Fund and to transfer unobligated amounts from the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds to such Fund to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern border.

S. 46

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan.

S. 53

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to fingerprint noncitizen minors entering the United States who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking, to require the Secretary to publicly disclose the number of such minors who are fingerprinted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials and the number of child traffickers who are apprehended by CBP, to impose criminal penalties on noncitizen adults who use unrelated minors to gain entry into the United States, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 20—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

Mr. KIM (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 20

Whereas the influence of Korean Americans may be observed in all facets of life in the United States, from politics to industry, entrepreneurship to volunteerism, the arts, and education;

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, 102 courageous Korean immigrants arrived in the United States initiating the first large wave of Korean immigration to the United States;

Whereas these pioneer Korean immigrants faced tremendous social and economic obstacles and language barriers in the United States, the land of opportunity;

Whereas, in pursuit of the American dream, Korean immigrants initially served

as farmworkers, wage laborers, and section hands throughout the United States;

Whereas first generation Korean immigrants established a new home in a new land through resilience, tenacious effort, and immense sacrifice, which became the bedrock for their children and future generations of Korean Americans;

Whereas the centennial year of 2003 marked an important milestone in the history of Korean immigration;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 487, 109th Congress, agreed to December 13, 2005, to commemorate Korean American Day;

Whereas the Senate passed Senate Resolution 283, 109th Congress, agreed to December 16, 2005, to commemorate Korean American Day;

Whereas Korean Americans, like other groups of immigrants that came to the United States before them, seeking a better life and opportunity, have thrived in their new homeland due to a strong work ethic, family bonds, and community spirit;

Whereas Korean Americans have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States and the global marketplace;

Whereas Korean Americans have made history by winning elections throughout the country in local, State, and Federal levels of political office;

Whereas Korean Americans have invigorated businesses, not-for-profit and other nongovernmental organizations, government, technology, medicine, athletics, arts and entertainment, journalism, churches, academic communities, and countless facets of life in the United States;

Whereas Korean Americans have built and strengthened the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, fostering peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas Korean Americans have made enormous contributions to the military strength of the United States and served with distinction in the Armed Forces during World War I, World War II, the Vietnam war, the conflict in Korea, and subsequent military conflicts across the globe; and

Whereas the Centennial Committees of Korean Immigration and Korean Americans have designated January 13 of each year as ''Korean American Day'' to commemorate the first step of the long and prosperous journey of Korean Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Korean American Day;

(2) urges all individuals in the United States to observe Korean American Day so as to have a greater appreciation of the invaluable contributions Korean Americans have made to the United States; and

(3) honors and recognizes the 122nd anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 10, 2025, AS ''AMERICAN GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY''

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 21

Whereas athletic participation has an important, positive impact on young girls, improving their physical health, self-confidence, and discipline;

Whereas women have been responsible for some of the greatest athletic feats in the sports history of the United States, from the Olympic games to professional competition;

Whereas female athletes have served as inspirations for generations of women and girls;

Whereas the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as ''Title IX'') marked a pivotal moment in the Federal support of girls in sports;

Whereas there are fundamental biological differences between men and women that put women at a competitive disadvantage in sports and jeopardize their safety during competition;

Whereas, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of biological men allowed to compete in women's sports;

Whereas, since 2003, biological men have displaced women and girls from over 950 championship titles, medals, scholarships, and records they should have rightfully won, including at least 28 women's sports titles in volleyball, swimming, mountain biking, track and field, weightlifting, and cycling;

Whereas the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has instituted new policies to protect biological girls in sports and ensure that only student athletes whose biological sex is female will be allowed to compete in NAIA-sponsored women's sports teams;

Whereas it is imperative that women's and girl's opportunities to compete athletically are protected; and

Whereas October 10th, as represented by the Roman numerals ''XX'', signifies the female XX chromosomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes October 10, 2025, as ''American Girls in Sports Day'';

(2) celebrates the impact of women on the sports culture and history of the United States;

(3) recognizes the importance of Title IX in protecting biological women in sports; and

(4) calls on sports-governing bodies in the United States and abroad to protect biological women and girls in sports.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—CONCERNING THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION POLICY FOR ELIGIBILITY IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 22

Whereas athletic participation has an important positive impact on young girls, improving their physical, emotional, and psychological health, self-confidence, and discipline;

Whereas women have been responsible for some of the greatest athletic feats in the history of sports in the United States, from the Olympic games to professional competition, through opportunities to compete in collegiate sports;

Whereas the enactment of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as ''title IX'') marked a pivotal moment in the Federal support of women in sports and applied to virtually all postsecondary institutions as recipients of Federal financial assistance;

Whereas there are fundamental and enduring biological differences between males and females that put females at a competitive disadvantage in sports and jeopardize their safety during competition against males;

Whereas, in 2010, the National Collegiate Athletic Association unilaterally adopted a policy that enables biological males to participate on women's rosters and compete in the women's sports category, a policy that continues today;

Whereas the policy described in the previous proviso disproportionately negatively impacts female athletes;

Whereas the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (referred to in this preamble as the ''NAIA'') has instituted new policies to protect biological women in sports and ensure that only student athletes whose biological sex is female will be allowed to compete on NAIA-sponsored women's sports teams;

Whereas it is imperative that opportunities for collegiate women to compete athletically are protected on the basis of sex; and

Whereas member institutions of the National Collegiate Athletic Association have an obligation under title IX to ensure equality of benefits and opportunities in athletic programs on the basis of sex: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as ''NCAA'') to revoke its transgender student-athlete eligibility policy that directly discriminates against female student athletes;

(2) implores the NCAA immediately to protect the integrity of collegiate women's sports by forbidding transgender-identifying males to compete on any women's sports roster or in any collegiate competition;

(3) urges the NCAA to require its member conferences to conform to a biological sex-based policy across all sports and all divisions; and

(4) calls on all sports-governing bodies in the United States to protect the category of women's sport for biological women and girls.

SENATE RESOLUTION 23—RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE ANNOUNCING REDSTONE ARSENAL IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, AS THE PREFERRED LOCATION FOR UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 23

Whereas, on January 13, 2021, the United States Air Force announced Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, as the preferred location for United States Space Command Headquarters;

Whereas January 13, 2025, marks the 4th anniversary of this decision being announced

during the first Presidential administration of Donald J. Trump;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump directed the Secretary of Defense to reestablish United States Space Command as a unified combatant command on December 18, 2018;

Whereas, as a result of President Donald J. Trump's direction, the Secretary of Defense directed the United States Air Force Basing Office to initiate a basing action for the preferred permanent location of United States Space Command headquarters, hereafter referred to as the ''2019 Basing Action'';

Whereas the Secretary of the Air Force signed a memorandum approving a provisional headquarters pending the selection of a preferred permanent location for United States Space Command on January 15, 2020;

Whereas, on April 15, 2019, the Secretary of the Air Force was given the authority to make a decision on the preferred permanent location for United States Space Command Headquarters;

Whereas, as a further result of President Trump's direction, the Secretary of Defense reestablished United States Space Command as a unified combatant command on August 29, 2019;

Whereas as a result of concerns expressed by Congress regarding the 2019 Basing Action, the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Air Force met to discuss a modified basing action and approved the 2020 Basing Action, hereafter referred to as the ''Strategic Basing Action'', on April 27, 2020;

Whereas the approved Strategic Basing Action contained three phases and was initiated on May 14, 2020, starting with the Self Nomination Phase and the solicitation of proposals from military installations interested in hosting United States Space Command Headquarters;

Whereas, during the Self Nomination Phase, 66 candidate locations in 26 States were nominated and the Air Force Basing Office determined 50 locations met the initial nomination criteria;

Whereas the second Strategic Basing Action phase, hereafter referred to as the ''Evaluation Phase'', began on July 23, 2020, and assessed each of the 50 locations on four evaluation factors ''Mission'', ''Capacity'', ''Community'', and ''Costs to the Department of Defense'', with 21 criteria between the factors;

Whereas the Evaluation Phase concluded on November 18, 2020, and the United States Air Force publicly announced six finalists to advance to the third phase of the Strategic Basing Action on November 19, 2020, ranked in the following order:

(1) Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

(2) Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska.

(3) Joint Base San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

(4) Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(5) Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(6) Patrick Air Force Base in Cape Canaveral, Florida;

Whereas the 2022 Department of Defense Inspector General report titled ''Evaluation of the Air Force Selection Process for the Permanent Location of the U.S. Space Command Headquarters'' found that there was a large break in qualification that occurred after the top two locations during the Evaluation Phase;

Whereas the third phase of the Strategic Basing Action, hereafter referred to as the ''Selection Phase'', was conducted from December 4, 2020, through January 7, 2021;

Whereas the findings of the Selection Phase resulted in the six finalists from the Evaluation Phase being ranked in the following order:

(1) Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

(2) Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(3) Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska.

(4) Joint Base San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

(5) Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(6) Patrick Air Force Base in Cape Canaveral, Florida;

Whereas the Strategic Basing Action found that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, consistently ranked as the top location throughout the process and compared more favorably across the 4 key factors and 21 criteria than any other finalist location;

Whereas the Strategic Basing Action found that Huntsville, more so than any other finalist location, provided a large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure, and low initial and recurring costs to the Department of Defense;

Whereas the aforementioned points proved that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, was and remains to be, the best location for United States Space Command Headquarters and informed the decision of the United States Air Force selecting the site as the preferred location on January 13, 2021;

Whereas the findings of the Strategic Basing Action have been supported by reports following subsequent Department of Defense Inspector General and Government Accountability Office investigations; and

Whereas despite an extensive process determining that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, was the best possible location for United States Space Command, on July 31, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden and his Presidential administration chose to disregard the findings of the Strategic Basing Action and announced the intention to locate the headquarters at the fifth best location, Colorado Springs, Colorado: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the United States Air Force's Strategic Basing Action process complied with law and policy and was justified in identifying Huntsville as the preferred permanent location for United States Space Command Headquarters;

(2) strongly commends President Donald J. Trump and his first Presidential administration for completing a robust and fact-based Strategic Basing Action focused on what was best to ensure the national security and fiscal responsibility of the United States and well-being of service members and their families;

(3) strongly condemns President Joseph R. Biden and his Presidential administration for disregarding the findings of the Strategic Basing Action and allowing United States Space Command Headquarters to be based at the fifth best location; and

(4) encourages President Donald J. Trump and his incoming second Presidential administration to halt the Biden administration's disastrous decision and immediately proceed in establishing a permanent headquarters for United States Space Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GENEVA CONSENSUS DECLARATION ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY AND URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES REJOIN THIS HISTORIC DECLARATION

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas the United States strongly supports women reaching the highest attainable outcomes for health, life, dignity, and well-being throughout their lives;

Whereas the historic coalition that issued the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family (in this preamble referred to as the ''Geneva Consensus Declaration'') was formed by a diverse group of countries committed to charting a more positive path to advance the health of women, protecting the family as foundational to any healthy society, affirming the value of life in all stages of development, and upholding the sovereign right of countries to make their own laws to advance those core values, without external pressure;

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration was signed on October 22, 2020, by 32 countries from every region of the world, representing more than 1,600,000,000 people, which committed to working together on the core pillars enshrined in the Declaration, and 39 countries are now part of this coalition;

Whereas the United States was the lead cosponsor of the Geneva Consensus Declaration during the presidency of Donald J. Trump;

Whereas, although President Joseph R. Biden removed the United States as a signatory to the Geneva Consensus Declaration, at least temporarily, longstanding Federal laws that prohibit the United States from conducting or funding abortions, abortion lobbying, or coercive family planning in foreign countries remain in effect;

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that ''all are equal before the law'' and ''human rights of women are an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms'';

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms the inherent ''dignity and worth of the human person'' and that ''every human being has the inherent right to life'';

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that ''there is no international right to abortion, nor any international obligation on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion'';

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that ''the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State''; and

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration coalition strengthens the collective voice of the signatory countries and prevents any country from being intimidated, isolated, or muted on the core values expressed in the Declaration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) affirms the commitments to improving health for women and protecting life and the family made in the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and

Strengthening the Family (in this resolution referred to as the ''Geneva Consensus Declaration'') and applauds the signatory countries for their dedication to advancing women's health, protecting life at every stage while affirming that there is no international right to abortion, and upholding the importance of the family as foundational to society;

(2) declares that the principles affirming women's health, the dignity of every life, and the family recognized by the Geneva Consensus Declaration remain universally valid;

(3) welcomes opportunities to strengthen support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration;

(4) will defend the sovereignty of every country to adopt national policies that promote women's health, protect the right to life, and strengthen the family, as enshrined in the Geneva Consensus Declaration;

(5) will work with the executive branch to ensure that the United States does not conduct or fund abortions, abortion lobbying, or coercive family planning in foreign countries, consistent with longstanding Federal law; and

(6) urges the signatory countries to the Geneva Consensus Declaration to defend the universal principles affirming the value of every life and the family expressed in the Declaration.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6. Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 7. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 8. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 5, supra.

SA 9. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 10. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 11. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 12. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 13. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 14. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 8 proposed by Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 15. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. SOUTHERN BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION FUND.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Build the Wall Act of 2025''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ''Southern Border Wall Construction Fund'' (referred to in this section as the ''Fund'').

(c) DEPOSITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be immediately deposited into the Fund all of the unobligated amounts in the Coronavirus State and local fiscal recovery funds established under sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802 and 803).

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund shall be used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States.

SA 2. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ENLISTMENT OF CERTAIN ALIENS AND CLARIFICATION OF NATURALIZATION PROCESS FOR SUCH ALIEN ENLISTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this section that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) ARMED FORCES.—The term ''Armed Forces'' has the meaning given the term ''armed forces'' in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(4) MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—The term ''military department'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(5) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN ALIENS.—Subsection (b)(1) of section 504 of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D)(i) An alien who—

''(I) subject to clause (ii), has been continuously physically present in the United States for five years;

''(II) has completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary concerned, the same security or suitability vetting processes as are required of qualified individuals seeking enlistment in an armed force;

''(III) meets all other standards set forth for enlistment in an armed force as are required of qualified individuals; and

''(IV)(aa) has received a grant of deferred action pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy of the Department of Homeland Security, or successor policy, regardless of whether a court order terminates such policy;

''(bb) has been granted temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a); or

''(cc) is the beneficiary of an approved petition for an immigrant visa, but has been unable to adjust status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) because a visa number has not become available or the beneficiary turned 21 years of age prior to a visa becoming available.

''(ii) An alien described in clause (i) who has departed the United States during the five-year period referred to in subclause (I) of that clause shall be eligible to enlist if the absence of the alien was pursuant to advance approval of travel by the Secretary of Homeland Security and within the scope of such travel authorization.''.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) If an alien described in section 504(b)(1)(D) of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, who is subject to a ground of removability has served honorably in the Armed Forces, and if separated from such service, was never separated except under honorable conditions, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall grant such alien an administrative stay of removal under section 241(c)(2) until the earlier of—

''(1) the date on which the head of the military department (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) under which the alien served determines that the alien did not serve honorably in active-duty status, and if separated from such service, that such separation was not under honorable conditions as required by sections 328 and 329; or

''(2) the date on which the alien's application for naturalization under section 328 or 329 has been denied or revoked and all administrative appeals have been exhausted.''.

(d) TIMELY DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a request by an alien who has enlisted in the Armed Forces pursuant to section 504(b)(1)(D) of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, for a certification of service in the Armed Forces, the head of the military department under which the alien served shall issue a determination certifying whether the alien has served honorably in an active-duty status, and whether separation from such service was under honorable conditions as required by sections 328 and 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8

U.S.C. 1439, 1440), unless the head of the military department concerned requires additional time to vet national security or counter-intelligence concerns.

(e) MEDICAL EXCEPTION.—An alien who otherwise meets the qualifications for enlistment under section 504(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code, but who, after reporting for initial entry training, has not successfully completed such training primarily for medical reasons shall be considered to have separated from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions for purposes of sections 328 and 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439, 1440), if such medical reasons are certified by the head of the military department under which the individual so served.

(f) GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.—In determining whether an alien who has enlisted in the Armed Forces pursuant to section 504(b)(1)(D) of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, has good moral character for purposes of section 101(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(f)), the Secretary of Homeland Security—

(1) shall consider the alien's honorable service in the Armed Forces; and

(2) may make a finding of good moral character notwithstanding—

(A)(i) any single misdemeanor offense, if the alien has not been convicted of any offense during the 5-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for naturalization; or

(ii) not more than 2 misdemeanor offenses, if the alien has not been convicted of any offense during the 10-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for naturalization.

(g) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of Defense may not disclose or use for purposes of immigration enforcement information provided in—

(A) documentation filed under this section or an amendment made by this section; or

(B) enlistment applications filed, or inquiries made, under section 504(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) TREATMENT OF RECORDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Documentation filed under this section or an amendment made by this section—

(i) shall be collected pursuant to section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''); and

(ii) may not be disclosed under subsection (b)(7) of that section for purposes of immigration enforcement.

(B) DESTRUCTION.—In the case of an alien who attempts to enlist under section 504(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code, but does not successfully do so (except in the case of an alien described in subsection (e)), the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense shall destroy information provided in documentation filed under this section or an amendment made by this section not later than 60 days after the date on which the alien concerned is denied enlistment or fails to complete basic training, as applicable.

(3) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of Defense (or any designee of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of Defense), based solely on information provided in an application for naturalization submitted by an alien who has enlisted in the Armed Forces under section 504(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code, or an enlistment application filed or an inquiry made under that section, may not refer the individual concerned to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(4) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), information provided in an application for naturalization submitted by an individual who has enlisted in the Armed Forces under section 504(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code, may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(A) for assistance in the consideration of an application for naturalization;

(B) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(C) for national security purposes pursuant to section 6611 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3352f); or

(D) for the investigation or prosecution of any Federal crime, except any offense, other than a fraud or false statement offense, that is—

(i) related to immigration status; or

(ii) a petty offense (as defined in section 19 of title 18, United States Code).

(5) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly and willfully uses, publishes, or examines, or permits such use, publication, or examination of, any information produced or provided by, or collected from, any source or person under this section or an amendment made by this section, and in violation of this subsection, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $5,000.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section may be construed to modify—

(1) except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the process prescribed by sections 328 and 329A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439, 1440–1) by which a person may naturalize, or be granted posthumous United States citizenship, through service in the Armed Forces; or

(2) the qualifications for original enlistment in any component of the Armed Forces otherwise prescribed by law or the Secretary of Defense.

SA 3. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PAROLE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

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

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subparagraph (B) or'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (B) and (C) and'';

(2) by striking ''Attorney General'' each place such term appears and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C)(i) The Secretary of Homeland Security may parole any alien qualified under clause (ii) into the United States—

''(I) at the discretion of the Secretary;

''(II) on a case-by-case basis; and

''(III) temporarily under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(ii) To qualify for parole under clause (i) an alien applying for admission to the United States shall—

''(I) be a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code);

''(II) seek parole to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code; and

''(III) be outside of the United States pursuant to having been ordered removed or voluntarily departed from the United States under section 240B.

''(iii) Parole of an alien under clause (i) shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien.

''(iv) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the purposes of such parole have been served the alien shall forthwith return or be returned to the custody from which the alien was paroled.

''(v) Parole shall not be available under clause (i) for an alien who is inadmissible due to a criminal conviction—

''(I)(aa) for a crime of violence (as defined in section 16(a) of title 18, United States Code), excluding a purely political offense; or

''(bb) for a crime that endangers the national security of the United States; and

''(II) for which the alien has served a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years.''.

SA 4. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE II—VETERANS VISA AND PROTECTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2025''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ARMED FORCES.—The term ''Armed Forces'' has the meaning given the term ''armed forces'' in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) CRIME OF VIOLENCE.—The term ''crime of violence'' means an offense defined in section 16(a) of title 18, United States Code—

(A) that is not a purely political offense; and

(B) for which a noncitizen has served a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years.

(3) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''eligible veteran'' means a veteran who—

(i) is a noncitizen; and

(ii) meets the criteria described in section 203(e).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''eligible veteran'' includes a veteran who—

(i) was removed from the United States; or

(ii) is abroad and is inadmissible under section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(4) NONCITIZEN.—The term ''noncitizen'' means an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(6) SERVICE MEMBER.—The term ''service member'' means an individual who is serving as a member of—

(A) a regular or reserve component of the Armed Forces on active duty; or

(B) a reserve component of the Armed Forces in an active status.

(7) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 203. RETURN OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS REMOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES; ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) PROGRAM FOR ADMISSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program and an application procedure that allows—

(1) eligible veterans outside the United States to be admitted to the United States as aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))); and

(2) eligible veterans in the United States to adjust status to that of aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(b) VETERANS ORDERED REMOVED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to noncitizen veterans who are the subjects of final orders of removal, including noncitizen veterans who are outside the United States, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall—

(A) reopen the removal proceedings of each such noncitizen veteran; and

(B) make a determination with respect to whether each such noncitizen veteran is an eligible veteran.

(2) RESCISSION OF REMOVAL ORDER.—In the case of a determination under paragraph (1)(B) that a noncitizen veteran is an eligible veteran, the Attorney General shall—

(A) rescind the order of removal;

(B) adjust the status of the eligible veteran to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; and

(C) terminate removal proceedings.

(c) VETERANS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to noncitizen veterans the removal proceedings of whom are pending as of the date of the enactment of this Act, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall make a determination with respect to whether each such noncitizen veteran is an eligible veteran.

(2) TERMINATION OF PROCEEDINGS.—In the case of a determination under paragraph (1) that a noncitizen veteran is an eligible veteran, the Attorney General shall—

(A) adjust the status of the eligible veteran to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; and

(B) terminate removal proceedings.

(d) NO NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section or in any other provision of law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation to the number of veterans who may be eligible to receive a benefit under this section.

(e) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including sections 212 and 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182 and 1227), a noncitizen veteran shall be eligible to participate in the program established under subsection (a) or for adjustment of status under subsection (b) or (c), as applicable, if the Secretary or the Attorney General, as applicable, determines that the noncitizen veteran—

(A) was not removed or ordered removed from the United States based on a conviction for—

(i) a crime of violence; or

(ii) a crime that endangers the national security of the United States for which the noncitizen veteran has served a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years; and

(B) is not inadmissible to, or deportable from, the United States based on a conviction for a crime described in subparagraph (A).

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the application of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1)—

(A) for humanitarian purposes;

(B) to ensure family unity;

(C) based on exceptional service in the Armed Forces; or

(D) if a waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

SEC. 204. PROTECTING VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS FROM REMOVAL.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227), a noncitizen who is a veteran or service member may not be removed from the United States unless the noncitizen has been convicted for a crime of violence.

SEC. 205. NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), a noncitizen who has obtained the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to section 203 shall be eligible for naturalization through service in the Armed Forces under sections 328 and 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 and 1440).

(b) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.—In determining whether a noncitizen described in subsection (a) is a person of good moral character, the Secretary shall disregard the one or more grounds on which the noncitizen was—

(A) removed or ordered removed from the United States; or

(B) rendered inadmissible to, or deportable from, the United States.

(2) PERIODS OF ABSENCE.—The Secretary shall disregard any period of absence from the United States of a noncitizen described in subsection (a) due to the noncitizen having been removed from, or being inadmissible to, the United States if the noncitizen satisfies the applicable requirement relating to continuous residence or physical presence.

SEC. 206. ACCESS TO MILITARY BENEFITS.

A noncitizen who has obtained the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to section 203 shall be eligible for all military and veterans benefits for which the noncitizen would have been eligible had the noncitizen not been ordered removed or removed from the United States, voluntarily departed the United States, or rendered inadmissible to, or deportable from, the United States, as applicable.

SEC. 207. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall identify noncitizen service members and veterans at risk of removal from the United States by—

(1) before initiating a removal proceeding against a noncitizen, asking the noncitizen whether he or she is serving, or has served, as a member of—

(A) a regular or reserve component of the Armed Forces on active duty; or

(B) a reserve component of the Armed Forces in an active status;

(2) requiring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel to seek supervisory approval before initiating a removal proceeding against a service member or veteran; and

(3) keeping records of any service member or veteran who has been—

(A) the subject of a removal proceeding;

(B) detained by the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or

(C) removed from the United States.

(b) RECORD ANNOTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a noncitizen service member or veteran identified under subsection (a), the Secretary shall annotate all immigration and naturalization records of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the noncitizen—

(A) to reflect that the noncitizen is a service member or veteran; and

(B) to afford an opportunity to track the outcomes for the noncitizen.

(2) CONTENTS OF ANNOTATION.—Each annotation under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the branch of military service in which the noncitizen is serving or has served;

(B) whether the noncitizen is serving, or has served, during a period of military hostilities described in section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440);

(C) the immigration status of the noncitizen on the date of enlistment;

(D) whether the noncitizen is serving honorably or was separated under honorable conditions;

(E) the ground on which removal of the noncitizen from the United States was sought; and

(F) in the case of a noncitizen the removal proceedings of whom were initiated on the basis of a criminal conviction, the crime for which the noncitizen was convicted.

SEC. 208. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement this title.

SA 5. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. IDENTIFYING ALIENS CONNECTED TO THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the application by an alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of an alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) determine whether the alien is serving, or has served, as a member of—

(A) a regular or reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty; or

(B) a reserve component of the Armed Forces in an active status; and

(2) with respect to the immigration and naturalization records of the Department of Homeland Security relating to an alien who is serving, or has served, as a member of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1), annotate such records—

(A) to reflect that membership; and

(B) to afford an opportunity to track the outcomes for each such alien.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF INFORMATION FOR REMOVAL.—Information gathered under subsection (a) may not be used for the purpose of removing an alien from the United States.

SA 6. Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. SUSPENSION OF ENTRY OF ALIENS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Border Safety and Security Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, the terms used in this section have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) COVERED ALIEN.—The term ''covered alien'' means an alien seeking entry to the United States who is inadmissible under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 212(a) of the

Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(3) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term ''operational control'' has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(c) AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND ENTRY OF ALIENS AT BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in the discretion of the Secretary, that the suspension of the entry of covered aliens at an international land or maritime border of the United States is necessary in order to achieve operational control over such border, the Secretary may prohibit, in whole or in part, the entry of covered aliens at such border for such period as the Secretary determines is necessary for such purpose.

(d) REQUIRED SUSPENSION OF ENTRY OF ALIENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall prohibit the entry of covered aliens for any period during which the Secretary cannot—

(1) detain such covered aliens in accordance with section 235(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)); or

(2) place such covered aliens in a program consistent with section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)).

(e) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State, or another authorized State officer, alleging a violation of a subsection (d) that affects such State or its residents, may bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the residents of such State in an appropriate United States district court to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.

SA 7. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 3, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 8, line 9.

SA 8. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the 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; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

''(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, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,'';

(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', 'shoplifting', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.

SA 9. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025:

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for procurement, construction, and improvements, $1,090,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, to increase drug interdiction and processing capabilities at land borders of the United States, of which $960,000,000 shall be for technology improvements and upgrades, which may include the procurement and deployment of large-scale, small-scale, and handheld non-intrusive inspection scanning systems at ports of entry along the land borders of the United States and upgrades to the information technology infrastructure upon which these systems and associated software are operated; of which $30,000,000 shall be for technological and procedural improvements to the process of analyzing and adjudicating images from non-intrusive inspection scanning technology at land ports of entry, which may include support for the continued development of anomaly detection algorithms to enhance detection of illegal drugs at land ports of entry; and of which $100,000,000 shall be for other technology and infrastructure upgrades that the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection deems necessary for the agency's drug interdiction work: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for operations and support, $285,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for increasing outbound inspection capabilities, including disrupting the flow of firearms and currency out of the United States, of which $10,000,000 shall be for supporting the creation of a structured outbound inspection program within the Office of Field Operations that includes a comprehensive outbound inspection policy and performance metrics to measure the impact of outbound inspections; $275,000,000 shall be for outbound inspections infrastructure projects at the land borders of the United States, including technology and connectivity improvements at rural ports of entry and safety and technology upgrades to outbound inspection lanes at ports of entry: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for operations and support, $223,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, to expand efforts to interdict fentanyl and other illegal drugs, and disrupt networks operated by transnational criminal organizations within the United States, of which $113,000,000 shall be for additional Homeland Security Investigations special agents; of which $80,000,000 shall be for the implementation of Homeland Security Investigations' Strategy for Combating Illicit Opioids; and of which $30,000,000 shall be for joint surge operations along the land borders of the United States by Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SA 10. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER.

There is appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, $1,000,000,000, which shall be expended to aquire border security technology assets to be deployed along the international border between the United States and Canada.

SA 11. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

There is appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, $100,000,000 for Operation Stonegarden, of which not less than $25,000,000 shall be reserved for grants to States other than California, Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas.

SA 12. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. DEPLOYMENT OF BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the appropriate amount of border security technology is piloted, tested, and deployed along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

SA 13. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. RESPONDING TO INCREASING ACTIVITY ALONG THE NORTHEN BORDER.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—In response to increasing activity along the northern United States border, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

(1) update the Northern Border Strategy Implementation Plan to address staffing levels and telecommunications challenges;

(2) review the table of operations with respect to the northern border; and

(3) provide a brief to the appropriate congressional committees regarding northern border operations, which shall include information regarding—

(A) staffing levels at each U.S. Border Patrol sector along the northern border;

(B) border security technology requirements and investments made and planned, including the use of autonomous systems; and

(C) challenges for telecommunications and signal transmission posed by mountainous areas along the northern border.

(c) TECHNOLOGY NEEDS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner for U.S. Border Protection shall—

(1) complete an assessment of the border security technology needs across the northern border; and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that identifies such needs and sets forth a plan to address such needs.

SA 14. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 8 proposed by Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

''(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, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,'';

(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', 'shoplifting', 'assault of a law enforcement officer', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.

SA 15. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

DIVISION A—DETENTION AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN ALIENS

TITLE I—DETENTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Laken Riley Act''.

SEC. 102. 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''; and

(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 in which 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. 103. 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 paragraph (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 title, 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 such term 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).''.

TITLE II—CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE LONG-TERM UNITED STATES RESIDENTS AND WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this section that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) DACA.—The term ''DACA'' means deferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012.

(3) DISABILITY.—The term ''disability'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(1)).

(4) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term ''early childhood education program'' has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

(5) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms ''elementary school'', ''high school'', and ''secondary school'' have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(6) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education''—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

(B) does not include an institution of higher education outside of the United States.

(8) PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.—The term ''permanent resident status on a conditional basis'' means status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this section.

(9) POVERTY LINE.—The term ''poverty line'' has the meaning given such term in section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

(10) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(11) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term ''Uniformed Services'' has the meaning given the term ''uniformed services'' in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 202. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.

(a) CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this subsection, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions under this title.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States or is in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), if—

(A) the alien has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date that is 4 years before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) the alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States;

(C) subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the alien—

(i) is not inadmissible under paragraph (2), (3), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), (10)(A), (10)(C), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

(iii) has not been convicted of—

(I) any offense under Federal or State law, other than a State offense for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, that is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year; or

(II) 3 or more offenses under Federal or State law, other than State offenses for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, for which the alien was convicted on different dates for each of the 3 offenses and imprisoned for an aggregate of 90 days or more; and

(D) the alien—

(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education;

(ii) has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general education development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States; or

(iii) is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in—

(I) obtaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent under State law; or

(II) in passing a general educational development exam, a high school equivalence diploma examination, or other similar State-authorized exam.

(2) WAIVER.—With respect to any benefit under this title, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (2), (6)(E), (6)(G), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes or family unity or if the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(3) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—An expunged conviction shall not automatically be treated as an offense under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall evaluate expunged convictions on a case-by-case basis according to the nature and severity of the offense to determine whether, under the particular circumstances, the Secretary determines that the alien should be eligible for cancellation of removal, adjustment to permanent resident status on a conditional basis, or other adjustment of status.

(4) DACA RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who was granted DACA unless the alien has engaged in conduct since the alien was granted DACA that would make the alien ineligible for DACA.

(5) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i)(I) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii)(I) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv)(I) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, accumulated $10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(6) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(7) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien seeking permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for such status.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement background checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary grants such alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section.

(8) MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall undergo a medical examination.

(B) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe policies and procedures for the nature and timing of the examination required under subparagraph (A).

(9) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), if the alien is subject to registration under such Act.

(c) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.—

(1) TERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD.—Any period of continuous physical presence in the United States of an alien who applies for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States under subsection (b)(1)(A) if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days.

(B) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in subparagraph (A) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien.

(C) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary may not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under subparagraph (A).

(d) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Attorney General may not remove an alien who appears prima facie eligible for relief under this section.

(2) ALIENS SUBJECT TO REMOVAL.—The Secretary shall provide a reasonable opportunity to apply for relief under this section to any alien who requests such an opportunity or who appears prima facie eligible for such relief if the alien—

(A) is in removal proceedings;

(B) is the subject of a final removal order; or

(C) is the subject of a voluntary departure order.

(3) CERTAIN ALIENS ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.—

(A) STAY OF REMOVAL.—The Attorney General shall stay the removal proceedings of an alien who—

(i) meets all the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of such subsection;

(ii) is at least 5 years of age; and

(iii) is enrolled in an elementary school, a secondary school, or an early childhood education program.

(B) COMMENCEMENT OF REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—The Secretary may not commence removal proceedings for an alien described in subparagraph (A).

(C) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to subparagraph (A) or who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

(D) LIFT OF STAY.—The Secretary or Attorney General may not lift the stay granted to an alien pursuant to subparagraph (A) unless the alien ceases to meet the requirements under such subparagraph.

(e) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section or in any other law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation on the number of aliens who may be granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this title.

SEC. 203. TERMS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.

(a) PERIOD OF STATUS.—Permanent resident status on a conditional basis is—

(1) valid for a period of 8 years, unless such period is extended by the Secretary; and

(2) subject to termination under subsection (c).

(b) NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the time an alien obtains permanent resident status on a conditional basis, the Secretary shall provide notice to the alien regarding the provisions of this title and the requirements to have the conditional basis of such status removed.

(c) TERMINATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may terminate the permanent resident status on a conditional basis of an alien only if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the alien ceases to meet the requirements under paragraph

(3)(C) of section 202(b)(1), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202(b); and

(2) prior to the termination, provides the alien—

(A) notice of the proposed termination; and

(B) the opportunity for a hearing to provide evidence that the alien meets such requirements or otherwise contest the termination.

(d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (1), an alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied shall return to the immigration status that the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis or applying for such status, as appropriate.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied and who had temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) immediately before receiving or applying for such permanent resident status on a conditional basis, as appropriate, may not return to such temporary protected status if—

(A) the relevant designation under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) has been terminated; or

(B) the Secretary determines that the reason for terminating the permanent resident status on a conditional basis renders the alien ineligible for such temporary protected status.

SEC. 204. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) is described in paragraph (1)(C) of section 202(b), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202(b);

(B) has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States; and

(C)(i) has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States;

(ii) has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or

(iii) has been employed for periods totaling at least 3 years and at least 75 percent of the time that the alien has had a valid employment authorization, except that any period during which the alien is not employed while having a valid employment authorization and is enrolled in an institution of higher education, a secondary school, or an education program described in section 202(b)(1)(D)(iii), shall not count toward the time requirements under this clause.

(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) satisfies the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

(B) demonstrates compelling circumstances for the inability to satisfy the requirements under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

(C) demonstrates that—

(i) the alien has a disability;

(ii) the alien is a full-time caregiver of a minor child; or

(iii) the removal of the alien from the United States would result in extreme hardship to the alien or the alien's spouse, parent, or child who is a national of the United States or is lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(3) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title may not be removed unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies the requirements under section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien who is unable to meet the requirements under such section 312(a) due to disability.

(4) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require aliens applying for lawful permanent resident status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i)(I) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii)(I) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv)(I) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, the alien accumulated $10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(5) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who are unable to provide such biometric data because of a physical impairment.

(6) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien applying for removal of the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for removal of such conditional basis.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement background checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary removes the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status.

(b) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis shall be considered to have been admitted to the United States, and be present in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—An alien may not apply for naturalization while the alien is in permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

SEC. 205. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An alien's application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis may include, as proof of identity—

(1) a passport or national identity document from the alien's country of origin that includes the alien's name and the alien's photograph or fingerprint;

(2) the alien's birth certificate and an identity card that includes the alien's name and photograph;

(3) a school identification card that includes the alien's name and photograph, and school records showing the alien's name and that the alien is or was enrolled at the school;

(4) a Uniformed Services identification card issued by the Department of Defense;

(5) any immigration or other document issued by the United States Government bearing the alien's name and photograph; or

(6) a State-issued identification card bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—To establish that an alien has been continuously physically present in the United States, as required under section 202(b)(1)(A), or to establish that an alien has not abandoned residence in the United States, as required under section 204(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) records of service from the Uniformed Services;

(4) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(5) passport entries;

(6) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(7) automobile license receipts or registration;

(8) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(9) tax receipts;

(10) insurance policies;

(11) remittance records;

(12) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(13) copies of money order receipts for money sent in or out of the United States;

(14) dated bank transactions; or

(15) 2 or more sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien who have direct knowledge of the alien's continuous physical presence in the United States, that contain—

(A) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(B) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(c) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING INITIAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.—To establish under section 202(b)(1)(B) that an alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States, an alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) an admission stamp on the alien's passport;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) any document from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security stating the alien's date of entry into the United States;

(4) hospital or medical records showing medical treatment or hospitalization, the name of the medical facility or physician, and the date of the treatment or hospitalization;

(5) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(6) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(7) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(8) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(9) automobile license receipts or registration;

(10) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(11) tax receipts;

(12) travel records;

(13) copies of money order receipts sent in or out of the country;

(14) dated bank transactions;

(15) remittance records; or

(16) insurance policies.

(d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has been admitted to an institution of higher education, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a document from the institution of higher education certifying that the alien—

(1) has been admitted to the institution; or

(2) is currently enrolled in the institution as a student.

(e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a diploma or other document from the institution stating that the alien has received such a degree.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—To establish that an alien has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general educational development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary—

(1) a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or other alternate award;

(2) a high school equivalency diploma or certificate recognized under State law; or

(3) evidence that the alien passed a State-authorized exam, including the general educational development exam, in the United States.

(g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is enrolled in any school or education program described in section 202(b)(1)(D)(iii), 202(d)(3)(A)(iii), or 204(a)(1)(C), the alien shall submit school records from the United States school that the alien is currently attending that include—

(1) the name of the school; and

(2) the alien's name, periods of attendance, and current grade or educational level.

(h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt from an application fee under section 202(b)(5)(B) or 204(a)(4)(B), the alien shall submit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

(1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To establish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien shall provide proof of identity, as described in subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is younger than 18 years of age.

(2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To establish the alien's income, the alien shall provide—

(A) employment records that have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency;

(B) bank records; or

(C) at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work and income that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(3) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH FOSTER CARE, LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT, HOMELESSNESS, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien was in foster care, lacks parental or familial support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, the alien shall provide at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that contain—

(A) a statement that the alien is in foster care, otherwise lacks any parental or other familiar support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, as appropriate;

(B) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(C) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(4) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH UNPAID MEDICAL EXPENSE.—To establish that the alien has debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses, the alien shall provide receipts or other documentation from a medical provider that—

(A) bear the provider's name and address;

(B) bear the name of the individual receiving treatment; and

(C) document that the alien has accumulated $10,000 or more in debt in the past 12 months as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien.

(i) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satisfies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth in section 204(a)(2)(C), the alien shall submit to the Secretary at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that warrant the exemption, that contain—

(1) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(2) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—To establish that an alien has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge, the alien shall submit to the Secretary—

(1) a Department of Defense form DD–214;

(2) a National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service form 22;

(3) personnel records for such service from the appropriate Uniformed Service; or

(4) health records from the appropriate Uniformed Service.

(k) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the employment requirement under section 204(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

(A) establish compliance with such employment requirement; and

(B) have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency.

(2) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—An alien who is unable to submit the records described in paragraph (1) may satisfy the employment requirement by submitting at least 2 types of reliable documents that provide evidence of employment, including—

(A) bank records;

(B) business records;

(C) employer records;

(D) records of a labor union, day labor center, or organization that assists workers in employment;

(E) sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work, that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien; and

(F) remittance records.

(l) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary determines, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, that any document or class of documents does not reliably establish identity or that permanent resident status on a conditional basis is being obtained fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the use of such document or class of documents.

SEC. 206. RULEMAKING.

(a) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish regulations implementing this title in the Federal Register. Such regulations shall allow eligible individuals to immediately apply affirmatively for the relief available under section 202 without being placed in removal proceedings.

(b) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulations published pursuant to subsection (a) shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication in the Federal Register, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment.

(c) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which interim regulations are published pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall publish final regulations implementing this title.

(d) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''), shall not apply to any action to implement this title.

SEC. 207. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information provided in applications filed under this title or in requests for DACA for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary may not refer any individual who has been granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis or who was granted DACA to

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis or a request for DACA may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000.

SEC. 208. RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETERMINE RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the original enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–546).

DIVISION B—AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Laken Riley Act''.

TITLE I—SECURING THE DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Subtitle A—Temporary Status for Certified Agricultural Workers

SEC. 1101. CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who submits a completed application, including the required processing fees, before the end of the period set forth in subsection (c) and who—

(A) performed agricultural labor or services in the United States for at least 1,035 hours (or 180 work days) during the 2-year period preceding the date of the introduction of this Act;

(B) on the date of the introduction of this Act—

(i) is inadmissible or deportable from the United States; or

(ii) is under a grant of deferred enforced departure, has been paroled into the United States, or has temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a);

(C) subject to section 1104, has been continuously present in the United States since the date of the introduction of this Act and until the date on which the alien is granted certified agricultural worker status; and

(D) is not otherwise ineligible for certified agricultural worker status as provided in subsection (b).

(2) DEPENDENT SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural dependent status to the spouse or child of an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under paragraph (1) if the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural dependent status as provided in subsection (b).

(b) GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY.—

(1) GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an alien is ineligible for certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status if the Secretary determines that the alien is inadmissible under section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), except that in determining inadmissibility—

(A) paragraphs (4), (5), (7), and (9)(B) of such section shall not apply;

(B) subparagraphs (A), (C), (D), (F), and (G) of such section 212(a)(6) and paragraphs (9)(C) and (10)(B) of such section 212(a) shall not apply unless based on the act of unlawfully entering the United States after the date of introduction of this Act; and

(C) paragraphs (6)(B) and (9)(A) of such section 212(a) shall not apply unless the relevant conduct began on or after the date of filing of the application for certified agricultural worker status.

(2) ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL BARS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an alien is ineligible for certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status if the Secretary determines that (other than any offense under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, simple possession of cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia, any offense involving cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia which is no longer prosecutable in the State in which the conviction was entered, any offense involving civil disobedience without violence, and any minor traffic offense) the alien has been convicted of—

(A) any felony offense;

(B) an aggravated felony (as defined in section 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(43)) at the time of the conviction);

(C) 2 misdemeanor offenses involving moral turpitude (as described in section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(A)(i)(I))), unless an offense is waived by the Secretary under paragraph (3)(B); or

(D) 3 or more misdemeanor offenses not occurring on the same date, and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct.

(3) WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—For humanitarian purposes, family unity, or if otherwise in the public interest, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under—

(A) paragraph (1), (6)(E), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); or

(B) subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)), unless inadmissibility is based on a conviction that would otherwise render the alien ineligible under subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of paragraph (2).

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) APPLICATION PERIOD.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall accept initial applications for certified agricultural worker status during the 18-month period beginning on the date on which the interim final rule is published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 1122(a).

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Secretary determines, during the initial period described in paragraph (1), that additional time is required to process initial applications for certified agricultural worker status or for other good cause, the Secretary may extend the period for accepting applications for up to an additional 12 months.

(3) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien may file an application with the Secretary under this section with the assistance of an attorney or a nonprofit religious, charitable, social service, or similar organization recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals under section 292.2 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations. The Secretary shall also create a procedure for accepting applications filed by qualified designated entities with the consent of the applicant.

(B) FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a process for the filing of applications under this section at Farm Service Agency offices throughout the United States.

(4) EVIDENCE OF APPLICATION FILING.—As soon as practicable after receiving an application for certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the applicant with a document acknowledging the receipt of such application. Such document shall serve as interim proof of the alien's authorization to accept employment in the United States and shall be accepted by an employer as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), if the employer is employing the holder of such document to perform agricultural labor or services, pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(5) EFFECT OF PENDING APPLICATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application, the alien and any dependents included in the application—

(A) may apply for advance parole, which shall be granted upon demonstrating a legitimate need to travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose;

(B) may not be detained by the Secretary or removed from the United States unless the Secretary makes a prima facie determination that such alien is, or has become, ineligible for certified agricultural worker status;

(C) may not be considered unlawfully present under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)); and

(D) may not be considered an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3))).

(6) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request from the applicant to withdraw an application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this Act or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(7) PROCESSING FEE.—A principal alien, his or her spouse, or his or her child who submits an application for certified agricultural worker states under this subtitle shall pay a $250 processing fee, which shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

(d) ADJUDICATION AND DECISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 1123, the Secretary shall render a decision on an application for certified agricultural worker status not later than 180 days after the date the application is filed.

(2) NOTICE.—Before denying an application for certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(A) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies in the evidence submitted; and

(B) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

(3) AMENDED APPLICATION.—An alien whose application for certified agricultural worker

status is denied under this section may submit an amended application for such status to the Secretary if the amended application is submitted within the application period described in subsection (c) and contains all the required information and fees that were missing from the initial application.

(e) ALTERNATIVE H–2A STATUS.—An alien who does not meet the required period of agricultural labor or services under subsection (a)(1)(A), but is otherwise eligible for certified agricultural worker status under such subsection, shall be eligible for classification as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)) upon approval of a petition submitted by a sponsoring employer, if the alien has performed at least 575 hours or 100 work days of agricultural labor or services during the 3-year period preceding the date of the introduction of this Act. The Secretary shall create a procedure to provide for such classification without requiring the alien to depart the United States and obtain a visa abroad.

SEC. 1102. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CERTIFIED STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) APPROVAL.—Upon approval of an application for certified agricultural worker status, or an extension of such status pursuant to section 1103, the Secretary shall issue—

(A) documentary evidence of such status to the applicant; and

(B) documentary evidence of certified agricultural dependent status to any qualified dependent included on such application.

(2) DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.—In addition to any other features and information as the Secretary may prescribe, the documentary evidence described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be machine-readable and tamper-resistant;

(B) shall contain a digitized photograph;

(C) shall serve as a valid travel and entry document for purposes of applying for admission to the United States; and

(D) shall be accepted during the period of its validity by an employer as evidence of employment authorization and identity under section 274A(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(B)).

(3) VALIDITY PERIOD.—Certified agricultural worker and certified agricultural dependent status shall be valid for 5½ years beginning on the date of approval.

(4) TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.—An alien with certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status may—

(A) travel within and outside of the United States, including commuting to the United States from a residence in a foreign country; and

(B) be admitted to the United States upon return from travel abroad without first obtaining a visa if the alien is in possession of—

(i) valid, unexpired documentary evidence of certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural worker dependent status as described in subsection (a); or

(ii) a travel document that has been approved by the Secretary and was issued to the alien after the alien's original documentary evidence was lost, stolen, or destroyed.

(b) ABILITY TO CHANGE STATUS.—

(1) CHANGE TO CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.—Notwithstanding section 1101(a), an alien with valid certified agricultural dependent status may apply to change to certified agricultural worker status, at any time, if the alien—

(A) submits a completed application, including the required processing fees; and

(B) is not ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 1101(b).

(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this title prohibits an alien granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status from changing status to any other immigrant or nonimmigrant classification for which the alien may be eligible.

(c) PUBLIC BENEFITS, TAX BENEFITS, AND HEALTH CARE SUBSIDIES.—Aliens granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status—

(1) shall be considered lawfully present in the United States for all purposes for the duration of their status;

(2) shall be eligible for Federal means-tested public benefits to the same extent as other individuals who are not qualified aliens under section 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641);

(3) are entitled to the premium assistance tax credit authorized under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 36B);

(4) shall not be subject to the rules applicable to individuals who are not lawfully present set forth in section 1402(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(e)); and

(5) shall not be subject to the rules applicable to individuals not lawfully present set forth in section 5000A(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 5000A(d)(3)).

(d) REVOCATION OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may revoke certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status if, after providing notice to the alien and the opportunity to provide evidence to contest the proposed revocation, the Secretary determines that the alien no longer meets the eligibility requirements for such status under section 1101(b).

(2) INVALIDATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—Upon the Secretary's final determination to revoke an alien's certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status, any documentation issued by the Secretary to such alien under subsection (a) shall automatically be rendered invalid for any purpose except for departure from the United States.

SEC. 1103. EXTENSIONS OF CERTIFIED STATUS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may extend certified agricultural worker status for additional periods of 5 ½ years to an alien who submits a completed application, including the required processing fees, within the 120-day period beginning 60 days before the expiration of the fifth year of the immediately preceding grant of certified agricultural worker status, if the alien—

(A) except as provided in section 1126(c), has performed agricultural labor or services in the United States for at least 690 hours (or 120 work days) for each of the prior 5 years in which the alien held certified agricultural worker status; and

(B) has not become ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 1101(b).

(2) DEPENDENT SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary may grant or extend certified agricultural dependent status to the spouse or child of an alien granted an extension of certified agricultural worker status under paragraph (1) if the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural dependent status under section 1101(b).

(3) WAIVER FOR LATE FILINGS.—The Secretary may waive an alien's failure to timely file before the expiration of the 120-day period described in paragraph (1) if the alien demonstrates that the delay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the alien's control or for other good cause.

(b) STATUS FOR WORKERS WITH PENDING APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Certified agricultural worker status of an alien who timely files an application to extend such status under subsection (a) (and the status of the alien's dependents) shall be automatically extended through the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application.

(2) DOCUMENTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—As soon as practicable after receipt of an application to extend certified agricultural worker status under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue a document to the alien acknowledging the receipt of such application. An employer of the worker may not refuse to accept such document as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(c) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application to extend certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(1) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies of the evidence submitted; and

(2) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

SEC. 1104. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.

(a) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—The continuous presence in the United States of an applicant for certified agricultural worker status under section 1101 shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous presence in the United States under this subtitle if the alien departed the United States for any period exceeding 90 days, or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days.

(2) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in paragraph (1) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a spouse, parent, son or daughter, grandparent, or sibling of the alien.

(3) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary shall not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under paragraph (1).

SEC. 1105. EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS.

(a) RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT.—An employer of an alien in certified agricultural worker status shall provide such alien with a written record of employment each year during which the alien provides agricultural labor or services to such employer as a certified agricultural worker.

(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that an employer of an alien with certified agricultural worker status has knowingly failed to provide the record of employment required under subsection (a), or has provided a false statement of material fact in such a record, the employer shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $400 per violation.

(2) LIMITATION.—The penalty under paragraph (1) for failure to provide employment

records shall not apply unless the alien has provided the employer with evidence of employment authorization described in section 1102 or 1103.

(3) DEPOSIT OF CIVIL PENALTIES.—Civil penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

SEC. 1106. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a process by which an applicant may seek administrative review of a denial of an application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, an application to extend such status, or a revocation of such status.

(b) ADMISSIBILITY IN IMMIGRATION COURT.—Each record of an alien's application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, application to extend such status, revocation of such status, and each record created pursuant to the administrative review process under subsection (a) is admissible in immigration court, and shall be included in the administrative record.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial review of the Secretary's decision to deny an application for certified agricultural worker status, an application to extend such status, or the decision to revoke such status, shall be limited to the review of an order of removal under section 242 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252).

Subtitle B—Optional Earned Residence for Long-Term Workers

SEC. 1111. OPTIONAL ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may adjust the status of an alien from that of a certified agricultural worker to that of a lawful permanent resident if the alien submits a completed application, including the required processing and penalty fees, and the Secretary determines that—

(A) except as provided in section 1126(c), the alien performed agricultural labor or services for not less than 575 hours or 100 work days each year—

(i) for at least 10 years; and

(ii) for at least 4 years while in certified agricultural worker status; and

(B) the alien has not become ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 1101(b).

(2) DEPENDENT ALIENS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The spouse and each child of an alien described in paragraph (1) whose status has been adjusted to that of a lawful permanent resident may be granted lawful permanent residence under this subtitle if—

(i) the qualifying relationship to the principal alien existed on the date on which such alien was granted adjustment of status under this subtitle; and

(ii) the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural worker dependent status under section 1101(b).

(B) PROTECTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to allow the spouse or child of a certified agricultural worker to self-petition for lawful permanent residence under this subtitle in cases involving—

(i) the death of the certified agricultural worker, so long as the spouse or child submits a petition not later than 2 years after the date of the worker's death; or

(ii) the spouse or a child being battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by the certified agricultural worker.

(3) DOCUMENTATION OF WORK HISTORY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant for adjustment of status under this section shall not be required to resubmit evidence of work history that has been previously submitted to the Secretary in connection with an approved extension of certified agricultural worker status.

(B) PRESUMPTION OF COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall presume that the work requirement has been met if the applicant attests, under penalty of perjury, that he or she—

(i) has satisfied the requirement;

(ii) demonstrates presence in the United States during the most recent 10-year period; and

(iii) presents documentation demonstrating compliance with the work requirement while the applicant was in certified agricultural worker status.

(b) PENALTY FEE.—In addition to any processing fee that the Secretary may assess in accordance with section 1122(b), a principal alien seeking adjustment of status under this subtitle shall pay a $750 penalty fee, which shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

(c) EFFECT OF PENDING APPLICATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for adjustment of status under this subtitle, and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application, the alien and any dependents included on the application—

(1) may apply for advance parole, which shall be granted upon demonstrating a legitimate need to travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose;

(2) may not be detained by the Secretary or removed from the United States unless the Secretary makes a prima facie determination that such alien is, or has become, ineligible for adjustment of status under subsection (a);

(3) may not be considered unlawfully present under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)); and

(4) may not be considered an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3))).

(d) EVIDENCE OF APPLICATION FILING.—As soon as practicable after receiving an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, the Secretary shall provide the applicant with a document acknowledging the receipt of such application. Such document shall serve as interim proof of the alien's authorization to accept employment in the United States and shall be accepted by an employer as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this Act or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SEC. 1112. PAYMENT OF TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An alien may not be granted adjustment of status under this subtitle unless the applicant has satisfied any applicable Federal tax liability.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—An alien may demonstrate compliance with subsection (a) by submitting such documentation as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, may require by regulation.

SEC. 1113. ADJUDICATION AND DECISION; REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of section 1123, the Secretary shall render a decision on an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle not later than 180 days after the date on which the application is filed.

(b) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(1) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies of the evidence submitted; and

(2) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a process by which an applicant may seek administrative review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien may seek judicial review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status under this title in an appropriate United States district court.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

SEC. 1121. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, any term used in this title that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)).

(2) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—The term ''agricultural labor or services'' means—

(A) agricultural labor or services (as such term is used in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii))), without regard to whether the labor or services are of a seasonal or temporary nature; and

(B) agricultural employment (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1802)), and including employment with any agricultural cooperative, without regard to whether the specific service or activity is temporary or seasonal.

(3) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term ''applicable Federal tax liability'' means all Federal income taxes assessed in accordance with section 6203 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 beginning on the date on which the applicant was authorized to work in the United States as a certified agricultural worker.

(4) APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—The term ''appropriate United States district court'' means the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States district court with jurisdiction over the alien's principal place of residence.

(5) CHILD.—The term ''child'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)).

(6) CONVICTED OR CONVICTION.—The term ''convicted'' or ''conviction'' does not include a judgment that has been expunged or set aside, that resulted in a rehabilitative disposition, or the equivalent.

(7) EMPLOYER.—The term ''employer'' means any person or entity, including any labor contractor or any agricultural association, that employs workers in agricultural labor or services.

(8) QUALIFIED DESIGNATED ENTITY.—The term ''qualified designated entity'' means—

(A) a qualified farm labor organization or an association of employers designated by the Secretary; or

(B) any other entity that the Secretary designates as having substantial experience, demonstrated competence, and a history of long-term involvement in the preparation and submission of application for adjustment of status under title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.).

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(10) WORK DAY.—The term ''work day'' means any day in which the individual is employed 5.75 or more hours in agricultural labor or services.

SEC. 1122. RULEMAKING; FEES.

(a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, an interim final rule implementing this title. Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the rule shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for comment. The Secretary shall finalize such rule not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an alien applying for any benefit under this title to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(2) FEE WAIVER; INSTALLMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to allow an alien to—

(i) request a waiver of any fee that the Secretary may assess under this title if the alien demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the alien is unable to pay the prescribed fee; or

(ii) pay any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title in installments.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be read to prohibit an employer from paying any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title on behalf of an alien and the alien's spouse or children.

SEC. 1123. BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant or extend certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status under subtitle A, or grant adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under subtitle B, unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who cannot provide all required biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(b) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall use biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate to conduct security and law enforcement background checks and to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for status under this title. An alien may not be granted any such status under this title unless security and law enforcement background checks are completed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

SEC. 1124. PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), for purposes of eligibility for certified agricultural dependent status or lawful permanent resident status under this title, a determination of whether an alien is a child shall be made using the age of the alien on the date on which the initial application for certified agricultural worker status is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply for no more than 10 years after the date on which the initial application for certified agricultural worker status is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1125. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for status under this title shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such status. Such an alien may not be placed in removal proceedings or removed from the United States until a final administrative decision establishing ineligibility for such status is rendered.

(b) ALIENS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the Attorney General shall (upon motion by the Secretary with the consent of the alien, or motion by the alien) terminate removal proceedings, without prejudice, against an alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for status under this title, and provide such alien a reasonable opportunity to apply for such status.

(c) EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered removed or has been permitted to depart voluntarily from the United States may, notwithstanding such order or permission to depart, apply for status under this title. Such alien shall not be required to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the application, the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such approval, and the Attorney General shall cancel the order of removal. If the Secretary renders a final administrative decision to deny the application, the order of removal or permission to depart shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the application had not been made, only after all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted.

(d) EFFECT OF DEPARTURE.—Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien who departs the United States—

(1) with advance permission to return to the United States granted by the Secretary under this title; or

(2) after having been granted certified agricultural worker status or lawful permanent resident status under this title.

SEC. 1126. DOCUMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORK HISTORY.

(a) BURDEN OF PROOF.—An alien applying for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A or adjustment of status under subtitle B has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the alien has worked the requisite number of hours or days required under section 1101, 1103, or 1111, as applicable. The Secretary shall establish special procedures to properly credit work in cases in which an alien was employed under an assumed name.

(b) EVIDENCE.—An alien may meet the burden of proof under subsection (a) by producing sufficient evidence to show the extent of such employment as a matter of just and reasonable inference. Such evidence may include—

(1) an annual record of certified agricultural worker employment as described in section 1105(a), or other employment records from employers;

(2) employment records maintained by collective bargaining associations;

(3) tax records or other government records;

(4) sworn affidavits from individuals who have direct knowledge of the alien's work history; or

(5) any other documentation designated by the Secretary for such purpose.

(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(1) IMPACT OF COVID–19.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who is otherwise eligible for such status if such alien is able to only partially satisfy the requirement under section 1101(a)(1)(A) as a result of reduced hours of employment or other restrictions associated with the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to COVID–19.

(B) LIMITATION.—The exception described in subparagraph (A) shall apply only to agricultural labor or services required to be performed during the period that—

(i) begins on the first day of the public health emergency described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) ends 90 days after the date on which such public health emergency terminates.

(2) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—In determining whether an alien has met the requirement under section 1103(a)(1)(A) or 1111(a)(1)(A), the Secretary may credit the alien with not more than 690 hours (or 120 work days) of agricultural labor or services in the United States if the alien was unable to perform the required agricultural labor or services due to—

(A) pregnancy, parental leave, illness, disease, disabling injury, or physical limitation of the alien;

(B) injury, illness, disease, or other special needs of the alien's child or spouse;

(C) severe weather conditions that prevented the alien from engaging in agricultural labor or services;

(D) reduced hours of employment or other restrictions associated with a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d); or

(E) termination from agricultural employment, if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the termination was without just cause; and

(ii) the alien was unable to find alternative agricultural employment after a reasonable job search.

(3) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.—A determination under paragraph (1)(E) shall not be conclusive, binding, or admissible in a separate or subsequent judicial or administrative action or proceeding between the alien and a current or prior employer of the alien or any other party.

(4) HARDSHIP WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the rulemaking described in section 1122(a), the Secretary shall establish procedures allowing for a partial waiver of the requirement under section 1111(a)(1)(A) for a certified agricultural worker if such worker—

(i) has continuously maintained certified agricultural worker status since the date such status was initially granted;

(ii) has partially completed the requirement under section 1111(a)(1)(A); and

(iii) is no longer able to engage in agricultural labor or services safely and effectively because of—

(I) a permanent disability suffered while engaging in agricultural labor or services; or

(II) deteriorating health or physical ability combined with advanced age.

(B) DISABILITY.—In establishing the procedures described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to define ''permanent disability'' for purposes of a waiver under subparagraph (A)(iii)(I).

(d) EQUINES.—In determining whether an alien has met the work requirement described in 103(a)(1)(A) or 111(a)(1)(A), the Secretary may credit the alien for performing activities related to equines, including the breeding, grooming, training, care, feeding, management, competition, and racing of equines.

SEC. 1127. EMPLOYER PROTECTIONS.

(a) CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT.—An employer that continues to employ an alien knowing that the alien intends to apply for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A shall not violate section 274A(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)(2)) by continuing to employ the alien for the duration of the application period described in section 1101(c), and with respect to an alien who applies for certified agricultural status, for the duration of the period during which the alien's application is pending final determination.

(b) USE OF EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.—Copies of employment records or other evidence of employment provided by an alien or by an alien's employer in support of an alien's application for certified agricultural worker or adjustment of status under this title may not be used in a civil or criminal prosecution or investigation of that employer under section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the prior unlawful employment of that alien regardless of the outcome of such application.

(c) ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS.—Employers that provide unauthorized aliens with copies of employment records or other evidence of employment in support of an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title shall not be subject to civil and criminal liability pursuant to such section 274A for employing such unauthorized aliens. Records or other evidence of employment provided by employers in response to a request for such records for the purpose of establishing eligibility for status under this title may not be used for any purpose other than establishing such eligibility.

(d) LIMITATION ON PROTECTION.—The protections for employers under this section shall not apply if the employer provides employment records to the alien that are determined to be fraudulent.

SEC. 1128. CORRECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or'' at the end;

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

''(D) who is granted certified agricultural worker status, certified agricultural dependent status, or lawful permanent resident status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025,''; and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D), as added by paragraph (3), by striking ''1990.'' and inserting ''1990, or in the case of an alien described in subparagraph (D), if such conduct is alleged to have occurred before the date on which the alien was granted status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 210(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 410(a)(1)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''(other than aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025''.

(2) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 3121(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''(other than aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to service performed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) AUTOMATED SYSTEM TO ASSIGN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—Section 205(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate with the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to implement an automated system for the Commissioner to assign social security account numbers to aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025. An alien who is granted such status, and who was not previously assigned a social security account number, shall request assignment of a social security account number and a social security card from the Commissioner through such system. The Secretary shall collect and provide to the Commissioner such information as the Commissioner deems necessary for the Commissioner to assign a social security account number, which information may be used by the Commissioner for any purpose for which the Commissioner is otherwise authorized under Federal law. The Commissioner may maintain, use, and disclose such information only as permitted by the Privacy Act and other Federal law.''.

SEC. 1129. DISCLOSURES AND PRIVACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary, based solely on information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title (including information provided during administrative or judicial review), may not refer an applicant to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application under this title;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims or schemes;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000.

(e) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate administrative and physical safeguards are in place to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personally identifiable information collected, maintained, and disseminated pursuant to this title.

SEC. 1130. PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS IN APPLICATIONS.

(a) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person who—

(1) files an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title and knowingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up a material fact or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry; or

(2) creates or supplies a false writing or document for use in making such an application,

shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY.—An alien who is convicted under subsection (a) shall be deemed inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(C)(i)).

(c) DEPOSIT.—Fines collected under subsection (a) shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

SEC. 1131. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than the first day of the application period described in section 1101(c)—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in cooperation with qualified designated entities, shall broadly disseminate information described in subsection (b); and

(2) the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Labor, shall disseminate to agricultural employers a document containing the information described in subsection (b) for posting at employer worksites.

(b) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subsection shall include—

(1) the benefits that aliens may receive under this title; and

(2) the requirements that an alien must meet to receive such benefits.

SEC. 1132. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.

The numerical limitations under title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.) shall not apply to the adjustment of aliens to lawful permanent resident status under this title, and such aliens shall not be counted toward any such numerical limitation.

SEC. 1133. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 180 days after the publication of the final rule under section 1122(a), and annually thereafter for the following 10 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that identifies, for the previous fiscal year—

(1) the number of principal aliens who applied for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(2) the number of principal aliens who were granted certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted certified agricultural dependent status;

(3) the number of principal aliens who applied for an extension of their certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(4) the number of principal aliens who were granted an extension of certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted certified agricultural dependent status under such an extension;

(5) the number of principal aliens who applied for adjustment of status under subtitle B, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(6) the number of principal aliens who were granted lawful permanent resident status under subtitle B, and the number of spouses and children who were granted such status as dependents;

(7) the number of principal aliens included in petitions described in section 1101(e), and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications; and

(8) the number of principal aliens who were granted H–2A status pursuant to petitions described in section 1101(e), and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted H–4 status.

SEC. 1134. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist eligible applicants under this title by providing them with the services described in subsection (c).

(b) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—In this section, the term ''eligible nonprofit organization'' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (excluding a recipient of funds under title X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq.)) that has demonstrated qualifications, experience, and expertise in providing quality services to farm workers or aliens.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section may be used for the design and implementation of programs that provide—

(1) information to the public regarding the eligibility and benefits of certified agricultural worker status authorized under this title; and

(2) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, to individuals submitting applications for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title, including—

(A) screening prospective applicants to assess their eligibility for such status;

(B) completing applications, including providing assistance in obtaining necessary documents and supporting evidence; and

(C) providing any other assistance that the Secretary determines useful to assist aliens in applying for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title.

(d) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to any funds appropriated to carry out this section, the Secretary shall use up to $10,000,000 from the Immigration Examinations Fee Account under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)) to carry out this section.

(e) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—Section 504(a)(11) of Public Law 104–134 (110 Stat. 1321–53 et seq.) shall not be construed to prevent a recipient of funds under title X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq.) from providing legal assistance directly related to an application for status under this title or to an alien granted such status.

SEC. 1135. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, such sums as may be necessary to implement this title, including any amounts needed for costs associated with the initiation of such implementation, for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

TITLE II—ENSURING AN AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Subtitle A—Reforming the H–2A Temporary Worker Program

SEC. 1201. COMPREHENSIVE AND STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC H–2A PLATFORM.

(a) STREAMLINED H–2A PLATFORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, and United States Digital Service, shall ensure the establishment of an electronic platform through which a petition for an H–2A worker may be filed. Such platform shall—

(A) serve as a single point of access for an employer to input all information and supporting documentation required for obtaining labor certification from the Secretary of Labor and the adjudication of the H–2A petition by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(B) serve as a single point of access for the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, and State workforce agencies to concurrently perform their respective review and adjudicatory responsibilities in the H–2A process;

(C) facilitate communication between employers and agency adjudicators, including by allowing employers to—

(i) receive and respond to notices of deficiency and requests for information;

(ii) submit requests for inspections and licensing;

(iii) receive notices of approval and denial; and

(iv) request reconsideration or appeal of agency decisions; and

(D) provide information to the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection necessary for the efficient and secure processing of H–2A visas and applications for admission.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—In developing the platform described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, and United States Digital Service, shall streamline and improve the H–2A process, including by—

(A) eliminating the need for employers to submit duplicate information and documentation to multiple agencies;

(B) eliminating redundant processes, where a single matter in a petition is adjudicated by more than one agency;

(C) reducing the occurrence of common petition errors, and otherwise improving and expediting the processing of H–2A petitions; and

(D) ensuring compliance with H–2A program requirements and the protection of the wages and working conditions of workers.

(3) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter until the H–2A worker electronic platform is established pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that outlines the status of the electronic platform development.

(b) ONLINE JOB REGISTRY.—The Secretary of Labor shall maintain a national, publicly-accessible online job registry and database of all job orders submitted by H–2A employers. The registry and database shall—

(1) be searchable using relevant criteria, including the types of jobs needed to be filled, the date(s) and location(s) of need, and the employer(s) named in the job order;

(2) provide an interface for workers in English, Spanish, and any other language that the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate; and

(3) provide for public access of job orders approved under section 218(h)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(h)(2)).

SEC. 1202. H–2A PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 218. ADMISSION OF TEMPORARY H–2A WORKERS.

''(a) LABOR CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not approve a petition to admit an H–2A worker unless the Secretary of Labor has certified that—

''(1) there are not sufficient United States workers who are able, willing and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition; and

''(2) the employment of the H–2A worker in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States who are similarly employed.

''(b) H–2A PETITION REQUIREMENTS.—An employer filing a petition for an H–2A worker to perform agricultural labor or services shall attest to and demonstrate compliance, as and when appropriate, with all applicable requirements under this section, including the following:

''(1) NEED FOR LABOR OR SERVICES.—The employer has described the need for agricultural labor or services in a job order that includes a description of the nature and location of the work to be performed, the material terms and conditions of employment, the anticipated period or periods (expected start and end dates) for which the workers will be needed, the number of job opportunities in which the employer seeks to employ the workers, and any other requirement for a job order.

''(2) NONDISPLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The employer has not and will not displace United States workers employed by the employer during the period of employment of the H–2A worker and during the 60-day period immediately preceding such period of employment in the job for which the employer seeks approval to employ the H–2A worker.

''(3) STRIKE OR LOCKOUT.—Each place of employment described in the petition is not, at the time of filing the petition and until the petition is approved, subject to a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute.

''(4) RECRUITMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The employer shall engage in the recruitment of United States workers as described in subsection (c) and shall hire such workers who are able, willing and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition. The employer may reject a United States worker only for lawful, job-related reasons.

''(5) WAGES, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS.—The employer shall offer and provide, at a minimum, the wages, benefits, and working conditions required by this section to the H–2A worker and all workers who are similarly employed. The employer—

''(A) shall offer such similarly employed workers not less than the same benefits, wages, and working conditions that the employer is offering or will provide to the H–2A worker; and

''(B) may not impose on such similarly employed workers any restrictions or obligations that will not be imposed on the H–2A worker.

''(6) WORKERS' COMPENSATION.—If the job opportunity is not covered by or is exempt

from the State workers' compensation law, the employer shall provide, at no cost to the worker, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of, and in the course of, the worker's employment which will provide benefits at least equal to those provided under the State workers' compensation law.

''(7) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS.—The employer shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

''(8) COMPLIANCE WITH WORKER PROTECTIONS.—The employer shall comply with section 1204 of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(9) COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITMENT LAWS.—The employer shall comply with subtitle C of title II of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(c) RECRUITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer may satisfy the recruitment requirement described in subsection (b)(4) by satisfying all of the following:

''(A) JOB ORDER.—As provided in subsection (h)(1), the employer shall complete a job order for posting on the electronic job registry maintained by the Secretary of Labor and for distribution by the appropriate State workforce agency. Such posting shall remain on the job registry as an active job order through the period described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(B) FORMER WORKERS.—At least 45 days before each start date identified in the petition, the employer shall—

''(i) make reasonable efforts to contact any United States worker who the employer or agricultural producer for whom the employer is supplying labor employed in the previous year in the same occupation and area of intended employment for which an H–2A worker is sought (excluding workers who were terminated for cause or abandoned the worksite); and

''(ii) post such job opportunity in a conspicuous location or locations at the place of employment.

''(C) POSITIVE RECRUITMENT.—During the period of recruitment, the employer shall complete any other positive recruitment steps within a multi-State region of traditional or expected labor supply where the Secretary of Labor finds that there are a significant number of qualified United States workers who, if recruited, would be willing to make themselves available for work at the time and place needed.

''(2) PERIOD OF RECRUITMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the period of recruitment begins on the date on which the job order is posted on the online job registry and ends on the date that H–2A workers depart for the employer's place of employment. For a petition involving more than one start date under subsection (h)(1)(C), the end of the period of recruitment shall be determined by the date of departure of the H–2A workers for the final start date identified in the petition.

''(B) REQUIREMENT TO HIRE US WORKERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the limitations of subparagraph (A), the employer will provide employment to any qualified United States worker who applies to the employer for any job opportunity included in the petition until the later of—

''(I) the date that is 30 days after the date on which work begins; or

''(II) the date on which—

''(aa) 33 percent of the work contract for the job opportunity has elapsed; or

''(bb) if the employer is a labor contractor, 50 percent of the work contract for the job opportunity has elapsed.

''(ii) STAGGERED ENTRY.—For a petition involving more than one start date under subsection (h)(1)(C), each start date designated in the petition shall establish a separate job opportunity. An employer may not reject a United States worker because the worker is unable or unwilling to fill more than one job opportunity included in the petition.

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the employer may offer a job opportunity to an H–2A worker instead of an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025 if the H–2A worker was employed by the employer in each of 3 years during the 4-year period immediately preceding the date of the enactment of such Act.

''(3) RECRUITMENT REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall maintain a recruitment report through the applicable period described in paragraph (2)(B) and submit regular updates through the electronic platform on the results of recruitment. The employer shall retain the recruitment report, and all associated recruitment documentation, for a period of 3 years from the date of certification.

''(B) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If the employer asserts that any eligible individual who has applied or been referred is not able, willing or qualified, the employer bears the burden of proof to establish that the individual is not able, willing or qualified because of a lawful, employment-related reason.

''(d) WAGE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each employer under this section will offer the worker, during the period of authorized employment, wages that are at least the greatest of—

''(A) the agreed-upon collective bargaining wage;

''(B) the adverse effect wage rate (or any successor wage established under paragraph (7));

''(C) the prevailing wage (hourly wage or piece rate); or

''(D) the Federal or State minimum wage.

''(2) ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), the applicable adverse effect wage rate for each State and classification for a calendar year shall be the annual average hourly gross wage for all hired agricultural workers in the State, as reported by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor based on a wage survey conducted by such secretaries under subparagraph (C). If such wage is not reported, the applicable wage shall be the State or regional annual gross average hourly wage for all hired agricultural workers based on the Agricultural Labor Wage survey conducted pursuant to subparagraph (C).

''(B) LIMITATIONS ON WAGE FLUCTUATIONS.—

''(i) WAGE FREEZE FOR 2024.—For calendar year 2024, the adverse effect wage rate for each State classification under this subsection shall be the adverse effect wage rate that was in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State on the date of the introduction of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(ii) WAGE RATE FOR 2025 THROUGH 2033.—For each of the calendar years 2025 through 2033, the adverse effect wage rate for each State classification under this subsection shall be the wage rate calculated under subparagraph (A), except that such wage rate may not—

''(I) be more than 1.5 percent lower than the wage rate in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year;

''(II) except as provided in subclause (III), be more than 3.25 percent higher than the wage rate in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year; and

''(III) if the application of clause (II) results in a wage rate that is lower than 110 percent of the applicable Federal or State minimum wage, be more than 4.25 percent higher than the wage rate in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year.

''(iii) WAGE RATE AFTER 2033.—For any calendar year after 2033, the applicable wage rate described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be the wage rate established pursuant to paragraph (7)(D). Until such wage rate is effective, the adverse effect wage rate for each State classification under this subsection shall be the wage calculated under subparagraph (A), except that such wage may not be more than 0.5 percent lower or 3 percent higher than the wage in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State classification in the immediately preceding calendar year.

''(C) WAGE SURVEYS AND DATA.—

''(i) AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY.—The Secretary of Labor, in carrying out the responsibilities in setting the adverse effect wage rate under subparagraph (A), shall rely on statistically valid data from the Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service's annual findings from the Agricultural Labor Survey (commonly referred to as the 'Farm Labor Survey').

''(ii) FORM; DATA.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct the Agricultural Labor Survey in the form of a quarterly survey of the number of hired agricultural workers, the number of hours worked, and the total gross wages paid by type of worker, including field workers, livestock workers, and supervisors or managers, disaggregated by occupational groups and other workers (who may be classified by the Standard Occupational Classification system).

''(iii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor, such sums as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out this subsection.

''(3) PUBLICATION; WAGES IN EFFECT.—

''(A) PUBLICATION.—Before the first day of each calendar year, the Secretary of Labor shall publish the applicable adverse effect wage rate (or successor wage rate, if any), and prevailing wage, if available, for each State and occupational classification through notice in the Federal Register.

''(B) JOB ORDERS IN EFFECT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), publication by the Secretary of Labor of an updated adverse effect wage rate or prevailing wage for a State and occupational classification shall not affect the wage rate guaranteed in any approved job order for which work has commenced at the time of publication.

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR YEAR-ROUND JOBS.—If the Secretary of Labor publishes an updated adverse effect wage rate or prevailing wage for a State and occupational classification concerning a petition described in subsection (i), and the updated wage is higher than the wage rate guaranteed in the work contract, the employer shall pay the updated wage not later than 14 days after publication of the updated wage in the Federal Register.

''(4) PRODUCTIVITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.—If an employer requires 1 or more minimum productivity standards as a condition of job retention, such standards shall be specified in the job order and shall be no more than those normally required (at the time of the first petition for H–2A workers) by other employers for the activity in the area of intended employment, unless the Secretary of Labor approves a higher minimum standard resulting from material changes in production methods.

''(5) GUARANTEE OF EMPLOYMENT.—

''(A) OFFER TO WORKER.—The employer shall guarantee the worker employment for the hourly equivalent of at least 80 percent of the work days of the total period of employment, beginning with the first work day after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment and ending on the date specified in the job offer. For purposes of this subparagraph, the hourly equivalent means the number of hours in the work days as stated in the job offer and shall exclude the worker's Sabbath and Federal holidays. If the employer affords the worker less employment than that required under this paragraph, the employer shall pay the worker the amount which the worker would have earned had the worker, in fact, worked for the guaranteed number of hours.

''(B) FAILURE TO WORK.—Any hours which the worker fails to work, up to a maximum of the number of hours specified in the job offer for a work day, when the worker has been offered an opportunity to do so, and all hours of work actually performed (including voluntary work in excess of the number of hours specified in the job offer in a work day, on the worker's Sabbath, or on Federal holidays) may be counted by the employer in calculating whether the period of guaranteed employment has been met.

''(C) ABANDONMENT OF EMPLOYMENT; TERMINATION FOR CAUSE.—If the worker voluntarily abandons employment without good cause before the end of the contract period, or is terminated for cause, the worker is not entitled to the guarantee of employment described in subparagraph (A).

''(D) CONTRACT IMPOSSIBILITY.—If, before the expiration of the period of employment specified in the job offer, the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to any form of natural disaster before the guarantee in subparagraph (A) is fulfilled, the employer may terminate the worker's employment. In the event of such termination, the employer shall fulfill the employment guarantee in subparagraph (A) for the work days that have elapsed from the first work day after the arrival of the worker to the termination of employment. The employer shall make efforts to transfer a worker to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker. If such transfer is not affected, the employer shall provide the return transportation required in subsection (f)(2).

''(6) WAGE STANDARDS AFTER 2033.—

''(A) STUDY OF ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2031, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly conduct a study that addresses—

''(i) whether the employment of H–2A workers has depressed the wages of United States farm workers;

''(ii) whether an adverse effect wage rate is necessary to protect the wages of United States farm workers in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed;

''(iii) whether alternative wage standards would be sufficient to prevent wages in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed from falling below the wage level that would have prevailed in the absence of H–2A employment;

''(iv) whether any changes are warranted in the current methodologies for calculating the adverse effect wage rate and the prevailing wage rate; and

''(v) recommendations for future wage protection under this section.

''(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2032, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly prepare and submit a report to Congress setting forth—

''(i) the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) recommendations for future wage protections under this section.

''(C) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subparagraph (A) and preparing the report under subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor shall consult with representatives of agricultural employers and an equal number of representatives of agricultural workers, at the national, State and local level.

''(D) WAGE DETERMINATION AFTER 2033.—Upon publication of the report described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall make a rule to establish a process for annually determining the wage rate for purposes of paragraph (1)(B) for fiscal years after 2033. Such process shall be designed to ensure that the employment of H–2A workers does not undermine the wages and working conditions of similarly employed United States workers.

''(e) HOUSING REQUIREMENTS.—Employers shall furnish housing in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Labor. Such regulations shall be consistent with the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall be permitted at the employer's option to provide housing meeting applicable Federal standards for temporary labor camps or to secure housing which meets the local standards for rental and/or public accommodations or other substantially similar class of habitation: Provided, That in the absence of applicable local standards, State standards for rental and/or public accommodations or other substantially similar class of habitation shall be met: Provided further, That in the absence of applicable local or State standards, Federal temporary labor camp standards shall apply.

''(2) FAMILY HOUSING.—Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i)(5), the employer shall provide family housing to workers with families who request it when it is the prevailing practice in the area and occupation of intended employment to provide family housing.

''(3) UNITED STATES WORKERS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), an employer is not required to provide housing to United States workers who are reasonably able to return to their residence within the same day.

''(4) TIMING OF INSPECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor or designee shall make a determination as to whether the housing furnished by an employer for a worker meets the requirements imposed by this subsection prior to the date on which the Secretary of Labor is required to make a certification with respect to a petition for the admission of such worker.

''(B) TIMELY INSPECTION.—The Secretary of Labor shall provide a process for—

''(i) an employer to request inspection of housing up to 60 days before the date on which the employer will file a petition under this section; and

''(ii) annual inspection of housing for workers who are engaged in agricultural employment that is not of a seasonal or temporary nature.

''(f) TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) TRAVEL TO PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A worker who completes 50 percent of the period of employment specified in the job order shall be reimbursed by the employer for the cost of the worker's transportation and subsistence from the place from which the worker came to work for the employer (or place of last employment, if the worker traveled from such place) to the place of employment.

''(2) TRAVEL FROM PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—For a worker who completes the period of employment specified in the job order or who is terminated without cause, the employer shall provide or pay for the worker's transportation and subsistence from the place of employment to the place from which the worker, disregarding intervening employment, came to work for the employer, or to the place of next employment, if the worker has contracted with a subsequent employer who has not agreed to provide or pay for the worker's transportation and subsistence to such subsequent employer's place of employment.

''(3) TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN LIVING QUARTERS AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—The employer shall provide transportation for a worker between housing provided or secured by the employer and the employer's place of employment at no cost to the worker.

''(4) LIMITATION.—

''(A) AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amount of reimbursement provided under paragraph (1) or (2) to a worker need not exceed the lesser of—

''(i) the actual cost to the worker of the transportation and subsistence involved; or

''(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

''(B) DISTANCE TRAVELED.—For travel to or from the worker's home country, if the travel distance between the worker's home and the relevant consulate is 50 miles or less, reimbursement for transportation and subsistence may be based on transportation to or from the consulate.

''(g) HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall maintain a reasonable plan that describes the employer's procedures for the prevention of heat illness, including appropriate training, access to water and shade, the provision of breaks, and the protocols for emergency response. Such plan shall—

''(A) be in writing in English and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

''(B) be posted at a conspicuous location at the worksite and provided to employees prior to the commencement of labor or services.

''(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit any other Federal or State authority to promulgate, enforce, or maintain health and safety standards related to heat-related illness.

''(3) TEMPLATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, shall publish, on the website of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a template for a Heat Illness Prevention Plan, which employers could use, at their discretion, to help them develop such a plan.

''(h) H–2A PETITION PROCEDURES.—

''(1) SUBMISSION OF PETITION AND JOB ORDER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall submit information required for the adjudication of the H–2A petition, including a job order, through the electronic platform no more than 75 calendar days and no fewer than 60 calendar days before the employer's first date of need specified in the petition.

''(B) FILING BY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.—An association of agricultural producers that use agricultural services may file an H–2A petition under subparagraph (A). If an association is a joint or sole employer of workers, including agricultural cooperatives, who perform agricultural labor or services, H–2A workers may be used for the approved job opportunities of any of the association's producer members and such workers may be transferred among its producer members to perform the agricultural

labor or services for which the petition was approved.

''(C) PETITIONS INVOLVING STAGGERED ENTRY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an employer may file a petition involving employment in the same occupational classification and same area of intended employment with multiple start dates if—

''(I) the petition involves temporary or seasonal employment and no more than 10 start dates;

''(II) the multiple start dates share a common end date;

''(III) no more than 120 days separate the first start date and the final start date listed in the petition; and

''(IV) the need for multiple start dates arises from variations in labor needs associated with the job opportunity identified in the petition.

''(ii) LABOR CONTRACTORS.—A labor contractor may not file a petition described in clause (i).

''(2) LABOR CERTIFICATION.—

''(A) REVIEW OF JOB ORDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the relevant State workforce agency, shall review the job order for compliance with this section and notify the employer through the electronic platform of any deficiencies not later than 7 business days from the date the employer submits the necessary information required under paragraph (1)(A). The employer shall be provided 5 business days to respond to any such notice of deficiency.

''(ii) STANDARD.—The job order must include all material terms and conditions of employment, including the requirements of this section, and must be otherwise consistent with the minimum standards provided under Federal, State or local law. In considering the question of whether a specific qualification is appropriate in a job order, the Secretary of Labor shall apply the normal and accepted qualification required by non-H–2A employers in the same or comparable occupations and crops.

''(iii) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish emergency procedures for the curing of deficiencies that cannot be resolved during the period described in clause (i).

''(B) APPROVAL OF JOB ORDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon approval of the job order, the Secretary of Labor shall immediately place for public examination a copy of the job order on the online job registry, and the State workforce agency serving the area of intended employment shall commence the recruitment of United States workers.

''(ii) REFERRAL OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The Secretary of Labor and State workforce agency shall keep the job order active until the end of the period described in subsection (c)(2) and shall refer to the employer each United States worker who applies for the job opportunity.

''(C) REVIEW OF INFORMATION FOR DEFICIENCIES.—Not later than 7 business days after the approval of the job order, the Secretary of Labor shall review the information necessary to make a labor certification and notify the employer through the electronic platform if such information does not meet the standards for approval. Such notification shall include a description of any deficiency, and the employer shall be provided 5 business days to cure such deficiency.

''(D) CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF WORKERS.—Not later than 30 days before the date that labor or services are first required to be performed, the Secretary of Labor shall issue the requested labor certification if the Secretary determines that the requirements set forth in this section have been met.

''(E) EXPEDITED ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall by regulation establish a procedure for an employer to request the expedited review of a denial of a labor certification under this section, or the revocation of such a certification. Such procedure shall require the Secretary to expeditiously, but no later than 72 hours after expedited review is requested, issue a de novo determination on a labor certification that was denied in whole or in part because of the availability of able, willing and qualified workers if the employer demonstrates, consistent with subsection (c)(3)(B), that such workers are not actually available at the time or place such labor or services are required.

''(3) PETITION DECISION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 business days after the Secretary of Labor issues the certification, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a decision on the petition and shall transmit a notice of action to the petitioner via the electronic platform.

''(B) APPROVAL.—Upon approval of a petition under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that such approval is noted in the electronic platform and is available to the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as necessary, to facilitate visa issuance and admission.

''(C) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—A petition for multiple named beneficiaries may be partially approved with respect to eligible beneficiaries notwithstanding the ineligibility, or potential ineligibility, of one or more other beneficiaries.

''(D) POST-CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall provide a process for amending a request for labor certification in conjunction with an H–2A petition, subsequent to certification by the Secretary of Labor, in cases in which the requested amendment does not materially change the petition (including the job order).

''(4) ROLES OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.—

''(A) MEMBER'S VIOLATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY DISQUALIFY ASSOCIATION OR OTHER MEMBERS.—If an individual producer member of a joint employer association is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the member, the denial shall apply only to that member of the association unless the Secretary of Labor determines that the association or other member participated in, had knowledge of, or reason to know of, the violation.

''(B) ASSOCIATION'S VIOLATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY DISQUALIFY MEMBERS.—

''(i) If an association representing agricultural producers as a joint employer is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the association, the denial shall apply only to the association and does not apply to any individual producer member of the association unless the Secretary of Labor determines that the member participated in, had knowledge of, or reason to know of, the violation.

''(ii) If an association of agricultural producers certified as a sole employer is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the association, no individual producer member of such association may be the beneficiary of the services of H–2A workers in the commodity and occupation in which such aliens were employed by the association which was denied during the period such denial is in force, unless such producer member employs such aliens in the commodity and occupation in question directly or through an association which is a joint employer of such workers with the producer member.

''(5) SPECIAL PROCEDURES.—For occupations with established special procedures that were in place on the date of the enactment of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Homeland Security, may by regulation establish alternate procedures that reasonably modify program requirements under this section, when the Secretary determines that such modifications are required due to the unique nature of the work involved.

''(6) CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS.—An employer may not file a petition under this section on behalf of a worker if the majority of the worker's duties will fall within a construction or extraction occupational classification.

''(7) EQUINES.—Notwithstanding the requirement under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(A) that the agricultural labor or services performed by an H–2A worker be agricultural, the Secretary of Homeland Security may approve a petition for an H–2A worker to perform activities related to equines, including the breeding, grooming, training, care, feeding, management, competition, and racing of equines, without regard to whether the specific service or activity is of a temporary or seasonal nature.

''(i) NON-TEMPORARY OR NON-SEASONAL NEEDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirement under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) that the agricultural labor or services performed by an H–2A worker be of a temporary or seasonal nature, the Secretary of Homeland Security may, consistent with the provisions of this subsection, approve a petition from a fixed site farm employer for an H–2A worker to perform agricultural services or labor that is not of a temporary or seasonal nature.

''(2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) FIRST 3 FISCAL YEARS.—The total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for the first fiscal year during which the first visa is issued under such paragraph and for each of the following 2 fiscal years may not exceed 20,000.

''(B) FISCAL YEARS 4 THROUGH 10.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for the first fiscal year following the fiscal years referred to in subparagraph (A), and for each of the following 6 fiscal years, may not exceed a numerical limitation jointly imposed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor in accordance with clause (ii).

''(ii) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.—For each fiscal year referred to in clause (i), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish a numerical limitation for purposes of clause (i), which may not be lower than 20,000 and may not vary by more than 12.5 percent compared to the numerical limitation applicable to the immediately preceding fiscal year. In establishing such numerical limitation, the Secretaries shall consider—

''(I) a demonstrated shortage of agricultural workers;

''(II) the level of unemployment and underemployment of agricultural workers during the preceding fiscal year;

''(III) the number of H–2A workers sought by employers during the preceding fiscal year to engage in agricultural labor or services not of a temporary or seasonal nature;

''(IV) the number of such H–2A workers issued a visa in the most recent fiscal year who remain in the United States in compliance with the terms of such visa;

''(V) the estimated number of United States workers, including workers who obtained certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, who worked during the preceding fiscal year in agricultural labor or services not of a temporary or seasonal nature;

''(VI) the number of such United States workers who accepted jobs offered by employers using the online job registry during the preceding fiscal year;

''(VII) any growth or contraction of the United States agricultural industry that has increased or decreased the demand for agricultural workers; and

''(VIII) any changes in the real wages paid to agricultural workers in the United States as an indication of a shortage or surplus of agricultural labor.

''(C) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For each fiscal year following the fiscal years referred to in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and after considering appropriate factors, including the factors listed in subclauses (I) through (VIII) of subparagraph (B)(ii), whether to establish a numerical limitation for such fiscal year. If a numerical limitation is so established—

''(i) such numerical limitation may not be lower than highest number of aliens admitted under this subsection in any of the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year for which the numerical limitation is to be established; and

''(ii) the total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year may not exceed such numerical limitation.

''(D) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall jointly establish, by regulation, procedures for immediately adjusting a numerical limitation imposed pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) to account for significant labor shortages.

''(3) ALLOCATION OF VISAS.—

''(A) BI-ANNUAL ALLOCATION.—The annual allocation of visas described in paragraph (2) shall be evenly allocated between two halves of the fiscal year unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, determines that an alternative allocation would better accommodate demand for visas. Any unused visas in the first half of the fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent half of the same fiscal year.

''(B) RESERVE FOR DAIRY LABOR OR SERVICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the visa numbers made available in each half of the fiscal year pursuant to subparagraph (A), 50 percent of such visas shall be reserved for employers filing petitions seeking H–2A workers to engage in agricultural labor or services in the dairy industry.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—If, after 4 months have elapsed in one half of the fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that application of clause (i) will result in visas going unused during that half of the fiscal year, clause (i) shall not apply to visas under this paragraph during the remainder of such calendar half.

''(C) RESERVE FOR SMALL FARMER LABOR OR SERVICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), of the visas made available during each 6-month period of a fiscal year pursuant to subparagraph (A), 20 percent shall be reserved for employers (excluding employers eligible for a reserve under subparagraph (B)) with fewer than 50 domestic employees that file a petition seeking H–2A workers to engage in agricultural labor or services.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—If, after 4 months have elapsed in ½ of the fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the application of clause (i) will result in visas going unused during that 6-month period, clause (i) shall not apply to visas under this paragraph during the remainder of such 6-month period.

''(D) LIMITED ALLOCATION FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL PROCEDURES INDUSTRIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations under paragraph (2), up to 550 aliens may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) in a fiscal year for range sheep or goat herding.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The total number of aliens in the United States in valid H–2A status under clause (i) at any one time may not exceed 550.

''(iii) CLARIFICATION.—Any visas issued under this subparagraph may not be considered for purposes of the annual adjustments under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

''(4) ANNUAL ROUND TRIP HOME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the other requirements of this section, an employer shall provide H–2A workers employed under this subsection, at no cost to such workers, with annual round trip travel, including transportation and subsistence during travel, to their homes in their communities of origin. The employer must provide such travel within 14 months of the initiation of the worker's employment, and no more than 14 months can elapse between each required period of travel.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The cost of travel under subparagraph (A) need not exceed the lesser of—

''(i) the actual cost to the worker of the transportation and subsistence involved; or

''(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

''(5) FAMILY HOUSING.—An employer seeking to employ an H–2A worker pursuant to this subsection shall offer family housing to workers with families if such workers are engaged in agricultural employment that is not of a seasonal or temporary nature. The worker may reject such an offer. The employer may not charge the worker for the worker's housing, except that if the worker accepts family housing, a prorated rent based on the fair market value for such housing may be charged for the worker's family members.

''(6) WORKPLACE SAFETY PLAN FOR YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an employer is seeking to employ a worker in agricultural labor or services pursuant to this subsection, the employer shall report all work-related incidents in accordance with the requirements under section 1904.39 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, and maintain an effective worksite safety and compliance plan to prevent workplace accidents and otherwise ensure safety. Such plan shall—

''(i) be in writing in English and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

''(ii) be posted at a conspicuous location at the worksite and provided to employees prior to the commencement of labor or services.

''(B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish by regulation the minimum requirements for the plan described in subparagraph (A). Such plan shall include measures to—

''(i) require workers (other than the employer's family members) whose positions require contact with animals to complete animal care training, including animal handling and job-specific animal care;

''(ii) protect against sexual harassment and violence, resolve complaints involving harassment or violence, and protect against retaliation against workers reporting harassment or violence; and

''(iii) contain other provisions necessary for ensuring workplace safety, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(C) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this paragraph is intended—

''(i) to apply to persons or entities that are not seeking to employ workers under this section; or

''(ii) to limit any other Federal or State authority to promulgate, enforce, or maintain health and safety standards related to the dairy industry.

''(j) ELIGIBILITY FOR H–2A STATUS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—

''(1) DISQUALIFICATION.—An alien shall be ineligible for admission to the United States as an H–2A worker pursuant to a petition filed under this section if the alien was admitted to the United States as an H–2A worker within the past 5 years of the date the petition was filed and—

''(A) violated a material provision of this section, including the requirement to promptly depart the United States when the alien's authorized period of admission has expired, unless the alien has good cause for such failure to depart; or

''(B) otherwise violated a term or condition of admission into the United States as an H–2A worker.

''(2) VISA VALIDITY.—A visa issued to an H–2A worker shall be valid for 3 years and shall allow for multiple entries during the approved period of admission.

''(3) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZED STAY; ADMISSION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien admissible as an H–2A worker shall be authorized to stay in the United States for the period of employment specified in the petition approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security under this section. The maximum continuous period of authorized stay for an H–2A worker is 36 months.

''(B) REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of an H–2A worker whose maximum continuous period of authorized stay (including any extensions) has expired, the alien may not again be eligible for such stay until the alien remains outside the United States for a cumulative period of at least 45 days.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall deduct absences from the United States that take place during an H–2A worker's period of authorized stay from the period that the alien is required to remain outside the United States under subparagraph (B), if the alien or the alien's employer requests such a deduction, and provides clear and convincing proof that the alien qualifies for such a deduction. Such proof shall consist of evidence including, but not limited to, arrival and departure records, copies of tax returns, and records of employment abroad.

''(D) ADMISSION.—In addition to the maximum continuous period of authorized stay, an H–2A worker's authorized period of admission shall include an additional period of 10 days prior to the beginning of the period of employment for the purpose of traveling to the place of employment and 45 days at the end of the period of employment for the purpose of traveling home or seeking an extension of status based on a subsequent offer of employment if the worker has not reached

the maximum continuous period of authorized stay under subparagraph (A) (subject to the exceptions in subparagraph (C)).

''(4) CONTINUING H–2A WORKERS.—

''(A) SUCCESSIVE EMPLOYMENT.—An H–2A worker is authorized to start new or concurrent employment upon the filing of a nonfrivolous H–2A petition, or as of the requested start date, whichever is later if—

''(i) the petition to start new or concurrent employment was filed prior to the expiration of the H–2A worker's period of admission as defined in paragraph (3)(D); and

''(ii) the H–2A worker has not been employed without authorization in the United States from the time of last admission to the United States in H–2A status through the filing of the petition for new employment.

''(B) PROTECTION DUE TO IMMIGRANT VISA BACKLOGS.—Notwithstanding the limitations on the period of authorized stay described in paragraph (3), any H–2A worker who—

''(i) is the beneficiary of an approved petition, filed under subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 204(a)(1) for preference status under section 203(b)(3)(A)(iii); and

''(ii) is eligible to be granted such status but for the annual limitations on visas under section 203(b)(3)(A),

may apply for, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant, an extension of such nonimmigrant status until the Secretary of Homeland Security issues a final administrative decision on the alien's application for adjustment of status or the Secretary of State issues a final decision on the alien's application for an immigrant visa.

''(5) ABANDONMENT OF EMPLOYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an H–2A worker who abandons the employment which was the basis for the worker's authorized stay, without good cause, shall be considered to have failed to maintain H–2A status and shall depart the United States or be subject to removal under section 237(a)(1)(C)(i).

''(B) GRACE PERIOD TO SECURE NEW EMPLOYMENT.—An H–2A worker shall not be considered to have failed to maintain H–2A status solely on the basis of a cessation of the employment on which the alien's classification was based for a period of 45 consecutive days, or until the end of the authorized validity period, whichever is shorter, once during each authorized validity period.

''(k) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—

''(1) DISCLOSURE OF WORK CONTRACT.—Not later than the time at which an H–2A worker applies for a visa, or not later than the date on which work commences for a worker in corresponding employment, the employer shall provide such worker with a copy of the work contract, which shall include all of the provisions under this section, or, in the absence of such a contract, a copy of the job order and the certification described in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of subsection (h)(2)), which shall be deemed to be the work contract. An H–2A worker moving from one H–2A employer to a subsequent H–2A employer shall be provided with a copy of the new employment contract no later than the time at which an offer of employment is made by the subsequent employer.

''(2) HOURS AND EARNINGS STATEMENTS.—The employer shall furnish to H–2A workers, on or before each payday, in one or more written statements—

''(A) the H–2A worker's total earnings for the pay period;

''(B) the H–2A worker's hourly rate of pay, piece rate of pay, or both;

''(C) the hours of employment offered to the H–2A worker and the hours of employment actually worked by the H–2A worker;

''(D) if piece rates of pay are used, the units produced daily by the H–2A worker;

''(E) an itemization of the deductions made from the H–2A worker's wages; and

''(F) any other information required by Federal, State or local law.

''(3) NOTICE OF WORKER RIGHTS.—The employer shall post and maintain, in a conspicuous location at the place of employment, a poster provided by the Secretary of Labor in English, and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English, which sets out the rights and protections for workers employed pursuant to this section.

''(l) LABOR CONTRACTORS; FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITERS; PROHIBITION ON FEES.—

''(1) LABOR CONTRACTORS.—

''(A) SURETY BOND.—An employer that is a labor contractor who seeks to employ H–2A workers shall maintain a surety bond in an amount required under subparagraph (B). Such bond shall be payable to the Secretary of Labor or pursuant to the resolution of a civil or criminal proceeding, for the payment of wages and benefits, including any assessment of interest, owed to an H–2A worker or a similarly employed worker, or a worker who has been rejected or displaced in violation of this section.

''(B) AMOUNT OF BOND.—The Secretary of Labor shall annually publish in the Federal Register a schedule of required bond amounts that are determined by such Secretary to be sufficient for labor contractors to discharge financial obligations under this section based on the number of workers the labor contractor seeks to employ and the wages such workers are required to be paid.

''(C) USE OF FUNDS.—Any sums paid to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) that are not paid to a worker because of the inability to do so within a period of 5 years following the date of a violation giving rise to the obligation to pay shall remain available to the Secretary without further appropriation until expended to support the enforcement of this section.

''(2) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITING.—If the employer has retained the services of a foreign labor recruiter, the employer shall use a foreign labor recruiter registered under section 1251 of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(3) PROHIBITION AGAINST EMPLOYEES PAYING FEES.—Neither the employer nor its agents shall seek or receive payment of any kind from any worker for any activity related to the H–2A process, including payment of the employer's attorneys' fees, application fees, or recruitment costs. An employer and its agents may receive reimbursement for costs that are the responsibility and primarily for the benefit of the worker, such as government-required passport fees.

''(4) THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTS.—The contract between an employer and any labor contractor or any foreign labor recruiter (or any agent of such labor contractor or foreign labor recruiter) whom the employer engages shall include a term providing for the termination of such contract for cause if the contractor or recruiter, either directly or indirectly, in the placement or recruitment of H–2A workers seeks or receives payments or other compensation from prospective employees. Upon learning that a labor contractor or foreign labor recruiter has sought or collected such payments, the employer shall so terminate any contracts with such contractor or recruiter.

''(m) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take such actions against employers, including issuing subpoenas, imposing appropriate penalties, and seeking monetary and injunctive relief and specific performance of contractual obligations, as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section and with the applicable terms and conditions of employment. The Solicitor of Labor may appear on behalf of and represent the Secretary of Labor in any civil litigation brought under this chapter, but all such litigation shall be subject to the direction and control of the Attorney General.

''(2) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—

''(A) PROCESS.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints alleging failure of an employer to comply with the requirements under this section and with the applicable terms and conditions of employment.

''(B) FILING.—A complaint referred to in subparagraph (A) may be filed not later than 2 years after the date of the conduct that is the subject of the complaint.

''(C) COMPLAINT NOT EXCLUSIVE.—A complaint filed under this paragraph is not an exclusive remedy and the filing of such a complaint does not waive any rights or remedies of the aggrieved party under this law or other laws.

''(D) DECISION AND REMEDIES.—If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the employer failed to comply with the requirements of this section or the terms and conditions of employment, the Secretary of Labor may require payment of unpaid wages, unpaid benefits, fees assessed in violation of this section, damages, and civil money penalties. The Secretary is also authorized to impose other administrative remedies, including disqualification of the employer from utilizing the H–2A program for a period of up to 5 years in the event of willful or multiple material violations. The Secretary is authorized to permanently disqualify an employer from utilizing the H–2A program upon a subsequent finding involving willful or multiple material violations.

''(E) DISPOSITION OF PENALTIES.—Civil penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account established under section 1203 of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor to conduct an investigation—

''(A) under any other law, including any law affecting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers; or

''(B) in the absence of a complaint.

''(4) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—It is a violation of this subsection for any person to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, or in any other manner discriminate against, or to cause any person to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, or in any manner discriminate against, an employee, including a former employee or an applicant for employment, because the employee—

''(A) has disclosed information to the employer, or to any other person, that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation under this section, or any rule or regulation relating to this section;

''(B) has filed a complaint concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements under this section or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section;

''(C) cooperates or seeks to cooperate in an investigation or other proceeding concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements under this section or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section; or

''(D) has taken steps to exercise or assert any right or protection under the provisions of this section, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section, or any other relevant Federal, State, or local law.

''(5) INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of State and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, shall establish mechanisms by which the agencies and their components share information, including by public electronic means, regarding complaints, studies, investigations, findings and remedies regarding compliance by employers with the requirements of the H–2A program and other employment-related laws and regulations.

''(n) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DISPLACE.—The term 'displace' means to lay off a similarly employed United States worker, other than for lawful job-related reasons, in the occupation and area of intended employment for the job for which H–2A workers are sought.

''(2) H–2A WORKER.—The term 'H–2A worker' means a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a).

''(3) JOB ORDER.—The term 'job order' means the document containing the material terms and conditions of employment, including obligations and assurances required under this section or any other law.

''(4) ONLINE JOB REGISTRY.—The term 'online job registry' means the online job registry of the Secretary of Labor required under section 1201(b) of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025 (or similar successor registry).

''(5) SIMILARLY EMPLOYED.—The term 'similarly employed', in the case of a worker, means a worker in the same occupational classification as the classification or classifications for which the H–2A worker is sought.

''(6) UNITED STATES WORKER.—The term 'United States worker' means any worker who is—

''(A) a citizen or national of the United States;

''(B) an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is admitted as a refugee under section 207, is granted asylum under section 208, or is an immigrant otherwise authorized to be employed in the United States;

''(C) an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025; or

''(D) an individual who is not an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3)) with respect to the employment in which the worker is engaging.

''(o) FEES; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall impose a fee to process petitions under this section. Such fee shall be set at a level that is sufficient to recover the reasonable costs of processing the petition, including the reasonable costs of providing labor certification by the Secretary of Labor.

''(B) DISTRIBUTION.—Fees collected under subparagraph (A) shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the immigration examinations fee account in section 286(m), except that the portion of fees assessed for the Secretary of Labor shall be deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account established pursuant to section 1203(c) of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025.

''(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as necessary for the purposes of—

''(A) recruiting United States workers for labor or services which might otherwise be performed by H–2A workers, including by ensuring that State workforce agencies are sufficiently funded to fulfill their functions under this section;

''(B) enabling the Secretary of Labor to make determinations and certifications under this section and under section 212(a)(5)(A)(i);

''(C) monitoring and enforcing the terms and conditions under which H–2A workers (and United States workers employed by the same employers) are employed in the United States; and

''(D) enabling the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Secretary of Agriculture's duties and responsibilities under this section.''.

SEC. 1203. AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.—With respect to the administration of the H–2A nonimmigrant visa program (referred to in this section as the ''H–2A program''), the Secretary of Labor shall be responsible for—

(1) consulting with State workforce agencies to—

(A) review and process job orders;

(B) facilitate the recruitment and referral of able, willing and qualified United States workers who will be available at the time and place needed;

(C) determine prevailing wages and practices; and

(D) conduct timely inspections to ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, or local housing standards and Federal regulations for H–2A housing;

(2) determining whether the employer has met the conditions for approval of the H–2A nonimmigrant visa petition described in section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188);

(3) determining, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, whether a job opportunity is of a seasonal or temporary nature;

(4) determining whether the employer has complied or will comply with the H–2A program requirements set forth in section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188);

(5) processing and investigating complaints consistent with section 218(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(m));

(6) referring any matter as appropriate to the Inspector General of the Department of Labor for investigation;

(7) ensuring that guidance to State workforce agencies to conduct wage surveys is regularly updated; and

(8) issuing such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the Secretary of Labor's responsibilities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—With respect to the administration of the H–2A program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall be responsible for—

(1) adjudicating petitions for the admission of nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)) (referred to in this title as ''H–2A workers''), which shall include an assessment as to whether each beneficiary will be employed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the certification and whether any named beneficiaries qualify for such employment;

(2) transmitting a copy of the final decision on the petition to the employer, and in the case of approved petitions, ensuring that the petition approval is reflected in the electronic platform to facilitate the prompt issuance of a visa by the Department of State (if required) and the admission of the H–2A workers to the United States;

(3) establishing a reliable and secure method through which H–2A workers can access information about their H–2A visa status, including information on pending, approved, or denied petitions to extend such status;

(4) investigating and preventing fraud in the program, including the utilization of H–2A workers for other than allowable agricultural labor or services; and

(5) issuing such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the Secretary of Homeland Security's responsibilities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT; USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ''H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account''. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, there shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the account all amounts—

(A) collected as a civil penalty under section 218(m)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(m)(2)(E)); and

(B) collected as a fee under section 218(o)(1)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(o)(1)(B)).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, amounts deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account shall be available (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph) without fiscal year limitation and without the requirement for specification in appropriations Acts to the Secretary of Labor for use, directly or through grants, contracts, or other arrangements, in such amounts as the Secretary of Labor determines are necessary for the costs of Federal and State administration in carrying out activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188).

(B) EXAMPLES OF APPROVED COSTS.—Costs authorized under subparagraph (A) may include—

(i) personnel salaries and benefits;

(ii) equipment and infrastructure for adjudication and customer service processes;

(iii) the operation and maintenance of an on-line job registry; and

(iv) program integrity activities.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining what amounts to transfer to States for State administration in carrying out activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) consider the number of H–2A workers employed in such State; and

(ii) adjust the amount transferred to such State based on the proportion of H–2A workers employed in such State.

(D) AUDITS; CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.—Ten percent of the amounts deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be available to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor to conduct audits and criminal investigations relating to foreign labor certification programs.

(3) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts available under paragraph (1) shall be available in addition to any other funds appropriated or made available to the Department of Labor under other laws, including section 218(o)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(o)(2)).

SEC. 1204. WORKER PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE.

(a) EQUALITY OF TREATMENT.—H–2A workers may not be denied any right or remedy under any Federal, State, or local labor or employment law applicable to United States workers engaged in agricultural employment.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—

(1) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION ACT.—H–2A workers shall be considered migrant agricultural workers for purposes of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(2) WAIVER OF RIGHTS PROHIBITED.—Agreements by H–2A workers to waive or modify any rights or protections under this Act or section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 1202, shall be considered void or contrary to public policy except as provided in a collective bargaining agreement with a bona fide labor organization.

(3) FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS PROHIBITED.—A legal representative of an H–2A worker who seeks to enforce rights guaranteed under this Act or under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 1202, shall comply with Rules 8 and 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(4) DEMAND LETTER PROHIBITIONS.—A legal representative of an H–2A worker, or a class of workers, may not send a demand letter to the employer of such worker, or class of workers, regarding a violation of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and demanding a monetary payment without a good faith basis that there are sufficient facts to support such an allegation.

(5) THIRD-PARTY LAWSUITS.—All named plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the employer of an H–2A worker shall be a real party in interest and may not be a third party who is not an H–2A worker, except as otherwise expressly permitted under this Act or any other law.

(6) MEDIATION.—

(A) FREE MEDIATION SERVICES.—The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall be available to assist in resolving disputes arising under this section between H–2A workers and agricultural employers without charge to the parties.

(B) LAWSUITS.—If an H–2A worker files a civil lawsuit alleging 1 or more violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), not later than 60 days after filing proof of service of the complaint, a party to the lawsuit may file a request with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to assist the parties in reaching a satisfactory resolution of all issues involving all parties to the dispute.

(C) NOTICE.—Upon filing a request under subparagraph (B) and giving of notice to the parties, the parties shall attempt mediation within the period specified in subparagraph (D), except that nothing in this paragraph shall limit the ability of a court to order preliminary injunctive relief to protect health and safety or to otherwise prevent irreparable harm.

(D) 90-DAY LIMIT.—The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service may conduct mediation or other nonbinding dispute resolution activities for a period not to exceed 90 days beginning on the date on which the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service receives a request for assistance under subparagraph (B) unless the parties agree to an extension of such period.

(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service $5,600,000 for fiscal year 2024 and $4,600,000 for each of the following 10 fiscal years to carry out this subparagraph.

(ii) MEDIATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is authorized—

(I) to conduct the mediation or other dispute resolution activities from any other account containing amounts available to the Director; and

(II) to reimburse such account with amounts appropriated pursuant to clause (i).

(F) PRIVATE MEDIATION.—If all parties agree, a private mediator may be employed as an alternative to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

(c) FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SURETY BONDS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Section 101 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1811), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) A farm labor contractor shall maintain a surety bond in an amount determined by the Secretary to be sufficient for ensuring the ability of the farm labor contractor to discharge its financial obligations, including payment of wages and benefits to employees. Such a bond shall be available to satisfy any amounts ordered to be paid by the Secretary or by court order for failure to comply with the obligations of this Act. The Secretary of Labor shall annually publish in the Federal Register a schedule of required bond amounts that are determined by such Secretary to be sufficient for farm labor contractors to discharge financial obligations based on the number of workers to be covered.''.

(B) REGISTRATION DETERMINATIONS.—Section 103(a) of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1813(a)), is amended—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting '';''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) has failed to maintain a surety bond in compliance with section 101(e); or

''(8) has been disqualified by the Secretary of Labor from importing nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.''.

(2) SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST.—

(A) DECLARATION.—Section 102 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1812), is amended—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) a declaration, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, stating whether the applicant has a familial, contractual, or employment relationship with, or shares vehicles, facilities, property, or employees with, a person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked, pursuant to section 103.''.

(B) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—Section 103 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1813), as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (and by redesignating the subsequent subsections accordingly):

''(b)(1) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that an applicant for issuance or renewal of a certificate is not the real party in interest in the application if the applicant—

''(A) is the immediate family member of any person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked; and

''(B) identifies a vehicle, facility, or real property under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 102 that has been previously listed by a person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked.

''(2) An applicant described in paragraph (1) bears the burden of demonstrating to the Secretary's satisfaction that the applicant is the real party in interest in the application.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(8)(B) of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1802(8)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) The term 'migrant agricultural worker' does not include any immediate family member of an agricultural employer or a farm labor contractor.''.

SEC. 1205. REPORT ON WAGE PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that addresses—

(1) whether, and the manner in which, the employment of H–2A workers in the United States has impacted the wages, working conditions, or job opportunities of United States farm workers;

(2) whether, and the manner in which, the adverse effect wage rate increases or decreases wages on United States farms, broken down by geographic region and farm size;

(3) whether any potential impact of the adverse effect wage rate varies based on the percentage of workers in a geographic region that are H–2A workers;

(4) the degree to which the adverse effect wage rate is affected by the inclusion in wage surveys of piece rate compensation, bonus payments, and other pay incentives, and whether such forms of incentive compensation should be surveyed and reported separately from hourly base rates;

(5) whether, and the manner in which, other factors may artificially affect the adverse effect wage rate, including factors that may be specific to a region, State, or region within a State;

(6) whether, and the manner in which, the H–2A program affects the ability of United States farms to compete with agricultural commodities imported from outside the United States;

(7) the number and percentage of farm workers in the United States whose incomes are below the poverty line;

(8) whether alternative wage standards would be sufficient to prevent wages in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed from falling below the wage level that would have prevailed in the absence of the H–2A program;

(9) whether any changes are warranted in the current methodologies for calculating the adverse effect wage rate and the prevailing wage; and

(10) recommendations for future wage protection for United States farm workers.

(b) INTERVIEWS.—In gathering information for the report required subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture shall interview equal numbers of representatives of agricultural employers and agricultural workers, both locally and nationally.

SEC. 1206. PORTABLE H–2A VISA PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall promulgate regulations establishing a 6-year pilot program to facilitate the free movement and employment of temporary or

seasonal H–2A workers to perform agricultural labor or services for agricultural employers registered with the Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188), the regulations promulgated pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall establish the requirements for the pilot program in accordance with subsection (b).

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(i) PORTABLE H–2A WORKER.—The term ''portable H–2A worker'' means an H–2A worker described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) PORTABLE H–2A STATUS.—The term ''portable H–2A status'' means the immigration status of a portable H–2A worker.

(2) ONLINE PLATFORM.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish and maintain an online electronic platform to connect portable H–2A workers with registered agricultural employers seeking workers to perform temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services.

(B) POSTING OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES.—Employers shall post information regarding available job opportunities on the platform established pursuant to subparagraph (A), which shall include—

(i) a description of the nature and location of the work to be performed;

(ii) the anticipated period or periods during which workers are needed; and

(iii) the terms and conditions of employment.

(C) SEARCH CRITERIA.—The platform established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall allow portable H–2A workers to search for available job opportunities using relevant criteria, including the types of jobs needed to be filled and the dates and locations workers are needed by an employer.

(3) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding the issuance of the regulation described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may not issue a portable H–2A visa and the Secretary of Homeland Security may not confer portable H–2A status on any alien until the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, determines that—

(A) a sufficient number of employers have been designated as registered agricultural employers pursuant to subsection (b)(1); and

(B) the employers referred to in subparagraph (A) have sufficient job opportunities to employ a reasonable number of portable H–2A workers to initiate the pilot program.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

(1) REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—Agricultural employers shall be provided the ability to seek designation as registered agricultural employers. Reasonable fees may be assessed commensurate with the cost of processing applications for designation. A designation shall be valid for a period of up to 3 years unless revoked for failure to comply with program requirements. Registered employers that comply with program requirements may apply to renew such designation for additional periods of up to 3 years for the duration of the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a).

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Registered agricultural employers—

(i) may employ aliens with portable H–2A status without filing a petition; and

(ii) shall pay such aliens not less than the wage required under section 218(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 1202.

(C) WORKERS' COMPENSATION.—If a job opportunity is not covered by, or is exempt from, the applicable State workers' compensation law, a registered agricultural employer shall provide to portable H–2A workers, at no cost to such workers, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of, and in the course of, the worker's employment, which will provide benefits that are at least equal to the benefits provided under the applicable State workers' compensation law.

(2) DESIGNATED WORKERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Individuals who were previously admitted to the United States in H–2A status, and have maintained such status during the period of their admission, may apply for portable H–2A status. Portable H–2A workers shall be subject to the provisions regarding visa validity and periods of authorized stay and admission applicable to H–2A workers described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 218(j) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1202.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF PORTABLE H–2A STATUS.—

(i) INITIAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED.—An alien may not be granted portable H–2A status without an initial valid offer of employment from a registered agricultural employer to perform temporary or agricultural labor or services.

(ii) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the total number of aliens who may simultaneously hold valid portable H–2A status may not exceed 10,000.

(II) FURTHER LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may further limit the total number of aliens who may be granted portable H–2A status if the Secretary determines that there are an insufficient number of registered agricultural employers or job opportunities to support the employment of the number of portable H–2A workers authorized under subclause (I).

(C) SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A portable H–2A worker, during the period of his or her admission, may perform temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services for any employer in the United States that is designated as a registered agricultural employer pursuant to paragraph (1). An employment arrangement under this section may be terminated by the portable H–2A worker or the registered agricultural employer at any time.

(D) MAINTENANCE OF STATUS.—

(i) TRANSFER TO NEW EMPLOYMENT.—If a portable H–2A worker desires to maintain portable H–2A status after the conclusion of such worker's employment with a registered agricultural employer, such worker shall secure new employment with another registered agricultural employer not later than 60 days after the last day of employment with the previous employer.

(ii) MAINTENANCE OF STATUS.—A portable H–2A worker who does not secure new employment with a registered agricultural employer during the 60-day period referred to in clause (i)—

(I) shall be considered to have failed to maintain portable H–2A status; and

(II) shall depart the United States or be subject to removal under section 237(a)(1)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(1)(C)(i)).

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall conduct investigations and random audits of employers to ensure compliance with the employment-related requirements under this section, in accordance with section 218(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1202.

(B) PENALTIES.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to collect reasonable civil penalties for violations of this section, which may be expended by the Secretary for the administration and enforcement of this section.

(4) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—Section 305 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by striking ''other employment rights as provided in the worker's specific contract under which the nonimmigrant was admitted'' and inserting ''employment-related rights''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 months after the commencement of the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the number of employers designated as registered agricultural employers, disaggregated by geographic region, farm size, and the number of job opportunities offered by such employers;

(2) the number of employers whose designation as a registered agricultural employer was revoked;

(3) the number of individuals granted portable H–2A status during each fiscal year and the number of such individuals who maintained portable H–2A status during all or a portion of the 3-year period of the pilot program;

(4) an assessment of the impact of the pilot program on the wages and working conditions of United States farm workers;

(5) the results of a survey of individuals granted portable H–2A status that describes their experiences with and their feedback regarding the pilot program;

(6) the results of a survey of registered agricultural employers that describes their experiences with and their feedback regarding the pilot program;

(7) an assessment regarding whether the pilot program should be continued and any recommendations for improving the pilot program; and

(8) findings and recommendations regarding effective recruitment mechanisms, including the use of new technology—

(A) to match workers with employers; and

(B) to ensure compliance with applicable labor and employment laws and regulations.

SEC. 1207. IMPROVING ACCESS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

(a) WORLDWIDE LEVEL.—Section 201(d)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''140,000'' and inserting ''200,000''.

(b) VISAS FOR FARM WORKERS.—Section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''40,040'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''40,040'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter before clause (i), by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''100,040''; and

(ii) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) OTHER WORKERS.—Other qualified immigrants who, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph—

''(I) are capable of performing unskilled labor, not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States; or

''(II) can demonstrate employment in the United States as an H–2A nonimmigrant worker for at least 100 days in each of at

least 10 years or for at least 1,000 days within the preceding 10-year period.'';

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) VISAS ALLOCATED FOR OTHER WORKERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), 60,000 of the visas made available under this paragraph shall be reserved for qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

''(ii) PREFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.—Subject to clause (iii), not fewer than 50,000 of the visas described in clause (i) shall be reserved for—

''(I) qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii)(I) who will be performing agricultural labor or services in the United States; and

''(II) qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii)(II).

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—If because of the application of clause (ii), the total number of visas available under this paragraph for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who otherwise may be issued such a visa, clause (ii) shall not apply to visas under this paragraph during the remainder of such calendar quarter.

''(iv) NO PER COUNTRY LIMITS.—Visas described under clause (ii) shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under section 202(a)(2).''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (C) by striking ''An immigrant visa'' and inserting ''Except for qualified immigrants petitioning for classification under subparagraph (A)(iii)(II), an immigrant visa'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''7.1 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''9,940''; and

(5) in paragraph (5)(A), in the matter before clause (i), by striking ''7.1 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''9,940''.

(c) WESTERN HEMISPHERE PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State, may—

(1) identify countries in the Western Hemisphere with large flows of migration outside of normal trade and travel routes to the United States; and

(2) develop tools and resources and establish procedures to connect prospective workers described in section 203(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(iii)) from such countries to United States employers seeking temporary workers to perform agricultural labor or services.

(d) PETITIONING PROCEDURE.—Section 204(a)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(E)) is amended by inserting ''or 203(b)(3)(A)(iii)(II)'' after ''203(b)(1)(A)''.

(e) DUAL INTENT.—Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)) is amended by striking ''section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except subclause (b1) of such section'' and inserting ''clause (i), except subclause (b1), or (ii)(a) of section 101(a)(15)(H)''.

Subtitle B—Preservation and Construction of Farm Worker Housing

SEC. 1220. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Strategy and Investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1221. NEW FARM WORKER HOUSING.

Section 513(e) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1483(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) FUNDING FOR FARM WORKER HOUSING.—

''(1) SECTION 514 FARM WORKER HOUSING LOANS.—

''(A) INSURANCE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture, to the extent approved in appropriation Acts, may insure loans under section 514 totaling not more than $20,000,000 during each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2033.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $75,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2033 for the cost (as such term is defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5))) of loans insured pursuant to subparagraph (A).

''(2) SECTION 516 GRANTS FOR FARMWORKER HOUSING.—There is authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2033 for financial assistance authorized under section 516.

''(3) SECTION 521 HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated $26,800,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2033 for—

''(A) rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to section 521(a)(2); or

''(B) agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households authorized under section 502(c)(5)(D).

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated 5 percent of any amounts made available for the housing assistance program under this section for any fiscal year, which shall be used for administrative expenses for such program.''.

SEC. 1222. LOAN AND GRANT LIMITATIONS.

Section 514 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) PER PROJECT LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE.—If the Secretary, in making available assistance in any area under this section or section 516, establishes a limitation on the amount of assistance available per project, the limitation on a grant or loan award per project shall not be less than $5,000,000.''.

SEC. 1223. OPERATING ASSISTANCE SUBSIDIES.

Section 521(a)(5) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''migrant farmworkers'' and inserting ''migrant farm workers or domestic farm labor legally admitted to the United States and authorized to work in agriculture'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''In any fiscal year'' and inserting the following: ''

''(i) HOUSING FOR MIGRANT FARM WORKERS.—In any fiscal year'';

(B) by inserting ''providing housing for migrant farm workers'' after ''any project''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) HOUSING FOR OTHER FARM LABOR.—The assistance provided under this paragraph in any fiscal year for any project providing housing for domestic farm labor legally admitted to the United States and authorized to work in agriculture may not exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the operating costs for such project for such year, as determined by the Secretary. The owner of such project does not qualify for operating assistance unless the Secretary certifies that—

''(I) such project was unoccupied or underutilized before making units available to such farm labor; and

''(II) a grant under this section will not displace any farm worker who is a United States worker.''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clause (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

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

''(iii) The term 'domestic farm labor' has the meaning given such term in section 514(f)(3), except that subparagraph (A) of such section shall not apply for purposes of this paragraph.''.

SEC. 1224. RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AUTHORITY.

Section 521(d) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

''(B) upon the request of an owner of a project financed under section 514 or 515, the Secretary is authorized to enter into renewal of such agreements for a period equal to the shorter of 20 years or the term of the loan, subject to amounts made available for such purpose in appropriations Acts;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) If any rental assistance contract authority becomes available because of the termination of assistance on behalf of an assisted family—

''(A) at the option of the owner of the rental project, the Secretary shall provide the owner a period of 6 months before such assistance is made available pursuant to subparagraph (B) during which the owner may use such assistance authority to provide assistance of behalf of an eligible unassisted family that—

''(i) is residing in the same rental project that the assisted family resided in prior to such termination; or

''(ii) newly occupies a dwelling unit in such rental project during such period; and

''(B) except for assistance used in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use such remaining authority to provide such assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 515 or under sections 514 and 516.''.

SEC. 1225. ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.

Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ELIGIBILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SECTIONS 514, 515, AND 516 PROJECTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, may provide rural housing vouchers under this section for any low-income household (including households not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a loan made or insured under section 514 or 515 which has been prepaid without restrictions imposed by the Secretary pursuant to section 502(c)(5)(G)(ii)(I), has been foreclosed, or has matured after September 30, 2005, or residing in a property assisted under section 514 or 516 that is owned by a nonprofit organization or public agency.''.

SEC. 1226. PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 545. HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program that preserves and revitalizes multifamily rental housing projects financed under section 515 or under sections 514 and 516.

''(b) NOTICE OF MATURING LOANS.—

''(1) TO OWNERS.—The Secretary shall provide annual written notice to each owner of a property financed under section 515 or under sections 514 and 516 that will mature during the 4-year period beginning on the date on which such notice is provided. Such notice shall set forth—

''(A) the options and financial incentives that are available to facilitate the extension of the loan term; or

''(B) the option to decouple a rental assistance contract pursuant to subsection (f).

''(2) TO TENANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years before the date of maturity of a loan authorized under section 515 or under sections 514 and 516 for real property, the owner of such property who received a notice pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide written notice to each household residing in such property to inform the household of—

''(i) the date of the loan maturity;

''(ii) the possible actions that may happen with respect to the property on or after such date; and

''(iii) how to protect their right to reside in federally assisted housing after such date.

''(B) LANGUAGE.—Each notice provided under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall be written in plain English; and

''(ii) shall be translated to other languages if the relevant property is located in an area in which a significant number of residents speak such other languages.

''(C) NOTICE TEMPLATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, should publish a template of a notice that owners may use to provide the information required under this paragraph to their tenants.

''(c) LOAN RESTRUCTURING.—Under the program carried out under this section, the Secretary may restructure such existing housing loans as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure that such projects have sufficient resources to preserve the projects to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers by—

''(1) reducing or eliminating interest;

''(2) deferring loan payments;

''(3) subordinating, reducing, or reamortizing loan debt; and

''(4) providing other financial assistance, including advances, payments, and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary.

''(d) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—If the Secretary offers to restructure a loan pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary shall offer to renew the rental assistance contract under section 521(a)(2) for a 20-year term, subject to annual appropriations, if the property owner agrees to bring the property up to such standards that will ensure its maintenance as decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the full term of the rental assistance contract.

''(e) RESTRICTIVE USE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—As part of the preservation and revitalization agreement for a project, the Secretary shall obtain a restrictive use agreement that obligates the owner to operate the project in accordance with the provisions under this title.

''(2) TERM.—

''(A) NO EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—Unless the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for the project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be equal to the term of the restructured loan for the project.

''(B) EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be 20 years.

''(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the 20-year use restrictive use agreement for a project before the end of its term if the 20-year rental assistance contract for the project with the owner is terminated at any time for reasons outside the owner's control.

''(f) DECOUPLING OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be restructured in accordance with subsection (c) and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance contract, notwithstanding any provision of section 521, for a term, subject to annual appropriations, of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years.

''(2) RENTS.—Any agreement to extend the term of the rental assistance contract under section 521 for a project shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with this title, except that rents shall be based on the lesser of—

''(A) the budget-based needs of the project; or

''(B) the operating cost adjustment factor as a payment standard as provided under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note).

''(g) MULTIFAMILY HOUSING TRANSFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary may provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing agencies to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to borrowers under loans under this title for multifamily housing to facilitate the acquisition of such multifamily housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines there is a risk of loss of affordable housing.

''(h) TRANSFER OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—After the loan or loans for a rental project originally financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516 have matured or have been prepaid and the owner has chosen not to restructure the loan pursuant to subsection (c), a tenant residing in such project shall have 18 months prior to loan maturation or prepayment to transfer the rental assistance assigned to the tenant's unit to another rental project originally financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516, and the owner of the initial project may rent the tenant's previous unit to a new tenant without income restrictions.

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of any amounts made available for the program under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $1,000,000 for administrative expenses for carrying out such program.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the program under this section $100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2028.''.

SEC. 1227. AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amount of the monthly assistance payment for the household on whose behalf a rural housing voucher is provided pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), shall be determined in accordance with subsection (a) of such section 542.

SEC. 1228. FUNDING FOR MULTIFAMILY TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, which shall be used to improve the technology of the Department of Agriculture that is used to process loans for multifamily housing and otherwise managing such housing.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The improvements authorized under subsection (a) shall be made during the 5-year period beginning upon the date that the amounts appropriated under such subsection are available. Such amounts shall remain available until the last day of such 5-year period.

SEC. 1229. PLAN FOR PRESERVING AFFORDABILITY OF RENTAL PROJECTS.

(a) PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall submit a written plan to Congress for preserving the affordability for low-income families of rental projects for which loans were made under section 514 or 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485) and avoiding the displacement of tenant households. Such plan shall—

(1) set forth specific performance goals and measures;

(2) set forth the specific actions and mechanisms by which such goals will be achieved;

(3) set forth specific measurements by which progress towards achievement of each goal can be measured;

(4) provide for detailed reporting on outcomes; and

(5) include any legislative recommendations to assist in achievement of the goals under the plan.

(b) CONSULTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary shall consult with the individuals described in paragraph (2) to assist the Secretary—

(A) in preserving the properties described in subsection (a) through the housing preservation and revitalization program authorized under section 545 of the Housing Act of 1949, as added by section 1226; and

(B) in implementing the plan required under subsection (a).

(2) CONSULTEES.—The individuals described in this paragraph are—

(A) a State Director of Rural Development for the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator for the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(C) 2 representatives of for-profit developers or owners of multifamily rural rental housing;

(D) 2 representatives of non-profit developers or owners of multifamily rural rental housing;

(E) 2 representatives of State housing finance agencies;

(F) 2 representatives of tenants of multifamily rural rental housing;

(G) 1 representative of a community development financial institution that is involved in preserving the affordability of housing assisted under sections 514, 515, and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485, and 1486);

(H) 1 representative of a nonprofit organization that operates nationally and has actively participated in the preservation of housing assisted by the Rural Housing Service by conducting research regarding, and providing financing and technical assistance for, preserving the affordability of such housing;

(I) 1 representative of low-income housing tax credit investors;

(J) 1 representative of regulated financial institutions that finance affordable multifamily rural rental housing developments; and

(K) 2 representatives from non-profit organizations representing farm workers, including one organization representing farm worker women.

(3) CONDUCT OF CONSULTATIONS.—In consulting with the individuals described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may request that such individuals—

(A) assist the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture to improve estimates of the size, scope, and condition of

rental housing portfolio of the Service, including the time frames for maturity of mortgages and costs for preserving the portfolio as affordable housing;

(B) review current policies and procedures of the Rural Housing Service regarding—

(i) the preservation of affordable rental housing financed under sections 514, 515, 516, and 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485, 1486, and 1490);

(ii) the housing preservation and revitalization program authorized under section 545 of such Act, as added by section 1226; and

(iii) the rental assistance program;

(C) make recommendations regarding improvements and modifications to the policies and procedures referred to in subparagraph (B); and

(D) provide ongoing review of Rural Housing Service program results.

(4) TRAVEL COSTS.—Any amounts made available for administrative costs of the Department of Agriculture may be used for costs of travel by individuals described in paragraph (2) to carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

SEC. 1230. COVERED HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Section 41411(a)(3) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (O), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (P) as subparagraph (Q); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (O) the following:

''(P) rural development housing voucher assistance provided by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), without regard to subsection (b) of such section, and applicable appropriation Acts; and''.

SEC. 1231. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTIFIED WORKERS.

Section 214(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) an alien granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, but solely for financial assistance made available pursuant to section 521 or 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a and 1490r); or''.

Subtitle C—Foreign Labor Recruiter Accountability

SEC. 1251. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITER.—The term ''foreign labor recruiter'' means any person who performs foreign labor recruiting activity in exchange for money or other valuable consideration paid or promised to be paid, to recruit individuals to work as nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)), including any person who performs foreign labor recruiting activity wholly outside of the United States. Such term does not include any entity of the United States Government or an employer, or employee of an employer, who engages in foreign labor recruiting activity solely to find employees for that employer's own use, and without the participation of any other foreign labor recruiter.

(2) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITING ACTIVITY.—The term ''foreign labor recruiting activity'' means recruiting, soliciting, or related activities with respect to an individual who resides outside of the United States in furtherance of employment in the United States, including when such activity occurs wholly outside of the United States.

(3) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means any natural person or any corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint stock company or association or other organization or entity (whether organized under law or not), including municipal corporations.

(4) RECRUITMENT FEES.—The term ''recruitment fees'' has the meaning given to such term under section 22.1702 of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1252. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish procedures for the electronic registration of foreign labor recruiters engaged in the recruitment of nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)) to perform agricultural labor or services in the United States.

(b) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) require the applicant to submit a sworn declaration—

(A) stating the applicant's permanent place of residence or principal place of business, as applicable;

(B) describing the foreign labor recruiting activities in which the applicant is engaged; and

(C) including such other relevant information as the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State may require;

(2) include an expeditious means to update and renew registrations;

(3) include a process, which shall include the placement of personnel at each United States diplomatic mission in accordance with subsection (g)(2), to receive information from the public regarding foreign labor recruiters who have allegedly engaged in a foreign labor recruiting activity that is prohibited under this subtitle;

(4) include procedures for the receipt and processing of complaints against foreign labor recruiters and for remedies, including the revocation of a registration or the assessment of fines upon a determination by the Secretary of Labor that the foreign labor recruiter has violated the requirements under this subtitle;

(5) require the applicant to post a bond in an amount sufficient to ensure the ability of the applicant to discharge its responsibilities and ensure protection of workers, including payment of wages; and

(6) allow the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State to consult with other appropriate Federal agencies to determine whether any reason exists to deny registration to a foreign labor recruiter or revoke such registration.

(c) ATTESTATIONS.—Foreign labor recruiters registering under this subtitle shall attest and agree to abide by the following requirements:

(1) PROHIBITED FEES.—The foreign labor recruiter, including any agent or employee of such foreign labor recruiter, shall not assess any recruitment fees on a worker for any foreign labor recruiting activity.

(2) PROHIBITION ON FALSE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall not knowingly provide materially false or misleading information to any worker concerning any matter required to be disclosed under this subtitle.

(3) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—The foreign labor recruiter shall ascertain and disclose to the worker in writing in English and in the primary language of the worker at the time of the worker's recruitment, the following information:

(A) The identity and address of the employer and the identity and address of the person conducting the recruiting on behalf of the employer, including each subcontractor or agent involved in such recruiting.

(B) A copy of the approved job order or work contract under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188), including all assurances and terms and conditions of employment.

(C) A statement, in a form specified by the Secretary—

(i) describing the general terms and conditions associated with obtaining an H–2A nonimmigrant visa and maintaining H–2A nonimmigrant status;

(ii) affirming the prohibition on the assessment of fees described in paragraph (1), and explaining that such fees, if paid by the employer, may not be passed on to the worker;

(iii) describing the protections afforded the worker under this subtitle, including procedures for reporting violations to the Secretary of State, filing a complaint with the Secretary of Labor, or filing a civil action; and

(iv) describing the protections afforded the worker by section 202 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375b), including the telephone number for the national human trafficking resource center hotline number.

(4) BOND.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to maintain a bond sufficient to ensure the ability of the foreign labor recruiter to discharge its responsibilities and ensure protection of workers, and to forfeit such bond in an amount determined by the Secretary under subsections (b)(1)(C)(ii) or (c)(2)(C) of section 1253 for failure to comply with the provisions under this subtitle.

(5) COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to cooperate in any investigation under section 1253 by the Secretary or other appropriate authorities.

(6) NO RETALIATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to refrain from intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, discharging, blacklisting or in any other manner discriminating or retaliating against any worker or their family members (including a former worker or an applicant for employment) because such worker disclosed information to any person based on a reason to believe that the foreign labor recruiter, or any agent or subcontractee of such foreign labor recruiter, is engaging or has engaged in a foreign labor recruiting activity that does not comply with this subtitle.

(7) EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND SUBCONTRACTEES.—The foreign labor recruiter shall consent to be liable for the conduct of any agents or subcontractees of any level in relation to the foreign labor recruiting activity of the agent or subcontractee to the same extent as if the foreign labor recruiter had engaged in such conduct.

(8) ENFORCEMENT.—If the foreign labor recruiter is conducting foreign labor recruiting activity wholly outside the United States, such foreign labor recruiter shall—

(A) establish a registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the foreign labor recruiter for the purpose of any administrative proceeding under this title or in any civil action in any Federal or State court, if such service is made in accordance with the appropriate Federal or State rules for service of process, as applicable; and

(B) as a condition of registration, consent to the jurisdiction of any Federal or State

court in a State where recruited workers are placed.

(d) TERM OF REGISTRATION.—Unless suspended or revoked, a registration under this section shall be valid for 2 years.

(e) APPLICATION FEE.—The Secretary of Labor shall require a foreign labor recruiter that submits an application for registration under this section to pay a reasonable fee, sufficient to cover the full costs of carrying out the registration activities under this subtitle.

(f) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) EMPLOYER NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every year, an employer of H–2A workers shall provide the Secretary with the names and addresses of all foreign labor recruiters engaged to perform foreign labor recruiting activity on behalf of the employer, whether the foreign labor recruiter is to receive any economic compensation for such services, and, if so, the identity of the person or entity who is paying for the services.

(B) AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE.—In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A), the employer shall—

(i) provide to the Secretary the identity of any foreign labor recruiter whom the employer has reason to believe is engaging in foreign labor recruiting activities that do not comply with this subtitle; and

(ii) promptly respond to any request by the Secretary for information regarding the identity of a foreign labor recruiter with whom the employer has a contract or other agreement.

(2) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITER NOTIFICATION.—A registered foreign labor recruiter shall notify the Secretary, not less frequently than once every year, of the identity of any subcontractee, agent, or foreign labor recruiter employee involved in any foreign labor recruiting activity for, or on behalf of, the foreign labor recruiter.

(g) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—

(1) LISTS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor shall maintain and make publicly available in written form and on the websites of United States embassies in the official language of that country, and on websites maintained by the Secretary of Labor, regularly updated lists—

(A) of foreign labor recruiters who hold valid registrations under this section, including—

(i) the name and address of the foreign labor recruiter;

(ii) the countries in which such recruiters conduct recruitment;

(iii) the employers for whom recruiting is conducted;

(iv) the occupations that are the subject of recruitment;

(v) the States where recruited workers are employed; and

(vi) the name and address of the registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the foreign labor recruiter; and

(B) of foreign labor recruiters whose registration the Secretary has revoked.

(2) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that each United States diplomatic mission is staffed with a person who shall be responsible for receiving information from members of the public regarding potential violations of the requirements applicable to registered foreign labor recruiters and ensuring that such information is conveyed to the Secretary of Labor for evaluation and initiation of an enforcement action, if appropriate.

(3) VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that consular officers issuing visas to nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(1)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 11001(a)(1)(H)(ii)(a))—

(A) provide to and review with the applicant, in the applicant's language (or a language the applicant understands), a copy of the information and resources pamphlet required by section 202 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375b);

(B) ensure that the applicant has a copy of the approved job offer or work contract;

(C) note in the visa application file whether the foreign labor recruiter has a valid registration under this section; and

(D) if the foreign labor recruiter holds a valid registration, review and include in the visa application file, the foreign labor recruiter's disclosures required by subsection (c)(3).

(4) DATA.—The Secretary of State shall make publicly available online, on an annual basis, data disclosing the gender, country of origin (and State, county, or province, if available), age, wage, level of training, and occupational classification, disaggregated by State, of nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)).

SEC. 1253. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION.—

(1) GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OR REVOCATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall deny an application for registration, or revoke a registration, if the Secretary determines that the foreign labor recruiter, or any agent or subcontractee of such foreign labor recruiter—

(A) knowingly made a material misrepresentation in the registration application;

(B) materially failed to comply with one or more of the attestations provided under section 1252(c); or

(C) is not the real party in interest.

(2) NOTICE.—Before denying an application for registration or revoking a registration under this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall provide written notice of the intent to deny or revoke the registration to the foreign labor recruiter. Such notice shall—

(A) articulate with specificity all grounds for denial or revocation; and

(B) provide the foreign labor recruiter with not less than 60 days to respond.

(3) RE-REGISTRATION.—A foreign labor recruiter whose registration was revoked under subsection (a) may re-register if the foreign labor recruiter demonstrates, to the Secretary of Labor's satisfaction, that the foreign labor recruiter—

(A) has not violated any requirement under this subtitle during the 5 year-period immediately preceding the date on which an application for registration was filed; and

(B) has taken sufficient steps to prevent future violations of this subtitle.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—

(A) FILING.—A complaint may be filed with the Secretary of Labor, in accordance with the procedures established under section 1252(b)(4) not later than 2 years after the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the last action constituting the conduct that is the subject of the complaint took place; or

(ii) the date on which the aggrieved party had actual knowledge of such conduct.

(B) DECISION AND PENALTIES.—If the Secretary of Labor determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that a foreign labor recruiter failed to comply with any of the requirements under this subtitle, the Secretary of Labor may—

(i) levy a fine against the foreign labor recruiter in an amount not more than—

(I) $10,000 per violation; and

(II) $25,000 per violation, upon the third violation;

(ii) order the forfeiture (or partial forfeiture) of the bond and release of as much of the bond as the Secretary determines is necessary for the worker to recover prohibited recruitment fees;

(iii) refuse to issue or renew a registration, or revoke a registration; or

(iv) disqualify the foreign labor recruiter from registration for a period of up to 5 years, or in the case of a subsequent finding involving willful or multiple material violations, permanently disqualify the foreign labor recruiter from registration.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take other such actions, including issuing subpoenas and seeking appropriate injunctive relief, as may be necessary to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this subtitle.

(3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor to conduct an investigation—

(A) under any other law, including any law affecting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers; or

(B) in the absence of a complaint.

(c) CIVIL ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor or any person aggrieved by a violation of this subtitle may bring a civil action against any foreign labor recruiter, or any employer that does not meet the requirements under subsection (d)(1), in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive relief; and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(2) AWARD FOR CIVIL ACTION FILED BY AN INDIVIDUAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a court finds, in a civil action filed by an individual under paragraph (1), that the defendant has violated any provision of this subtitle, the court may award—

(i) damages, up to and including an amount equal to the amount of actual damages, and statutory damages of up to $1,000 per plaintiff per violation, or other equitable relief, except that with respect to statutory damages—

(I) multiple infractions of a single provision of this subtitle (or of a regulation under this subtitle) shall constitute only one violation for purposes of this subsection to determine the amount of statutory damages due a plaintiff; and

(II) if such complaint is certified as a class action the court may award—

(aa) damages up to an amount equal to the amount of actual damages; and

(bb) statutory damages of not more than the lesser of up to $1,000 per class member per violation, or up to $500,000; and other equitable relief;

(ii) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

(iii) such other and further relief as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle.

(B) CRITERIA.—In determining the amount of statutory damages to be awarded under subparagraph (A), the court may consider whether an attempt was made to resolve the issues in dispute before the resort to litigation.

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held pursuant to section 1252(c)(4) as is necessary.

(3) SUMS RECOVERED IN ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ''H–2A Foreign Labor Recruiter Compensation Account''. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, there shall be deposited, as offsetting receipts into such account, all sums recovered in an action by the Secretary of Labor under this subsection.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the H–2A Foreign Labor Recruiter Compensation Account shall be paid directly to each worker affected by a violation under this subtitle. Any such sums not paid to a worker because of inability to do so within a period of 5 years following the date such funds are deposited into the account shall remain available to the Secretary until expended. The Secretary may transfer all or a portion of such remaining sums to appropriate agencies to support the enforcement of the laws prohibiting the trafficking and exploitation of persons or programs that aid trafficking victims.

(d) EMPLOYER SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An employer that hires workers referred by a foreign labor recruiter with a valid registration at the time of hiring shall not be held jointly liable for a violation committed solely by a foreign labor recruiter under this subtitle—

(A) in any administrative action initiated by the Secretary concerning such violation; or

(B) in any Federal or State civil court action filed against the foreign labor recruiter by or on behalf of such workers or other aggrieved party under this subtitle.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to prohibit an aggrieved party or parties from bringing a civil action for violations of this subtitle or any other Federal or State law against any employer who hired workers referred by a foreign labor recruiter—

(A) without a valid registration at the time of hire; or

(B) with a valid registration if the employer knew or learned of the violation and failed to report such violation to the Secretary of Labor.

(e) PAROLE TO PURSUE RELIEF.—If other immigration relief is not available, the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to permit an individual to remain legally in the United States for time sufficient to fully and effectively participate in all legal proceedings related to any action taken pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) or section 1202, 1204, or 1206.

(f) WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—Agreements by employees purporting to waive or to modify their rights under this subtitle shall be void as contrary to public policy.

(g) LIABILITY FOR AGENTS.—Foreign labor recruiters shall be subject to the provisions of this section for violations committed by the foreign labor recruiter's agents or subcontractees of any level in relation to their foreign labor recruiting activity to the same extent as if the foreign labor recruiter had committed such a violation.

SEC. 1254. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

TITLE III—ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

SEC. 1301. ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 8 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1321 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 274D the following:

''SEC. 274E. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.

''(a) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') shall establish and administer an electronic verification system (referred to in this section as the 'System'), patterned on the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 1303(a)(4) of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025), and using the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as so in effect) as a foundation, through which the Secretary shall—

''(A) respond to legitimate inquiries made by persons or entities seeking to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals that such persons or entities have hired, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States; and

''(B) maintain records of the inquiries that were made, and of verifications provided (or not provided) to such persons or entities as evidence of compliance with the requirements of this section.

''(2) INITIAL RESPONSE DEADLINE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The System shall provide confirmation or a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 calendar days after the initial inquiry.

''(B) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.—If a person or other entity attempts in good faith to make an inquiry through the System during a period in which the System is offline due to a technical issue, a natural disaster, or another reason, the System shall provide the confirmation or nonconfirmation required under subparagraph (A) as soon as practicable after the System becomes fully operational.

''(3) GENERAL DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall design and operate the System—

''(A) using responsive web design and other technology approaches to maximize its ease of use and accessibility for users on a variety of electronic devices and screen sizes, and in remote locations;

''(B) to maximize the accuracy of responses to inquiries submitted by persons or entities;

''(C) to maximize the reliability of the System and to register each instance when the System is unable to receive inquiries;

''(D) to maintain and safeguard the privacy and security of the personally identifiable information maintained by or submitted to the System, in accordance with applicable law;

''(E) to provide direct notification of an inquiry to an individual with respect to whom the inquiry is made, including the results of such inquiry, and information related to the process for challenging the results, in cases in which the individual has established a user account as described in paragraph (4)(B) or an electronic mail or messaging address for the individual is submitted by the person or entity at the time the inquiry is made; and

''(F) to maintain appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent misuse of the System and unfair immigration-related employment practices.

''(4) MEASURES TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT AND OTHER FORMS OF FRAUD.—To prevent identity theft and other forms of fraud, the Secretary shall design and operate the System with the following attributes:

''(A) PHOTO MATCHING TOOL.—The System shall display a digital photograph of the individual, if available, that corresponds to the document presented by an individual to establish identity and employment authorization so that the person or entity that makes an inquiry can compare the photograph displayed by the System to the photograph on the document presented by the individual. The individual may not be deemed ineligible for employment solely for failure to match using the photo matching tool. The verification of an individual's employment eligibility shall be made based on the totality of the information available.

''(B) INDIVIDUAL MONITORING AND SUSPENSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—The System shall enable individuals to establish user accounts, after authentication of an individual's identity, that would allow each individual—

''(i) to confirm the individual's own employment authorization;

''(ii) to receive electronic notification when the individual's Social Security account number or other personally identifying information has been submitted to the System;

''(iii) to monitor the use history of the individual's personally identifying information in the System, including the identities of all persons or entities that have submitted such identifying information to the System, the date of each query run, and the System response for each query run;

''(iv) to suspend or limit the use of the individual's Social Security account number or other personally identifying information for purposes of the System; and

''(v) to provide notice to the Department of Homeland Security of any suspected identity fraud or other improper use of personally identifying information.

''(C) BLOCKING MISUSED SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this section as the 'Commissioner'), shall issue, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, a final rule establishing a process by which Social Security account numbers that have been identified to be subject to unusual multiple use in the System or that are otherwise suspected or determined to have been compromised by identity fraud or other misuse, will be blocked from use in the System unless an individual using such a number establishes, through secure and fair procedures, that the individual is the legitimate holder of such number.

''(ii) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING SELF LOCK SYSTEM.—During the period in which the Commissioner of Social Security is developing the process required under clause (i), the Commissioner shall maintain the Self Lock system that permits individuals to prevent unauthorized users from using their Social Security account numbers to confirm employment authorization through E–Verify.

''(iii) NOTICE.—If the Secretary blocks or suspends a Social Security account number pursuant to this subparagraph, the Secretary shall provide notice to the persons or entities that have made inquiries to the System using such account number that the identity and employment authorization of the individual who provided such account number must be re-verified.

''(D) ADDITIONAL IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION TOOL.—The Secretary shall develop additional security measures to adequately verify the identity of an individual whose identity may not be verified using the photo

matching tool described in subparagraph (A). Such additional security measures shall be—

''(i) kept up-to-date with technological advances;

''(ii) designed to provide a high level of certainty with respect to identity authentication; and

''(iii) designed to safeguard the individual's privacy and civil liberties.

''(E) CHILD-LOCK PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall establish a reliable, secure program, on a limited, pilot basis, for suspending or limiting the use of the Social Security account number or other personally identifying information of children for purposes of the System.

''(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.—The Commissioner—

''(A) in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish a reliable, secure method that, within the periods specified in paragraph (2) and subsection (b)(4)(D)(i)(II), compares the name and Social Security account number provided in an inquiry against such information maintained by the Commissioner in order to validate (or not validate)—

''(i) the information provided by the person or entity with respect to an individual whose identity and employment authorization the person or entity seeks to confirm;

''(ii) the correspondence of the name and number; and

''(iii) whether the individual has presented a Social Security account number that is not valid for employment;

''(B) may not disclose or release Social Security information (other than such confirmation or nonconfirmation) under the System except as provided under this section;

''(C) shall coordinate and provide the Department of Homeland Security with access to the Social Security Administration's systems that are necessary to resolve tentative nonconfirmations without direct Social Security Administration involvement; and

''(D) shall establish electronic or call-in resolution systems.

''(6) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a reliable, secure method that, within the time periods specified in paragraph (2) and subsection (b)(4)(D)(i)(II), compares the name and identification or other authorization number (or any other information determined relevant by the Secretary) that are provided in an inquiry against such information maintained or accessed by the Secretary in order to validate (or not validate)—

''(i) the information provided;

''(ii) the correspondence of the name and number; and

''(iii) whether the individual is authorized to be employed in the United States.

''(B) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall provide and regularly update required training and training materials on the use of the System for persons and entities making inquiries.

''(C) AUDIT.—The Secretary shall provide for periodic auditing of the System to detect and prevent misuse, discrimination, fraud, and identity theft, to protect privacy and assess System accuracy, and to preserve the integrity and security of the information in the System.

''(D) NOTICE OF SYSTEM CHANGES.—The Secretary shall provide appropriate notification to persons and entities registered in the System of any change made by the Secretary or the Commissioner related to permitted and prohibited documents, and use of the System.

''(7) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—As part of the System, the Secretary of State shall—

''(A) provide to the Secretary with access to passport and visa information as needed to confirm that—

''(i) a passport or passport card presented under subsection (b)(3)(A)(i) confirms the employment authorization and identity of the individual presenting such document;

''(ii) a passport, passport card, or visa photograph matches the Secretary of State's records; and

''(B) provide such assistance as the Secretary may request to resolve tentative nonconfirmations or final nonconfirmations relating to information described in subparagraph (A).

''(8) UPDATING INFORMATION.—The Commissioner, the Secretary, and the Secretary of State shall—

''(A) update records in their custody in a manner that promotes maximum accuracy of the System; and

''(B) provide a process for the prompt correction of erroneous information, including instances in which it is brought to their attention through the tentative nonconfirmation review process under subsection (b)(4)(D).

''(9) MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY SYSTEM USERS.—

''(A) MANDATORY USERS.—Except as otherwise provided under Federal or State law, including sections 1302 and 1303 of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, nothing in this section may be construed to require the use of the System by any person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States.

''(B) VOLUNTARY USERS.—Beginning after the date that is 30 days after the date on which final rules are published under section 1309(a) of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, a person or entity may use the System on a voluntary basis to seek verification of the identity and employment authorization of individuals who the person or entity is hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee for employment in the United States.

''(C) PROCESS FOR NON-USERS.—The employment verification process for any person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States shall be governed by section 274A(b) unless the person or entity—

''(i) is required by Federal or State law to use the System; or

''(ii) has opted to use the System voluntarily in accordance with subparagraph (B).

''(10) NO FEE FOR USE OR INCLUSION.—The Secretary may not charge a fee to any individual, person, or entity to use the System or to be included in the System.

''(11) SYSTEM SAFEGUARDS.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, the Secretary of State, and other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

''(i) develop policies and procedures to ensure protection of the privacy and security of personally identifiable information and identifiers contained in the records accessed or maintained by the System; and

''(ii) develop and deploy appropriate privacy and security training for Federal employees accessing the records under the System.

''(B) PRIVACY AUDITS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, shall conduct regular privacy audits of the policies and procedures established pursuant to subparagraph (A), including—

''(I) any collection, use, dissemination, and maintenance of personally identifiable information; and

''(II) any associated information technology systems.

''(ii) REVIEWS.—The Chief Privacy Officer shall—

''(I) review the results of the audits conducted pursuant to clause (i); and

''(II) recommend to the Secretary any changes that may be necessary to improve the privacy protections of the System.

''(C) PRIVACY AND ACCURACY CERTIFICATION.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall certify to the Secretary, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

''(i) the System appropriately protects the privacy and security of personally identifiable information and identifiers contained in the records accessed or maintained by the System;

''(ii) during 2 consecutive years beginning after the date of the enactment of the Affordable and Secure Food Act of 2025, the System's error rate is not higher than the error rate of the System during the preceding year; and

''(iii) specific steps are being taken to continue to reduce such error rate.

''(D) ACCURACY AUDITS.—Beginning on November 30 of the fiscal year beginning after the fiscal year during which the certification was submitted pursuant to subparagraph (C), and annually thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Secretary, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

''(i) describes in detail—

''(I) the error rate of the System during the previous fiscal year; and

''(II) the methodology employed to prepare the report; and

''(ii) includes recommendations for how the System's error rate may be reduced.

''(b) NEW HIRES, RECRUITMENT, AND REFERRAL.—Notwithstanding section 274A(b), the requirements referred to in paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of section 274A(a) are, in the case of a person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States, the following:

''(1) INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an offer of employment is accepted and ending on the date of hire, the individual shall attest, under penalty of perjury on a form designated by the Secretary, that the individual is authorized to be employed in the United States by providing on such form—

''(A) the individual's name and date of birth;

''(B) the individual's Social Security account number (unless the individual has applied for and not yet been issued such a number);

''(C) whether the individual is—

''(i) a citizen or national of the United States;

''(ii) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

''(iii) an alien who is otherwise authorized by the Secretary to be employed in the United States; and

''(D) if the individual does not attest to United States citizenship or nationality, such identification or other authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary may specify.

''(2) EMPLOYER ATTESTATION AFTER EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 3 business days after the date of hire, the individual or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury on the form designated under paragraph (1), the verification that the individual is not an unauthorized alien by—

''(A) obtaining from the individual the information described in paragraph (1) and recording such information on the form;

''(B) examining—

''(i) a document described in paragraph (3)(A); or

''(ii) a document described in paragraph (3)(B) and a document described in paragraph (3)(C); and

''(C) attesting that the information recorded on the form is consistent with the documents examined.

''(3) ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS.—

''(A) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual's—

''(i) United States passport or passport card;

''(ii) permanent resident card that contains a photograph;

''(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I–551 (or successor) stamp from the Department of Homeland Security or a printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa;

''(iv) unexpired employment authorization document that contains a photograph;

''(v) in the case of a nonimmigrant alien authorized to engage in employment for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I–94, Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary specifying the alien's nonimmigrant status as long as such status has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

''(vi) passport from the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands with Form I–94, Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary, indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands; or

''(vii) another document designated by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, if the document—

''(I) contains a photograph of the individual, biometric identification data, and other personal identifying information relating to the individual;

''(II) is evidence of authorization for employment in the United States; and

''(III) contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(B) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) an individual's driver's license or identification card if the license or card—

''(I) was issued by a State or an outlying possession of the United States;

''(II) contains a photograph and personal identifying information relating to the individual; and

''(III) meets the requirements under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note) and complies with the travel rules under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative;

''(ii) an individual's unexpired United States military identification card;

''(iii) an individual's unexpired Native American tribal identification document issued by a tribal entity recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; or

''(iv) a document establishing identity that the Secretary determines, by notice published in the Federal Register, to be acceptable for purposes of this subparagraph, if such documentation contains—

''(I) a photograph of the individual and other personal identifying information relating to the individual; and

''(II) security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(C) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) an individual's Social Security account number card (other than such a card which specifies on its face that the issuance of the card does not authorize employment in the United States); or

''(ii) a document establishing employment authorization that the Secretary determines, by notice published in the Federal Register, to be acceptable for purposes of this subparagraph if such documentation contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(D) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary determines that any document or class of documents described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) does not reliably establish identity or employment authorization or is being used fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, may prohibit or place conditions on the use of such document or class of documents for purposes of this section.

''(E) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, may confirm the identity of an individual who submits a document described in subparagraph (B)(iv) that does not contain a photograph of the individual under exceptional circumstances, including the individual's religious beliefs.

''(4) USE OF THE SYSTEM TO SCREEN IDENTITY AND EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States, during the period described in subparagraph (B), shall submit an inquiry through the System to seek confirmation of the identity and employment authorization of the individual.

''(B) CONFIRMATION PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), and subject to subsection (d), the confirmation period shall begin on the date of hire and end on the date that is 3 business days after the date of hire, or such other reasonable period as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The confirmation period of an alien who is authorized to be employed in the United States and provides evidence from the Social Security Administration that the alien has applied for a Social Security account number shall end 3 business days after the alien receives such Social Security account number.

''(C) CONFIRMATION.—A person or entity receiving confirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization shall record such confirmation on the form designated by the Secretary for purposes of paragraph (1).

''(D) TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In cases of tentative nonconfirmation, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall provide a process for—

''(I) an individual to contest the tentative nonconfirmation not later than 10 business days after the date of the receipt of the notice described in clause (ii); and

''(II) the Secretary to issue a confirmation or final nonconfirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization not later than 30 days after the Secretary receives notice from the individual contesting a tentative nonconfirmation.

''(ii) NOTICE.—Not later than 3 business days after receiving a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity or employment authorization in the System, a person or entity shall—

''(I) provide such individual with written notification—

''(aa) in a language understood by the individual;

''(bb) on a form designated by the Secretary; and

''(cc) that includes a description of the individual's right to contest the tentative nonconfirmation; and

''(II) attest, under penalty of perjury, that the person or entity provided (or attempted to provide) such notice to the individual, who shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in a manner specified by the Secretary.

''(iii) NO CONTEST.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A tentative nonconfirmation shall become final if, upon receiving the notice described in clause (ii), the individual—

''(aa) refuses to acknowledge receipt of such notice;

''(bb) acknowledges in writing, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the individual will not contest the tentative nonconfirmation; or

''(cc) fails to contest the tentative nonconfirmation within the 10-business-day period beginning on the date the individual received such notice.

''(II) RECORD OF NO CONTEST.—The person or entity shall—

''(aa) indicate in the System that the individual refused to acknowledge receipt of, or did not contest, the tentative nonconfirmation; and

''(bb) specify the reason that the tentative nonconfirmation became final under subclause (I).

''(III) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO CONTEST.—An individual's failure to contest a tentative nonconfirmation shall not be considered an admission of any fact with respect to any violation of this Act or any other provision of law.

''(iv) CONTEST.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—An individual may contest a tentative nonconfirmation by using the tentative nonconfirmation review process under clause (i), not later than 10 business days after receiving the notice described in clause (ii). Except as provided in clause (iii), the nonconfirmation shall remain tentative until a confirmation or final nonconfirmation is provided by the System.

''(II) PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION.—A person or entity may not terminate employment or take any adverse employment action against an individual for failure to obtain confirmation of the individual's identity and employment authorization until the person or entity receives a notice of final nonconfirmation from the System. Nothing in this subclause may be construed to prohibit an employer from terminating the employment of the individual for any other lawful reason.

''(III) CONFIRMATION OR FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall issue notice of a confirmation or final nonconfirmation of the individual's identity and employment authorization not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives notice from the individual contesting the tentative nonconfirmation.

''(IV) CONTINUANCE.—If the relevant data needed to confirm the identity of an individual is not maintained by the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, or the Department of State, or if the employee is unable to contact the Department of Homeland Security or the Social Security Administration, the Secretary,

in the sole discretion of the Secretary, may place the case in continuance.

''(E) FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) NOTICE.—If a person or entity receives a final nonconfirmation of an individual's identity or employment authorization, the person or entity, not later than 5 business days after receiving such final nonconfirmation, shall—

''(I) notify such individual of the final nonconfirmation in writing, on a form designated by the Secretary, which shall include information regarding the individual's right to appeal the final nonconfirmation in accordance with subparagraph (F); and

''(II) attest, under penalty of perjury, that the person or entity provided (or attempted to provide) the notice to the individual, who shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in a manner designated by the Secretary.

''(ii) TERMINATION OR NOTIFICATION OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If a person or entity receives a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual, the person or entity may terminate employment of the individual. If the person or entity does not terminate such employment pending appeal of the final nonconfirmation, the person or entity shall notify the Secretary of such fact through the System. Failure to notify the Secretary in accordance with this clause shall be deemed a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A).

''(iii) PRESUMPTION OF VIOLATION FOR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If a person or entity continues to employ an individual after receipt of a final nonconfirmation, and an appeal of the nonconfirmation is not pending, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person or entity has violated paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of section 274A(a).

''(F) APPEAL OF FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner and the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, shall develop a process by which an individual may seek administrative review of a final nonconfirmation. Such process shall—

''(I) permit the individual to submit additional evidence establishing identity or employment authorization;

''(II) ensure prompt resolution of an appeal, including a response to the appeal in all circumstances within 60 days; and

''(III) permit the Secretary to impose a civil money penalty equal to not more than $500 on any individual who files a frivolous appeal or files an appeal for purposes of delay.

''(ii) COMPENSATION FOR LOST WAGES RESULTING FROM GOVERNMENT ERROR OR OMISSION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If, upon consideration of an appeal of a final nonconfirmation, the Secretary determines that the final nonconfirmation was issued in error, the Secretary shall further determine whether the final nonconfirmation was the result of government error or omission. If the Secretary determines that the final nonconfirmation was solely the result of Government error or omission and the individual was terminated from employment, the Secretary shall compensate the individual for lost wages.

''(II) CALCULATION OF LOST WAGES.—Lost wages shall be calculated based on the wage rate and work schedule that were in effect prior to the individual's termination. The individual shall be compensated for lost wages beginning on the first scheduled work day after employment was terminated and ending 90 days after completion of the administrative review process described in this subparagraph or the day the individual is reinstated or obtains other employment, whichever occurs first.

''(III) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—Compensation for lost wages may not be awarded for any period during which the individual was not authorized for employment in the United States.

''(IV) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury, a separate account, which shall be known as the 'Electronic Verification Compensation Account'. Monetary penalties collected pursuant to subsections (f) and (g) shall be deposited in the Electronic Verification Compensation Account and shall remain available for purposes of providing compensation for lost wages under this clause.

''(iii) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the dismissal of an appeal under this subparagraph, an individual may seek judicial review of such dismissal in the United States District Court in the jurisdiction in which the employer resides or conducts business.

''(5) RETENTION OF VERIFICATION RECORDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After completing the form designated by the Secretary under paragraph (1) with respect to an individual, a person or entity shall retain such form in paper, microfiche, microfilm, electronic, or other format deemed acceptable by the Secretary, and make such form available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the verification is completed and ending on the later of—

''(i) the date that is 3 years after the date of hire; or

''(ii) the date that is 1 year after the date on which such individual's employment is terminated.

''(B) COPYING OF DOCUMENTATION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person or entity may, for the purpose of complying with the requirements under this section—

''(i) copy a document presented by an individual pursuant to this subsection; and

''(ii) retain such copy.

''(c) REVERIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(1) MANDATORY REVERIFICATION.—A person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States shall submit an inquiry through the System to verify the identity and employment authorization of—

''(A) an individual with a limited period of employment authorization, when such employment authorization expires;

''(B) an individual, not later than 10 days after receiving a notification from the Secretary requiring the verification of such individual pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(C); and

''(C) an individual employed by an employer required to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) by reason of any Federal, State, or local law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under such laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation).

''(2) REVERIFICATION PROCEDURES.—The verification procedures under subsection (b) shall apply to reverifications under this subsection, except that employers shall—

''(A) use a form designated by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(B) retain the form in paper, microfiche, microfilm, electronic, or other format approved by the Secretary, and make the form available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the reverification commences and ending on the later of—

''(i) the date that is 3 years after the date of reverification; or

''(ii) the date that is 1 year after the date on which the individual's employment is terminated.

''(d) GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person or entity that uses the System is considered to have complied with the requirements under this section notwithstanding a technical failure of the System, or other technical or procedural failure to meet such requirement if there was a good faith attempt to comply with such requirement.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR FAILURE TO CORRECT AFTER NOTICE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

''(A) the failure of the person or entity to meet a requirement under this section is not de minimis;

''(B) the Secretary has provided notice to the person or entity of such failure, including an explanation as to why such failure is not de minimis;

''(C) the person or entity has been provided a period of not less than 30 days (beginning after the date of the notice) to correct such failure; and

''(D) the person or entity has not corrected such failure voluntarily within such period.

''(3) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRACTICE VIOLATORS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person or entity that has engaged or is engaging in a pattern or practice of violations of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a).

''(4) DEFENSE.—A person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States—

''(A) shall not be liable to a job applicant, an employee, the Federal Government, or a State or local government, under Federal, State, or local criminal or civil law, for any employment-related action taken with respect to an employee in good-faith reliance on information provided by the System; and

''(B) shall be deemed to have established compliance with its obligations under this section, absent a showing by the Secretary, by clear and convincing evidence, that the employer had knowledge that an employee is an unauthorized alien.

''(e) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the issuance or use of national identification cards or the establishment of a national identification card.

''(2) USE OF RECORDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this section may be construed to permit or allow any department, bureau, or other agency of the United States Government to utilize any information, database, or other records assembled under this section for any purpose other than the verification of identity and employment authorization of an individual or to ensure the secure, appropriate, and non-discriminatory use of the System.

''(f) PENALTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the provisions of subsections (e) through (g) of section 274A shall apply with respect to compliance with the provisions under this section and penalties for noncompliance for persons or entities that use the System.

''(2) CEASE AND DESIST ORDER WITH CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR HIRING, RECRUITING, AND REFERRAL VIOLATIONS.—Notwithstanding the civil money penalties set forth in section 274A(e)(4), with respect to a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) by a

person or entity that is subject to the provisions under this section that has hired, recruited, or referred for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States, a cease and desist order—

''(A) shall require the person or entity to pay a civil penalty in an amount, subject to subsection (d), that is equal to—

''(i) not less than $2,500 and not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom a violation of either such subsection occurred;

''(ii) not less than $5,000 and not more than $10,000 for each such alien in the case of a person or entity previously subject to more than 1 order under this paragraph; or

''(iii) not less than $10,000 and not more than $25,000 for each such alien in the case of a person or entity previously subject to more than 1 order under this paragraph; and

''(B) may require the person or entity to take other appropriate remedial action.

''(3) ORDER FOR CIVIL MONEY PENALTY FOR VERIFICATION VIOLATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 274A(e) and any other Federal law relating to civil monetary penalties, any person or entity that is required to comply with the provisions of this section that violates section 274A(a)(1)(B) shall be required to pay a civil penalty in an amount, subject to paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), that is equal to not less than $1,000 and not more than $25,000 for each individual with respect to whom such violation occurred.

''(4) SYSTEM USE VIOLATION.—Failure by a person or entity to utilize the System as required by law or providing information to the System that the person or entity knows or reasonably believes to be false, shall be treated as a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A).

''(5) EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR GOOD FAITH VIOLATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person or entity that uses the System is presumed to have acted with knowledge for purposes of paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of section 274A(a) if the person or entity fails to make an inquiry to verify the identity and employment authorization of the individual through the System.

''(B) GOOD FAITH EXEMPTION.—In the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) for hiring or continuation of employment or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, and in the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (3) for a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(B) for hiring or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, the penalty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if the person or entity establishes that the person or entity acted in good faith.

''(6) PENALTY ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.—For purposes of paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), when assessing the level of civil money penalties for a particular case, in addition to the good faith of the person or entity being charged, due consideration shall be given to factors such as the size of the business, the seriousness of the violation, whether or not the individual was an unauthorized alien, and the history of previous violations, which factors may be aggravating, mitigating, or neutral depending on the facts of each case.

''(7) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Notwithstanding section 274A(f)(1) and the provisions of any other Federal law relating to fine levels, any person or entity required to comply with the provisions under this section that engages in a pattern or practice of violations of paragraph (1) or (2) of section 274A(a)—

''(A) shall be fined not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom such a violation occurs;

''(B) shall imprisoned for not more than 18 months; or

''(C) shall subject to the fine under subparagraph (A) and imprisonment under subparagraph (B).

''(8) ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.—Civil money penalties collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the Electronic Verification Compensation Account for the purpose of compensating individuals for lost wages as a result of a final nonconfirmation issued by the System that was based on government error or omission, in accordance with subsection (b)(4)(F)(ii)(IV).

''(9) DEBARMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a person or entity is a repeat violator of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) or has been convicted of a crime under section 274A, such person or entity may be considered for debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(B) NO CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General determines that a person or entity should be considered for debarment under this paragraph, and such person or entity does not hold a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall refer the matter to the Administrator of General Services to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(C) CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General determines that a person or entity should be considered for debarment under this paragraph, and such person or entity holds a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or the Attorney General—

''(i) shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the person or entity of the Government's interest in having such person or entity considered for debarment; and

''(ii) after soliciting and considering the views of all such agencies and departments, may refer the matter to the appropriate lead agency to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity in accordance with this subsection shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(10) PREEMPTION.—This section preempts any State or local law, ordinance, policy, or rule, including any criminal or civil fine or penalty structure, relating to the hiring, continued employment, or status verification for employment eligibility purposes, of unauthorized aliens, except that a State, locality, municipality, or political subdivision may exercise its authority over business licensing and similar laws as a penalty for failure to use the System as required under this section.

''(g) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND THE SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the prohibitions on discrimination set forth in section 274B, it is an unfair immigration-related employment practice for a person or entity, in the course of utilizing the System—

''(A) to use the System for screening an applicant before the date of hire;

''(B) to terminate the employment of an individual or take any adverse employment action with respect to that individual due to a tentative nonconfirmation issued by the System;

''(C) to use the System to screen any individual for any purpose other than confirmation of identity and employment authorization in accordance with this section;

''(D) to use the System to verify the identity and employment authorization of a current employee, including an employee continuing in employment, other than for purposes of reverification authorized under subsection (c);

''(E) to use the System to discriminate based on national origin or citizenship status;

''(F) to willfully fail to provide an individual with any notice required under this chapter;

''(G) to require an individual to make an inquiry under the self-verification procedures described in subsection (a)(4)(B) or to provide the results of such an inquiry as a condition of employment, or hiring, recruiting, or referring; or

''(H) to terminate the employment of an individual or take any adverse employment action with respect to that individual based upon the need to verify the identity and employment authorization of the individual in accordance with subsection (b).

''(2) PREEMPLOYMENT SCREENING AND BACKGROUND CHECK.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(A) may be construed to preclude a preemployment screening or background check that is required or permitted under any other provision of law.

''(3) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES INVOLVING SYSTEM MISUSE.—Notwithstanding section 274B(g)(2)(B)(iv), the penalties that may be imposed by an administrative law judge with respect to a finding that a person or entity has engaged in an unfair immigration-related employment practice described in paragraph (1) are—

''(A) not less than $1,000 and not more than $4,000 for each aggrieved individual;

''(B) in the case of a person or entity previously subject to a single order under this paragraph, not less than $4,000 and not more than $10,000 for each aggrieved individual; and

''(C) in the case of a person or entity previously subject to more than 1 order under this paragraph, not less than $6,000 and not more than $20,000 for each aggrieved individual.

''(4) ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.—

''(A) USE OF CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES.—Civil money penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Electronic Verification Compensation Account for the purpose of compensating individuals for lost wages as a result of a final nonconfirmation issued by the System that was based on a Government error or omission described in subsection (b)(4)(F)(ii)(IV).

''(B) ALTERNATIVE USE OF FUNDS.—Any amounts deposited into the Electronic Verification Compensation Account pursuant to subparagraph (A) that are not used within 5 years to compensate individuals under such subparagraph shall be made available to the Secretary and the Attorney General to provide education to employers and employees regarding the requirements, obligations, and rights under the System.

''(h) CLARIFICATION.—All rights and remedies provided under any Federal, State, or local law relating to workplace rights, including back pay, are available to an employee despite—

''(1) the employee's status as an unauthorized alien during or after the period of employment; or

''(2) the employer's or employee's failure to comply with the requirements under this section.

''(i) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term 'date of hire' means the date on which employment for pay or other remuneration commences.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 274D the following:

''Sec. 274E. Requirements for the electronic verification of employment eligibility.''.

SEC. 1302. MANDATORY ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''agricultural employment'' means agricultural labor or services (as defined in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii))).

(b) IN GENERAL.—The requirements for the electronic verification of identity and employment authorization described in section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as add by section 1301, shall apply to a person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for agricultural employment in the United States in accordance with the effective dates set forth in subsection (c).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) HIRING.—The requirements described in subsection (b) shall apply to a person or entity hiring an individual for agricultural employment in the United States—

(A) with respect to employers that, on the date of the enactment of this Act, have 500 or more employees in the United States, beginning on the later of—

(i) the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security makes the certification required under section 274E(a)(11) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a); or

(ii) 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) with respect to employers that, on the date of the enactment of this Act, have 100 or more employees in the United States, but fewer than 500 such employees, beginning on the date that is 3 months after the date on which such requirements are applicable to employers described in subparagraph (A);

(C) with respect to employers that, on the date of the enactment of this Act, have 20 or more employees in the United States, but fewer than 100 such employees, beginning on the date that is 6 months after the date on which such requirements are applicable to employers described in subparagraph (A); and

(D) with respect to employers that, on the date of the enactment of this Act, have fewer than 20 employees in the United States, beginning on the date that is 9 months after the date on which such requirements are applicable to employers described in subparagraph (A).

(2) RECRUITING AND REFERRING FOR A FEE.—The requirements under subsection (b) shall apply to any person or entity recruiting or referring for a fee an individual for agricultural employment in the United States on the date that is 1 year after the completion of the application period described in section 1101(c).

(3) TRANSITION RULE.—Except as required under subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 1303(a)(4), Executive Order 13465 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note; relating to Government procurement), or any State law requiring persons or entities to use the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect on the day before such effective date, sections 274A and 274B of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a and 1324b) shall apply to a person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States until the applicable effective date under this subsection.

(4) E–VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS AND OTHERS DESIRING EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit persons or entities, including persons or entities that have voluntarily elected to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 1303(a)(4), from seeking early compliance on a voluntary basis.

(5) DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, may delay the effective dates described in paragraphs (1) and (2) for a period not to exceed 180 days if the Secretary determines, based on the most recent report described in section 1133 and other relevant data, that a significant number of applications under section 1101 remain pending.

(d) RURAL ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE FOR TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION REVIEW PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, and in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall create a process for individuals to seek assistance in contesting a tentative nonconfirmation (as described in section 274E(b)(4)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a)), at local offices or service centers of the Department of Agriculture.

(2) STAFFING AND RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that local offices and service centers of the Department of Agriculture are staffed appropriately and have the resources necessary to provide information and support to individuals seeking the assistance described in paragraph (1), including by facilitating communication between such individuals and the Department of Homeland Security or the Social Security Administration.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to delegate authority or transfer responsibility for reviewing and resolving tentative nonconfirmations from the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Commissioner of Social Security to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(e) DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND IDENTITY.—In accordance with section 274E(b)(3)(A)(vii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a), and not later than 1 year after the completion of the application period described in section 1101(c), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall recognize documentary evidence of certified agricultural worker status described in section 1102(a)(2) as valid proof of employment authorization and identity for purposes of section 274E(b)(3)(A) of such Act.

SEC. 1303. COORDINATION WITH E–VERIFY PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle A of title IV.

(3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal, State, or local law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of, or pertaining to, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or the Social Security Administration, to the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), or to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), is deemed to refer to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a).

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection, and the amendments made by this subsection, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date on which final rules are published pursuant to section 1309(a).

(b) FORMER E–VERIFY MANDATORY USERS, INCLUDING FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Beginning on the effective date set forth in subsection (a)(4), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall require employers required to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) by reason of any Federal, State, or local law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation), to comply with the requirements under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a) (and any additional requirements of such Federal acquisition laws and regulation) instead of any requirement to participate in the E–Verify Program.

(c) FORMER E–VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS.—Beginning on the effective date set forth in subsection (a)(4), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide for the voluntary compliance with the requirements under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a), by employers voluntarily electing to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) before such effective date.

SEC. 1304. FRAUD AND MISUSE OF DOCUMENTS.

Section 1546(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''identification document,'' and inserting ''identification document or document intended to establish employment authorization,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''identification document'' and inserting ''identification document or document intended to establish employment authorization,''; and

(3) in the undesignated matter following paragraph (3) by striking ''of section 274A(b)'' and inserting ''under section 274A(b) or 274E(b)''.

SEC. 1305. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS.—Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking ''subsection (b) or (ii)'' and inserting the following: ''subsection (b); or

''(ii)''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''subsection (b).'' and inserting ''section 274E.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The requirements referred'' and inserting ''Except as provided in section 274E, the requirements referred''.

(b) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—Section 274B(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''in the case of a protected individual (as defined in paragraph (3)),'';

(2) by striking paragraph (3); and

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

''(3) MISUSE OF VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—It is an unfair immigration-related employment practice for a person or other entity to misuse the verification system as described in section 274E(g).''.

SEC. 1306. PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.—Effective for all fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that an agreement is in place that—

(1) provides funds to the Commissioner for the full costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner with respect to employment eligibility verification, including responsibilities described in this title and in the amendments made by this title, such as—

(A) acquiring, installing, and maintaining technological equipment and systems necessary for the fulfillment of such responsibilities, but only that portion of such costs that are attributable exclusively to such responsibilities; and

(B) responding to individuals who contest a tentative nonconfirmation or administratively appeal a final nonconfirmation provided with respect to employment eligibility verification;

(2) provides the funds required under paragraph (1) annually in advance of the applicable quarter based on an estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary (except in such instances where the delayed enactment of an annual appropriation may preclude such quarterly payments); and

(3) requires an annual accounting and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and the funds provided under such agreement, which shall be reviewed by the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF TIMELY AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the agreement required under subsection (a) for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2024, has not been reached as of October 1 of such fiscal year, the latest agreement described in such subsection shall be deemed in effect on an interim basis for such fiscal year until such time as an agreement required under subsection (a) is subsequently reached, except that the terms of such interim agreement shall be modified to adjust for inflation and any increase or decrease in the volume of requests under the employment eligibility verification system.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1 of any fiscal year during which an interim agreement applies under paragraph (1), the Commissioner and the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the failure to reach the agreement required under subsection (a) for such fiscal year.

(B) QUARTERLY NOTIFICATIONS.—Until the agreement required under subsection (a) has been reached for a fiscal year, the Commissioner and the Secretary, not later than the end of each 90-day period after October 1 of such fiscal year, shall notify the congressional committees referred to in subparagraph (A) of the status of negotiations between the Commissioner and the Secretary in order to reach such an agreement.

SEC. 1307. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 2 years after the date on which final rules are published pursuant to section 1309(a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General shall jointly submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) an assessment of the accuracy rates of the responses of the electronic employment verification system established under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1301(a) (referred to in this section and in section 1308 as the ''System''), including tentative and final nonconfirmation notices issued to employment-authorized individuals and confirmation notices issued to individuals who are not employment-authorized;

(2) an assessment of any challenges faced by persons or entities (including small employers) in utilizing the System;

(3) an assessment of any challenges faced by employment-authorized individuals who are issued tentative or final nonconfirmation notices;

(4) an assessment of the incidence of unfair immigration-related employment practices described in section 274E(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, related to the use of the System;

(5) an assessment of the photo matching and other identity authentication tools described in section 274E(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, including—

(A) the accuracy rates of such tools;

(B) the effectiveness of such tools at preventing identity fraud and other misuse of identifying information;

(C) any challenges faced by persons, entities, or individuals utilizing such tools;

(D) operation and maintenance costs associated with such tools; and

(E) the privacy and civil liberties safeguards associated with such tools;

(6) a summary of the activities and findings of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services E–Verify Monitoring and Compliance Branch (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Branch''), or any successor office, including—

(A) the number, types and outcomes of audits, internal reviews, and other compliance activities initiated by the Branch in the previous year;

(B) the capacity of the Branch to detect and prevent violations of section 274E(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(C) an assessment of the degree to which persons and entities misuse the System, including—

(i) using the System before an individual's date of hire;

(ii) failing to provide required notifications to individuals;

(iii) using the System to interfere with or otherwise impede individuals' assertions of their rights under other laws; and

(iv) using the System for unauthorized purposes; and

(7) an assessment of the impact of implementation of the System in the agricultural industry and the use of the verification system in agricultural industry hiring and business practices.

SEC. 1308. MODERNIZING AND STREAMLINING THE EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall submit a plan to Congress for modernizing and streamlining the employment eligibility verification process. Such plan shall include—

(1) procedures to allow persons and entities to verify the identity and employment authorization of newly hired individuals where the in-person, physical examination of identity and employment authorization documents is not practicable;

(2) a proposal to create a simplified employment verification process that allows employers that utilize the System—

(A) to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals without having to complete and retain Form I–9, Employment Eligibility Verification, in paper, electronic, or any subsequent replacement form; and

(B) to maintain evidence of an inspection of the employee's eligibility to work; and

(3) any other proposal that the Secretary determines would simplify the employment eligibility verification process without compromising the integrity or security of the System.

SEC. 1309. RULEMAKING; PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

(a) RULEMAKING.—

(1) PROPOSED RULES.—Not later than 270 days before the end of the application period described in section 1101(c), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate and publish in the Federal Register proposed rules implementing this title and the amendments made by this title.

(2) FINAL RULES.—The Secretary shall finalize the rules promulgated pursuant to paragraph (1) not later than 180 days after the date on which they are published in the Federal Register.

(b) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'') shall apply to any action to implement this title or the amendments made by this title.

(2) ELECTRONIC FORMS.—All forms designated or established by the Secretary that are necessary to implement this title and the amendments made by this title—

(A) shall be made available in paper or electronic formats; and

(B) shall be designed in such a manner to facilitate electronic completion, storage, and transmittal.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, January 14; 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 for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10

minutes each; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that at 2:45 p.m., morning business be closed and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 1, S. 5.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 12 noon.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES TEXANS ON MISSION

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes Texans on Mission, a group of exceptional North Texans working to provide aid and relief to communities hit by the hurricanes. Hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated communities across the southeast, killing hundreds, destroying homes, and leaving hundreds of thousands without power. The more than 100 volunteer members of Dallas-based Texas on Mission have stepped up to help storm victims by providing practical assistance including cleaning out homes, serving meals, cutting fallen trees, and delivering resources like mobile showers.

Texans on Mission has sent multiple groups of volunteers to help recover from these back-to-back hurricanes, timing the deployment from Dallas to ensure key disaster relief equipment was in Florda before Hurricane Milton made landfall. Their trucks are equipped to serve up to 10,000 meals a day, a lifeline for families devastated by the storm's destruction. These volunteers know firsthand the sense of helplessness and despair that follows such disasters, with many of them having experienced similar situations. As one of the volunteer leaders said, "we just want to bring that help, hope, and healing to them."

Texans on Mission volunteers exemplify the generous spirit of North Texas. I'd like to thank them for stepping up to provide critical relief and support to impacted communities.

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER CHARLES TEDESCO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adams County Commissioner Charles "Chaz" Tedesco for his service to Colorado. Commissioner Tedesco began his service by serving in the U.S. Navy, and as President of the United Steelworkers Union.

Commissioner Tedesco supported several initiatives to help vulnerable youth during his term, including Homes for Hope, a program for youth in emergency foster care in Adams County. He also served as Vice-Chair of the Former Foster Care Youth Steering Committee for the State of Colorado.

Commissioner Tedesco is a member of diverse boards and committees as he serves Adams County residents and all Coloradans, including the E–470 Authority, Airport Coordinating Committee, Aurora Economic Development Board of Directors, Veterans Advisory Commission, Aerotropolis Regional Transit Authority, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Counties, Inc., County & Commissioners Acting Together, Child Welfare Allocation Committee, Metro Area County Commissioners, and National Association of Counties.

Commissioner Tedesco has been a consistent advocate for veterans and a voice for funding state and federal veterans' programs. He was integral in the formation of the Veterans Advisory Commission which seeks to address and work cooperatively with other county boards, councils, and staff regarding veterans' interests.

I thank Commissioner Tedesco for his service to our community as the Commissioner for District 2 on the Adams County Board of Commissioners.

RECOGNIZING EMMA BRUNDAGE'S GOLD AWARD

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Emma Brundage. Emma is a member of Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, Troop 10141, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, creativity, and demonstrated a commitment to making a lasting impact, by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1–2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Emma's project, "My Hair is My CROWN", was an excellent endeavor to address hair discrimination in our community. Emma took action by creating an educational exhibit, leading workshops on hair care and legal rights, and advocating for awareness about the CROWN Act at the New Mexico State Legislature to empower young girls to embrace their natural hair and feel confident in their identity, which will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

On behalf of the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico, congratulations to Emma Brundage for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. I thank Emma for all the hard work she has done for our community.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Scottie Scheffler. At six years old, Scottie was swinging a golf club at the Royal Oaks range in Dallas, dreaming of one day playing with the pros. He was a natural, having great success at the youth level, and winning 75 times on the PGA Junior circuit.

While attending Highland Park High School, Scottie won individual state titles three years in a row as well as the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur Golf Championship, earning him an invitation to play in his first PGA Tour event at age 17. His talent did not go unnoticed, and he was recruited to play collegiate golf at the University of Texas at Austin, where he helped his team win three Big 12 Championships. His accomplishments continued after college, claiming his first Masters Tournament title in 2022. Most recently, Scottie claimed his second Masters Tournament, making him the 18th golfer in history to win the Green Jacket more than once.

I'd like to thank Scottie for being an inspiration to young golfers in North Texas and across the country.

HONORING JUDGE ANDREW CARRUTHERS

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Andrew Carruthers as he retires from the bench after more than half a century as a distinguished legal advocate and public servant.

Judge Carruthers was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1945. His father, a minister, tended to a congregation of more than 600 worshippers at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, which was the largest Black Methodist church in Fort Worth. Despite the discrimination and segregation facing Black families, the young Carruthers children were surrounded by teachers, nurses, entrepreneurs, and other community leaders, leaving them with no shortage of role models.

In 1957, his father accepted an appointment to become pastor of St. Paul Methodist Church in San Antonio. The new congregation was warm and welcoming, and San Antonio quickly became home for the Carruthers family. Judge Carruthers graduated from Cuney Elementary School, Frederick Douglass Junior High, and Highlands High School, where he played in the band and ran cross-country and track.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969, Judge Carruthers became a program representative for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where he tended to Houston's neediest people. Shortly, after, he enrolled in law school at Texas Southern University and later attended St. Mary's University, where he supported himself as a bailiff for District Judge James E. Barlow of the 186th District.

After passing the bar exam, Judge Carruthers began his legal career, working first as an Assistant District Attorney in Bexar County and later for then-Texas Attorney General John Hill. He was then hired as a professor at Thurgood Marshall Law School, where he taught for eight years.

In 1982, Judge Carruthers returned to San Antonio and opened the Law Offices of Carruthers and Cunningham with his wife, Willie. Their son, Andrew C. Carruthers was born in 1983. Judge Cunningham is also blessed with two daughters, Aloyce Williams and Tammye Turner.

In 1989, Judge Carruthers was appointed Criminal Law Magistrate of Bexar County, a position that he would hold for the next 35 years. During his time as Criminal Law Magistrate, Judge Carruthers worked to advance the court's understanding of what it means to be competent to stand trial. This work is reflected in his presentations at legal conferences and the expansion of Bexar County's competency and sanity evaluation programs. Today, because of Judge Carruthers' leadership and innovation, the court now offers inpatient, outpatient and jail-based restoration programs for individuals with mental illnesses, and community based and residential care programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The dedication Judge Carruthers has demonstrated for the last 52 years has been instrumental for local judicial programs. His work has aided many and will continue to help individuals seeking assistance. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to express my gratitude for Judge Andrew Carruthers as he celebrates his retirement.

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER EVA HENRY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commissioner Eva Henry. Throughout her years in public service to Adams County, where she grew up and raised her family, she worked to improve the lives of all Coloradans.

Commissioner Henry championed several initiatives that elevated the state and made Colorado a better place to walk, live, and raise a family. As Commissioner, she led efforts to regulate the oil and gas industries, protect our environment, and preserve clean air and water. Under her leadership, Adams County became the first county in Colorado to regulate drilling in 2019, paving the way for other counties to follow.

Commissioner Henry partnered with Caraway to lower housing costs by repurposing the former Children and Family Services building for use as affordable housing.

To bolster the local economy, Commissioner Henry worked with aerospace companies and supported their moves to the state, further enhancing Colorado's aerospace ecosystem, the second-largest aerospace economy in the Nation.

Commissioner Henry's dedication to public service contributed to the betterment of Colorado and the well-being of thousands of our state's families. I thank Commissioner Eva Henry for her service and congratulate her on her retirement after 12 years as Commissioner of Adams County and five years as a member of the Thornton City Council.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HEROES BENNETT BRANDON AND HENRY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Heroes, Fort Worth Code Compliance Officer Bennett Brandon and Henry. In 2011, Bennett met Henry after he was brought to the Chuck and Brenda Silcox Animal Shelter malnourished and in poor physical health. They sparked a bond that still exists to this day.

After raising money for Henry's hospital bills, Bennett took him everywhere he could to highlight the amazing care provided to homeless pets by the Fort Worth animal shelter. To share his rescue story, Henry accompanied former Mayor Betsy Price to elementary schools across the city blessing over 10,000 students with his wagging tail. Serving as the city's canine ambassador, Henry has raised awareness of the challenges faced by homeless pets. He helped raise almost $5 million to expand the Chuck Silcox Animal Shelter, taking a huge step towards ensuring animals have proper care and adequate space. Thanks to the advocacy of Bennett and Henry, euthanasia rates in Fort Worth shelters dropped from 70 percent to three percent.

After 20 years of amazing service, Bennett has retired, and Henry, following his cancer diagnosis, has retired after 13 years.

HONORING AUDREY MEYERS

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Meyers has dedicated her career to advancing health care excellence for over four decades at the helm of Valley Health System and Valley Hospital, culminating in twenty-five years as CEO of Valley Health System.

Audrey has spearheaded the development of a groundbreaking, cutting-edge hospital campus in Paramus, New Jersey, enhancing health care innovation throughout the region.

Audrey has provided leadership at Valley Hospital, ranked one of the Top Three hospitals in New Jersey by U.S. News & World Report, named one of the World's Best Hospitals by Newsweek, and placed in the top two percent of hospitals nationwide by Healthgrades.

Audrey Meyers received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Hospital Association in recognition of her forty-four years of service.

HONORING ROBIN PHILIPS' RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Robin Philips, for her lifelong commitment to defending women and girls' rights at home and abroad, and to congratulate her on her retirement. In 1995, Ms. Philips joined the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing domestic violence and other human right issues. She went on to found the Women's Human Rights Program that has made The Advocates, as it is known, a global leader on women's rights.

In 2002, Ms. Philips became the Executive Director of The Advocates. Under her leadership, Ms. Philips recruited thousands of volunteers to contribute their time and talent to providing legal services, outreach efforts, fact-finding, and operational support, strengthening not only the organization but the whole human rights movement. By keeping The Advocates' work primarily volunteer-driven, the organization was able to leverage $156,300,282 (approximately $7 million/year) worth of in-kind legal services over the past 22 years. Through it all, The Advocates has provided pro bono legal counsel to more than 7,000 victims of persecution, torture, trafficking, prolonged detention, and family violence in the Upper Midwest Region.

One shining example of Ms. Philips' accomplishments includes a report issued by The Advocates in 2008. The report laid the foundation for Minnesota's Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act, transforming the state's approach to addressing sex trafficking by prioritizing the protection and support of victims and those at risk.

Under Ms Philips' leadership, The Advocates led many high-profile transitional projects in Peru, Siena Leone, and Liberia, which highlighted the dire need for human rights advocacy in post-conflict healing and reconciliation processes. At the request of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), The Advocates led the Liberian TRC Diaspora Project by documenting the human rights abuses experienced by the thousands of Liberians who were arrested, tortured, abused and forced to leave the country after prolonged civil war during the 1990's. Under her leadership, The Advocates recruited over 600 volunteers to provide more than $10 million in pro bono services to the Liberian TRC. As a result, The Advocates documented statements, stories and testimonials from more than 1,600 Liberian individuals and witnesses in the US, UK and Ghana. Through the Liberian TRC Diaspora Project, The Advocates held the first public hearings of a national truth commission in St. Paul in June 2008. Today, Liberia is implementing several of the recommendations made in the report, most notably by establishing a War and Economic Crimes Court.

Ms. Philips' tireless efforts working with partners and advocates around the world to abolish the death penalty and to defend and protect the LGBTQI community is commendable. Finally, her commitment to building schools and providing education to young people in Nepal from Pre-K through 10th grade by serving more than 1,000 low-income Nepali students today exemplifies the spirit of American ingenuity and being a great Samaritan. Above all, Ms. Philips is a trailblazing leader and a human rights champion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Robin Philips on her retirement after nearly three decades of defending human rights at home and abroad.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO DANNY HUYNH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero Danny Huynh, a senior at Harmony School of Innovation in Euless, for his dedicated volunteerism. As Vice President of the school chapter of Key Club International, Danny organized volunteer events for local nonprofits, raised funds for community projects, and assisted international causes. Additionally, he volunteers at the River Legacy Nature Center's Fall Festival and the Huong Tu Foundation, accumulating over 400 hours of service.

As a member of the Hoa Dao Lion Dance Association and as a leadership intern at Camp Invention, Danny has shown dedication to athletics, the arts, and helping his fellow students. His involvement in the National Honor Society led him to fundraise for National Child Abuse Prevention Month and facilitate food donations to charitable organizations. Committed to continuing his service, Danny plans to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Pennsylvania after receiving a full-ride scholarship.

Danny's involvement and selflessness as such a young age sets a great example for students looking to follow his lead and make a positive impact in our community. I wish him the best of luck in college and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF NICOLE BIBBINS SEDACA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Nicole Bibbins Sedaca, Executive Vice President and Acting President of Freedom House, for her exceptional leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts in the protection and growth of global democracy during these challenging times.

For over 15 years, the world has witnessed the troubling rise of autocracy—a reality that has threatened fundamental freedoms and the rule of law across the globe. Amid this daunting backdrop, Ms. Sedaca has led with profound vision and unwavering commitment, steering Freedom House with extraordinary resolve to meet the ever-evolving challenges of our time.

Under her leadership, Freedom House has not only preserved but expanded its critical mission to defend and promote the values of democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression. Her efforts have significantly bolstered the organization's reach and impact, addressing the critical needs of communities striving for liberty and justice in the face of oppression.

Freedom House has long been a U.S. national treasure since its founding in 1948 by Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie. As a beacon of hope and a defender of democratic ideals, Freedom House has stood resolute against tyranny for decades, embodying the principles that make our Nation a global leader in the fight for Democracy. Ms. Sedaca's leadership has ensured that this historic institution continues to thrive in its vital role on the international stage.

Her work has been nothing short of extraordinary, and her dedication to the cause of democracy exemplifies the highest standards of public service. Nicole Bibbins Sedaca's tireless advocacy inspires us all, and her achievements remind us of the enduring importance of safeguarding the freedoms we cherish.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Ms. Sedaca for her invaluable contributions to the cause of democracy and human dignity. Her unwavering resolve and steadfast leadership have ensured that Freedom House remains a force for good in an increasingly complex world.

I applaud Nicole Bibbins Sedaca's exceptional service and to the enduring legacy of Freedom House—a legacy that continues to shine as a beacon of hope for oppressed peoples everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY STATE SENATOR ADRIENNE SOUTHWORTH

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kentucky State Senator Adrienne Southworth in recognition of her service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and unwavering dedication to the principles of transparency, accountability, and innovation in public service.

Since her election in 2020, as the state senator for Kentucky's 7th Senate District, Senator Southworth has been a steadfast advocate for the citizens of her community. Senator Southworth's extensive experience in public service reflects a career devoted to solving complex challenges and delivering results. Whether addressing pension accountability, reforming emergency powers, or creating opportunities for workforce development, her commitment to improving the lives of Kentuckians is commendable.

With her quick-recall expertise, grassroots approach, and ability to write legislation, she has represented her district with integrity and an understanding of the desires of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Adrienne Southworth's dedication to championing the voices of her constituents has set a high standard for public service. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing her contributions to the constituency of Kentucky's 7th Senate District and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO LUKE HEJL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Fort Worth resident Luke Hejl. In 2017, after attending a panel about remote care, Luke cofounded TimelyCare to address the shortage of mental health services on college campuses. He chose to focus the company's efforts on higher education after seeing how his alma mater, Abilene Christian University, was having trouble staffing its clinic well enough to serve students' mental health needs.

Complementing existing on-campus services, TimelyCare's care coordination teams help students connect to resources, like clinic and pharmacy locations. The company now serves over two million students, partnering with over 360 higher education institutions, including North Central Texas College, University of Texas at Arlington, and University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

I'd like to thank Luke for his work to ensure Texas students have access to timely, high-quality mental health care. His compassion and entrepreneurship are inspiring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Roll Call No. 7 of the 119th Congress, which was H.R. 23, Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, I would have voted NO. I strongly oppose the International Criminal Court's recent actions regarding Israel, including my belief that the ICC does not have jurisdiction in this matter and that its actions are unhelpful in peacefully resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet, H.R. 23's overly broad scope and rushed sanctions and visa restrictions are counterproductive. Imposing such sanctions and restrictions on any foreign person—and their close family members—who is deemed to have aided, materially assisted, or provided financial support to the ICC in any way, undermines the Court's investigates into important matters on which it does have jurisdiction, would have a deleterious impact on American allies and partners around the world, and could create an opportunity for American adversaries to gain prominence in sensitive international fora. Domestically, H.R. 23 also raises serious First Amendment concerns and has the potential to undermine American rule of law. For all these reasons, I would have voted NO on H.R. 23.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARGIE MAJOR

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman, someone whose contributions to our community and to the lives of so many are truly unparalleled. On November 19, 2024, Ms. Margie Major celebrated a milestone 100th birthday, and it is my honor to recognize her incredible life.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, Margie's roots run deep in this city. She grew up in the historic Southside before her family moved to the Como neighborhood, which became an iconic African American Community. There, her parents founded Holloway Grocery Store, where Margie worked alongside her mother and sister, learning the values of hard work and service early on.

Margie's educational journey began at the historic I.M. Terrell High School, where she graduated at just 15 years old. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Hampton Institute—now Hampton University—at 19 and later completed a Master of Arts in Dance at Columbia University. After returning home to Fort Worth, she spent decades as an educator, first teaching at her alma mater, I.M. Terrell, and later at Southwest High School, shaping the lives of countless young people.

Margie didn't stop there. She went on to become a guidance counselor at Paschal High School, serving the community for an astounding 46 years. Her commitment to education didn't end with her retirement. She has been deeply involved in organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serving as President of the Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter, and the Jubilee Theatre, where she held leadership positions.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Margie has been a tireless community advocate, a founding member of St. Simon Episcopal Church, and a charter member of both Ft. Worth Chapter Charms, Inc. and the Perennial Cultural Club. Her impact is felt across Fort Worth, and her legacy will undoubtedly endure for generations to come.

Today, we honor Margie Major for her 100 years of grace, leadership, and service. Happy birthday to Margie. Her life is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO BROOKE DONELSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Brooke Donelson. As a passionate advocate and board member for Dallas CASA, Brooke is dedicated to restoring the innocence of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained to advocate for children living in the Dallas County welfare system, providing reports for court hearings that help decide the best possible outcomes for children in foster care.

Since becoming a volunteer in 2018, Brooke has worked tirelessly on her cases, serving as a powerful voice for children who are unable to speak for themselves. She has also been a Young Professionals Council Board Member since 2019, where she does outreach, fundraising, and advocate recruitment for the nonprofit.

I am grateful for Brooke's dedication to protecting North Texas children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. BOBBY THOMAS

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true leader in the Forsyth County Community, Mr. Bobby Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was born on November 3, 1946, and spent his youth in Coal Mountain, Georgia. Signs of future success were evident early on, as Mr. Thomas won "Most Likely to Succeed" during his senior year at Forsyth County High School. Upon graduation in 1964, Mr. Thomas went on to Georgia Institute of Technology, where he excelled, and earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1969.

During his time at Georgia Tech, Mr. Thomas met the love of his life, Brenda. They married three years later and enjoyed 57 years of wedded bliss together. Upon graduation, Mr. Thomas enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned as a supply officer, serving on a destroyer warship stationed out of Jacksonville, Florida and Glassboro, New Jersey. After returning home, he bought into the family lumber business, and by the mid-1980's he had turned the Thomas Lumber Company into the leading manufacturer of Western Red Cedar Products throughout the Southeast.

The Thomas Lumber Company, founded in 1927, is the oldest family-owned business in Forsyth County. As an active member in his community, Mr. Thomas was a founding member of the Forsyth County Rotary and later President, a 30-year member and leader of the Development Authority of Forsyth County, and maybe most importantly, an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, serving as a clerk and Sunday School teacher. Sadly, on January 6, 2025, Mr. Thomas passed away. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, two children, and 7 grandchildren. My prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time. His impact on the lives of the people and community of Forsyth County will not soon be forgotten, and the entire community is mourning the loss of this great man.

REMEMBERING MAYOR PETE SNYDER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Pete Snyder, the first mayor of my hometown of Dublin, California, on the occasion of his celebration of life after his passing on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at the age 89.

Pete moved to Dublin with his wife and the love of his life, Priscilla, in 1961 after he served three years in the United States Army. They put down roots quickly and raised their family while becoming more and more involved in the community.

Shortly after arriving, in 1962, Pete became a charter member of the Dublin Host Lions Club and he later became a member and president of, what was known at the time as, the Murray School District. His commitment and acumen were noticed, and he was asked to join a committee that was looking into the feasibility of the incorporation of Dublin.

Of course, with Pete at the helm, the incorporation efforts were successful and he was chosen as the new City of Dublin's first-ever mayor in 1982. He served on Dublin's city council for twelve years, including two terms as mayor between 1982 and 1994.

When the community decided that they wanted to continue seeing Pete in a leadership role, they elected him to the board of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). He served our community there for another eight years, expanding access to work and fun for residents of the city he helped found, as well as our neighbors.

While his service as mayor, member of city council, and the BART board may be his most notable roles, his service in other aspects of local governance is almost too voluminous to count. Included on his resume would be service to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the Alameda County Economic Development Advisory Board, and United Way of the Bay Area. He also founded the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation and the Dublin Sister City Association.

Pete made a profound impact on not only my hometown, but the entire Tri-Valley region. He gave his life to public service, first to the military, and then to his community. We would be well-served to model our leadeiship and political dexterity after someone like Pete.

My thoughts and gratitude remain with his wife of 68 years, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I hope they know that Pete's legacy lives on in the entirety of the thriving community he helped create.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO KORBAN BEST

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Korban Best, a 21-year-old sprinter and Paralympic medalist from Southlake, Texas. While representing Team USA in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, Korban set a personal best time of 10.75 seconds in the men's 100-meter T47 event, earning him a silver medal—America's first medal in the event.

Born with ulnar dysplasia in his right arm, Korban, who is known to family and friends as "Cheetah Fast," developed a love for sports at a young age. While attending Southlake Carroll High School, he played football and excelled on the track team. It was clear Korban

had a natural talent, but his dedication, positivity, and relentless work ethic set him apart. Although the 100-meter dash is an individual sport, Korban has always been a team player. Before competing, he can typically be seen dancing to R&B or Latin music to settle his nerves and lighten everyone's mood.

Even after the incredible achievement of winning a silver medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games Korban has set his goals even higher, determined to bring home the gold at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. Korban has never forgotten his Texas roots—when qualifying for the Paralympic Games, he explained, "you know how we do it here in Texas, we do it big."

I'd like to recognize Korban for inspiring our North Texas community as he excels on the track and beyond.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the 119th Congress agenda, the Equal Representation Act, and disaster recovery.

DEAR FRIEND: With a House speaker elected and a presidential election certified, we look ahead to the inauguration that will pave the way to a new era for the American people and better position us to fix how Washington works.

I was proud to cast my vote for MIKE JOHNSON as Speaker of the House for the 119th Congress, and to concur with the certification of the presidential election.

Speaker JOHNSON has a good working relationship with President Trump to be able to pursue and deliver an America First agenda.

It was essential to swiftly elect a speaker to kick off the 119th Congress so we can get to work for the American people.

Western North Carolinians have struggled over the past four years under high prices, less-safe communities, disastrous open-border policies, and crippling regulations.

As we begin this new Congress, I'm eager to move policies forward that benefit the hardworking families in our mountains, especially as we rebuild from Helene.

ONLY AMERICAN CITIZENS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN CONGRESS

The first bill that I re-introduced in the 119th Congress is the Equal Representation Act, which would prohibit illegal immigrants from influencing Americans' congressional representation.

Citizens across our mountains and nation are demanding that we protect our nation's sovereignty and secure our borders.

This bill addresses one of the many consequences of the Biden administration's open border policies, which allowed millions of illegal immigrants to pour into the U.S., increasing the country's non-citizen population.

Mass illegal immigration has unfairly skewed political presentation in the U.S. House and Electoral College by including illegal immigrants in the total population count that determines how many representatives a state receives, or is apportioned.

This is diluting the voices of U.S. citizens in the political process. The Equal Representation Act will address these problems by asking a very simple, commonsense question on the U.S. Census, ''Are you a citizen of the United States?'' so that non-citizens are not counted toward congressional district and Electoral College apportionment.

Americans deserve fair and equal representation in their federal government, something that will not be possible until we eliminate the influence of noncitizens in our electoral process.

$16 BILLION HEADED TO WNC FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Upon returning to Washington after Hurricane Helene, it was my top priority as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to craft a supplemental disaster funding bill to aid in WNC's recovery.

As the sole co-sponsor of the American Relief Act—also known as the disaster supplemental—I fought for and secured nearly $16 billion to come directly to Western North Carolina for disaster recovery. It's customary that the chairman of the committee be the lead sponsor of a disaster supplemental bill, and the committee only rarely names a co-sponsor for such bills.

As a lifelong resident of Western North Carolina, I'm grateful that House leaders—including Speaker JOHNSON, Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, and Appropriations Committee Chairman TOM COLE, sought my unique understanding of the challenges WNC residents are facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. I am grateful for their strong support for our mountains, for their leeway in letting me craft this legislation, and for passing this historic disaster supplemental bill.

WELCOMING MITCHELL AND AVERY COUNTY

We are excited to welcome Mitchell and Avery counties to North Carolina's 11th congressional district. The Carolina Cruiser has already made four stops in these counties, and members of my team were glad to meet some new faces and hear what's on the minds of our newest constituents.

It is a privilege and honor to serve each and every one of you, and my team and I are looking forward to getting to know you, whether at Carolina Cruiser mobile office hours or at one-on-one Chat With Chuck meetings.

If you're experiencing issues with FEMA after Hurricane Helene, you can call my office at 223–FIX–FEMA for assistance.

You can also stay informed on NC–11 news and legislative updates by subscribing to my newsletter here.

ANNOUNCING SENIOR CASEWORKER MADELINE LEHMAN

Congratulations to Madeline Lehman, who has been promoted to senior caseworker in my district office. Madeline has been a part of my team since my first day in office. Her strong work ethic and can-do attitude have allowed her to advance from the position of staff assistant to caseworker, and now to senior caseworker, in little more than two years. She also did this while simultaneously obtaining her master's degree in public administration.

Madeline has diligently worked to take my office's case management to a new level and it's this kind of strong performance that has led my office to have the reputation far and wide as ''First in Constituent Services.''

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the Chairman of the Board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming Chairman, Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a Board Member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples Include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their "40 Leaders Under 40" award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO OFFICER AMY LANGBINE HEATH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Amy Langbine Heath, who began working in tree care after moving back home to Dallas. She was the first woman in Texas to become a Board-Certified Master Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture, achieving this in 2008 and acquiring Texas Tree Surgeons two years later.

In the aftermath of storms that left half a million Texans without power and severe property damage, Amy stepped up to help. Traveling across the community to clean up split trees and limbs, she even saved one North Texas couple's home from being destroyed after removing a damaged tree at risk of falling into their bedroom.

Amy is a shining example of neighbor helping neighbor. I'm grateful for her efforts to help our community get back on track after devastating storms.

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER BILL HOLEN

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arapahoe County Commissioner Bill Holen on his retirement after more than 50 years of public service.

Commissioner Holen is an Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War, and a former member of the Colorado Air National Guard. He dedicated much of his career to government public service, including working for Senator Gary Hart and Congressman Ed Perlmutter.

Commissioner Holen was elected to the Arapahoe Board of County Commissioners for District 5 in 2012. Over the past 12 years, he has served as the Finance Officer and Chair Pro Tempore. In addition to his service to the County, Commissioner Holen served as the Chair of the Colorado Bipartisan Military Post-Traumatic Stress Task Force, on the Denver Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors, Colorado's Board of Veterans Affairs, NASA's Space Station Industrial Use Taskforce, and the Denver Regional Council of Governments Transportation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Holen has also dedicated much of his time to community service. He was the Goodwill Ambassador to U.S. Air Force 460th Space Wing Space Command Commander's Group, served on the Board of Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network Developmental Pathways, and Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners. He has also participated as a member in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Defense Council, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado.

Commissioner Holen is finishing his final term as a Board Member of the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners, where he has provided sound advice on the use of county resources, strong partnership across the County and State, and stalwart dedication to the Arapahoe County community.

I thank Commissioner Bill Holen for his service to Arapahoe County, the state of Colorado, and our country.

RECOGNIZING NANCY CAZA'S DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the outstanding work done by Nancy Lynn Caza during her tenure with the Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service. After 46 years of tireless service, she retired at the end of 2024. Nancy's unwavering commitment to serving the people of Michigan deserves recognition as she concludes her distinguished career.

Throughout her career, Nancy always fought for the people of Michigan, helping many with the tedious and complex issues regarding their taxes. She has been an ardent advocate for the greater Detroit metro area and has been compassionate and empathetic in her work with the IRS. A tremendous example of a true public servant, she has always been committed to fairness and protecting the rights of the taxpayer in all circumstances.

Nancy worked within the Taxpayer Advocate Service within the IRS since its inception 20 years ago. Her work within the agency led to more timely case resolutions and relief for American taxpayers. Throughout her career, Nancy has been at the forefront of creating relationships with congressional offices across the state of Michigan, including members in both the House of Representatives and Senate. Her direct advocacy toward elected officials on behalf of the IRS has led to the improvement of the tax administration process for all Americans.

Now as she moves on to the next part of her journey, she hopes to spend more time in beautiful Northern Michigan, where she can continue to be a great mother and grandmother to her lovely family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the incredible service done by Nancy Lynn Caza over the past 46 years for the American people. Her compassionate and dedication for advocating for the right of taxpayers has truly been remarkable and should be celebrated.

HONORING BARBARA HOLMES

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate the life and work of a Bronx icon, Barbara Holmes. As her daughter put it, ''She fought for the rights of her children, her neighbors and their children, her neighborhood and colleagues. No matter the fight she continued to fight a good one.'' This sentiment captures the light and good she brought into the world.

Barbara always fought for what was right. In the 60's, the Board of Education teachers went on strike. Barbara organized school parents to make sure that not a single child was stopped from getting their education. Later in the 70's, as she attended Bronx Community College, her rights were violated. This led Barbara and her colleagues to stage a weeklong sit-in on campus to ensure their right to attend college was respected.

Barbara touched the lives of countless individuals in her community as the President of the Community Council of Police Service Area 7. In her role, she was dedicated to assisting residents of NYCHA Developments with a wide range of challenges, particularly those related to public safety. As Tenant Association President, Barbara consistently went above and beyond. She organized programs to provide food for families in need, as well as toys and school supplies for children. Barbara accomplished all of this while tirelessly working to support the families and communities she served.

Barbara was all about community and family. She worked for the benefit of others until the day she passed, and the entire community will be forever grateful. Her spirit will live on through the Barbara Holmes Impact Foundation and her entire Bronx family.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO JACK BLOCKER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Jack Blocker, a North Texas native who was inspired to pursue music at 17 years old.

After attending Trinity Christian Academy in Addison, Jack went on to the University of Arkansas and joined the band Rightfield. A self-taught musician, he continued his journey after graduation by moving to Nashville to pursue his talent while also working as a freelance graphic designer.

Jack decided to take a chance and audition for American Idol, performing one of his original songs. As one of the last contestants from the Nashville area, he originally received two ''no'' votes before he was brought back into the audition room to learn he'd be heading to Hollywood. After making it through nine rounds of eliminations, Jack made it to the final episode, taking home third place for American Idol Season 22.

I'd like to thank Jack for serving as a role model for aspiring musicians in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROSECUTOR HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Prosecutor Home Rule Act, which would give D.C. the authority to prosecute all crimes committed under its laws. Congress already allows D.C. to write D.C. criminal laws and allows D.C. to enforce them against some violators. Congress should allow D.C. to enforce D.C. laws against all violators. This bill would effectuate a 2002 advisory referendum, approved by 82 percent of D.C. voters, to create a local prosecutor's office.

Currently, the U.S. Attorney for D.C. has the authority to prosecute most D.C. crimes committed by adults and some by juveniles, while the D.C. Attorney General has the authority to prosecute most D.C. crimes committed by juveniles and some by adults. Giving D.C. the authority to prosecute all D.C. crimes would not only give D.C. residents a say in the enforcement of all their laws, it also would save the federal government tens of millions of dollars a year by reducing the number of assistant U.S. attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C.

In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of my District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING JENNA DE LA ROSA-GALEY'S GOLD AWARD

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jenna de la Rosa-Galey. Jenna is a member of Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, Troop 91, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, creativity, and demonstrated a commitment to making a lasting impact, by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1–2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Jenna's project, ''Rubber Band Bracelets: You CAN Make Them'', in partnership with organizations dedicated to Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) awareness was an excellent endeavor to promote well-being in our community. Jenna took action by developing a creative and therapeutic coping mechanism, teaching children who also live with PWS how to make rubber band bracelets, and filming an instructional video, which will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.

On behalf of the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico, congratulations to Jenna de la Rosa-Galey for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. I thank Jenna for all the hard work she has done for our community.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO OFFICER JOE BOYD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Officer Joe Boyd, who dedicated 38 years of service to our community, including 15 years with the Coppell Police Department. Throughout his diligent career, Officer Boyd served as patrol officer, detective, and, most recently, devoted himself to protecting our youth as a School Resource Officer.

Officer Boyd has also shown his commitment to North Texas outside of traditional police work, teaching firearm safety and women's self defense classes. He has always been a friendly face to the residents of his community, neighborhood, and city.

I'd like to thank Officer Boyd for his commitment to protecting our community and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 15

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Kristi Noem, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD–342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Pamela Jo Bondi, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Chris Wright, to be Secretary of Energy.

SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Marco A. Rubio, of Florida, to be Secretary of State.

SD–419

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of John L. Ratcliffe, to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SH–219.

SD–G50

1 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Russell Vought, to be Director, Office of Management and Budget.

SD–342

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine improving wellness among seniors, focusing on setting a standard for the American Dream.

SD–106

JANUARY 16

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Remain in Mexico; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses the authority under current law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States, a motion to authorize the Chairman to issue subpoenas for records, and committee rules of procedure.

SD–342

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Eric Scott Turner, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SD–538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Doug Burgum, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD–366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Lee M. Zeldin, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD–406

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the expected nomination of Pamela Jo Bondi, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SH–216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Scott Bessent, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

SD–215

JANUARY 20

Time to be announced

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

TBA

JANUARY 21

Time to be announced

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Douglas A. Collins, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SR–418

POSTPONEMENTS

JANUARY 16

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Elise M. Stefanik, of New York, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations and the

Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

SD–419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S83–S126

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 70–82, S. Res. 20–23, and S. Con. Res. 4. **Pages S88–89**

Measures Considered:

Laken Riley Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S83–87**

Pending:

Thune (for Ernst/Grassley) Amendment No. 8, to include crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the list of offenses that, if committed by an inadmissible alien, require mandatory detention. **Page S87**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 82 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. 2), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S87**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 2:45 p.m., on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. **Pages S125–26**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President together with the annual report of the Council of Economic Advisers, received during adjournment of the Senate on January 10, 2025; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee. (PM–2) **Page S88**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S88**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S89**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S89–92**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S92–125**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) **Page S87**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:35 p.m., until 12 noon on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S126.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 45 public bills, H.R. 331–375; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 17–18; H. Con. Res. 3; and H. Res. 31–37, were introduced. **Pages H109–11**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H112–13**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bost to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H95**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H97**

Presidential Message: Received a message from the President transmitting the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers—referred to the Joint

Economic Committee and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–2). **Pages H98–99**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:17 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H99**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation: H.R. 189, to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission; **Pages H104–05**

Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure: H.R. 192, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 8; and **Pages H99–H100, H106–07**

Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination: H.R. 152, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 9. **Pages H100–01, H107–08**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:16 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H106**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability: H.R. 153, to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance; **Pages H101–03**

Promoting Opportunities to Widen Electrical Resilience: H.R. 164, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities; and **Pages H103–04**

Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency: H.R. 144, to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority. **Pages H105–06**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 31, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H108**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H106–07, H107–08.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 7:15 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)*

H.R. 670, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a website to promote awareness of available resources for individuals with disabilities. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–225)

H.R. 1318, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–226)

H.R. 2997, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–227)

H.R. 3391, to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–228)

H.R. 5103, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–229)

H.R. 5443, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–230)

H.R. 5887, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–231)

H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States

Constitution. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–232)

H.R. 6395, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–233)

H.R. 6492, to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–234)

H.R. 6852, to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–235)

H.R. 7158, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, as the ''Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–236)

H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the ''Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–237)

H.R. 7365, to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–238)

H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the ''John Mercer Langston Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–239)

H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–240)

H.R. 7507, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the 'William E. and Elsie L. Barrett Post Office Building. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–241)

H.R. 7508, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the ''Gladys P. Todd Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–242)

H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the ''Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–243)

H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the ''George Henry White Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–244)

H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the ''Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–245)

H.R. 7938, to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with certain authorities with respect to projects affecting the Klamath Basin watershed. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–246)

H.R. 8012, to establish the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site in the State of Florida. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–247)

H.R. 8057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the ''Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–248)

H.R. 8641, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the ''Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–249)

H.R. 8666, to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–250)

H.R. 8667, to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the ''Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–251)

H.R. 8717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, as the ''SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–252)

H.R. 8841, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the ''Floyd B. Olson Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–253)

H.R. 8868, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the ''Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–254)

H.R. 8909, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82–6110 Mamalahoa

Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the ''Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhaihao Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–255)

H.R. 8919, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the ''SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–256)

H.R. 8976, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the ''Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–257)

H.R. 9076, to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–258)

H.R. 9124, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–259)

H.R. 9285, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the ''Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–260)

H.R. 9322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the ''Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–261)

H.R. 9421, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the ''Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–262)

H.R. 9487, to amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–263)

H.R. 9544, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the ''United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–264)

H.R. 9549, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as the ''Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–265)

H.R. 9580, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the ''Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–266)

H.R. 9592, to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–267)

H.R. 9600, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the ''Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–268)

H.R. 9775, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the ''Officer Noah Jacob Shahnavaz Post Office Building''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–269)

H.R. 10065, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tancahua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the ''Captain Robert E. 'Bob' Batterson Post Office''. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–270)

S. 2181, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the entitlement to memorial headstones and markers for commemoration of veterans and certain individuals and to extend authority to bury remains of certain spouses and children in national cemeteries. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–271)

S. 4367, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–272)

H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–273)

H.R. 4984, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the District of Columbia so that the District may use the Campus for purposes including residential and commercial development. Signed on January 4, 2025. (Public Law 118–274)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Peter B. Hegseth, to be Secretary of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

House

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 1 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Need to Make Permanent the Trump Tax Cuts for Working Families'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 14 through January 17, 2025

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only. At 2:45 p.m., Senate will continue consideration of S. 5, Laken Riley Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: January 14, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Peter B. Hegseth, to be Secretary of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: January 16, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Eric Scott Turner, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Chris Wright, to be Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

January 16, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Doug Burgum, to be Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: January 16, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Lee M. Zeldin, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: January 16, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Scott Bessent, to be Secretary of the Treasury, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Marco A. Rubio, of Florida, to be Secretary of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Kristi Noem, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, 9 a.m., SD–342.

January 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Russell Vought, to be Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1 p.m., SD–342.

January 16, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Remain in Mexico; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses the authority under current law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States, a motion to authorize the Chairman to issue subpoenas for records, and committee rules of procedure, 9 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Pamela Jo Bondi, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

January 16, Full Committee, to continue hearings to examine the expected nomination of Pamela Jo Bondi, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of John L. Ratcliffe, to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SH–219, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Special Committee on Aging: January 15, to hold hearings to examine improving wellness among seniors, focusing on setting a standard for the American Dream, 3:30 p.m., SD–106.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, January 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Stay-at-Home Federal Workforce: Another Biden-Harris Legacy'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, January 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

January 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''America Builds: the State of the Nation's Transportation System'', 10:15 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, January 16, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

12 noon, Tuesday, January 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only. At 2:45 p.m., Senate will continue consideration of S. 5, Laken Riley Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 14

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 28—Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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