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No. 7

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 14, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable YOUNG KIM 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 11:50 a.m.

### PRIORITIZING PEACE AND SECURITY IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, on October 7, 2023, the people of Israel experienced the greatest terror attack in their nation's history. There were 1,200 people killed and 250 more were abducted in what was the most severe attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza, with at least a third of those believed to be dead. I was horrified by the atroc-

ities committed by Hamas on October 7, but I am encouraged by the reports that indicate that Israel and Hamas are closer than ever to reaching a cease-fire agreement that would return all remaining hostages held in Gaza to their families.

Still, the reality of the matter is whether a cease-fire is reached and whether that cease-fire lasts. We must act now.

I firmly believe in Israel's right to defend itself. It has been a critical ally in the region and has earned our support as it defends against threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Hamas in Gaza.

Still, the manner in which Israel defends itself matters. After 15 months of war, I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu has overseen a military campaign that has had catastrophic consequences not only for the people of Gaza but for his own people, as well.

As Israel's strongest ally, we have a responsibility to ensure that the legitimate anger felt by its citizens and the rest of the world after October 7 does not spiral into endless violence. What began as a war of defense has now devolved into a war of retribution and widespread destruction.

Over 47,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, though a recent study published by The Lancet estimates the death toll could be up to 40 percent higher. The majority of those killed are women and children.

Madam Speaker, 90 percent of Gaza's population is internally displaced and the threat of widespread famine has lingered for months. At least six newborns have recently died of hypothermia. The number of children killed in Gaza during the war exceeds the total number of children killed in conflicts worldwide over the last 4 years.

Thousands of children like Malek Al Kafarna are grappling with life-threatening injuries as a direct result of the war.

On October 24, 2023, Malek was waiting for food coupons at a market in a refugee camp when an airstrike hit and blew off his arm.

It bears repeating that Hamas is an evil terrorist organization that cynically exploits civilians and has little to no regard for life, even the lives of other Palestinians, but research shows that terrorist organizations have rarely been dismantled purely through military force.

Precisely because Hamas is such a threat, we must approach defeating them with a rational, evidence-based approach. Research by RAND shows that terrorist groups end through targeted intelligence operations or through a negotiated political settlement.

In fact, I feel the war in Gaza will act as a recruitment tool for Hamas and will create a new generation of fighters who will seek revenge. After over a year of fighting, Hamas is weakened but has not been eliminated nor have the remaining Israeli hostages been released.

The last time hostages were released was in November 2023, and they gained their freedom through diplomatic negotiations. What is urgently needed to bring an end to this brutal war is a diplomatic solution.

Both the Israeli Government and Hamas must agree to end the fighting, release the hostages, and flood the Gaza strip with desperately needed food and medical supplies. It is in Israel's security interest to have a stable neighbor and a Palestinian state.

Civil society has broken down completely in Gaza and the territory urgently needs a peacekeeping force to help restore order. This force, ideally composed of Arab states, will play a critical role now and in post-war Gaza.

Hamas cannot remain in power and the people of Gaza deserve new political leadership that will prioritize peace as they establish a new government. Ideally, that government will be

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



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a reformed Palestinian authority empowered to both govern in the West Bank and Gaza.

The ultimate goal for all parties must be a lasting peace, and that can only be reached through a two-state solution.

We have the opportunity to change the trajectory of the lives of children like Malek. In 10 years, he will be 24. The choices we make in the coming weeks and months can either leave him desperate and hopeless, a prime candidate for recruitment from Hamas, or we can give him and the more than 1 million children living in Gaza the opportunity to grow up in a world that has prioritized peace and security. We must work toward ending this war and building a positive future for both Palestinians and Israelis.

#### CELEBRATING COACH LAMAR KIRKLEY'S 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Coach Lamar Kirkley's 50-year anniversary with the Savannah Country Day School.

Mr. Kirkley has spent the past five decades coaching and teaching students at Savannah Country Day. He had led the boys' basketball team as well as the boys' and girls' cross-country and tennis team.

Mr. Kirkley has earned a spot in the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame and received the Teacher of the Year award in 2020 from the Exchange Club of Savannah. He also won the Savannah Morning News Coach of the Year award several times and across many different sports.

Mr. Kirkley was previously a stellar basketball player during his years at Armstrong State University. He has expressed that teaching and coaching go hand in hand, and he has excelled at both.

Mr. Kirkley has an excellent ability to relate to students, colleagues, players, and parents, and continues to excel in his career.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Kirkley on 50 impactful years at Savannah Country Day, and I thank him for what he has done for our three sons.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF VINCENT FORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Vincent Fort, who sadly passed away in December from cancer at the age of 68.

Mr. Fort was a former Democratic leader in the Georgia State Senate and a candidate for Atlanta mayor and Congress, who advocated for causes he believed in for many decades.

After his 1996 election to the 39th District in the State senate, Mr. Fort went on to be re-elected 10 times. Mr. Fort earned his undergraduate degree in history at Central Connecticut State College in 1978 and moved to Atlanta to

study African-American history shortly thereafter. There he wrote his thesis on the sit-in movement at the Atlanta University Center, where he later taught history.

Mr. Fort had several remarkable legislative achievements, including laws that took effect in 2002 targeting abusive lending practices.

Mr. Fort will forever be remembered as a remarkable man who was committed to leadership, justice, and service throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I can attest to this as I had the honor of serving with Vincent Fort in the Georgia State Senate. CONGRATULATING UNITED WAY'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR STACY JENNINGS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stacy Jennings on being named United Way's 2025 Woman of the Year.

Ms. Jennings has been a longtime volunteer and the heart of community service in Savannah. She has spent 33 years with the United Way of the Coastal Empire, where she has served on the board, several committees, and helped fundraise.

Ms. Jennings is also the executive director of communications for the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. She has proven herself to be a dedicated leader and impactful server of the community by supporting families and students across the community within the school system.

Ms. Jennings' honorable achievement as United Way's Woman of the Year will be celebrated in March at the Women Who Rule event, hosted at the Savannah Convention Center.

She currently serves on the marketing committee and has not stopped her efforts to join new committees since she started at the United Way of the Coastal Empire.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Jennings on this incredible accomplishment and thank her for her dedicated service to the city of Savannah.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHERIFF CHARLES WILBERT "CHUNK" JONES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of former McIntosh County Sheriff, Charles Wilbert "Chunk" Jones.

Mr. Jones lived an honorable life, serving in the U.S. Army's D Company. He also served in Vietnam back in 1968.

Mr. Jones' career in law enforcement began in 1971 with the Brunswick Police Department and he later joined the city of Darien Police Department. After joining the city of Darien, Mr. Jones was promoted to the chief of police.

After his time at the Darien Police Department, Mr. Jones joined the Georgia State Patrol where he graduated as a State trooper. He also returned to his hometown and accepted the captain position with the city of Darien. He then won his first sheriff's election to serve the community from 1993 to 1998.

Mr. Jones was also a commercial shrimp fisherman and captain of his

shrimp boat, Lady Vanessa, which was named after his daughter.

Mr. Jones married his high school sweetheart, the late Brenda Marie Jones, with whom he shared three children: Christopher, Vanessa, and Felica.

Madam Speaker, today we honor his life and hold his family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### CONGRATULATING SYDNEY STERLACE WHO FINISHED THIRD ON "THE VOICE"

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible journey of Sydney Sterlace, who finished third on season 26 of "The Voice."

Sydney, a young singer from West Seneca, New York, in my district, has inspired not just our community but viewers across the country.

Her extraordinary talent was undeniable from an early age. With the support of her loving family, especially her mother, she began her singing journey at the age of 7, participating in local talent shows.

By the time she was 10, she won first place in the Erie County Fair talent competition.

Since then, Sydney has performed the national anthem at a Buffalo Bills football game, countless times for the Buffalo Bisons baseball team, and this year at a Buffalo Sabres hockey game.

She is also a regular performer at the annual Music is Art festival, organized by Robby Takac, one of the founding members of the Goo Goo Dolls, who is also from my district.

At just 16 years old, Sydney accomplished what so many dream of: a four-chair turn at her blind audition for "The Voice," and a run all the way to the finale of one of the biggest singing competitions in the world.

Over the course of this season, Sydney showed her incredible range and artistry, and her duet with Gwen Stefani, who also served as her coach while on the show, was the perfect way to cap off a season of unforgettable moments.

Throughout it all, Sydney had the endless support of her family, friends, and our entire community. From accompanying Sydney on her journey to California for the competition to welcoming her home at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport upon her return, her friends were always by her side to cheer her on, especially Kate, Lily, Izzy, Alannah, Holly, and Erin.

Sydney's success extends beyond "The Voice." Last year, she won a challenge promoted by Broadway Evolved, which led to a weeklong Broadway workshop with Tony-nominated actress Betsy Wolfe, but what stands out most is Sydney's humility and heart.

Sydney has made our entire community so proud with her talent, her hard

work, and her poise throughout the entire competition. She has carried herself with grace and determination, inspiring the next generation of talented artists.

While this chapter of “The Voice” may have ended, I have no doubt the next chapter of a long and successful career is ahead of Sydney.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all western New York, I thank and congratulate Sydney for sharing her voice.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING CORNELIUS J. KEANE

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Cornelius J. Keane, whose life was defined by service, family, and enduring dedication to our community.

As someone who was blessed to call him a friend, I can tell you Neil’s love for his family was matched only by his unwavering dedication to serving our community, a calling he fulfilled with distinction throughout his remarkable career.

A Buffalo native, Neil’s career with the Buffalo Fire Department spanned nearly four decades, where he rose to the position of commissioner, embodying courage and leadership every step of the way. As commissioner, he led with compassion and integrity, always putting the needs of others first, and setting a standard of excellence for those who followed in his footsteps.

Throughout his decades of service to the Buffalo Fire Department, Neil dedicated himself to protecting the safety and well-being of the community he loved, the City of Good Neighbors.

Neil’s work extended far beyond the firehouse. His commitment to Buffalo was evident in his efforts to make the city a safer, stronger, and better place for all its residents.

He was a proud member of the Buffalo Professional Firefighters Association Local 282, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the East Coast Retired Firefighters Association. He was a devoted fan of the Buffalo Bills, the Buffalo Sabres, and the New York Yankees.

Neil’s life was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him, and his legacy will live on through the many lives that he touched.

Neil was a loving husband to his wife of 54 years, Ellen; a devoted father to Sheila, Bob, and Terry; and a cherished papa to his beloved grandchildren. He was one of 16 children and had a deep commitment to the values instilled in him as a member of the Keane family. That sense of duty guided his extraordinary legacy of work and public service.

May we all take inspiration from Neil’s devotion to his family, his steadfast service to our community, and his unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. May he rest in peace.

CALIFORNIA RESTRICTIONS ON GAS VEHICLES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this morning I highlight a piece of legislation I intend to cosponsor that is sponsored by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good colleague. It is known as the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act.

The bill aims to prevent the U.S. EPA from issuing Clean Air Act waivers that would enable State-level bans or restrictions on gas and diesel vehicles. This bill would ensure that Americans can select vehicles based on their individual needs and financial situations without undue government interference.

My home State of California is once again leading on the wrong things. The agency called the California Air Resources Board is intending to ban the sale of gas and diesel-powered cars, trucks, and SUVs by 2035, only 10 model years from now.

Now, who the heck is CARB, especially since this has far-reaching effects across the rest of the country? There are six or seven other States that are seeking to emulate what CARB is doing.

This regulation seeks to force a transition to electric vehicles regardless of their affordability, availability, or practicality for many residents and families. The Biden administration EPA has granted the necessary waiver very recently at the end of this era, allowing CARB to enforce this mandate at the State of California level, which sets a precedent that can lead to similar bans in other States across the country. Believe me, it will happen. Several other States are already looking at this.

You end up with the manufacturers having to produce two different types of vehicles for this State or that State, making them more expensive, and heaven knows the difficulty that is producing electric vehicles anyway.

Rural Americans and rural Californians face long commutes and rely heavily on reliable, affordable vehicles. I represent a very rural area. There are people who are afraid to take electric vehicles very far with the inability to know if they can charge them and make it back.

The mandate poses significant financial challenges, as EVs remain more expensive than their gas- and diesel-powered counterparts. They have more expensive tires, and they are harder to get parts for, among other things.

There is a very, very limited charging infrastructure. The fact that the Biden administration has put aside billions for charging stations and only built about seven or eight in the whole country over the last 3 years shows that it is very impractical.

EVs are an unviable option for many. The mandate would not only increase

the cost of living for individuals and families but reduce transportation options for many rural residents and even urban residents that maybe have a car that is already paid for that they would soon see they wouldn’t have the ability to keep. Additionally, part of the mandate is quietly eliminating fueling stations, making fuel more expensive, and making fuel harder to produce. In my home State of California and the country, when they ban the pipeline coming from Canada, it makes fuel harder to get. It is coming from all edges. Taxing people out of this is part of their goal.

Of course, the power grid of my home State, California, is already struggling to deliver electricity to meet existing energy demands, with the currently frequent blackouts and energy shortages. We have these blackouts in my part of the State, and we are starting to see them in southern California with the unfortunate massive suffering going on due to the wildfires. They have to preemptively shut off the power to particular areas if they think the wind is going to blow too hard and cause foliage to blow off trees, shrubs, and whatever onto the power lines and cause an outage or a blackout and, therefore, a fire along with it, as has happened many times in my district.

Mandating this shift to electric vehicles would place additional strain on the grid, leading to more outages and much higher energy costs. California has not demonstrated the capacity to expand the grid infrastructure. Indeed, they are tearing down dams in my district—and they have their eye on more—that make clean, CO<sub>2</sub>-free hydroelectric power. The grid gets even tighter due to this. This raises serious concerns about the feasibility of this mandate, yet they force it forward.

The practicality of converting to all these electric vehicles, as well as the appliances that California, Biden, and others are trying to do with electric stoves, water heaters, and all that, means where are the materials and the minerals going to come from to produce these electric appliances and vehicles.

We can’t mine as it is. On average, it takes 29 years to build a copper mine in this country. Are we going to import it all? Are we going to have poor kids and slave labor in other countries continue to supply us so we can be pristine?

CARB’s members are not actually directly accountable to the public. The resources board is appointed by the Governor. They don’t have to answer to anybody, and they frequently don’t. We have a direct threat to consumer choice.

Indeed, this is what Governor Newsom wants us to have, fires that burn out our vehicles. We need to have him stand aside and let President Trump lead the way on allowing us to have our vehicles.

## FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF SPORTS

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, House Republicans have a big vote planned for today. Now, I wish I was talking about a bill that will lower costs for hardworking families or help more Americans buy a home, the issues that so many people told us mattered most to them in the 2024 election.

However, instead, in just their second week of power, House Republicans have chosen to vote on a Federal takeover of sports at all levels. To justify this power grab, my colleagues across the aisle are preying on the legitimate concerns that some people have about transgender athletes in women's sports.

For the vast majority of those folks, many of them parents, their concerns don't come from a place of hate. They come from a place of worry about the safety of their daughters and the fairness of their sport.

Now, as the only woman in Congress who played Division I sports in college, I know how critical it is that we ensure that sports are safe and fair above all else. That is all any athlete wants, to know that if they put in the hard work and the training necessary, they are going to have a fair shot on game day.

As the mom of two young daughters, who I cheer on from the bleachers every weekend, I know that parents want their kids to be able to enjoy the game they love. After all, we know how important sports can be to children's development. They give the chance to build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop lifelong friendships.

That is why, like parents and athletes across our country, I have long placed my trust in the governing bodies of sports, the experts who have dedicated their lives to these games, to create fair and responsible rules for participation.

Despite what the authors of this legislation have said, many of those organizations have already updated their rules to ensure fairness and safety in their sports. That includes the international authorities overseeing track and field, boxing, cycling, swimming, and rugby, just to name a few. These organizations, many led by former athletes, worked with scientists, athletic federations, and human rights organizations to craft thoughtful, evidence-based rules, including those governing participation in the Paris Olympics last summer.

Don't get me wrong, Madam Speaker. I recognize that there is more work to be done, but why in the world would we let insincere, attention-seeking politicians here in Washington, many of whom know little to nothing about competitive sports, take over? It doesn't make any sense.

However, that is exactly what my Republican colleagues are going to do today, inject themselves into decisions

they have no business making. In fact, if you listen to them, they would have you think that a transgender woman in college, who may have transitioned after puberty and may present physical advantages over her opponent, is the same as a 10-year-old girl who just wants to play soccer on the weekends with her friends.

However, those two situations aren't the same at all, and the consequences of that approach will be devastating: girls as young as 4 years old being subjected to invasive lines of questioning about their bodies and even physical inspections by an adult, a stranger, a predator all because some creep accuses them of not being a girl. What parent would want to put their daughter through that? I know I wouldn't.

Madam Speaker, we won't be able to find common ground on this issue today, but this debate has made one thing abundantly clear: Members of Congress are the last people who should decide who gets to play sports in America. That responsibility belongs where it always has, to the organizations whose mission it is to protect the fairness, the safety, and the integrity of their sports.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the GOP's child predator empowerment act.

## BLIZZARDS DON'T CLOSE THE BIG FIRST

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, last week in the Nation's Capital, 6.8 inches of snow closed Federal office buildings. Nearly 1,300 miles away in Kansas, blizzards brought more than 18 inches of snowfall to parts of the Big First District. Farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in the Big First didn't have the luxury of closing down for the week. When you answer the call to feed, fuel, and clothe the world, you are required to show up, even when the temperatures are far below freezing.

My congressional district is one of the top agricultural producing districts in the country. It is home to more than 60,000 farms along with farmers, ranchers, feedlot managers, dairies, nutritionists, veterinarians, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who bring the agricultural ecosystem to life.

When the snow piles and the temperatures refuse to rise past freezing, these men and women don't get a break. They throw on their warm layers, and they get the job done. Those of us in agriculture understand full well that Mother Nature is not a reliable business partner.

At the end of October, much of my district was still navigating dry to severe drought conditions. On top of navigating an already challenging farm year, these droughts severely squeezed margins for farmers and ranchers.

Approximately 2 months later, Mother Nature changed course once again

with more than a foot of snow. In true Kansas fashion, families and neighbors came together to help one another in time of need. Kansans helped move snow to ensure livestock could still be watered and fed. Kansans helped move calves to make sure that they were warm after they were born, so they could get to a place to be properly fed and nourished in negative temperatures.

Kansans stayed up through the night to make sure livestock had a chance of surviving or to guarantee that their equipment was ready to go by sunrise the next morning.

Why on Earth would anyone do this, Madam Speaker?

It is a special calling that many families in my district have answered. In a world where Instacart and Amazon Fresh can deliver groceries to your door in nearly an hour if you are in an urban area, it can be easy to forget that our food doesn't just come from the grocery store shelf. It comes from the men and women who work tirelessly day in and day out to answer the call to feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

On days with lots of extreme weather like we saw last week, these men and women bust their backs to ensure that we can still have food on our plates when the storms are long gone. It can often be a thankless job.

On behalf of Kansas and the Nation, I thank these brave men and women for keeping us fueled, clothed, and fed. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. We are deeply grateful for their efforts to feed a hungry world.

□ 1030

## RECOGNIZING SARAH HENRY

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, agriculture is the heart of the First District of Kansas. It is our lifeblood.

When I built my team in the District, it was important for me to find someone who knew agriculture and would fight for the farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers of Kansas. Sarah Henry was the perfect choice.

As a graduate with a degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University, Sarah moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked in several congressional offices and for the National Corn Growers Association.

It was during her time in the Nation's Capital that she met her now-husband, Dalton, and the two moved back to Dalton's old stomping grounds in Randolph, Kansas. The move back to the Plains allowed Sarah to serve as my district ag director and later as my district director.

This month, Sarah will begin a more part-time role with the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers so she can focus on her two precious sons, Samuel and Abraham.

I thank Sarah for leading our district team well, for being an incredible advocate and friend, and for caring about Kansas.

Audrey and I are excited for her in this next chapter of life as she adjusts

to being a family of four. I thank her again for being such an integral part of our team.

#### HONORING ILLINOIS POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a powerful force in the fight for justice, equality, and true democracy, the Illinois Poor People's Campaign.

In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the Poor People's Campaign dares to believe that poverty can be eradicated. Their work continues the legacy and vision of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., building a multiracial movement to end poverty, centering the voices of those with lived experiences of poverty, and breaking down barriers to full democratic participation.

The Illinois Poor People's Campaign understands that democracy is too precious and too significant to leave in the hands of those who would prioritize the interests of the ultrawealthy corporations.

I especially recognize the Illinois Poor People's Campaign members and constituents of Illinois' Third District, Sheilah Garland-Olaniran, Joyce Brody, and Lenny Brody. Additionally, I recognize Illinois PPC Tri-Chairs Carlos Rodriguez, Jessica Motsinger, and Reverend Susan Phillips. Their unwavering commitment to all of us all over the country is inspiring and should encourage us to also live a life of this kind of dedication.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend the Illinois Poor People's Campaign for their relentless fight for justice and equality and their efforts to ensure every person has a say in our democracy. I thank all of its members.

#### HONORING PASTOR EMMA LOZANO

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastora Emma Lozano of the United Lincoln Methodist Church in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

Born in Texas and later making Chicago her home, Pastor Lozano's lifelong commitment to advocacy has left an undeniable mark on our communities and our Nation.

Her journey as an advocate started at Centro de Accion Social Autonomo, where she and her brother, Rudy Lozano, championed immigrant worker rights. After her brother's tragic assassination in 1983, Pastor Lozano carried his legacy forward, channeling her grief into action and dedicating herself to the causes they both held dear.

In 1987, she founded Centro Sin Fronteras, a grassroots organization that has empowered undocumented families, addressing critical issues such as overcrowded schools, housing insecurity, police brutality, and bilingual education.

In 2006, Pastor Lozano and her late husband, Reverend Walter "Slim" Coleman, sparked a nationwide movement for our shared humanity when they offered their church in my district, Adalberto United Methodist Church, as a sanctuary for a woman who was undocumented and in need of sanctuary, Elvira Arellano, and her son, Saul.

Emma's courage, faith, and tireless work remind us of the power of community and the enduring fight for dignity and equality. On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I thank her for her compassion. I thank her for her dedication to creating a more just, more compassionate world.

May this Congress learn from her—from her dedication, from her courage—and may it truly be what it says it is, the people's House, reminded of our roots and reminded of our shared humanity.

I congratulate Pastor Emma Lozano.

#### CONGRATULATING BROADWAY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding group of young athletes in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District, the Broadway High School boys cross country team, which won the VHSL Class 3 State championship in November.

Despite online predictions that showed the Gobblers losing by over 50 points, each runner clocked in at their fastest time that day to clinch first place with a 10-point margin over the runners-up.

Along the way, the team also became district and regional champs for the first time in the school's history. The following team members made this victory possible: Peyton Allen, Gavin Diehl, Grayson Jacquez, Jaiden Nguyen, Asher Ryan, Gavin Ryman, Cameron Shifflett, Lee Souder, and Tristan Yoder.

Head Coach Darrell Zook and Assistant Coach Michael Sheets provided their leadership and encouragement. Their success does not just reflect their individual talent but also their commitment to the team.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate each runner and their coaches, families, and supporters. Their hard work and dedication have inspired us all.

#### CONGRATULATING KATHRYN HA

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional student athlete from Salem High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School, Kathryn Ha.

Kathryn is a two-time Virginia High School League 4A coed State golf champion, winning in 2022 and 2024, finishing the latter with an impressive score of 68, 2 under par, even in challenging conditions.

She also captured the 2024 VHSL girls open State championship and has

been named the Virginia State Golf Association's Junior Girls Player of the Year for both '23 and '24.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Blaine Hancock, Kathryn has competed at the highest levels, including representing the United States at the Junior Solheim Cup in Spain.

Introduced to golf by her father, Tim Ha, she credits him with shaping her mental game, proving that family support is invaluable.

Academically, Kathryn shines as well, maintaining a stellar 4.377 GPA. She plans to continue pursuing her academic and athletic journey at Vanderbilt University.

Kathryn's remarkable achievements exemplify perseverance, skill, and sportsmanship. She serves as a role model not just in her community but for young athletes across our Nation. I congratulate Kathryn.

#### CONGRATULATING CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clarke County High School boys cross country team for their remarkable achievement in winning the Class 2 State championship. The Eagles placed four runners in the top 15 and scored 49 points to capture the program's first State title since 2009.

Seniors James Casey, Jackson Ellis, and Aidan Kreeb each earned all-State honors for placing in the top 10.

Sophomore Landon Horton earned a State medal for placing in the top 15, and sophomore Matthew Lisk rounded out the scoring. Carter Starley and Jonathan Hornbaker also ran for the Clarke County boys team, and Warren Maiberger, Brody Ellis, and Luke LaMaster were members of the post-season championship team.

The team is led by Coach Jeff Webster, who was named the Winchester Star Cross Country Coach of the Year for both girls and boys. According to Webster, the guys simply outperformed what we thought they would do. To place 4 runners in the top 15 was just an exceptional effort and one that other teams could not match.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the 2024 Clarke County boys cross country team. Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment, and I wish them continued success in the seasons ahead.

#### ALLOWING WOMEN TO THRIVE IN SPORTS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025.

Since 1972, Title IX has allowed women to thrive and excel in sports nationwide. This landmark legislation has empowered countless women to compete at the highest levels, achievements we should honor and protect.

Yet, the left has embarked on a relentless campaign to rewrite Title IX, aiming to erase the critical distinctions between men and women, boys and girls. This misguided agenda poses

a direct threat to the very spirit of Title IX, opening the doors for biological males to compete in women's sports, thereby undermining the hard-won accomplishments of female athletes nationwide.

Let me be clear: House Republicans will not idly stand by while the radical left diminishes over five decades of progress for women.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025 is essential for ensuring that all young women who aspire to play sports have the opportunity to compete fairly, preserving fairness and protecting their achievements. We must safeguard the integrity of female athletics so that young women can succeed in sports for generations to come.

#### RISKING CHILD SAFETY TO VILIFY TRANS KIDS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call out harm and hypocrisy. This bill, H.R. 28, is couched as a bill that protects children when it does the exact opposite.

Madam Speaker, this bill not only erodes Federal protections for our kids, but it puts the physical and emotional safety of every child in our public schools at risk.

Imagine that you are 8 years old, trying out for the soccer team, and your coach demands that you show them your genitals. That is abuse. That is exploitation. That is egregious, but it is exactly what this Republican bill does. It allows adults—not medical professionals, just random adults—to demand to inspect our child's genitals without parental consent.

As a survivor of a near-decade of childhood sexual abuse and as a bonus mom to a school-age daughter, I am horrified.

To Members of Congress who support this legislation, you are putting the safety of children across this Nation at risk. Why? Because you want to vilify and harm trans kids, children who should have every right to show up in this world and live and thrive like anyone else. You are punching down at the most vulnerable and exacting harm on everyone.

I would ask my colleagues: Have you spoken to any of these children? How about their parents? They pose no threat to you, but you pose a threat to them, denying them their healthcare, isolating them from their friends, creating conditions for bullying and even suicidal ideation.

You are posing a threat to every child who wants to step onto a soccer field or pick up a softball bat in this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and to speak out in strong opposition to this disgusting, predatory bill that does nothing to keep a single child safe.

#### WE NEED CLEMENCY

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, for too long, our Nation's criminal legal system has been wrought with systemic injustices and biases and has prioritized cruelty at the expense of rehabilitation and justice. That is why we have a mass incarceration crisis.

Nearly one in two adults in America has had an incarcerated loved one. Today, in the name of all who have felt the injustices of the carceral state, we are standing united to call on President Biden to use his clemency powers to release people from prison and reunite them with their families.

There are mothers like Michelle West, who is incarcerated for the crimes of her abuser; brothers like Charles Ellis, Jr., from my district, the Massachusetts Seventh, who had ineffective assistance of counsel when he committed a crime at the age of 19; and sons like Ismael Lira, who was sentenced to life in prison for a nonviolent cannabis charge.

Madam Speaker, why is anyone still incarcerated for cannabis?

With nearly 1 million people behind bars, more people per capita than any other country, it is time for clemency to put the United States on a path toward ending mass incarceration.

Locked in cages are people who pose no threat to public safety: the elderly, disabled, and chronically ill; those who were wrongly convicted; and people serving time under outdated sentencing laws.

It is the height of hypocrisy to claim they are a risk to public safety when they are the very people at this moment that we are trusting to keep the public safe. Eight hundred incarcerated men are fighting wildfires in California for \$5 a day, only to return to a jail cell at night. During the pandemic, these same people were making hand sanitizer.

President Biden has the power to save their lives. That is what this moment demands, and we are grateful for his leadership. We need action. We need compassion. We need clemency.

#### CELEBRATING HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, this weekend in my district, the Massachusetts Seventh, community members came together to celebrate Haitian Independence Day. There was much soup *joumou*, freedom soup, that was consumed.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti became the first free Black republic, declaring independence for all people from colonial rule and enslavement.

This weekend also marks 15 years since a devastating earthquake killed thousands and destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes on the island. These anniversaries encapsulate the values of the Haitian people: resistance and resilience.

The Republic of Haiti continues to experience heightened violence and political instability, which is why, as co-chair of the House Haiti Caucus, I continue to advocate for humanitarian aid

to our ally, TPS for migrants, strategic trade partnerships for economic prosperity, and an end to deportations to Haiti.

Even with just a few days remaining in the Biden-Harris administration, we must prioritize stability for Haitians on the island and in the United States.

□ 1045

#### DOGE CAUCUS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, proud to announce that I have joined the bipartisan Congressional DOGE Caucus. This important initiative is focused on bringing much needed efficiency to the Federal Government and reducing wasteful spending that burdens taxpayers.

As an Iowan, I know that every dollar counts. Many of my constituents are living paycheck to paycheck, while unelected bureaucrats in Washington continue to waste taxpayer dollars. That is why I am excited to work alongside leaders like Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk who bring a business-minded approach to reforming government operations.

The national debt has now surpassed \$36 trillion. Since 2003, \$2.7 trillion in improper payments have been made by Federal agencies. The DOGE Caucus will work tirelessly to address this issue, streamline operations, and ensure the government is working more effectively and efficiently for all Americans.

I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues and advancing President Trump's agenda to rein in wasteful spending while we work efficiently to provide services and protect taxpayer dollars.

#### PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act which was introduced by Representative STEUBE.

In the last term, the House passed this bill as well, but it was not taken up by the Senate. This critical legislation ensures that only biological women and girls can participate in athletic programs designed for their sex at birth, preserving fairness and integrity in women's sports.

For decades, Title IX has worked to provide equal opportunities for women in education and athletics. This bill reaffirms that commitment by clarifying that sex is determined by an individual's chromosomal expression at birth.

As a physician and a scientist, the science indicates that males, especially after puberty, have greater and longer striated muscle mass which means they run faster, swim faster, and jump higher. They also have greater cardiac volume and greater lung volume which

also enables them to have greater endurance and strength. Those individuals who are competing with women don't offer a level playing field for female athletes.

This bill also requires a report from the Government Accountability Office to assess the negative psychological, developmental, and sociological aspects of male participation in female sports.

Madam Speaker, this is about fairness. It is about protecting women's rights and women's spaces and ensuring that girls have equal opportunities in athletics, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

WELCOMING IOWANS TO THE UNITED STATES  
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I extend a warm welcome to the thousands of Iowans, including the hundreds from Iowa's First Congressional District, who are traveling to Washington, D.C., to attend President Trump's inauguration. I know that many of them are making the journey with their families, friends, and fellow community members. I am excited to see such a strong presence of Iowans in our Nation's Capital.

From local leaders to activists to business owners, students, and veterans, Iowans of all walks of life are coming together to witness this historic event. It is a testament to the pride and dedication we have in our State and our country.

My team and I are here to make sure their experience is as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. We look forward to assisting them in any way we can while they are here. We welcome Iowa to Washington, D.C.

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA  
SORORITY, INCORPORATED

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the celebration yesterday of my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated.

Let me say that it was 112 years ago yesterday that 22 visionary, young, Black women at Howard University came together to create a sorority rooted in the ideas of change, justice, and empowerment.

I am a proud life member of this esteemed sisterhood. For me, it started at the Delta Kappa chapter as a freshman at Central State University and then as a member of the Dayton alumni chapter and now the Columbus, Ohio, alumni chapter.

I am honored to recognize the extraordinary legacy and contributions of this organization which have been a beacon of service, sisterhood, and social action since its beginning in 1913.

These trailblazers envisioned an organization that would prioritize service over socialization, and they had the foundation for what would become one of the world's largest African-American women's organizations.

Over the decades, this organization has tackled some of the most pressing challenges facing our community. The National Library Project provided books to underserved Black communities in the segregated South. Deltas became the first sorority to establish employment counseling and career development for Black women. They partnered with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for families in need at home and abroad.

Delta Sigma Theta has earned special NGO status with the United Nations, ensuring our voices are heard on the world's stage.

Delta Sigma Theta women are among the most powerful changemakers in history. Their history includes ceiling-shattering public servants like Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley, who I fondly called Aunt Edna, serving as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II.

It includes the Honorable Shirley Chisolm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, the first Black woman to seek a major party's nomination for President of these United States and, yes, the only female of the 13 Members who founded the Congressional Black Caucus.

It also includes individuals like Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Delta has defined leadership in a broad spectrum of influence, from civil rights icons like Ida B. Wells to cultural legends like Aretha Franklin to leaders in this very Chamber like chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, YVETTE CLARKE, and our brilliant sisters who serve here: Congresswoman VALERIE FOUSHEE, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH, Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT, Congresswoman SUMMER LEE, Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, and Senator ANGELA ALSOBROOKS.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Founders' Day in Ohio, we recommit ourselves to the mission and the vision of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated: Fostering economic empowerment, advancing education, improving physical and mental health, promoting international awareness, and, lastly, engaging in political advocacy. These values have guided us for 112 years and will continue to light our way forward.

Let me add that I associate myself with every word that Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY said with respect to what we are rightly naming. When we think about this bill being proposed, it is really the child predator empowerment act. There is nothing fair or safe about a teacher, a counselor, a non-medical professional asking a young child to remove their garments so they can be inspected.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, this past weekend, Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro boldly declared his intention to invade and liberate Puerto Rico.

As Puerto Rico's Representative before the United States Government, I want to let Mr. Maduro know an overwhelming majority of Puerto Ricans support a relationship of permanent union or permanent association with the United States, be that as a State or as a U.S. Commonwealth.

That same overwhelming majority also defends the right of a respectable patriotic minority to advocate and fight for the island's independence through peaceful and democratic means. That respect for differing views is a hallmark of our democratic values, something Mr. Maduro clearly does not understand.

The future of Puerto Rico will be decided by Puerto Ricans in a peaceful and democratic manner, the same way that the future of Venezuela should be decided by the Venezuelan people in a peaceful and democratic manner.

I will address my constituents in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Este pasado fin de semana el dictador venezolano Nicolás Maduro anunció su intención de invadir y liberar a Puerto Rico.

Una mayoría abrumadora de los puertorriqueños respalda la unión o asociación permanente con los Estados Unidos, a través del estatus del Estado Libre Asociado o de la aspiración de convertir a Puerto Rico en un estado de la unión.

Esa mayoría abrumadora respalda el derecho de una minoría respetable y patriótica de impulsar pacífica y democráticamente el derecho de Puerto Rico a su independencia.

Esa tolerancia por las diferencias es uno de los valores fundamentales de nuestra cultura democrática, algo que Nicolás Maduro es incapaz de comprender.

Maduro, el futuro de Puerto Rico lo decidiremos pacífica y democráticamente los puertorriqueños, así como el futuro de Venezuela lo deben decidir pacífica y democráticamente los venezolanos.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation to the Chair.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE  
"CHA CHA" JIMENEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fighter for human rights, Jose "Cha Cha" Jimenez who passed away on January 10 after a life dedicated to social justice.

Cha Cha, as he was fondly called, was the founder of the Young Lords, an organization created by Puerto Rican teens with the original purpose of providing a safe space in a changing Chicago.

Inspired by the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Puerto Rican leader Pedro Albizu Campos, Cha Cha transformed the Young Lords from a street organization into a social justice group to fight for equality and freedom beyond Chicago. The movement was rooted in the self-determination of Puerto Ricans on the island and the mainland.

They organized actions against gentrification and displacement of Puerto Ricans in Lincoln Park, Chicago. They fought against police brutality and brought much needed basic services like education, childcare, and health services to our neighborhoods.

Cha Cha understood that the Latino and Black communities were facing similar struggles and forged an alliance with the Black Panthers to help underserved, low-income communities. Soon after, they partnered with a group of White, low-income residents called the Young Patriots, establishing Chicago's Rainbow Coalition.

Cha Cha's leadership united people of all backgrounds to fight collectively for a better future, and his legacy will live on for generations to come.

May he rest in power.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Riverside, Illinois, which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary. Originally called Aux Plains, this charming village is known for its peaceful riverbanks and scenic forested areas.

On August 8, 1875, Riverside elected its first village president and trustees. Over the decades, it has become a thriving community, earning the title of: "Village in the Forest."

With its expansive green parkways, iconic gaslit street lanterns, and curvilinear streets, the village's charm is matched by its distinction as a national historic landmark, a title that it has proudly held since 1970 in part thanks to the numerous home designs by famous architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Olmsted & Vaux, Jenney, Sullivan, and Drummond.

We congratulate Riverside on this incredible milestone and look forward to celebrating all year long.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN SOLIZ

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juan Soliz who passed away in December of 2024. Juan was a public servant, educator, attorney, and an advocate for immigrants and indigenous peoples.

He served our community with passion and dedication. Born in Texas to Mexican parents, Juan's hard work took him to college and later law school in Washington State. He moved to Chicago in 1978 to join the Legal Assistance Foundation and never stopped working for the rights of immigrants and for immigration reform.

My friend, Juan, was the first Mexican American elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1984. In 1987, he became the first Mexican American to represent Chicago's 25th Ward as alderman. He uplifted voter rights and brought Latino representation to Chicago's southwest side, and for that he will be remembered.

□ 1100

#### COMBATING PREVENTABLE AMPUTATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that on Friday I was proud to introduce the Amputation Reduction and Compassion, or ARC, Act to help combat preventable amputations brought on by peripheral artery disease, also known as PAD.

The ARC Act will save lives and reduce amputations by ensuring high-risk Medicare and Medicaid recipients have access to PAD screenings at no additional cost. Lowering costs will allow for better screening, earlier detection and treatment, and remove cost-prohibitive barriers to care.

This bill is very special to me, as it was first introduced by my predecessor, the late Representative Donald Payne, Jr. I am honored to ensure his work for better, more accessible care and his legacy are carried on with the ARC Act.

With the co-leadership of Representatives JONATHAN JACKSON and ROBIN KELLY, I am proud to introduce the ARC Act to save limbs, reduce patient costs, and save lives.

EVERY KID IS AT RISK

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to object to the dangerous bill, H.R. 28, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, better known as the child predator empowerment act.

As the mom of an 8-year-old little girl who loves sports, who loves soccer, this bill is invasive to young girls but also dangerous to every kid. It puts every kid at risk. Every kid is at risk under this bill. I ask my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous achievements of President Joe Biden, the 46th President of the United States.

While I could spend my time highlighting the nearly innumerable achievements of his administration, I rise to celebrate what this Nation is today because of President Biden's leadership, a nation on the rise.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS inherited a nation in crisis; the greatest public health crisis in generations coupled with a threatening economic downturn with rising costs and high unemployment.

President Biden recognized this head-on. He saw what our Nation needed, and he acted with a jump-start of economic investment to get Americans working, moving, and innovating like never before. Alongside congressional leaders, he delivered for the American people.

President Biden delivered historic investments into our communities through the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, just to name a few.

These historic legislative packages unleashed hundreds of billions of dollars into our communities to get us moving and growing again.

The national statistics may highlight the breadth and depth of these historic investments, but no place speaks better to the generational change created by President Biden's leadership like my home State of Michigan with \$13 billion in infrastructure funding that has flowed through Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, there have been 62 new clean energy projects, and the most in the country have been announced in Michigan.

Over 400,000 new jobs have been created in Michigan, so many, in fact, that Detroit has been boasting its lowest levels of unemployment in three decades.

With the largest investment in the Great Lakes in decades, nearly all areas of concern in Michigan will be remediated, including two affecting my district: the Clinton River and the River Rouge. Combined with historic State-level investments, Michigan, the home of the Flint water crisis, is officially headed to a lead-free future with Detroit being lead-free by the end of the decade.

As home to the Big Three automakers, no place is leading the charge to electrify our future like we are in Michigan. We are manufacturing, we are growing, and we are innovating.

These are stories, these are numbers that represent the American worker. American workers have been able to achieve an economic reality, not just a political wish list, because of President Biden's dedication and leadership.

The needs of the American worker were heard, including seeing President Biden be the first President to join striking workers on a picket line in, of course, my home State of Michigan alongside the United Auto Workers.

It is the last week of President Biden's historic administration. President Biden is a true public servant who has stood up every single day of his career on behalf of the American people, who has reached out to the next generation to make sure that we are heard, to mentor individuals like myself, and who has been selfless in his



actions. We salute President Biden, and we recognize him for everything that he has done and committed to and the changes he has made.

GRATEFUL AND HONORED TO  
SERVE

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to serve Texas' 32nd Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives for the 119th Congress.

As a Texas-educated attorney for over 30 years, I know what it takes to fight for those who need it most. Throughout my career, I have stood up for workers, those living with disabilities, students who are being taken advantage of by for-profit colleges, and so many of my fellow Texans who needed someone fighting alongside them.

I took those skills to the Texas State legislature where I fought for Medicaid expansion, a fair judicial court system, consumer protections, and for women to make their own healthcare decisions free from government intrusion.

When extremists decided to target the LGBTQ community in Texas, I raised my voice and helped kill hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills that would have hurt the members of my community and their families.

As the trusted voice for Texas' 32nd Congressional District in Congress, I am ready to deliver real results for my neighbors. That means working to lower costs across the board; support and expand infrastructure for the fastest growing metroplex in the country; secure our southern border; and make healthcare safe, affordable, and reliable for all Americans.

My home State of Texas plays a huge role in powering our Nation and our world. We have a massive economy that supports millions of jobs, and we are Mexico's largest trading partner.

Texas also has the largest border with our neighbor to the south, and it will be up to Texas and Texas Democrats to provide meaningful solutions to the problems that we face. I am ready to lead on these important issues.

I am thrilled I will be serving on three committees this Congress that will help me deliver these results to make life better for Texas' businesses, middle-class families, and our seniors.

On the House Homeland Security Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee, I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep our Nation safe and to strengthen our alliances around the world.

On the House Administration Committee, I will work tirelessly to protect the people's right to vote and to make sure this institution, the people's House, functions in a way that is better for Texans and all of our Nation's citizens.

Let me be clear: The work begins right now.

In Congress, I am committed to rising above the division and coming up with bipartisan solutions to solve our Nation's biggest problems. I will work with anyone, Democrat or Republican, who is willing to come together, put partisanship aside, and to make life better for the people that we all serve.

I want my constituents to know how grateful I am to have this opportunity, and I wake up every day with the mission and the purpose to serve them in this Chamber. I thank them so much, and I want them to know that I will always have their back here in the United States Congress.

CALIFORNIA FIRES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we are all watching the ferocious Palisades, Eaton, Altadena, and Hurst fires expand along California's beautiful Coast. I can recall my many trips there. Surely we all love the Tournament of Roses Parade and the magic of Hollywood.

Our hearts go out today and forever to come to the thousands of displaced people, the brave, unrelenting fire and rescue crews, and the public officials trying to bring order in the midst of chaos.

Let me share. Having practiced as a city and regional planner long before my election to Congress, I was awestruck when I visited there at the large number of homes built high on forested mountainsides with many sizeable mansions at their very peaks.

In fact, most recently, as ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I was flown on an extensive tour over Los Angeles by a U.S. Army Corps helicopter to evaluate freshwater challenges in that drought-prone region.

As the granddaughter of a forester, experience led me to question how such densely developed communities with housing perched on forested ascending hillsides could be evacuated in the event of emergency. My stomach became queasy at the thought, and my premonition is now being affirmed.

Last fall, I called for Congress to return to Washington to fully fund FEMA and the Small Business Administration to assist with disaster relief efforts. It took until late December to approve \$28 billion in funding, well below the \$40 billion the Biden administration requested, and now this horror has launched.

Statistics show in Canada and the United States, whether it is along our Pacific Coast, in Vancouver, or Quebec, historic precious forests are burning to the ground during this era of prolonged drought.

One estimate indicates the recent annual tree loss just in Canada equates to their forests' lost capacity to absorb the annual carbon dioxide from all jet aviation fuel spewed into the atmos-

phere across our globe. This chart attests to that.

Just a few years ago due to major forest fires in Quebec, our southern Great Lakes region in my home State of Ohio was covered with an eerie, hazy, atmospheric soot blowing south across the border with Canada. What an out-of-body occurrence never before encountered where we live. My own rhododendron plants were smothered by it.

Long ago, I learned in a forestry class there is only one way to regenerate a forest: burning it to the ground. Thus, allowing massive communities to be built in forests is always dangerous.

When I was born, California's population numbered about 10 million people. Today, it has quadrupled to over 42.5 million people, and Los Angeles County's dense population alone now numbers over 10 million people, larger than 80 percent of the States in our Union. California's population is projected to reach 60 million people by 2050, and that is six times its population in 1950.

Freshwater is running out.

Challenges to life on a changing continent and world are daunting, and we must all ask tough questions about how to build and rebuild places that are livable and survivable.

□ 1115

It will take years to salvage the Los Angeles neighborhoods, and some will never be rebuilt. Meanwhile, other regions across our Nation can welcome fire refugees.

The growing freshwater fights between communities and States that attend to life in the West are hastening. More people are demanding more freshwater when that is a physical impossibility as aquifers run dry.

There is only so much freshwater. If one looks at places like the Great Lakes, we say: How does our Nation best invest in sustainable water and energy systems for the coming century and beyond?

We must think forward, not backward. America must have a more comprehensive approach to build forward sustainable communities.

Step one is to rescue the West, but there must be attention to resettling in freshwater regions that are more sustainable.

For example, advancing freshwater settlement for our Great Lakes region will require standing up the Great Lakes Authority and infusing it with the ability to relieve bonded indebtedness of struggling freshwater communities. They must be able to financially reinvest to upgrade their freshwater systems in places like Flint, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Youngstown, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Chicago, and so many more. Freshwater is life.

The old expression, "Go west or south, young man," still applies, but our planet is teaching us there are limits to what the Earth can sustain.

Living in the past is not an option. Onward, America, together.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

God, our teacher, Lord, and friend, we pray that we would walk where You lead us this day. Open our eyes to see Your guidance, to look at each encounter, regard each situation with Your eyes.

Open our ears to Your instruction, to receive every word spoken, every concern voiced, and hear as You would hear.

Open our hearts to Your wisdom, to understand the problems, to discern the solutions, and to respond to each one as You would respond.

May the perceptions of our world, the reception of those whom we meet, and the interpretation of the work You would have us do reflect that we are willing and open to learn the unforced rhythms of grace which You, Yourself, have taught each one of us.

In Your divine friendship, abide with us. We rejoice that You have called us friends and have made Yourself and Your will known to us in the name of which we offer this prayer.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLOOD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## REPUBLICANS WILL ENFORCE BORDER SECURITY

(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, according to a report released by the House Committee on Homeland Security, more than 125,000 illegal alien crossings took place in October alone, bringing the total number of illegal alien crossings since Biden-Harris of over 11 million nationwide, with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON warning of over 16 million illegal aliens.

Dangerously, these catastrophic border crossing figures do not account for the illegal got-aways, including drug smugglers and identified terrorists who threaten every American family.

Sadly, with the duplicitous policies of Biden-Harris, among those illegal transgressors are unaccompanied children who are suffering at the hands of cartel smugglers.

Additionally, after meeting with President Donald Trump this weekend on Sunday at Mar-a-Lago, I know he is committed to securing the borders and protecting families and making America great again.

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. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

## MEAN, CRUEL BULLYING TACTIC

(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, it is no surprise that the Republican Party of Matt Gaetz and former GOP Speaker Dennis Hastert is the same party that is obsessed with passing a bill today which I call the child predator empowerment act.

Republicans are passing a bill that allows any adult in a school to inspect the genitals of our kids before they are allowed to play sports. That is right, Republicans' creepy, weird obsession with your kids' private parts now means they are passing bills that let them inspect what is in your kids' pants.

What is wrong with them? As a parent, I find this terrifying and downright sick. Let me be clear, every kid should be able to play sports, and this bill is just a mean, cruel bullying tactic.

My Republican colleagues are obsessed with passing a bill to protect predators. How about they pass a bill to protect jobs or pass a bill to fight wildfires or lower grocery prices? No,

no, no, Republicans are weirdly obsessed with talking about transgender people and using that as an excuse to protect and even empower child predators.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we all know the reason why.

## HONORING NANCY AND JIM THOMPSON

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two stalwarts of community service in Sarpy County, Nebraska: Nancy and Jim Thompson.

Nancy and Jim have dedicated their lives to giving back to Nebraska throughout their nearly five-and-a-half decades of marriage.

As educators, they played key roles in forming the Papillion La Vista School Foundation, helping charter it nearly 40 years ago.

Their commitment to public service is equally impressive. Nancy and Jim were both elected to local and county office. Nancy had the distinction of being the first woman elected to the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners, and she later served as a State senator in our unicameral from 1997 to 2006, where she and I served briefly together.

This week, their lifelong dedication, especially to Nebraska's children, will be honored with the 2025 Reflection Award from the Midlands Community Foundation.

On behalf of Nebraska's First District, congratulations to both Nancy and Jim. I thank them for their remarkable service.

## HONORING JOHN WILLIS MENARD

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

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the profound legacy of Mr. John Willis Menard, who in 1868 became the first African American elected to Congress.

Even after winning 64 percent of the vote, Members of this body denied him the rightful opportunity to take his seat by a vote of 57-130. Nevertheless, Mr. Menard bravely defended his right to represent the people of Louisiana and became the first African American to speak on this floor. His fight for representation, even when denied his dignity and his seat, paved the way for people like me.

While in 1868 there was not a single African American in Congress, today there are 67 African Americans serving in the 119th Congress, a record number, largely due in part to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and heroes like John Willis Menard.

### WOMEN'S SPORTS ARE UNDER THREAT

(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, we are well aware that women's sports are under threat, and it is high time we actually finish the job and take a stand against the threat against them.

I am very happy to partner with Mr. STEUBE once again in supporting his bill, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which is about fairness and ensuring that female athletes have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field, on their own playing field.

Title IX was designed to give women and girls equal opportunities in sports. Biological males competing on those same fields with them undermines that intent and puts these athletes at a disadvantage and a lot of discomfort.

This isn't about being exclusionary. It is really recognizing biological realities and protecting the integrity of women's and girls' sports. Female athletes should not have to compete against those with inherent physical advantages.

This bill ensures that women can continue to compete fairly, earn scholarships, earn medals, and achieve their athletic goals without being sidelined by unfair competition. We must protect these opportunities and rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Steube bill and ensure that in the future women's sports remain fair and competitive, especially for women. Misguided policies erase what has been built for female athletes all this time.

### MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION URGED FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to all the Angelenos who have been affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles County. It has been heartbreaking to learn of those who lost their lives and to witness the devastation of entire neighborhoods.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the firefighters, first responders, and local officials who have been working tirelessly around the clock to combat the wildfires. Their heroism and bravery has been inspiring. I know that because of their efforts, these wildfires will soon be contained. There is no doubt that their swift action saved lives.

I join Senators PADILLA, SCHIFF, and 46 of my Democratic and Republican colleagues urging President Biden to grant Governor Gavin Newsom's request for a major disaster declaration.

Thankfully, the President approved the Governor's request, and California

has secured multiple fire management assistance grants from FEMA to ensure vital resources are available for local, State, and Tribal agencies. However, these grants are not enough.

I am also appalled by the recent calls from the other side to condition aid on a debt limit deal. Now is not the time to politicize this crisis.

I strongly urge House leadership to immediately bring a supplemental spending bill to California's efforts to combat this fire and make Angelenos whole again.

### HONORING INGENUITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspiring work being done by the Rochester Museum & Science Center, led by curator Jamie Jacobs, to create a new permanent educational exhibit that showcases contemporary indigenous artists inspired by their ancestors.

This exhibit, titled: "Hodinosyo:nih Continuity/Innovation/Resilience," honors the ingenuity of the indigenous people of North America and explores the role museums have played in preserving indigenous cultural heritage.

At the heart of the remarkable project is curator Jamie Jacobs of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. His leadership has honored the enduring legacy of the Hodinosyo:nih people and created a space for learning, reflection, and reconnection.

The community of Rochester, New York, celebrates this incredible achievement and extends our deepest gratitude to the Rochester Museum & Science Center and Jamie Jacobs for sharing these essential stories.

### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 38

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

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Ms. Maloy (to rank immediately after Mr. Strong).

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE: Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Grothman, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Allen, Mr. Comer, Mr. Owens, Mrs. McClain, Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Ms. Letlow, Mr. Kiley of California, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Rulli, Mr. Onder, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Baumgartner, Mr. Harris of North Carolina, Mr. Messmer.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. McCaul, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Guest, Mr. Gimenez, Mr. Pfluger, Mr. Garbarino,

Ms. Greene of Georgia, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Mr. Luttrell, Mr. Strong, Mr. Brecheen, Mr. Crane, Mr. Ogles, Mrs. Biggs of South Carolina, Mr. Evans of Colorado, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Knott.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Ms. Foxx, Chair, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Norman, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Langworthy, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Jack.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Stauber, Mr. Meuser, Ms. Van Duyne, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Alford, Mr. LaLota, Mr. Finstad, Mr. Wied, Mr. Bresnahan, Mr. Jack, Mr. Downing, Mrs. King-Hinds, Mr. Schmidt.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Mr. Crawford, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Massie, Mr. Perry, Mr. Babin, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Bost, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Mast, Mr. Stauber, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. Van Drew, Mr. Nehls, Mr. Mann, Mr. Owens, Mr. Burlison, Mr. Collins, Mr. Ezell, Mr. Kiley of California, Mr. Fong, Mr. Wied, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Begich, Mr. Bresnahan, Mr. Hurd of Colorado, Mr. Shreve, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Knott, Mrs. King-Hinds, Mr. Kennedy of Utah, Mr. Onder.

Mr. FLOOD (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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### RANKING A MEMBER ON A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 39

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, ranked on the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Ms. Maloy (to rank immediately after Mr. Strong).

Mr. FLOOD (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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 40

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

(1) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Courtney, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Carbajal, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Keating, Ms. Houlahan, Mr. Crow, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Golden of Maine, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Strickland, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Vasquez, Mr. Deluzio, Ms. Tokuda, Mr. Davis of North Carolina, Mr. Cisneros, Mr. Sorensen, Ms. Goodlander, Ms. Elfreth, Mr. Whitesides, Mr. Tran, Mr. Vindman, Mr. Bell.

(2) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.—Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Takano, Ms. Adams, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Norcross, Mrs. McBath, Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Omar, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Casar, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. Mannion.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Menendez, to rank immediately after Mr. Carter of Louisiana.

(4) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Correa, Mr. Thanedar, Mr. Magaziner, Mr. Goldman of New York, Mrs. Ramirez, Mr. Kennedy of New York, Mrs. McIver, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Hernández, Ms. Pou, Mr. Turner of Texas.

(5) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Nadler, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Lieu, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Correa, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Mrs. McBath, Ms. Ross, Ms. Balint, Mr. García of Illinois, Ms. Kamlager-Dove, Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Goldman of New York, Ms. Crockett.

(6) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Ms. Norton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Mfume, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Garcia of California, Mr. Frost, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. Casar, Ms. Crockett, Ms. Randall, Mr. Subramanyam, Ms. Ansari, Mr. Bell, Ms. Simon, Mr. Min.

(7) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. McGovern, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Leger Fernandez.

(8) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. McGarvey, Ms. Scholten, Mrs. McIver, Mr. Cisneros, Ms. Morrison, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Tran, Ms. Simon, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Conway, Ms. Goodlander.

(9) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Ms. Norton, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Carson, Ms. Titus, Mr. Huffman, Ms. Brownley, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Carbajal, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Moulton, Ms. Strickland, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Hoyle of Oregon, Mrs. Sykes, Ms. Scholten, Mrs. Foushee, Mr. Deluzio, Mr. Garcia of California, Ms. Pou, Ms. McDonald Rivet, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Gillen, Mr. Figures.

(10) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Ms. Brownley, Mr. Pappas, Mrs. Cherfilus-McCormick, Mr. McGarvey, Mrs. Ramirez, Ms. Budzinski, Mr. Kennedy of New York, Ms. Dexter, Mr. Conway, Ms. Morrison.

Mr. AGUILAR (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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up the bill (H.R. 28) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 28

*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 "Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025".

### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Section 901 of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d)(1) It shall be a violation of subsection (a) for a recipient of Federal financial assistance who operates, sponsors, or facilitates athletic programs or activities to permit a person whose sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls.

"(2) For the purposes of this subsection, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

"(3) For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'athletic programs and activities' includes, but is not limited to, all programs or activities that are provided conditional upon participation with any athletic team.

"(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a recipient from permitting males to train or practice with an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls so long as no female is deprived of a roster spot on a team or sport, opportunity to participate in a practice or competition, scholarship, admission to an educational institution, or any other benefit that accompanies participating in the athletic program or activity.

"(e) The Comptroller General shall carry out a study to determine the meaning of the phrase 'any other benefit' as used in subsection (d)(4) by looking at benefits to women or girls of participating in single sex sports that would be lost by allowing males to participate. The study shall document the adverse psychological, developmental, participatory, and sociological results to girls of allowing males to compete, be members of a sports team, or participants in athletic programs, that are designed for girls, including displacement or discouragement from sports participation, deprivation of a roster spot on a team or sport, loss of the opportunity to participate in a practice or competition, loss of a scholarship or scholarship opportunities, loss or displacement of admission to an educational institution, deprivation of the benefit of an environment free of hostility based on sexual assault or harassment, or any other benefit that accompanies participating in the athletics program or activity. Further, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that contains the results of such study."

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

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 28.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1215

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 28, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, authored by Representative Greg Steube.

This bill is about a promise. More than 50 years ago, this country made a promise to women and girls across America. That promise, Title IX, said women and girls would have equal opportunities, both in the classroom and in athletics.

For years, America has kept her promise. Prior to Title IX, only 300,000 women and girls participated in high school and college sports. By the 40th anniversary of Title IX's passage, the number was up to 3 million, and the numbers have continued to climb and grow ever since.

Today, female participation in sports has increased over 1,000 percent at the high school level and over 600 percent at the college level since Title IX went into effect. Unfortunately, these wins for women and girls ushered in by the promise of Title IX have been under attack.

The Biden-Harris administration pushed a radical rewrite of Title IX that would eliminate policies enacted by 26 States to protect equal athletic opportunities for women and girls. Even with last week's court order striking down the regulation and the Trump administration poised to undo the harm caused by it, nearly half of the States have no protections in place for female athletes.

Mr. Speaker, kicking girls off sports teams to make way for biological males takes opportunities away from these girls. This means fewer college scholarships and fewer opportunities for girls. It also makes them second-class citizens in their own sports and puts their safety at risk.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025 offers a new promise to America's women and girls. It will strengthen Title IX's protections for women, ensure a level playing field for female athletes, and protect the law

from current and future radical regulatory schemes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, a bill that will actually do the opposite and make sports more dangerous for women and girls.

In fact, this bill will empower child predators, putting students across the country at increased risk. This is a one-size-fits-all bill that would apply equally to every sport, from K–12 schools to colleges.

Currently, schools, parents, and communities manage youth sports leagues and write rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels. Many State schools and athletic associations across the country have allowed equal participation for transgender athletes for years, and it is working just fine.

This legislation would revoke all Federal funding from schools that include transgender students on girls' and women's sports teams. This is damaging and discriminatory to transgender students who benefit, as all students do, from participating in school sports, and it is also damaging to the entire school that is threatened because Federal funding benefits all students.

I remind my colleagues to keep in mind that as of last month, of the approximately 510,000 athletes who play at the NCAA level, 10 are transgender—not 10,000, 10 out of 510,000.

Transgender students, like all students, deserve the same opportunity as their peers to learn teamwork, find belonging, and grow into well-rounded adults through sports.

Childhood and adolescence are important times for growth and development, and sports help students form healthy habits and develop strong social and emotional skills. Sports provide meaningful opportunities for kids to feel confident in themselves and learn valuable life lessons about teamwork, leadership, and communication. Teams provide a place for kids to make friends and build relationships.

Yet, my colleagues across the aisle want to take these opportunities away from certain children. That is discriminatory, and it is wrong. My colleagues are apparently so afraid of people who are different than them that they have manufactured false and dangerous presumptions based on outdated stereotypes about transgendered people, especially transgender women and girls.

Additionally, there is no way this so-called protection bill could be enforced without opening the door to harassment and privacy violations. It opens the door to inspection, not protection, of women and girls in sports. Will students have to undergo exams to prove they are a girl?

We are already seeing examples of harassment and questioning of girls who may not conform to stereotypical feminine roles. Will they be subject to demands for medical tests and private information? That is intrusive, offensive, and unacceptable, especially from a party of limited government.

I want to be very clear: There are real problems harming women and girls in sports, but transgender students are not why. Today, we should be working to solve the real pervasive problems in athletics that deter women and girls from participating, including sexual harassment and assault, lack of equal resources, and pay inequality.

We should be working on those issues and also on the issues that improve the lives of the people we represent back home, like increasing access to affordable healthcare and housing, lowering costs for everyday Americans, and fighting the climate crisis.

Instead, here we are again. We have seen this time and time again: Republicans fearmonger about the trans community to divert attention from the fact that they have no real solutions to help everyday Americans with the pressing problems they face.

We must not discriminate against kids because of who they are. Transgender youth already face high hurdles. Research shows that this type of discriminatory policy is associated with declines in mental health and higher suicide risk among already LGBTQI+ youth. We don't need adults in Congress making things worse.

As Republican Governor Spencer Cox from Utah said in his veto statement of a similar bill: "When in doubt, however, I always try to err on the side of kindness, mercy, and compassion." So should we all.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, Scripture reminds us that, at the beginning of time, God created mankind as males and females, and He blessed them.

All throughout humanity, we have recognized as a species that there are women and there are men, as God created, who are obviously biologically different and, dare I say, scientifically different. Even science agrees with this premise.

Yet, our culture and civilization continue to be subjected to the perverse lie that there are more than two genders or that men can be women or women can be men.

The distinction between men and women is clear and evident, and the erasure of this division has been promulgated by those in the radical left who seek to dismantle the core foundation of our society.

We must never let our country and the American way of life surrender to this immoral ideology. What a shame it is that, over the last several years,

the radical left has tried to corrupt the minds of many Americans with the ideology that gender is just a spectrum, that it is fluid, or that you can be whatever you want, whenever you want, depending on how you feel. To them, it is just a social construct.

The radical left has taken gender identity so far that many on the left can't even define what a woman is for fear of retribution or cancellation by transgender activists. They have adopted completely made-up terms, such as nonbinary, trans male, and trans female. Some even say there are 74 genders, everything from agender to omnigender. There is even an astral gender, which is having a gender identity where you feel related to outer space. How can the radical left be able to identify that gender, yet they can't even define what a woman is?

Not too long ago, progressives would say all that is ridiculous, but today, it is their religion. If you question their lies and fictitious terms, you are labeled a transphobic bigot and canceled.

In giving homage to the trans movement, radical leftists have given way to the corruption of the minds of our Nation's youth by dismantling the very protections that Congress created to ensure fairness in education and athletics. In 1972, Congress created Title IX to protect women's sports and to give women their own playing field in athletics. In worship of their trans idols, radical leftists want to kill Title IX, abandoning women across the country.

Parents don't want biological men in locker rooms with their daughters, nor do they believe it is fair that a male could compete with women in female athletics. This is why Title IX protections were implemented in the first place.

Radical leftists want you to believe that this is never happening or that it is so rare that we shouldn't be concerned.

The other side just made a comment that so few of these people are involved in college athletics. The truth of the matter proves otherwise. In my very own district, my constituent Emma Weyant, an incredibly talented swimmer and Olympic medalist, lost the 2022 NCAA women's swimming championship title for the 500-meter freestyle by less than 2 seconds. The man who beat her formerly competed for years on the men's swimming team and took home that title after identifying as a woman.

It is a sad day in our country when radical leftists are willing to erase the rights that women have fought decades to obtain, all to elevate biological males to the top of women's platforms.

An overwhelming majority of Americans believe that men don't belong in women's sports and that we must allow common sense to prevail. This bill would deliver upon the mandate the American people gave Congress to restore the integrity of women's sports, just as Title IX intended.

Now is our time to act. If my liberal colleagues truly believe in supporting women's rights, as they often tout, they will vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand for women's free and fair opportunities in athletics and to stand for truth, not lies.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as trans student and successful athlete Rebekah said: "I know what it is like to have my gender questioned. . . . It is invasive and embarrassing. I wouldn't want anyone else to have to go through that," and, "It is awful. Legislators are bullying kids."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong, unequivocal opposition to H.R. 28, the Republican child predator empowerment act. This bill lets politicians in Washington dictate to parents, school districts, and athletic associations across the country who can and cannot participate in their local sports leagues.

It creates a one-size-fits-all policy that holds a kindergartner wanting to play soccer to the same standards as an elite athlete.

This legislation undermines the very values we hold dear as Americans—fairness, opportunity, and the belief in the power of local communities to make decisions for themselves.

Even conservative Governors in States like Indiana and Utah recognized this and vetoed some of these bills.

Just as troubling, the bill's language opens the door to invasive, degrading, and humiliating physical examinations of children, children who simply want to play softball or join a basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, our communities thrive when every child can be part of a team, learn sportsmanship, and challenge themselves. They falter when we write exclusion and fear into our laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would call attention to the fact that, in this bill, we offer no requirement for any type of invasive checks on women or men. They simply have to go to the birth certificate. That will give the answer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RULLI), a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce.

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of H.R. 28, and I urge the House to pass this bill.

There is no reason we should even be having this conversation right now. H.R. 28 is a women's rights bill to protect Title IX, which was constructed to protect women's rights.

This first came on my radar while I was a member of the Ohio Senate. I had a lesbian couple shopping in my store, and they asked me to step aside to talk

to me for a minute. They said that I needed to protect women's sports. We had Title IX. Since we had Stonewall 50 years ago, this couple told me, they have worked their entire life for women's rights.

What my opposition party is doing is blurring the lines of what is a woman and what is a man.

My daughter has played soccer her entire life. She is scared to death to play right now. She has seen the videos of what trans athletes have been doing to women athletes, as far as breaking their faces in volleyball, basketball, and baseball.

We do not have a clear, level playing field when we have the trans community participating in women's sports. We need to protect the concept of the woman, and women must be protected.

H.R. 28 is the only path forward. It is shameful that the opposition party does not support the protection of women.

We have to define what a woman is again, and H.R. 28 is the only vehicle that could actually protect women in America, whether it is in high school or whether it is in college, for them to pursue their dreams.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, just a reminder that this bill applies to every student of every age in every sport the same way. As Flynn, a successful trans athlete, said: "The next time you see a story about trans athletes, think of the children behind the story who are just trying to play a game with their peers."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise because this bill threatens the principles that make our schools and sports fields places of opportunity.

This bill does not protect anyone. It unjustly targets transgender women and girls under the guise of fairness, but exclusion is not fairness, Mr. Speaker. Fairness is ensuring that every athlete can participate, grow, and thrive.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Title IX was originally passed to address the structural imbalances between men's and women's sports, disparities that continue to pose an actual threat to women and girls in sports today.

My amendment, based on my Fair Play for Women Act, would strengthen Title IX enforcement and protect all women by increasing accountability, transparency, and training in athletic programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the record the text of the amendment immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) who also chairs the Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act, a commonsense bill to ensure female athletes only compete with biological females.

Unfortunately, in just 4 years under the Biden administration, Title IX has been under constant attack, jeopardizing women's safety, athletic opportunities, and chances for success.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have followed suit. Last Congress, not one single Democrat voted in support of this bill on the House floor.

I hear about this issue consistently in my district and am often told by parents to put an end to this nonsense.

How many of history's most prolific female athletes would never have reached such heights if they were forced to compete against biological males? When will Democrats learn that the American people fundamentally reject their radical agenda?

A Gallup poll recently said 70 percent of the American people believe we should protect women's sports. I am a proud father to 3 daughters and a grandfather to 10 granddaughters, all of whom have competed or are currently competing in the sport of their choice.

This bill is about protecting every female's pathway to athletic prowess, excellence, and opportunity.

I thank Representative STEUBE for his leadership on this issue. As a cosponsor of today's bill, I strongly urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democrat whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, every single parent worries about their kids' safety. Every parent wants their daughters to be treated fairly including on the sports field.

That conversation is being had among parents, schools, experts, and sports authorities across the country, as it should be. This bill hijacks those conversations. It hijacks the real concerns that parents have raised. It exploits those concerns to place all of our daughters in danger.

This bill doesn't protect a girl's rights. It eliminates them. It requires her to answer an adult's humiliating questions. It will accelerate our national crisis of sexual assault on young women and girls. It puts a target on the back of every girl, every young woman who chooses to play sports,

from T-ball to competitive collegiate athletes.

Whatever the problem is we are trying to solve, the genital inspection of little girls is the wrong answer. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and say “no” on empowering predators.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked at that description of this legislation and would ask where in the world that information is found in this bill. There is no requirement for inspections, and there is no necessary effort other than going to a person's birth certificate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), one who knows about true competition and an equal nature and a just nature as well, as he wears a Super Bowl ring. He is also the vice chair of the Education and Workforce Committee and chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Fifty years ago, Title IX revolutionized women's sports and opened doors that had been closed for all previous generations. Because of Title IX, women's participation in athletics skyrocketed by over 1,000 percent in high schools and 600 percent in college athletics.

This progress of equal opportunity for millions of girls and women for scholarships, honors, careers, and wealth has been under attack for the entirety of the Biden administration.

By ignoring the biological, physical, and genetic differences between men and women, this administration has dismantled the level playing field that women and girls deserve.

This is about fairness, safety, and opportunity. When viewed through the eyes of common sense, it is obvious. When seen through the results of lost opportunities, it becomes clear that something valuable has been stolen.

When men are allowed to compete in women's sports, not only are women no longer safe but they also lose scholarships, championships, and opportunities to build self-esteem that lasts a lifetime. Young men also lose when they embrace this ideology of unfairness and call it admirable. It is called loss of shame.

I have 5 daughters and 12 granddaughters. I have stood on the sidelines and watched them pour their hearts and souls into the sports they love. I have seen their grit, determination, and pride as they worked hard, hoping to be victorious. Even when they are not, these moments of competing add to the lifelong building blocks of character.

What message are we sending to our girls when we tell them their hard work doesn't matter? What is our message as we cowardly stand by as boys and men steal their opportunities, dominate their sports, and erase their records?

This debate isn't about sports. It is about what kind of country we are

going to be. Do we remain a Nation that stands with fairness, celebrates achievement, and defends the rights of our girls and women, or do we devolve into a country that bows to radical ideologies at their expense?

An overwhelming majority of Americans have boldly spoken on the vision of our society. We see it as one in which we continue to teach our young men respect.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the only respect they earn is the respect to defend and honor womanhood.

Our daughters and women are watching. The message to men standing quietly on the sidelines of this issue is: It is time to man up. These are girls and women in our lives who depend on us to stand and fight for what is right. Now is the time to protect them from men who want to infringe on their space and their sports.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please join us as we support the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, in light of the comment that the gentleman from Michigan, who is managing the time on the other side of the aisle, made about birth certificates, I want to remind my colleagues that in the discussion on a similar bill, we had a conversation about how out of the millions of birth certificates in this country, there are a considerable number of children who are born either intersex or with ambiguous genitalia.

How does the gentleman plan to enforce this bill? Because he is saying birth certificates but those aren't necessarily reliable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. WALBERG. Certainly. That bill doesn't deal with this at all. It deals with men in sports.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this hateful bill. This bill is a cruel attack on transgender children, already among the most vulnerable in our society, facing high risks of suicide, violence, and bullying.

Let's be clear. This bill isn't about fairness. The NCAA stated last month there are fewer than 10 transgender athletes in collegiate sports out of 510,000, less than 0.002 of 1 percent of athletes. The rare cases Republicans cite are outliers, not evidence of a systemic issue.

To deal with this 0.002 of 1 percent, the bill opens the door to invasive scrutiny of all girls' bodies, violating their privacy and dignity. Little girls will be forced to have their biological sex

verified through humiliating physical examinations of their genitals by strangers and forced to present documentation about their anatomy.

In States with similar bans, even cisgender girls deemed not feminine enough have faced harassment, humiliation, and have been forced to undergo genital examination. This isn't fairness. It is cruelty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this hateful bill and focus on real issues affecting our schools and communities.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), a member of the Education and Workforce Committee and a strong leader in protecting womanhood, girls, and Title IX.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of women. I rise in support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act which safeguards our daughters from the radical Democrats' agenda to have our daughters and granddaughters compete against and share locker rooms with men.

Allowing grown men to compete in women's sports puts the safety of our daughters at risk. We have already seen numerous examples of female athletes being injured by grown men who claim to be women.

The physical advantages possessed by male athletes are undeniable. Allowing men to compete alongside women undermines the integrity of women's sports and diminishes the hard work, dedication, and dreams of female athletes.

This bill ensures that individuals participate in sports according to their biological sex and keeps men out of our daughters' locker rooms and showers. By passing this bill, we honor the legacy of Title IX and protect the future of women's athletics.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 5 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are sending a clear message to the radical Democrats we will no longer tolerate our daughters being taken advantage of.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI).

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the GOP child predator empowerment act. This bill is an egregious attack on young women and girls.

Everyone in this room knows that this legislation has the power to threaten the physical and mental safety of minors. Schools and athletic institutions already have rules around fairness and safety in children's sports. This is literally why we have the NCAA. This bill is textbook government overreach meant to fuel division.

Further, this bill provides no enforcement guidelines, insinuating that Republicans are just fine with subjecting

young women and girls to invasive, humiliating medical examinations and physical inspections.

This is an attack on the mental and sexual safety of all girls in this country as young as kindergarten. Everyone deserves to have the opportunity to learn the camaraderie and life lessons that come with playing sports.

I urge a strong “no” on this legislation because I believe we should make our children safer, not empower adult strangers to investigate their most private physicality.

Congress needs to get back to our jobs, lowering costs for everyday families and working on issues that address the vast majority of us.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER), a new member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 28 and urge the House to pass this important bill.

For the past 50 years, Title IX has been an unqualified success at increasing participation of girls and young women in sports at both the collegiate and secondary level.

For 2 years, by allowing men identifying as women to dominate many events in women’s sports, the Biden administration has perversely used Title IX to destroy the very gains that Title IX has fostered for young women.

The issue is one of fundamental fairness. Males have a greater lung capacity, larger heart, more bone density, and dramatically more muscle mass than girls, all of which lead to an enormous competitive advantage in many sports.

Champion Olympic sprinter Allyson Felix’s lifetime best time in the 400 meter was 49.26 seconds. In 2017 alone, 15,000 young men, high school men and boys, outperformed that time. Swimmer Will Thomas, a/k/a Lia Thomas, ranked 462nd in his sport as a man, only to steal the NCAA 500-meter freestyle championship as a purported woman.

To accept men in women’s sports is to destroy women’s sports. Being a male or female is a biological reality that cannot be changed by a few months of hormones or by clothes or by radical gender ideology. The future of our young women and girls and the gains they have made through 50 years of Title IX must be protected.

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

□ 1245

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 18 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, every child should be afforded the op-

portunity to learn the essential lessons of sportsmanship, resilience, and discipline that playing team sports offers. This includes transgender children who make up a very small number of young athletes.

A transgender child who joins a sports team does so for the same reason that any other child does. They want to stay active, feed their hunger for competition, and form friendships with children their age. This typical experience, however, has been stifled by politicians who want to exercise authority on transgender students by prohibiting them from participating on sports teams with their peers.

This bill distracts us from what really matters to our constituents. I thought my colleagues would join me in wanting to continue delivering for people back home by expanding healthcare initiatives, improving economic opportunities, and fostering public safety. Instead, an attack has been launched on a community of marginalized people.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS), an incoming member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2022 North Carolina high schooler Peyton McNabb was seriously injured when a teenage boy spiked a ball into her head during a girls volleyball game, leaving her with a concussion and permanent injuries.

Despite stories like Peyton’s, the left continues to want us to believe it is totally safe for men to compete against women. In fact, the current administration tried to impose this radical agenda across our Nation.

The truth is, President Biden’s attempt to redefine the word “sex” in Title IX robs our daughters of opportunity and leaves them vulnerable.

Thankfully, the Biden administration’s perverted rule was invalidated at the national level by a Federal court just this past week.

However, I stand today because Congress needs to make it clear that Title IX cannot and will not be weaponized to perpetuate a lie that men can become women.

This bill simply affirms common sense and reflects reality. Men and women are uniquely created by God, and no amount of testosterone therapy can reverse biological design.

On behalf of the women and girls I represent in North Carolina and those across America, I will vote “yes” for the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act and fight to restore sanity. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, just another reminder that this bill is a blanket ban that treats every age student in every sport the same.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a cynical scapegoating of a vulnerable population. To make matters worse, it is a hateful attack on kids. Trans kids deserve to play sports just like their peers, and Congress can’t bar them from the field.

All young people should be able to benefit from team sports—building character, developing friendships, and improving their mental health.

Organizations like the NCAA, International Olympic Committee, and State athletic boards have included trans athletes for years. Instead of following their lead, my colleagues want to codify hate and discrimination against all trans kids in all sports.

Not so long ago, all women were banned from school sports until the passage of Title IX. Even then, extremists preached that women playing sports was the end of sports as we know it.

Today’s rhetoric about trans women and girls is no different and will soon be seen as just as outdated and absurd.

Every child should be able to join a team that is consistent with their gender and benefit from sports.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSMER), who is an incoming member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALBERG for yielding the time, and I thank Congressman STEUBE for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act and would like to clarify a comment from the gentleman on the other side of the aisle that as majority leader of the Indiana Senate, we easily overrode the Governor’s veto of our State law protecting women in sports.

Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, female participation at the high school and collegiate level has risen dramatically.

Competitive sports are very important to the students and families in Indiana’s Eighth District and all athletes around this great country.

The Biden administration’s recent attempt to rewrite and reimagine Title IX is threatening to erase more than 50 years of progress and women’s rights and equal opportunities for all female athletes.

It is a simple fact of life that men and women are biologically different and that men and boys have levels of strength that women and girls do not have.

Allowing men to compete in women’s sports is unfair to the women and girls, and it takes away their chances to receive scholarships and be recognized and rewarded for their hard work, skills, and accomplishments.

Over the last couple of years, we have all watched in disbelief as top female athletes are losing their hard-earned titles to biological males who are competing as females.



Americans are also horrified to learn about the injuries women and girls are facing when in competition with a biological male.

As a father and a grandfather, I am entirely against forcing anybody's daughter or granddaughter to have to share a women's locker room with anyone other than women and girls.

The results of the November election have made it clear that Americans agree with me and my colleagues.

It is time for a change back to the way things were intended to be. Title IX was created to protect equality and opportunity for women and girls in sports. Thanks to this legislation, we will go back to doing just that.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, here we are today. Republicans, who have voted consistently against the Violence Against Women Act, who have taken away the rights of all women to choose and have control over their own body, who as women are bleeding out in parking lots across the country, standing there allowing us to die, now want to pretend today that they care about women.

Why? To open up gender, and, yes, genital examinations into little girls in this country in the so-called name of attacking trans girls. To that, today, what we have to say are two words: Not today.

The majority right now says there is no place in this bill that says it opens up for genital examinations. Well, here is the thing: There is no enforcement mechanism in this bill. When there is no enforcement mechanism, you open the door to every enforcement mechanism.

Trans girls are girls, and for all the folks that are so concerned, thank you for your concern about women for the first time that I have seen. I don't know about you all, I don't know who has been to gym class lately, but even if you only believe in two genders, I have played coed sports all the time.

What this also opens the door for is for women to try to perform a very specific kind of femininity for the very kind of men who are drafting this bill and to open up questioning of who is a woman because of how we look, how we present ourselves, and, yes, what we choose to do with our bodies.

I know who loves this bill. Yes, bigoted folks love this bill. Assaulters love this bill. Also, CEOs love this bill, because Los Angeles is on fire right now, and this is the number one priority that the majority has.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), the chair of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which ensures fairness and safety in girls athletics.

For the past 4 years, the Biden-Harris administration and congressional Democrats have made it very clear: They want men competing against our daughters and granddaughters. They want to force schools to allow biological males to share private spaces with biological females and compete in women's sports. That is wrong.

In fact, the vast majority of Americans agree that men do not belong in women's sports or in women's locker rooms.

Ask working-class Americans if Michael Phelps should have swum the women's 200-meter freestyle. The answer is no.

That is why we must protect women's sports, and under President-elect Trump's leadership we are already fulfilling that promise.

This week, the House of Representatives will stand with all young women and girls who deserve to have the opportunity to compete safely and fairly.

As a grandfather to six wonderful, capable granddaughters, this is important to me. This bill will safeguard and uphold the integrity and safety of women's sports and the true intention of Title IX, allowing all women the opportunity to achieve excellence in sports.

I commend Representative STEUBE for working on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 14 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I hate bullies. This bill is about bullying children. Children struggle with identity, gender, and otherwise. As a parent of two and a former teacher, I need all adults, including politicians and lawmakers, to help my wife and I protect our children, to support them, to give them a sense of purpose and belonging.

This bill does the opposite. You are just picking on children.

Our government is not supposed to be this intrusive. Your government has become incredibly intrusive. You are in our doctors' offices banning reproductive freedom. You are in our classrooms banning books and telling teachers what they can and cannot say. Now you are in my daughter's locker room requiring physical exams of children.

It is so profoundly disgusting and inappropriate and un-American. We have an economy to fix, a border crisis to address, a budget to balance. My request to my colleagues is to focus. Stop bullying children.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 28 to prohibit federally funded schools from allowing men to compete in women's sports.

Mr. Speaker, I find it truly staggering that we as Congress have to even consider such an issue, but here we are.

Under the last 4 years of the outgoing administration, we have witnessed the imposition of a radical gender ideology that has disregarded the most fundamentals of biological principles with an expectation that Americans must redefine their perception and beliefs, no questions asked.

We have stood by and watched as this administration and career D.C. bureaucrats have sought to twist and manipulate the meaning and purpose behind Title IX, which, if successful, would have disenfranchised the very women and girls that Title IX was meant to protect.

Despite Title IX, for over half a century since its inception, having paved the way for millions of women and girls, including myself, to achieve their dreams, its very existence has been consistently under threat on behalf of an unaccountable Federal bureaucracy.

It is past time that we as a government restore the sanity that has been lost over the last 4 years, and it brings me great pride to witness this critical issue at the forefront of the new Congress so that we may truly act upon the American people's mandate.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I thank Representative STEUBE along with the Education and Workforce Committee for their committed leadership on this issue, and I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 28.

□ 1300

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, it is honestly hard to know where even to start with this bill.

Maybe let's start with the name. This bill doesn't even come close to protecting women and girls in sports. In fact, it puts all women and girls in danger of sexual abuse.

I hear my colleagues say, no, this wouldn't require genital exams. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, we have already seen an investigation like this happen at a high school in Utah. Unsurprisingly, they wrongly targeted someone who wasn't trans.

If this bill is passed into law, then there are only a few ways to actually enforce it, and that is genital inspections and asking young girls very inappropriate questions about their menstrual cycles.

My colleagues know that I am 35 years old, and I love talking about my period. I think it is important we talk about it. We shouldn't be making young girls answer these questions to people they don't even trust.

If this bill is passed into law, then these kinds of secret investigations,

shady questions, and surveillance of kids could happen all across this country.

This does not protect women and girls. This only further jeopardizes their safety and security when they are playing sports. This bill is sloppy, vague, and prejudiced.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 28, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Female athletes should never be forced to compete against biological men in sports, plain and simple. Allowing biological men to compete in female sports is not only a complete and utter failure to women who have trained their whole lives to achieve their dreams, but it also completely ignores the scientific fact that men and women have clear biological differences that make competing on the same sports team unfair and dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the Biden administration tried to push a radical Title IX change that would have prevented any institution receiving Federal funding from banning biological men from competing in women's sports. That is insane.

Educational institutions have a responsibility to protect the women and girls who attend them, and this legislation ensures that they will be able to do just that.

Let me be clear: Allowing biological men to compete in women's sports hurts women. It takes away opportunities, scholarship funds, and titles that are meant for women.

As a father of three girls, this is personal to me. I want my girls to be able to succeed in the sports that they play. I want them to be safe. I want that to be a level playing field. What we are talking about here is protecting women, protecting my three girls.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act will prevent schools from allowing biological men to compete in women's sports by defining sex in an athletic competition by genetics at birth.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), my good friend, for leading this effort, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 28.

As a mother to a former child athlete, I get the need to keep our daughters safe and ensure our school sports are fair. Sadly, there is nothing in this bill to improve the safety of our daughters or improve fair play. In fact, the bill subjects girls, cisgender and transgender girls, to harm and ridicule, and it strips fairness from players, parents, and school communities.

The bill sets up an unfair playing field where any parent can raise a concern that a transgender girl might be playing on a girls' team, and we know this is so very rare.

It is unfair to the girls who may be targeted because they grow faster, play harder, or simply may be more talented than their teammates.

This bill is unfair to the school districts that can't navigate the threats of lawsuits but also can't afford to lose Federal funding, leaving students without sports or school meals.

This bill is unfair to the girl athletes who could be subject to genital inspection and subject to humiliation, leaving them with a legacy of trauma rather than the lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Finally, this bill is unfair to the American people, who are demanding that we take their call to address the cost of living seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to leave these decisions in the hands of parents and local sports authorities and vote "no" on H.R. 28.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I have to do a reset here and say: Why are we in here even having to discuss this?

It is amazing to me that the idea that we would have XY chromosome males competing and taking the place of women and girls in sports is just mind-blowing.

Where are we at in the country, where are we as a society, that we are doing this? It is beyond comprehension that we are doing this to our girls.

Where are the feminists? Where are the people who have fought so hard to get rights for women but now they fade into the background over this transgender situation that we are advancing way too much in this country?

The young ladies depicted here, Paula, Lily, and Riley, whom I know personally, shouldn't even have to be in this position here. I commend them for being such strong leaders, coming from being athletes trying to do their thing, just trying to compete for medals, scholarships, and things, and having those taken away. They have stepped forward to be leaders when they didn't ask to. They probably were not even that comfortable with the spotlight. Certainly, they have been subject to abuse in doing so.

God blessed them with their leadership in stepping forward. We need to back them up by passing this legislation and put this to an end.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, as a working-class kid who grew up in sports, the mother of two college athletes, and a physician, I understand how important sports are to our kids' development and their sense of community.

No child in this country should be denied access to the opportunity to play

a sport, including our transgender children.

I will vote against the GOP child predator empowerment act because it does not protect women. It attacks children.

Under this bill, kids as young as 4 years old could be forced to undergo invasive medical exams and answer personal questions about their bodies from adults they don't know or trust.

This legislation distorts common-sense conversations about how to ensure fairness in our athletic competitions and instead denies our children their basic rights and safety.

In Congress, I will continue to stand up against attacks on our transgender community because every child in Oregon deserves our support and care.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong and unwavering support for protecting women, protecting women's sports, and passing H.R. 28, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

The Biden administration fought to tear down the decades of progress women have made in athletics. Women have been stripped of their earned titles and live in fear for their safety in the locker rooms of America, women like Riley Gaines, Lily Mullens, Paula Scanlan, and so many others with unspoken stories.

Last week, the Federal court ruled in favor of reality. Biden tried to rewrite Title IX, and his unconstitutional idea was rejected. Let's vote in favor of reality today.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act clarifies the protections under Title IX and ensures our women can continue to compete in fair and secure environments. It is an insult and utter disgrace to have them robbed of the triumph by a biological male.

We are told that if this bill passed, President Biden would veto it. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, the American people vetoed the radical left's progressive agenda. Next week, America will return to common sense.

I pray that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle remember common sense today in this very Chamber. It is not complex, Mr. Speaker. God intricately created two genders for one reason.

Men have no business competing in women's sports or being in their locker rooms.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL).

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a queer woman, once the only girl on my peewee football team, and a graduate from a women's college in strong opposition to H.R. 28.

This bill makes schools less safe for women and girls. It gives every teacher, coach, and parent an opportunity to police who looks feminine enough to play. It will put all girls at risk of intrusive questions and physical genital

examinations, dissuading girls' participation in sports.

As LGBTQ+ youth continue to face attacks and targeting from extremist lawmakers in legislative chambers across the country and higher rates of depression and suicide, this bill is doubly dangerous.

In my community, I meet young people and parents over and over who have fled States like Idaho, Texas, and Florida because they want to live in safe, welcoming communities where they know they have a future.

While there are real problems impacting women's sports, including sexual violence, lack of equal resources, and pay inequality, this bill does nothing to address them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to focus on addressing the pressing issues facing everyday Americans and to reject this hateful legislation.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in fierce opposition to this bill.

Trans Americans are not the problem. This obsession with monitoring kids' genitals is absolutely the problem.

Let's be clear. This is about kids—my kids, your kids, all kids, even elementary school kids playing basketball.

I am a mom of two teens. I am a former teacher. I know what kids are going through in school. They are already self-conscious about their bodies. They just want to be on the soccer field with their friends. They certainly do not want to be humiliated by Members of Congress.

Let's talk about what enforcement looks like because, Mr. Speaker, you don't want to talk about it. We know there is only one logical conclusion to this. This is interrogation of young girls about their bodies. This is asking people to show them what is underneath their underwear. That is what we are talking about. This is the logical conclusion for this bill.

It is vile, and it is twisted. They don't want to talk about the details. It is an absolute invasion of children's privacy. Far from protecting anyone, it puts our children at risk.

Mr. Speaker, actually, I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject this government overreach.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, may I please inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The gentlewoman from Oregon has 8 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a clear example of government overreach.

What business does the government have micromanaging how any sporting association runs their league? Having a congressional vote to dictate the terms of participation in a private sporting league is a slippery slope. What is next, voting on what uniforms the Ducks should wear each Saturday or, more sinisterly, who can participate based on race, religion, or national origin?

Government has a role, and this isn't it.

How do my colleagues propose to enforce this bill? Ohio passed the Save Women's Sports Act, where a girl would have to verify her gender by an exam of her external and internal anatomy.

Traumatizing girls who happen to be late in physically maturing or naturally have a more athletic build to satisfy extreme political agendas is fear-mongering, cowardice, and downright creepy.

Who will be doing these inspections? We do not need Taliban-like enforcers in our schools.

Every day, women are injured and murdered in domestic violence and children are murdered in their classrooms. If you want to protect women and girls, let's work on that. Until then, let's be honest about what this is: political propaganda that has nothing to do with lowering costs for working Americans.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I continue to hear the talk about invasion of privacy of young kids. It is just not true. On the other hand, let me explain to my colleagues what is invasive.

Last year, Riley Gaines, the former University of Kentucky swimmer, testified in front of Georgia's State legislature. In addressing Georgia Tech's president, she said: "We did not give our consent to be exploited and exposed to a 6-foot-4 fully naked man. Because you did nothing, that man walked into the women's locker room at your university and saw me undress down to full nudity. You allowed college women to be traumatized . . . on your campus in this way. Why didn't you protect us?"

I ask the same to my Democratic colleagues, Mr. Speaker. Why aren't they willing to protect the women and girls from this invasion of their privacy?

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

□ 1315

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, this is the third week that we are in the 119th Congress and the third week that no bill is before us to lower costs for Americans.

Instead, before us is a political attempt to divide us as a nation, stigmatizing some kids so some adults can get MAGA merit badges.

The Republican Governor of Utah vetoed a similar piece of legislation after he shared that, of the 75,000 students in

high school sports in Utah, only 4 were trans, and only 1 was a girl playing sports. He also mentioned the very real 86 percent of trans kids reporting suicidality due to things like adults stigmatizing kids for political gain.

Instead, today, the proposed solution in search of an actual problem suggests we somehow ban girls from sports with some sort of process to determine who is a girl. Does this mean hiring potential predators to peek at the private parts of kids in locker rooms? That sounds like an actual problem to me.

Creating a solution to a nonexistent problem by creating a problem instead of lowering costs for Americans is a sign of an ineffective congressional majority, at best.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know is, what does this bill have to do with lowering costs, the economy, or making our communities safer?

The answer is nothing.

We are 2 weeks into the 119th Congress, and the GOP is already wasting our time on political messaging bills. This bill is not about protecting women or children. It is the opposite.

It is about government overreach, telling parents their kids can't play T-ball or run track and telling our athletic associations that they can't regulate sports.

It is about bullying trans kids, who are amongst the most vulnerable in our communities, and subjecting our children to potentially dangerous situations in their schools. We won't stand for it. It has to stop.

H.R. 28 is an assault on the safety of the trans community and our children. It puts hate and division over unity, and it undermines equality in this country. It has to stop.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, never did I think that my first debate of this new Congress would be debating a Republican bill that empowers pedophiles and predators. Republicans say it is about protecting women, but that is a damned lie.

This bill puts all girls, all children, at risk in our school systems and across this entire country.

We have a bill like this in my State of Florida, and I will tell this quick

story of a high school student, who was student government president of her entire school. Now she is forced to take classes online after authorities published a 500-page report where they forced her classmates to share whether or not they have seen her naked in the locker room and seen her genitalia.

Strangers, adult men, could ask girls as young as 4 years old personal questions about their body. My question is, Republicans say it is about protecting girls, for people listening at home: Is it protecting girls to empower strangers to question your daughter about what is in their pants? No. It is disgusting.

Is it protecting girls to empower adult men to ask your daughter to inspect what is in her pants while you are not around? No. That is pedophilia. It is predatory behavior.

The hate on the other side of the aisle for trans Americans is so much so that they are willing to put all of our children, all of our daughters, at risk of a serious problem in this country.

Mr. Speaker, to protect our kids, we have to vote “no” on the Republican child predator empowerment act.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 3½ minutes remaining.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter led by the National Women’s Law Center and the Women’s Sports Foundation from 33 national and 34 State and local women’s and girls’ rights organizations to voice our vehement opposition to H.R. 28.

JANUARY 13, 2025.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, The National Women’s Law Center and Women’s Sports Foundation, joined by the undersigned women’s and girls’ rights organizations, write to voice our vehement opposition to H.R. 28 and S. 9, “The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025.” As organizations deeply committed to fulfilling the promise of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 of equal educational opportunity for all women and girls, including in school sports, we have advocated for gender equity in schools for decades. Far from promoting sex equality in sports, H.R. 28 and S. 9 are discriminatory attempts to cause harm to and exclude transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students from school sports and would not promote fairness or safety in school sports for women and girls. We thus urge you to reject this effort to enshrine sex discrimination and oppose H.R. 28 and S. 9.

H.R. 28 and S. 9 unmistakably constitute discrimination on the basis of sex. As recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, numerous Federal courts, and the U.S. Department of Education, sex discrimination includes discrimination based on gender identity and sex characteristics. Title mandate that all students must be able to access the benefits and opportunities of an education free from sex discrimination includes the right to play sports.

Rather than promote these goals, the deceptively titled, “The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act,” promotes discrimination and makes no effort to address the ac-

tual, pervasive discriminatory barriers that women and girls continue to face in school athletics. H.R. 28 and S. 9 do nothing to address the fact that college women have almost 60,000 fewer athletic opportunities to play than men, or that high school girls have over 1 million fewer opportunities than boys to play sports. It fails to take any steps to open opportunities for women and girls of color, who are disproportionately impacted by these disparities in participation opportunities. H.R. 28 and S. 9 do not advance policies to address the second-class treatment women’s and girls’ teams continue to receive from their schools as compared to men’s and boys’ teams when it comes to facilities, equipment, and travel. These bills do not address how colleges and universities have shortchanged women athletes millions of dollars in academic assistance. Nor do H.R. 28 and S. 9 seek to strengthen protections against the rampant sexual abuse student-athletes of all ages and genders still face. To put it plainly, one would be hard pressed to explain how banning transgender women and girls from playing alongside their peers does anything to address actual problems of sex discrimination in sports.

H.R. 28 and S. 9’s real purpose is not to expand opportunities for women and girls, but to deny transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students of their right under Title IX to equal athletic opportunities. This harms all women and girls. Recent data from the CDC shows that state policies that prevent transgender high school students from playing are correlated with lower participation by all high school girls between 2011 and 2019; meanwhile, participation by all girls remained unchanged in states with policies allowing transgender students to play. Sports participation is linked to increased academic achievement and fosters in students increased emotional, mental, and physical well-being and a sense of community. Amending Title IX to exclude transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students from these benefits will undeniably harm these students, who because of stigma and discrimination are already especially vulnerable to isolation and decreased academic performance, and ultimately harm all women and girls.

Our organizations are deeply concerned about how H.R. 28 and S. 9 dangerously invite gender policing that threatens all women and girls. H.R. 28 and S. 9 are vague and unworkable and could only be implemented by a combination of invasive and harmful practices. There is no principled way to apply the bill’s unclear language to the many girls and young women born with intersex variations, which by definition, are variations in “reproductive biology and genetics at birth.” Similar bans have been widely used to push girls and women born with these variations out of sports opportunities and have chilled their participation in school sports. Additionally, H.R. 28 and S. 9 would inevitably lead to schools and athletic associations adopting “sex verification” practices which may include forcing women and girls to submit to a variety of invasive, humiliating, and unscientific practices for the purported purpose of determining whether they are “really” girls or women. These procedures make all women and girls vulnerable to sexual abuse, but are especially likely to be used to target Black and brown women and girls who do not conform to white ideals of femininity, other women and girls who do not conform to sexist stereotypes, and nonbinary and gender nonconforming students. If H.R. 28 and S. 9 become law, it would permit school districts, colleges and universities, and athletics associations to become the arbiters of who is “sufficiently” feminine to play, thereby perpetuating harmful racist and sexist stereotypes

that punish students for who they are or how they look, and placing students at further risk for sexual abuse, including harassment. And this isn’t speculation. Just last year, a Utah school board member publicly questioned the gender of a 16-year-old cisgender girl playing on a high school basketball team who wore short hair and baggy clothes. As a result, the student was subjected to harassment, bullying, and threats of violence, necessitating police protection for her and her family.

Every student deserves the opportunity to participate in sports in a safe environment. The blanket, discriminatory exclusion that H.R. 28 and S. 9 would mandate for every age, every sport, and every level of competition flies in the face of Title IX’s mandate of equal access to educational opportunities. Transgender women and girls have been playing school sports for years, adhering to various rules and regulations set by their state or sport governance organization which govern their participation. Claims that they have been unfairly “dominating” competition are utterly false. H.R. 28 and S. 9 promote fear, dangerous stereotypes, and sex discrimination based on misinformation, and they should not become law.

We welcome and support efforts that protect women and girls in sports, including those that would fix the problems we identified above. But this is not what H.R. 28 and S. 9 do.

As women’s rights and gender justice organizations, we vehemently reject this dangerous legislation and rhetoric which only serves to marginalize transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people and encourage scrutiny and policing of the bodies of all women and girls in sports. Supporting the civil rights of women and girls cannot be separated from championing policies that protect the rights of transgender, intersex, and nonbinary individuals’ rights to be free from sex discrimination, including in school sports. This, at a minimum, includes voicing strong opposition to H.R. 28 and S. 9.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Shiwali Patel and Sarah Axelson.

Sincerely,  
National Women’s Law Center and Women’s Sports Foundation, joined by:

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A Better Balance, American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Civil Liberties Union, Athletes Unlimited, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Callisto, Center for Policing Equity, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, End Rape on Campus, Esperanza United, Family Values @ Work, Feminist Majority Foundation, Girls for Gender Equity, Guttmacher Institute, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth, Know Your IX, a project of Advocates for Youth, Ms. Foundation for Women, National Organization for Women, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, National Partnership for Women & Families, Power to Decide, Red Wine & Blue, Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America), Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA), Shattering Glass, Stop Sexual Assault in Schools, Transgender Law Center, VOICEINSPORT Foundation, Women’s March, YWCA USA.

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASTOP, Inc. Sexual Abuse Center, Bozeman City for CEDAW Women’s Human Rights Task Force, MT, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), Deaf Unity, Diverse & Resilient, Domestic Violence Escape (DOVE), Inc., Freedom, Inc.,

Gender Justice, Harvard Law School Gender Violence Program, Illinois Accountability Initiative, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Menagerie Rugby Club, Minnesota Suns, Montanans for Choice Take Action, National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania, National Organization for Women, Central New York, National Organization for Women, Columbia Area (MO), National Organization for Women, Florida, National Organization for Women, Massachusetts, National Organization for Women, Missouri, National Organization for Women, Montana, National Organization for Women, Santa Fe, National Organization for Women, Seattle, Network NOVA, Northwoods Women Inc., People Of Progression, Public Counsel, Reach Counseling, Stepping Stones, Inc., The Tucker Center, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Women's Law Project.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter from Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, which reads in part:

“On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, I write to urge you to oppose H.R. 28, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, and to reject its attacks on our students.”

AFT,  
January 13, 2025.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, I write to urge you to oppose H.R. 28, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, and to reject its attacks on our students. This misguided bill bans transgender kids from participating in school sports, causing harm and undermining civil rights for all students.

Rather than focusing on ways to strengthen public schools, meet the needs of all students and families, and protect transgender students from attacks, this bill targets students and blocks them from participating in school activities alongside their peers. Schools and colleges are looking for a practical road map on how to craft athletic policies and criteria for male and female teams consistent with Title IX—not a politically motivated blanket ban. Tragically, H.R. 28 uses Title IX, which is intended to prevent discrimination, to in fact discriminate.

This is not what parents and families want. They want Congress to address the actual challenges confronting them daily. Down-ballot elections across the country demonstrate that voters overwhelmingly reject political fights in schools and instead favor strengthening their public schools and providing educators the resources they need to create safe and welcoming environments; boost academic skills, pave pathways to career, college, and beyond; and keep kids safe from gun and other violence. The new Congress should be working to advance common-sense solutions that support our nation's students, value our nation's parents and families, and help our nation's educators.

H.R. 28 is harmful and cruel. It targets innocent kids who want to live their lives in peace and play sports on a team with their friends and classmates. And to make matters worse, it uses the protection of women and girls as a smokescreen to further discriminate against them and open up pathways to violate their privacy and safety. We know that if the legislation's goal were to truly expand protections for women and girls, it would provide for equal facilities and equip-

ment, strengthen sexual harassment protections and address strategies women athletes have been advocating for decades—but it does not.

We stand with parents and families eager to partner with Congress to meaningfully address these issues. Unfortunately, that is not the focus of this legislation. Please vote “no” on H.R. 28.

Thank you for considering our views on these issues.

Sincerely,

RANDI WEINGARTEN,  
President, AFT.

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

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 3½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has the power and the responsibility to make a real difference for Americans. Yet, we are starting this Congress with a bill that dangerously picks on an extremely small number of children and young adults but putting all children and young adults at risk. These attacks are fueled by discrimination and not facts.

A poll from 2022 found that two-thirds of LGBTQI+ youth report that recent debates about State laws restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively affected their mental health. Today, my colleagues are furthering this hate. America already has a youth mental health crisis, and my colleagues are exacerbating it by promoting these hateful policies, and that is unacceptable.

Let's talk about ways to champion opportunities in sports for all women and girls. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX 2 years ago, which protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities.

Under Title IX, we have seen a considerable increase in the number of female students participating in sports, but college women still have nearly 60,000 fewer athletic opportunities than men, and high school girls have about 1 million fewer opportunities to play sports than high school boys.

Do my colleagues only care about women's sports when it benefits partisan talking points? Apparently so because preventing transgender women and girls, who make up only a tiny fraction of a percent of college athletes, from participating in sports seems to be more important to my colleagues than starting this 119th Congress with legislation that would protect female athletes from assault or harassment.

Mr. Speaker, we should focus our work on promoting policies that make sports safe, accessible, and fair for everyone. This bill does not do that.

I emphasize that my colleagues still have not explained how enforcement is

going to happen without serious and risky invasions of privacy and the inquiry of intensely personal information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to show some compassion, show some humanity, and please reject this partisan bill that will harm our Nation's youth.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to hear that my colleagues, who I respect and enjoy working with on most things, are totally not recognizing the fact that the American people, parents, grandparents, and teachers, don't stand with them and organizations that are reported today aren't speaking for the benefit of girls and women.

It is absolutely heart-wrenching to see daughters and sisters lose races. The strides women have made across all corners of the sports world deserve to be celebrated and protected.

Like it or not, sports are based on physical ability. Pretending otherwise is a stark denial of reality.

Erasing sex means ultimately erasing women, especially when it comes to sports. Girls and women lose a fair chance to compete when a biological male enters the field.

We can't let women's sports become collateral damage in the far left's campaign against a traditional science-based understanding of sex. Allowing women and girls to suffer for the sake of the dishonesty of wokeness is inexcusable.

We need to stand for women and girls. I believe that the constituents in overwhelming majority understand what my colleagues are posturing with and that that is not what we are talking about.

We are standing for affirming Title IX, affirming women, affirming girls, and protecting them for their abilities to succeed in the future.

I plead with my Democratic colleagues to join us in celebrating women and girls, the female athlete, and females in general.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the second letter I referenced during general debate on H.R. 28, a letter led by the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights with signatories from 117 national and 289 regional, state, and local civil rights organizations rejecting “the so-called *Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025*, because it would harm women and girls and undermine civil rights for all students.”

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE,  
January 13, 2025.

OPPOSE H.R. 28 TO PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 240 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 414 undersigned organizations, we call for the full inclusion, protection, and celebration of transgender, non-binary, and intersex youth, including access

to extracurricular activities such as athletics, and to school facilities, safe and inclusive school environments, and accurate and inclusive curriculum. We reject H.R. 28, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, because it would harm women and girls and undermine civil rights for all students.

This discriminatory proposal seeks to exclude transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people from athletics programs in schools. Although the authors of the legislation represent themselves as serving the interests of cisgender girls and women, this legislation does not address the longstanding barriers all girls and women have faced in their pursuit of athletics. Instead of providing for equal facilities, equipment, and travel, or any other strategy that women athletes have been pushing for for decades, the bill cynically veils an attack on transgender people as a question of athletics policy.

Youth sports often play a significant role in children's lives and development, helping them to develop critical life skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership. Sports spaces are imperative for all young people, no matter their gender. Transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth want to participate in team sports for the same reasons as their cisgender peers: to be part of a team, learn sportsmanship, and challenge themselves. School athletics are very often the centerpiece of communities across the country, and denying transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth the chance to participate only serves to deny them an opportunity to be part of that community, further isolating and stigmatizing these youth.

The civil and human rights community is no stranger to the proffering of a bigoted agenda as if it were about equal opportunity. We know about wolves in sheep's clothing. We know that when affirmative action policies created to level the playing field in higher education admissions are attacked by opponents of voting rights (as was true in the *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard College/University of North Carolina cases*), that their agenda is not about the rights of people of color. We know that when companies profit from poverty wages for disabled people, especially in segregated work sites (as is the case for sheltered workshops that pay subminimum wages to disabled workers), that their agenda is not about independence and self-determination for workers. And we know that when opponents of Title IX, including those who have sought for decades to weaken its protections and undermine its enforcement, now present themselves as the law's champions, that their agenda is not about the rights of women and girls.

Targeting and excluding transgender, nonbinary, and intersex students from participation in school programming, including athletics programs, alongside their cisgender peers is harmful to all students and undermines the learning environment for everyone. If schools mark some students effectively as outcasts, they foster an environment where no student is included and safe. H.R. 28's vague language and intrusive focus on scrutiny of students' bodies will effectively exclude cisgender girls and women with intersex variations from participation, will invite scrutiny and harassment of any other student perceived by anyone as not conforming to sex stereotypes, and will likely be disproportionately used to target all girls and women of color. We support the full inclusion and protection of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth.

We are fortunate that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people are present in our community, and we fully embrace them as members of our community. As organiza-

tions that care deeply about ending sex-based discrimination and ensuring equal educational opportunities, we support laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including full and equal participation in sports, access to gender-affirming care, access to school facilities, and access to inclusive curriculum. We firmly believe that an attack on transgender youth is an attack on civil rights.

We ask all members of Congress to strongly oppose H.R. 28 and to reject attacks on transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth; to commit themselves to meaningfully advancing policies that support equal opportunity; and to reassure all students in the nation's classrooms that they will have the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz King, senior program director at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, at [king@civilrights.org](mailto:king@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

NATIONAL (121)

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Advocates for Trans Equality, Advocates for Youth, AFT; American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Atheists; American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of State; County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Humanist Association; Amnesty International USA; Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network; Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bend the Arc; Jewish Action; CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers; Chrysalis; Clearinghouse on Women's Issues; COLAGE; Collective Power for Reproductive Justice; Council for Global Equality; EdTrust; Education Law Center; Educators for Excellence; Elevated Access; Empowering Pacific Islander Communities; Equal Justice Society; Equal Rights Advocates; Equality Federation; Equity Forward.

Family Equality, Feminist Majority Foundation, FORGE, Inc., Gender Justice League, GLAAD, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality, GLSEN, HAIR HAS NO GENDER NFP, Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights First, Ibis Reproductive Health, Impact Fund, Indivisible, interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth, Interfaith Alliance, Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Justice and Joy National Collaborative, Keshet, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Lambda Legal, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Lavender Rights Project, Liberation is Lit, LPAC, Matthew Shepard Foundation, Movement Advancement Project, MPact Global, NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Nathaniel R. Jones Foundation, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), National Association of Social Workers, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Council of Jewish Women, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), National Education Association, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, National LGBTQI+ Cancer Network, National Network of Abortion Funds, National Organization for Women.

National Partnership for Women & Families, National Urban League, National Women's Law Center, Nclusion Plus, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Our Schools USA, Out in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Inc., Patchwork Transgender Peer Services, People For the American Way, PFLAG National, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Point of Pride, Popular Democracy, Positive Women's Network-USA, Pride At Work, AFL-CIO, Public Justice, Reproaction, Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-

Choice America), Safe Schools Action Network, Sam & Deborah Foundation for Trans Youth, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Action, Tbuddy, The Advocacy Institute, The Advocates for Human Rights, The Autistic People of Color Fund, The Global Trans Equity Project, The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United), The TransLatin@ Coalition, Trans in Color, Transathlete, Transcending Adolescence, TransFamily Support Services, Transgender Law Center, TransParent, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, UFCW OUTreach, Union for Reform Judaism, United Church of Christ, URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity, Voices for Progress, Voters of Tomorrow, Western States Center, Whitman-Walker Institute, Youth MOVE National, Youth Seen, YWCA USA.

REGIONAL/STATE/LOCAL (294)

African American Office of Gay Concerns, Aces NYC, Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance, Advocates for Children of New York, AJL Community Health, Alliance For Full Acceptance SC, American Federation of Teachers—Oregon, Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum, Association of Latinos/as/xs Motivating Action, Azalea Coffee Bar, Bans Off Miami, Basic Rights Oregon, Battle Born Progress, Bolingbrook Pride, Brenham PFLAG, Brooklyn Community Pride Center, CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network, CalPride, CAMP Rehoboth, Campaign for Southern Equality, Carolina Abortion Fund, Casa Freehold, Cascade AIDS Project, Central Coast Coalition for Inclusive Schools, Charlotte Trans Health, Chattanooga Trans Liberation Collective, Chicago Teachers Union LGBTQ+ Committee, Chicago Therapy Collective, City of West Hollywood, Courage California, Crescent Care, Deerfield IL Chapter of PFLAG, Delmarva Pride Center, Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan (DAYUM), Disability Law Center, Disability Rights California, Disability Rights Oregon.

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, Education Law Center Pennsylvania, entre hermanos, Envision: You, Equality California, Equality Community Center, Equality Florida, Equality Illinois, Equality Maine, Equality Michigan, Equality New Mexico, Equality NY—Buffalo Chapter, Equality Ohio, Equality South Dakota, Equality Texas, Equitas Health, Fair Wisconsin, Fairness Campaign, Family Forward Oregon, Famous Adventures Summer Camp, Fenway Health, FL National Organization for Women, Florida Council of Churches, Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center, Freedom Oklahoma, Garden State Equality, Gender Alchemy, Gender Justice, Gender Justice LA, GenderNexus, Georgia Equality, GLSEN Arizona, GLYS Western New York Inc., GRACE/End Child Poverty California, Grand Rapids Trans Foundation, GSAFE, Harriet Hancock Center Foundation, Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network, Health Equity Alliance for LGBTQ+ New Mexicans, Howard Brown Health, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation, Hyacinth Foundation.

Illinois Migrant Council, Inland Empire Prism Collective, Inland Oasis, Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix, Just Us at Oasis Center, Kol Ami, Latino Equality Alliance, Latino Network, Lavender Phoenix, Levine Center To End Hate/Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, LGBT Center of Raleigh, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, LGBT Community

Network, LGBTQ Center OC, LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert, LGBTQ+ Center Lake County, LGBTQ+ Community Center of Darke County, LGBTQI+ Rights Clinic, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Life is Work, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Louisiana Trans Advocates, Louisville Youth Group, Loving Beyond Understanding, Lyon Martin Community Health, LYRIC, Mabel Wadsworth Center, MaineTransNet, Make it Better for Youth, Make the Road Nevada, Mama Bears Playgroup, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, MassEquality, Metro Trans Umbrella Group, Michigan Alliance for Special Education, Michigan Education Justice Coalition, Michigan Student Power Alliance, Monica Roberts Resource Center, Montgomery Pride United/ Bayard Rustin Community Center, Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ+ Center.

Naper Pride, Nevada Chapter of the National Organization for Women, New Alternatives For Homeless LGBT Youth, New Haven Pride Center, New Jersey Safe Schools Coalition, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Next Up Action Fund, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, North Shore Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (NAGLY), NoVA Prism Center, Oasis Legal Services, Office of Strategic Partnerships, California Department of Health Care Services, One Colorado, one-n-ten, OUT Maine, OutCenter Southwest Michigan, OutFront Minnesota, OUTMemphis, OutNebraska, OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center, PAVE, Peoria Proud, PFLAG Aiken (South Carolina), PFLAG Akron, PFLAG Angleton-Lake Jackson, PFLAG Athens Area, Georgia, PFLAG Cape Cod, PFLAG Chicago Metro, PFLAG Clayton-Concord, PFLAG Collingswood, PFLAG Columbus, Ohio, PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, PFLAG Danville/ Central Susquehanna Valley, PFLAG DanvilleKY, PFLAG Dayton, PFLAG Decatur, PFLAG Deerfield IL, PFLAG Delaware, PFLAG Detroit, PFLAG DuPage, PFLAG Edwardsville, PFLAG Flat Rock/Hendersonville, NC.

PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado, PFLAG Fort Wayne, PFLAG Fort Worth, PFLAG Frederick, PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities, PFLAG Grayslake/Round Lake, PFLAG Greater Boston, PFLAG Greater St. Louis, PFLAG GREENSBURG, PFLAG Hartford, PFLAG Homewood-Flossmoor, PFLAG HuntsvilleTX, PFLAG Illinois, PFLAG Ithaca-Cortland, PFLAG Lafayette/Tippencanoe County Indiana, PFLAG Lamorinda, PFLAG Los Angeles, PFLAG Madison WI, PFLAG meto chapter, PFLAG NYC, PFLAG O'ahu, PFLAG Oakland-East Bay, PFLAG Peoria, PFLAG Plymouth-Canton, PFLAG Port Charlotte Chapter, PFLAG Sacramento, PFLAG Salisbury, PFLAG San Diego County, PFLAG San Francisco, PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula, PFLAG Sandy Springs, PFLAG Seattle, PFLAG Sonoma County, PFLAG Southern Maryland, PFLAG Springfield/SWMO, PFLAG Tinley Park, PFLAG Tri-Valley, PFLAG Valparaiso, PFLAG West Chester/Chester County, PFLAG Youngstown, Philadelphia Asian and Queer, Pride Action Tank/AIDS Foundation Chicago, Pride at Work—Hawai'i.

Pride Center of Terre Haute Inc., Pride Community Center, Inc (Bryan/College Station, Texas), Pride in Action, Southern IL, Pride Lafayette (Indiana), Princess Janae Place, PRISM FL, Prism United, Pro-Choice North Carolina, PROMO Missouri, Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago, QT Summer Camp, Queer City Therapy, Queer Keys, Queer Trans Black Indigenous People of Color Agency, Queermunity Collaborative, Rabbi Joseph H. Gumbiner Community Action Project at Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center, Rad Family, a

project of North Jersey Pride, Rainbow Collective of WNY, Rainbow Families Bay Area Community Group, Rainbow Labs, Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance, Reproductive Justice Action Collective, Resource Center, Rising Voices, Rochester Rainbow Union, Rockland County Pride Center, Rocky Mountain Equality, Rogue Action Center, Sacramento LGBT Community Center, Salisbury Pride, San Joaquin Delta College, San Joaquin Pride Center, INC., Save Our Sisters United, Serving at-risk families everywhere, Inc., Sexual Assault Services Organization, Silver State Equality-Nevada, Sioux Falls Pride, SMYAL, SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity, Solano Pride Center, Somos Familia Valle, Soul 2 Soul Sisters, South Carolina Equality.

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Southwest Women's Law Center, Spencer Pride, Inc., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Support FHPS Action, TaskForce Prevention and Community Services, Tennessee Equality Project, The Center Project, The Cherry Fund, The DC LGBTQ+ Community Center, The GLO Center, The Human Rights Alliance, The Lavender Room, The LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada, The LIAM Foundation, The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center, The Mahogany Project, The Pinta Pride Project and Buffalo Grove Pride, The Pride Center at Equality Park, The San Diego LGBT Community Center, The Sports Bra, The Transformation Project South Dakota, Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown (TANK), TRACTION, Trans Maryland, Trans-E-Motion, Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, Transgender Michigan, Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, Transgender Resource, Advocacy and Network Service, TransOhio, T-time Transgender Support, Uniting Pride of Champaign County, Upstate NY Black & Latino Pride, Inc., Viet Rainbow of Orange County, Waves Ahead Corp, We Are Family, Wild West Access Fund of Nevada, WNY Man Made Men, Women's Rights and Empowerment Network, Youth Leadership Institute, Youth Outlook, Youth OUTright, Zebra Youth.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Adams of North Carolina moves to recommit the bill H.R. 28 to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. ADAMS is as follows:

Ms. Adams of North Carolina moves to recommit the bill H.R. 28 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fair Play for Women Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) More than 50 years ago, Congress passed title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (referred to in this section as "title IX"), helping to transform participation in and support for women's sports by barring discrimination on the basis of sex in all schools that receive Federal funding, including in their athletic programs.

(2) Since the passage of title IX, millions more women and girls have had the opportunity to compete in school-based athletics. In high school athletics, athletic participation opportunities have increased from nearly 300,000 in 1972 to more than 3,400,000 in 2019. In intercollegiate athletics, opportunities have increased from nearly 30,000 in 1972 to 215,000 in 2020 on teams sponsored by institutions who are members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this section as the "NCAA").

(3) Despite progress, women and girls still face unequal opportunities and unfair treatment in school-based athletics. In high school athletics, girls have over 1,000,000 fewer athletic opportunities than boys, with schools providing girls with 43 percent of all athletic opportunities while girls represent nearly half of all students. In intercollegiate athletics, colleges would need to provide women with an additional 148,000 sports opportunities to match the same ratio of sports opportunities per student as is offered to men. Overall, girls still do not have the participation opportunities provided to boys before the enactment of title IX, over 50 years ago.

(4) Girls of color are often most impacted by unequal resources and unfair treatment. At high schools predominantly attended by white students, girls have 82 percent of the opportunities that boys have to play sports, while at high schools predominantly attended by students of color, girls have only 67 percent of the opportunities that boys have to play sports.

(5) As part of title IX athletics requirements, schools can show they are compliant by providing athletic participation opportunities for men and women that are substantially proportionate to their respective enrollment rates. Yet, a Government Accountability Office report from 2024 found that 93 percent of all colleges had athletic participation rates for women that were lower than their enrollment rate at the colleges. At 63 percent of colleges, women's athletic participation rates were at least 10 percentage points lower than their enrollment rates. Overall, the athletic participation rate for collegiate women was 14 percent less than their enrollment rate. Despite widespread noncompliance with title IX athletics requirements, no college has ever had Federal funding rescinded nor been sued by the Federal government for noncompliance.

(6) The magnitude of current gaps in intercollegiate athletics participation opportunities is likely undercounted, as investigations of intercollegiate athletics data have found that the majority of NCAA member institutions inflate the number of women participating in sports by double- and triple-counting women athletes who participate in more than one sport more often than the institutions double- and triple-count their counterparts who are men, counting men who are practice players on women's teams as women athletes, and packing women's teams with extra players who never end up competing.

(7) Women and girls in sports also face unfair treatment. They are frequently provided worse facilities, equipment, and uniforms than men and boys, and they receive less financial support and publicity from their schools. In the 2019–2020 academic year, women received \$252,000,000 less than men in athletic-based scholarships, and for every dollar colleges spent on recruiting, travel,

and equipment for men's sports, they spent 58 cents, 62 cents, and 73 cents, respectively, for women's sports.

(8) Amid ongoing unfair treatment, athletes and athletics-related staff too often are unaware of the rights and obligations provided by title IX. In surveys of children and their parents, the majority report not knowing what title IX is. A study conducted by the Government Accountability Office in 2017 found that most high school athletic administrators were unaware of who their title IX coordinator was or felt unsupported by their title IX coordinator. In intercollegiate athletics, most coaches report that they never received formal training about title IX as part of the preparation for their jobs.

**SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) address unfair and discriminatory treatment of women and girls in sports in elementary and secondary schools, as well as institutions of higher education;

(2) improve the collection and transparency of data pertaining to participation in and support for women's and girls' sports at schools receiving Federal financial assistance;

(3) ensure all students participating in athletics, as well as those who work in school-sponsored athletics, are aware of and understand the nondiscrimination rights of students related to their athletic opportunities; and

(4) ensure all students have equal access to high-quality and supportive athletic opportunities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. ADAMS. 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 question will be postponed.

**RECESS**

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1401

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) at 2 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 153;

The motion to recommit H.R. 28; and Passage of H.R. 28, if ordered.

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

**POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 153) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, 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 426, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 10]  
YEAS—426

Adams	Castro (TX)	Evans (PA)
Aderholt	Cherfilus-	Ezell
Aguilar	McCormick	Fallon
Alford	Chu	Fedorchak
Allen	Ciscomani	Feenstra
Amo	Cisneros	Fields
Amodei (NV)	Clark (MA)	Figures
Ansari	Clarke (NY)	Finstad
Arrington	Cleaver	Fischbach
Auchincloss	Cline	Fitzgerald
Babin	Cloud	Fitzpatrick
Bacon	Clyburn	Fleischmann
Baird	Clyde	Fletcher
Balderson	Cohen	Flood
Balint	Cole	Fong
Barr	Collins	Foster
Barragán	Comer	Foushee
Barrett	Conaway	Fox
Baumgartner	Connolly	Fox
Bean (FL)	Correa	Frankel, Lois
Beatty	Costa	Franklin, Scott
Begich	Courtney	Friedman
Bell	Craig	Frost
Bentz	Crane	Fry
Bera	Crank	Fulcher
Bergman	Crawford	Garamendi
Beyer	Crenshaw	Garbarino
Bice	Crockett	Garcia (CA)
Biggs (AZ)	Crow	Garcia (IL)
Biggs (SC)	Cuellar	Garcia (TX)
Bilirakis	Davidson	Gill (TX)
Bishop	Davidson	Gill
Boebert	Davis (IL)	Gimenez
Bonamici	Davis (NC)	Golden (ME)
Bost	De La Cruz	Goldman (NY)
Boyle (PA)	Dean (PA)	Goldman (TX)
Brecheen	DeGette	Gomez
Bresnahan	DeLauro	Gonzales, Tony
Brown	DelBene	Gonzalez, V.
Brownley	Deluzio	Gooden
Buchanan	DesSaulnier	Goodlander
Budzinski	DesJarlais	Gosar
Burchett	Dexter	Gottheimer
Burlison	Diaz-Balart	Graves
Bynum	Dingell	Gray
Calvert	Doggett	Green (TN)
Cammack	Donalds	Green, Al (TX)
Carbajal	Downing	Greene (GA)
Carey	Dunn (FL)	Griffith
Carson	Edwards	Grothman
Carter (GA)	Elfreth	Guest
Carter (LA)	Ellzey	Guthrie
Carter (TX)	Emmer	Hageman
Casar	Escobar	Hamadeh (AZ)
Case	Españat	Harder (CA)
Casten	Estes	Haridopolos
Castor (FL)	Evans (CO)	Harrigan
		Harris (MD)

Harris (NC)	McClellan Delaney	Schakowsky
Hayes	McClellan	Schmidt
Hern (OK)	McClintock	Schneider
Higgins (LA)	McCollum	Scholten
Hill (AR)	McCormick	Schrier
Himes	McDonald Rivet	Schweikert
Hinson	McDowell	Scott (VA)
Horsford	McGarvey	Scott, Austin
Houchin	McGovern	Scott, David
Houlahan	McGuire	Self
Hoyer	McIver	Sessions
Hoyle (OR)	Meeks	Sewell
Hudson	Menendez	Sherrill
Huffman	Meng	Shreve
Huizenga	Messmer	Simon
Hunt	Meuser	Simpson
Hurd (CO)	Mfume	Smith (MO)
Issa	Miller (IL)	Smith (NE)
Ivey	Miller (OH)	Smith (NJ)
Jack	Miller (WV)	Smith (WA)
Jackson (IL)	Miller-Meeks	Smucker
Jackson (TX)	Mills	Sorensen
Jacobs	Min	Soto
James	Moolenaar	Spartz
Jayapal	Moore (AL)	Stansbury
Jeffries	Moore (NC)	Stanton
Johnson (GA)	Moore (UT)	Staubert
Johnson (LA)	Moore (WI)	Stefanik
Johnson (SD)	Moore (WV)	Steil
Johnson (TX)	Moran	Steube
Jordan	Morelle	Stevens
Joyce (OH)	Morrison	Strickland
Joyce (PA)	Moskowitz	Strong
Kamlager-Dove	Moulton	Stutzman
Kaptur	Mrvan	Subramanyam
Kean	Mullin	Suozi
Keating	Murphy	Sykes
Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Takano
Kelly (MS)	Neal	Taylor
Kelly (PA)	Neguse	Tenney
Kennedy (NY)	Nehls	Thandesar
Kennedy (UT)	Newhouse	Thompson (CA)
Khanna	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Kiggans (VA)	Norman	Thompson (PA)
Kiley (CA)	Nunn (IA)	Tiffany
Kim	Obernalte	Timmons
Knott	Ocasio-Cortez	Titus
Krishnamoorthi	Ogles	Tlaib
Kustoff	Olzewski	Tokuda
LaHood	Omar	Tonko
LaLota	Onder	Torres (CA)
LaMalfa	Owens	Torres (NY)
Landsman	Pallone	Trahan
Langworthy	Palmer	Tran
Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Turner (OH)
Larson (CT)	Pappas	Turner (TX)
Latimer	Perez	Underwood
Latta	Perry	Valadao
Lawler	Peters	Van Drew
Lee (FL)	Pfuger	Van Deyne
Lee (NV)	Pingree	Van Orden
Lee (PA)	Pocan	Vargas
Leger Fernandez	Pou	Vasquez
Letlow	Pressley	Veasey
Levin	Quigley	Velázquez
Liccardo	Ramirez	Vindman
Lieu	Randall	Wagner
Lofgren	Raskin	Walberg
Loudermilk	Reschenthaler	Waltz
Lucas	Riley (NY)	Wasserman
Luna	Rivas	Schultz
Luttrell	Rogers (AL)	Waters
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Watson Coleman
Mace	Rose	Weber (TX)
Mackenzie	Ross	Webster (FL)
Magaziner	Rouzer	Westerman
Malliotakis	Roy	Wied
Maloy	Ruiz	Williams (GA)
Mann	Rulli	Williams (TX)
Mannion	Rutherford	Wilson (FL)
Massie	Ryan	Wilson (SC)
Mast	Salazar	Wittman
Matsui	Salinas	Womack
McBath	Salinas	Yakym
McBride	Sánchez	Zinke
McCaul	Scanlon	

**NOT VOTING—8**

Grijalva	Pelosi	Swalwell
Harshbarger	Petersen	Whitesides
McClain	Sherman	

□ 1428

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his 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.

**PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2025**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 28) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth, offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 218, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

**YEAS—208**

Adams Elfrith Lofgren  
 Aguilar Escobar Lynch  
 Amo Espallat Magaziner  
 Ansari Evans (PA) Mannion  
 Auchincloss Fields Matsui  
 Balint Figures McBath  
 Barragan Fletcher McBride  
 Beatty Foster McClain Delaney  
 Bell Foushee McClellan  
 Bera Frankel, Lois McCollum  
 Beyer Friedman McDonald Rivet  
 Bishop Frost McGarvey  
 Bonamici Garamendi McGovern  
 Boyle (PA) Garcia (CA) McIver  
 Brown Garcia (IL) Meeks  
 Brownley Garcia (TX) Menendez  
 Budzinski Gillen Meng  
 Bynum Golden (ME) Mfume  
 Carbajal Goldman (NY) Min  
 Carson Gomez Moore (WI)  
 Carter (LA) Gonzalez, V. Morelle  
 Casar Goodlander Morrison  
 Case Gottheimer Moskowitz  
 Casten Gray Moulton  
 Castor (FL) Green, Al (TX) Mryan  
 Castro (TX) Harder (CA) Mullin  
 Cherfilus-Hays  
 McCormick Himes Neal  
 Chu Horsford Neguse  
 Cisneros Houlihan Norcross  
 Clark (MA) Hoyer Ocasio-Cortez  
 Clarke (NY) Hoyle (OR) Olszewski  
 Cleaver Huffman Omar  
 Clyburn Ivey Pallone  
 Cohen Jacobs Panetta  
 Conaway Jayapal Pappas  
 Connolly Jeffries Perez  
 Correa Johnson (GA) Peters  
 Costa Johnson (TX) Pingree  
 Courtney Kamlager-Dove Pocan  
 Craig Kaptur Pou  
 Crockett Keating Pressley  
 Crow Kelly (IL) Quigley  
 Cuellar Kennedy (NY) Ramirez  
 Davids (KS) Khanna Randall  
 Davis (IL) Krishnamoorthi Raskin  
 Davis (NC) Landsman Riley (NY)  
 Dean (PA) Larsen (WA) Rivas  
 DeGette Larson (CT) Ross  
 DeLauro Latimer Ruiz  
 DelBene Lee (NV) Ryan  
 Deluzio Lee (PA) Salinas  
 DeSaulnier Leger Fernandez Sanchez  
 Dexter Levin Scanlon  
 Dingell Liccardo Schakowsky  
 Doggett Lieu Schneider

Scholten  
 Schrier  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, David  
 Sewell  
 Sherrill  
 Simon  
 Smith (WA)  
 Sorensen  
 Soto  
 Stansbury  
 Stanton  
 Stevens  
 Strickland

Subramanyam  
 Suozzi  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres (NY)  
 Trahan

**NAYS—218**

Aderholt  
 Alford  
 Allen  
 Amodei (NV)  
 Arrington  
 Babin  
 Bacon  
 Baird  
 Balderson  
 Barr  
 Barrett  
 Baumgartner  
 Bean (FL)  
 Begich  
 Bentz  
 Bergman  
 Bice  
 Biggs (AZ)  
 Biggs (SC)  
 Bilirakis  
 Boebert  
 Bost  
 Brecheen  
 Bresnahan  
 Buchanan  
 Burchett  
 Burlison  
 Calvert  
 Cammack  
 Carey  
 Carter (GA)  
 Carter (TX)  
 Ciscomani  
 Cline  
 Cloud  
 Clyde  
 Cole  
 Collins  
 Comer  
 Crane  
 Crank  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Davidson  
 De La Cruz  
 DesJarlais  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Donalds  
 Downing  
 Dunn (FL)  
 Edwards  
 Ellzey  
 Emmer  
 Estes  
 Evans (CO)  
 Ezell  
 Fallon  
 Fedorchak  
 Feenstra  
 Finstad  
 Fischbach  
 Fitzgerald  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Flood  
 Fong  
 Foxx  
 Franklin, Scott  
 Fry  
 Fulcher  
 Garbarino  
 Gill (TX)  
 Gimenez

Goldman (TX)  
 Gonzales, Tony  
 Gooden  
 Gosar  
 Graves  
 Green (TN)  
 Greene (GA)  
 Griffith  
 Grothman  
 Guest  
 Guthrie  
 Hageman  
 Hamadeh (AZ)  
 Haridopolos  
 Harrigan  
 Harris (MD)  
 Harris (NC)  
 Hern (OK)  
 Higgins (LA)  
 Hill (AR)  
 Hinson  
 Houchin  
 Hudson  
 Huizenga  
 Hunt  
 Hurd (CO)  
 Issa  
 Jack  
 Jackson (IL)  
 Jackson (TX)  
 James  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA)  
 Kean  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Kennedy (UT)  
 Kiggans (VA)  
 Kiley (CA)  
 Kim  
 Knott  
 Kustoff  
 LaHood  
 LaLota  
 LaMalfa  
 Langworthy  
 Latta  
 Lawler  
 Lee (FL)  
 Letlow  
 Luna  
 Lucas  
 Luttrell  
 Mace  
 Mackenzie  
 Malliotakis  
 Mann  
 Massie  
 Mast  
 McAul  
 McClintock  
 McCormick  
 McDowell  
 McGuire  
 Messmer  
 Meuser  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Mills  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore (AL)  
 Moore (NC)  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moore (WV)  
 Moran  
 Murphy  
 Nehls  
 Newhouse  
 Norman  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ogles  
 Onder  
 Owens  
 Palmer  
 Perry  
 Pfluger  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Rulli  
 Rutherford  
 Salazar  
 Scalise  
 Schmidt  
 Schweikert  
 Scott, Austin  
 Self  
 Sessions  
 Shreve  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smucker  
 Spartz  
 Stauber  
 Stefanik  
 Steil  
 Steube  
 Strong  
 Stutzman  
 Taylor  
 Tenney  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Tiffany  
 Timmons  
 Turner (OH)  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Duyne  
 Van Orden  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Waltz  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Westerman  
 Wied  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

**NOT VOTING—8**

Grijalva Pelosi Swalwell  
 Harshbarger Pettersen Whitesides  
 McClain Sherman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-

□ 1434  
 So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 11, the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 28, I mistakenly recorded my vote as NAY when I should have voted YEA.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 206, answered “present” 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]

**YEAS—218**

Aderholt  
 Alford  
 Allen  
 Amodei (NV)  
 Arrington  
 Babin  
 Bacon  
 Baird  
 Balderson  
 Barr  
 Barrett  
 Baumgartner  
 Bean (FL)  
 Begich  
 Bentz  
 Bergman  
 Bice  
 Biggs (AZ)  
 Biggs (SC)  
 Bilirakis  
 Boebert  
 Bost  
 Brecheen  
 Bresnahan  
 Buchanan  
 Burchett  
 Burlison  
 Calvert  
 Cammack  
 Carey  
 Carter (GA)  
 Carter (TX)  
 Ciscomani  
 Cline  
 Cloud  
 Clyde  
 Cole  
 Collins  
 Comer  
 Crane  
 Crank  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Cuellar  
 Davidson  
 De La Cruz  
 DesJarlais  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Donalds  
 Downing  
 Dunn (FL)  
 Edwards  
 Ellzey  
 Emmer  
 Estes  
 Evans (CO)  
 Ezell  
 Fallon  
 Fedorchak  
 Feenstra  
 Finstad  
 Fischbach  
 Fitzgerald  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann

Flood  
 Fong  
 Foxx  
 Franklin, Scott  
 Fry  
 Fulcher  
 Garbarino  
 Gill (TX)  
 Gimenez  
 Goldman (TX)  
 Gonzales, Tony  
 Gonzalez, V.  
 Gooden  
 Gosar  
 Graves  
 Green (TN)  
 Greene (GA)  
 Griffith  
 Grothman  
 Guest  
 Guthrie  
 Hageman  
 Hamadeh (AZ)  
 Haridopolos  
 Harrigan  
 Harris (MD)  
 Harris (NC)  
 Hern (OK)  
 Higgins (LA)  
 Hill (AR)  
 Hinson  
 Houchin  
 Hudson  
 Huizenga  
 Hunt  
 Hurd (CO)  
 Issa  
 Jack  
 Jackson (TX)  
 James  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA)  
 Kean  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Kennedy (UT)  
 Kiggans (VA)  
 Kiley (CA)  
 Kim  
 Knott  
 Kustoff  
 LaHood  
 LaLota  
 LaMalfa  
 Langworthy  
 Latta  
 Lawler  
 Lee (FL)  
 Letlow  
 Loudermilk  
 Lucas  
 Luna

Luttrell  
 Mace  
 Mackenzie  
 Malliotakis  
 Maloy  
 Mann  
 Massie  
 Mast  
 McCaul  
 McClintock  
 McCormick  
 McDowell  
 McGuire  
 Messmer  
 Meuser  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)  
 Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Guest  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore (AL)  
 Moore (NC)  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moran  
 Moran  
 Murphy  
 Nehls  
 Newhouse  
 Norman  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ogles  
 Onder  
 Owens  
 Palmer  
 Perry  
 Pfluger  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Rulli  
 Rutherford  
 Salazar  
 Scalise  
 Schmidt  
 Schweikert  
 Scott, Austin  
 Self  
 Sessions  
 Shreve  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smucker  
 Spartz  
 Stauber  
 Steil  
 Steube  
 Strong  
 Stutzman

Taylor	Van Duyn	Wied
Tenney	Van Orden	Williams (TX)
Thompson (PA)	Wagner	Wilson (SC)
Tiffany	Walberg	Wittman
Timmons	Waltz	Womack
Turner (OH)	Weber (TX)	Yakym
Valadao	Webster (FL)	Zinke
Van Drew	Westerman	

NAYS—206

Adams	Gillen	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Golden (ME)	Olshewski
Amo	Goldman (NY)	Omar
Ansari	Gomez	Pallone
Auchincloss	Goodlander	Panetta
Balint	Gottheimer	Pappas
Barragan	Gray	Perez
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
Bell	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Bera	Hayes	Pocan
Beyer	Himes	Pou
Bishop	Horsford	Pressley
Bonamici	Houlahan	Quigley
Boyle (PA)	Hoyer	Ramirez
Brown	Hoyle (OR)	Randall
Brownley	Huffman	Raskin
Budzinski	Ivey	Riley (NY)
Bynum	Jackson (IL)	Rivas
Carbajal	Jacobs	Ross
Carson	Jayapal	Ruiz
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Ryan
Casar	Johnson (GA)	Salinas
Case	Johnson (TX)	Sánchez
Casten	Kamlager-Dove	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Castro (TX)	Keating	Schneider
Cherfilus-	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
McCormick	Kennedy (NY)	Schrier
Chu	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Cisneros	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Clark (MA)	Landsman	Sewell
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sherrill
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Simon
Clyburn	Latimer	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Conaway	Lee (PA)	Soto
Connolly	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Correa	Levin	Stanton
Costa	Liccardo	Stevens
Courtney	Lieu	Strickland
Craig	Lofgren	Subramanyam
Crockett	Lynch	Suozi
Crow	Magaziner	Sykes
Davids (KS)	Mannion	Takano
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Thanedar
Dean (PA)	McBath	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	McBride	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	McClain Delaney	Titus
DelBene	McClellan	Tlaib
Deluzio	McCollum	Tokuda
DeSaulnier	McDonald Rivet	Tonko
Dexter	McGarvey	Torres (CA)
Dingell	McGovern	Torres (NY)
Doggett	McIver	Trahan
Elfreth	Meeks	Tran
Escobar	Menendez	Turner (TX)
Espallat	Meng	Underwood
Evans (PA)	Mfume	Vargas
Fields	Min	Vasquez
Figures	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Fletcher	Morelle	Velázquez
Foster	Morrison	Vindman
Foushee	Moskowitz	Wasserman
Frankel, Lois	Moulton	Schultz
Friedman	Mrvan	Waters
Frost	Mullin	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Nadler	Williams (GA)
Garcia (CA)	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Neguse	
Garcia (TX)	Norcross	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Davis (NC)

NOT VOTING—9

Grijalva	Pelosi	Stefanik
Harshbarger	Petersen	Swalwell
McClain	Sherman	Whitesides

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1442

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 12.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded because I was absent due to a prior family engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 10, NAY on Roll Call No. 11, and YEA on Roll Call No. 12.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I needed to attend to the funeral proceedings and was unable to vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 10, passage of H.R. 153, NAY on Roll Call No. 11, MTR for H.R. 28, YEA on Roll Call No. 12, passage of H.R. 28.

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. 10, H.R. 153, YEA on Roll Call No. 11, Motion to Commit H.R. 28, and NAY on Roll Call No. 12, H.R. 28.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

HONORING THE COMMITMENT MADE THROUGH TITLE IX

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of House passage of H.R. 28, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Sports have always been more than just a game. They are an opportunity for growth that teaches discipline, teamwork, and resilience. Involvement in sports opens doors, fosters lifelong friendships, and inspires confidence in young adults across this country.

Unfortunately, due to radical policies implemented by the Biden-Harris administration and other far-left politicians nationwide, women and girls are losing critical protections that were afforded to them when Title IX was signed into law more than 50 years ago.

We owe it to the millions of young women and girls striving to reach their fullest potential, both on and off the field, who deserve fairness and safety.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act honors the commitment we made through Title IX, defends the principle of fair competition, and ensures that athletes can compete in categories that reflect their biological realities.

I am proud to support this legislation today on the House floor, and I urge my Senate colleagues to pass it as well.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST CAP

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Madam Speaker, I hear a lot from seniors in my district struggling to afford their prescriptions. I think that is wrong. This Nation ought to care for the folks who raised us and who helped build this great country of ours.

I rise to share some news today that will help.

Now, most seniors will never pay more than \$2,000 a year for their medicine. As of January 1, for those already enrolled in an eligible Medicare plan, the cap is automatic. Once folks have paid \$2,000 out of pocket for prescriptions in a year, they won't pay a dime more.

This cap will give seniors more peace of mind that they can afford the medicine they need, and thousands of seniors in western Pennsylvania will save money from this policy, cash that will go toward keeping a roof over their head or taking care of a grandchild.

For too long, we have seen pharmacy benefit managers and Big Pharma rip us off, padding their pockets while people struggle to afford the medicine they need to stay healthy.

There is lots more to do, but this is an important step to bring down the costs for seniors in western Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MARK WALTER TUCKER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the birth of Mark Walter Tucker. Mark Tucker is the son of my deputy chief of staff, Matt Tucker, and his wonderful wife, Sarah.

Since my very first day in office, Matt has been by my side, working to help address the healthcare issues that matter most to my communities in south central and western Pennsylvania.

The birth of a child offers both a time to reflect and an important time to look forward.

As Matt and Sarah begin this new chapter of their lives, I am not sure if baby Tucker will become a Deacon or maybe a Hokie. My hopes are that he becomes a Nittany Lion.

I am excited to see them both have the opportunity to grow and learn as they raise their newborn son and teach him about the important issues of life that matter most to a child, that matter most to his new family and to his community, and to teach him the faith that he will grow in to become a proud American.

Welcome, Mark Tucker.

RECOGNIZING SAM "THE MAN"  
LATHAN

(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. Madam Speaker, drumroll, please.

I rise to recognize a legendary drummer and, above all, an incredible human being, Sam "The Man" Lathan.

Mr. Lathan was born and raised in Wilson, North Carolina. At 94, he has a deep passion for drums, which placed him on many stages, from playing for the iconic singer James Brown and The Monitors band to St. John AME Zion Church, his home church.

Mr. Lathan has also served as an educator and drove a school bus. He is known for mentoring his former students. He has been featured in the African American Music Trails of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, joining many community members in recognizing Sam "The Man" Lathan for his love of drumming and community is indeed an honor.

APPLAUDING THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO POWER AMERICA'S  
SPACEFLIGHT INDUSTRY

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in my first speech on the House floor to applaud the men and women powering America's spaceflight industry.

I am a proud resident of Florida's Space Coast, the launchpad for America's journey to the stars since the early days of NASA. This is not just our past. It is our future.

Madam Speaker, 2024 was a record-breaking year for the Space Coast, with 93 successful launches crossing our skies. In just the first few weeks of 2025, five more launches have taken place, proving that America's new golden age of spaceflight is alive and well.

This renaissance has been powered by game-changing private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin, whose ingenuity has turned spaceflight into a thriving ecosystem of public-private collaboration.

Dominance in space is central to America's economic strength and military readiness. I am confident that with the leadership of Chairman BABIN and President Trump, America will remain the global leader in space exploration and innovation.

UNCONDITIONAL AID FOR LOS  
ANGELES

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, there is a great tragedy occurring in California as we speak. Members of the California delegation have spoken on the floor about the extraordinary damage, loss of life, and lives that have been disrupted.

I was shocked to watch on television the elected leader of this House suggesting that Federal assistance to deal with that tragedy would be conditioned. He didn't specify on what, but I would remind that gentleman that \$120 billion has gone to Louisiana over the last 20 years, dealing with the tragedies of Katrina in New Orleans and the like, and that is not the total count.

It would be unconscionable for this House to place any condition on the necessary assistance that Americans should give to our American people in Los Angeles.

I would ask us to search our conscience and for the elected leader of this House to do so also and put aside those requirements.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF  
PATRICIA BARRAGAN SCHRECK

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Patricia Barragan Schreck, who sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Ms. Schreck was a longtime organist and choir director for 66 years at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

At just 16 years old, Ms. Schreck became the organist at the cathedral in 1946. She managed several choirs, including the Savannah Catholic Deanery Choir, the SVA Alumnae Chorus, and the cathedral men's choir and women's choir.

Ms. Schreck was also the music director at St. Vincent's Academy for 47 years of her career, where she taught choral singing and church music. Her service to the academy was impactful. Ms. Schreck composed the fight song and the academy's alma mater, which are still sung today.

Ms. Schreck was awarded a medal for her work in the church by Pope Saint John Paul II and recognized by the city of Savannah, from which she was gifted a key to the city. Additionally, Savannah also declared Patty Barragan Schreck Day on May 31, 1981.

Ms. Schreck will forever be remembered as a dedicated servant of God and her community through her service to the church and to the city of Savannah.

□ 1500

THESE ISSUES AREN'T POLITICAL

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

Ms. GILLEN. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to speak on the House floor today representing New York's Fourth Congressional District, and I am ready to get to work to deliver solutions for the issues that matter most to Long Island.

We need to address the cost-of-living crisis, secure our border, and give hard-working Long Islanders a middle-class tax cut by reinstating the full SALT tax deduction.

These issues aren't political. The American people are counting on all of us to put our differences aside and work together to put money back in people's pockets and get things done.

Madam Speaker, my constituents have been clear. They want problems solved and not political extremism on either side.

I am honored to be their Congresswoman, and I look forward to working with anyone from any party who is serious about working productively to address the pressing issues that our working families face.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO  
THE SITUATION IN THE WEST  
BANK—MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-7)

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in the West Bank declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024, is to continue in effect beyond February 1, 2025.

The situation in the West Bank—in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction—has reached intolerable levels and constitutes a serious threat to the peace, security, and stability of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, and the broader Middle East region. These actions undermine the foreign policy objectives of the United States, including the viability of a two-state solution and ensuring Israelis and Palestinians can attain equal measures of security, prosperity, and freedom. They also undermine the security of Israel and have

the potential to lead to broader regional destabilization across the Middle East, threatening United States personnel and interests.

The situation in the West Bank continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14115 with respect to the situation in the West Bank.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

**CERTIFICATION OF RESCISSION OF CUBA'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-8)**

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith a report to the Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

**AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-9)**

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of an Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement").

I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National

Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of the Kingdom of Thailand with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States of America.

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive fissionable material transferred to the Kingdom of Thailand could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of special fissionable material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Kingdom of Thailand would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support these international markets to ensure nuclear fuel supply for the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated at any time by either party on 1 year's advance written notice to the other party, in the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key non-proliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components subject to the Agreement remains in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Kingdom of Thailand is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol thereto with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Kingdom of Thailand was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Kingdom of Thailand's domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to immediately begin the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

**PRIMARY DRIVER OF U.S. DEBT AND INTEREST FRAGILITY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I think we are going to try to do a bit of a continuation of what we were doing last week. If you don't like math or economics, please turn off C-SPAN.

There are a couple of things that we have to walk through. Last Thursday, I think I took 38 minutes here, and the two concepts I was trying to walk through were, one, the demographics of the United States being the primary driver of U.S. debt—it is not that complicated, but it seems to really bother people—and the second thing was this concept called interest fragility. That is a big word.

What it basically means is that when you have \$36 trillion in debt, \$28 trillion to \$29 trillion publicly financed, and when, over a year, you are going to refinance almost \$10 trillion, bring maybe \$2 trillion to \$2.3 trillion new issuances to market, that little movement in interest rates could be a boatload of cash.

What happened last Friday? We got a knockout jobs report.

Here is the irony that people need to understand: The United States and a few other governments, such as China, are bingeing on so much debt that they have a ravenous appetite to grab people's savings and borrow it around the world. When the bond markets see that the U.S. economy is actually doing okay, which means more individuals and more businesses will be in the market to consume debt, we are going to raise interest rates. The United States gets its head kicked in when our interest rates go up.

I think I was trying to show a chart the other day. It doesn't completely work this way because you have to re-finance into it, but if we went to a 5 percent handle on U.S. sovereigns—that means, from the short term to the 30 years, you had a 5 percent interest rate that was our mean interest rate on U.S. debt—it is almost \$9 trillion of additional borrowing, spending, and interest over that next 10 years.

Functionally, going to 5 percent is double everything we are pretty much talking about in the extension of the tax reform. There is this lack of understanding. We are on the cusp of the bond market, the debt markets, actually being the number one influencer on U.S. policy, not Congress.

When you borrow \$70,000 a second—and I have charts, which I didn't bring this time, but I have done it in the past. Where we are in 9 years, it is no longer \$70,000 a second, but it is almost doubled.

How many of you understand we borrow \$70,000 a second? The math will tell you almost 100 percent of that borrowing from today through the next decade is interest and healthcare, but we don't want to tell people that.

Of the \$2.3 trillion that my math says we are going to borrow this year—and CBO is going to publish something in the next day or so, and we will see how close my math got to what their prediction is—half of it is interest.

Even when we do all sorts of things to reduce spending, to modernize on how we deliver services, to change the costs, we have this interest monster because we have \$36 trillion and, basically every 125 days, Madam Speaker, we click off another trillion dollars.

□ 1515

To the poor Clerk staff, I am so sorry. You have to be so tired of hearing idiots like me—well, me—getting up and saying some of these things over and over, but it doesn't seem to sink in around here.

Look, one of the reasons I am here today is I am trying to sell a concept.

This is a chart and it is almost unreadable. I accept that, but what it was saying is, we are up against a series of tax expirations at the end of this year. \$3.7 trillion of it is individual. Your individual taxes are going up at the end of this year, but then we have estate taxes and passthroughs and LLCs and partnerships, all those other things.

I think the Treasury Department a couple days ago scored it not at 4.6; they scored it at 5.5, which is a timing effect because it is a different year and higher interest rates.

There was an economic study done by CBO and a couple outside groups saying, if Congress can find a way to offset it—and that is hard. You are talking \$400 billion a year we would have to find in modernization and changing spending. If Congress could step up and pay for it, you not only maintain current tax policies so our brothers and sisters, all of our taxes don't go up but you get additional growth in the economy because you didn't just pull that much more money out of the economy and then have interest pile up on it.

I think it was a year or so ago or 2 years ago, we had, I think, 3 months where we had to borrow money to pay for our borrowing.

When we go home and talk to our voters, how many of them will look back at us and understand the scale?

You get these responses, well, if you just cut this or that—I am going to show a couple of those charts again, and they are rounding errors. Sometimes they are just a few hours of borrowing from an entire year, but that is what we speechify because it is easy to understand, it is a great sound bite on talk radio, and it is crap math.

Once again, the basic premise of this chart—and it was reconfirmed by the Joint Economic Committee and the baseline math was also done by CBO. It said, if you want to maximize economic prosperity in the United States, extend current tax policy, fix depreciation—we call it spensing; research and development expensing because that is actually where you get the productivity curve because God knows you will hear the Democrats come behind the mike and talk about look how good the job market is.

Many Americans are actually poorer today than they were 4 years ago. They may be employed, but they are poorer, and that is because inflation went up faster than their wages.

I represent a district in the Phoenix-Scottsdale area that had, I believe, 27 percent inflation over the last 4 years. So unless your wages are up 27 percent, you are poorer today.

How do you raise wages? How do you raise purchasing power?

Two things: Wages go up with inflation. That just means you are treading water.

Productivity. There are things we could do in the tax policy that is coming to fix the things that create the productivity boost, the things we can do in regulatory reform, in modernization, the adoption of technology as a regulator.

You get people here that go around saying, oh, we are going to deregulate. Fine, but how about doing smart regulation. We are all walking around with these supercomputers in our pockets. The idea is that you could crowdsourcing certain data, crash the size of the bu-

reaucracy, make them less intrusive, and yet air quality, water quality, and all these other things can be much safer.

It costs a fraction of what we do today, but you just have to be willing to think like a scientist, a data person, and deal with the army of lobbyists that are outside in the hallway who are upset that you are making them change their business model or their unionized bureaucracies, they show up here angry at you saying, what do you mean you want to use technology at the IRS?

Remember, Madam Speaker, the IRS is the second largest unionized workforce in the Federal Government. I believe the VA is the first one. Every time we try to add modernization to do it better, faster, cheaper, and fairer, can you believe they get cranky?

The math is the math. If you want to maximize economic vitality for this country, do your very best to offset as much as you can of the tax policy extension.

The other thing I have to give you that is going to make me sound a little cranky is when you hear a Member of Congress, particularly a couple of our Senators, running around here and saying, we are just extending baseline. Huh?

It is a whole made up term now. The law is the law. The law says the tax cuts for individuals, passthroughs, estate, and alternative minimum tax, all those things, expire at the end of 2025. We have made up a term around here saying we are just going to extend current policy. I heard someone this morning say we are going to extend current law.

Current law says it expires. Take a look at all your CBO and your debt projections. It has the expirations in there. You take it away, fine. Be honest about what it means. It is another few trillion dollars of debt over the next 10 years that we have to pay interest on.

Here is the fragility, and we are going to do this on a chart or two here. When you do that, you are going to go home and tell your voters, I extended your tax cuts. Great. I don't want to raise taxes on anyone, but if you do it without paying for it, when the interest rates go up and that family's credit cards, car debt, mortgage, and everything else gets more expensive, when the economy slows down because interest rates are up, it is because you have made the bond market nervous.

Oh, but DAVID, that would require thinking like an economist. I am going to get re-elected by telling people I just extended their tax benefits from the 2017 TCJA. Great.

How do we explain to people that there are no free options anymore? We have the moral obligation to not make the world debt markets nervous. You have got to understand—and I need to double check my math because Great Britain, you saw what they did. They were doing all sorts of tax policy this

summer and the pound crashed and their interest rates exploded, but most of the industrialized world actually has lower interest on their 10-year bond than the United States.

Greece today can sell a 10-year bond almost a full percentage point cheaper than the United States.

Let me repeat that: Greece today can sell a 10-year bond almost a full percentage point cheaper than the United States.

Does anyone understand there is a risk premium? If you screw around with this stuff, there is a thing called a term premium. It is a fancy way of saying, we actually want a little higher interest for the risk.

One of my predictions for 2025 is Moody's, which is the last of the three big rating services. I think we are going to get downgraded if we do this stuff without even an attempt to pay for some of it, offset some of it, modernize our costs in how we deliver services. If we do that, we are going to get downgraded by all three rating services. The other two have already downgraded us.

Does anyone here care, or do we just want to do happy talk and sugar highs? We just want a good dopamine hit on social media, but don't give a damn about the math.

The fact of the matter is most of the industrialized world today has a better credit rating. You see it not by the credit rating services but by the way they can sell their debt cheaper than the United States.

When you hear people talk about the extraordinary privilege the United States has, there are actually two of them. The fact that the world uses the U.S. dollar as the ultimate arbiter of exchange. Great. Let's not screw that up.

The other one we often never talk about it, and I am going to do it in a future presentation, it is actually from an economist's standpoint and may be bigger than the fact that we get to buy and sell in our own currency. This second extraordinary privilege is that smart people from around the world, entrepreneurs from around the world, investors from around the world want to do it here. They want to live here, go to school here, produce their products here, invest here. From an economist's standpoint, the United States has two remarkable, extraordinary privileges: our currency and people want to be with us.

In a couple of moments, I am going to show you why that is so important, but back to a baseline.

If you are one of our new Members, please, you have got to memorize this. You see the blue on the chart that is upside down so I look like an idiot. Let's get this right. That is discretionary. All defense we consider is discretionary.

Everything most people think is government: the FBI, the Park Service, the foreign service, those things. That is blue. We call that nondefense discretionary.

Everything a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed money. If I do the math off the top of my head, it may be \$400 billion of what is in the red, which is mostly earned benefits. That is your Social Security, your Medicare, your veterans benefits, your Federal pensions, those things.

Functionally, I think this year it is like 75–25, 75 percent of all spending is on autopilot. We don't vote on it.

I shouldn't be yelling. I have had a lot of caffeine.

What we do vote on, what we give speeches on, which we screw around with all the time, is discretionary and in the scale of what we can reduce, it is almost—a lot of what we debate here is rounding errors. We have actually had debates on the floor here where the amount of money that we are trying to save, we borrowed more money during the time of the debate than it would save that year because we don't understand if you are clicking off \$70,000 of borrowing every second—I wonder what this speech is costing. If I go a full hour, you start to see the idea.

So far this fiscal year, we are borrowing about \$10 billion a day. I think it will come in at \$6 billion, \$7 billion a day once we get tax receipts in April. I am trying to explain the fragility.

Here is the point I was just trying to make a couple of moments ago. If we went back to a 5 percent interest rate, it is just shy of \$9 trillion over 10 years. Just the interest rate move is double everything we are talking about. How many times do you hear idiots—I mean, excuse me—elected officials like me get behind these microphones and talk through—it is not only having good fiscal policy but we are also going to be disciplined because how are we going to communicate to the bond markets that we are worthy of future investments?

Where this gets really dangerous is—remember how I was just criticizing people walking around here saying, let's just ignore everything. Let's just keep doing what we are doing, don't have any offsets. If we do that, in 9 years, 9.2 percent of the entire economy is borrowed.

This year, my math is, we are going to kiss up, around 7 percent of the entire economy is going to be borrowed money.

What happens if we have some large disasters? Can you imagine that happening? What happens if we have another pandemic? What happens if we have a war?

Do you understand how fragile you are making the greatest country on Earth because we are not willing to tell the truth about the fiscal situation?

For my friends on the left who go, well, let's just raise taxes. I can bring my charts over and over, as I have in the past when we have had high marginal tax rates, we get about 17 percent of GDP. When we have had low marginal tax rates, we get about 17 percent of GDP. I think we have 75, 80 years of history of that showing it always falls back down to that margin.

The secret is grow. The other side should stop lying about growing. One percent of GDP—and I am going to do this and double check myself in my head—1 percent of GDP is \$300 billion. If you get 17 percent of that, that is about \$48 billion.

If you are borrowing \$7 billion a day and you did all these things to get another point of GDP, you have covered yourself for a week. You get these folks who want to say, happy talk, we are going to grow our way out. To cover this year's debt, you would need almost a 50 percent GDP growth. Come on. Join reality world with us. Put batteries in your calculator. We can do this. We can do this together.

□ 1530

One point I wanted to make for our brothers and sisters on the left, I have done multiple presentations here showing that if you do all their tax hikes for \$400,000 and up, you get about a point and a half of GDP.

If we do all of our spending cuts in the nondefense discretionary, which is what most of us have talked about for the last couple years, you get about 1 percent of GDP, so you have a big 2½ percent.

We are borrowing 7 percent of the entire economy this year, so all of the left's solutions and the things we as conservatives often talk about don't get you actually anything close to what is necessary. It is terrifying.

Madam Speaker, I am having a sort of personal crisis of confidence because I do this every week. My math is good. We do our best. We make mistakes on occasion, but we try to double, triple check it. No one seems to care. Is it really that terrifying to tell the truth to our voters?

The press around here has no interest in telling the truth on the math. I have a couple Bloomberg reporters, a Wall Street Journal reporter, and, on occasion, believe it or not, a public television reporter seem to be the only ones who ever want to look at these charts. Everyone else, they basically want to write a gossip story.

Yet, these things decide if my 2½ year old has a future. It also decides if your retirement becomes a miserable disaster.

I hear a little person up in the balcony. If that little person is 2 years old today, when that little person is 22, his or her taxes have to be double what they are today, a 100 percent increase.

When my 2-year-old is hopefully finishing up his university and going into grad school before he does his post-doctorate doctorate, I have high ambitions for him. We actually are trying to put into the family rules he is not allowed to run for office. The same thing with my 9-year-old daughter. That is both funny and actually true.

Think of this: A child born today, when they are about 22, 23, the United States has to double every single U.S. tax—tariffs, income, corporate, everything—just to maintain baseline services. The math says a child born today

will be part of the first generation in U.S. history who will be poorer than their parents and grandparents.

Great morality around here. Let alone our inability—we are not allowed to talk about Social Security even though the Social Security actuaries, the CBO, the outside groups, the left groups, the right groups, all say, hey, 9—now 8½ because we just gave away a couple hundred billion dollars out of it—9 years or so, we double senior poverty in America because when the trust fund is empty, and you all get a 20 percent cut in Social Security, we double senior poverty.

How many people do you see coming behind these microphones and saying, we need to fix it? It is immoral where it is going. If you do that, the left now has a political consultant writing attack ads on you because they care so much more about winning the next election than saving the society and not doubling senior poverty.

We already have the trouble after the inflation cycle how many baby boomers are now living on the street because they can't afford their rent. The math is the math, and the math will win. If we continue current policy and not follow the law, in 9 years, 9.2 percent of the economy will be borrowed in U.S. debt. This chart doesn't even factor in the new higher interest rates because we are up a full point from early December. Great job, guys.

Look, I have done this chart the last couple weeks because it seems to have an impact. For every dollar we take in in tax collections, we spend \$1.39. Huh? Take in a dollar, spend \$1.39. By 2034, if we went back to a 6 percent interest rate. I know that is a couple points higher than we are at right now, but 6 percent, I think that is sort of what we were paying in the 1980s, 1990s, early 2000s up to the Great Recession. If we go to 6 percent, think of this, in 9 budget years, 45 percent of all tax collections go just to interest.

Does anyone care? No, because we would have to tell people the truth.

This is a new chart, and I am trying to actually sort of explain. Our brothers and sisters on the left who want basically a socialized, planned economy, industrial policy, they did on the CHIPS Act and then their version of I guess they call it the Inflation Reduction Act, there is some good economic data now that says if you want to do something much less expensive, created much broader economic growth, and created much more productivity, you should not do what the Democrats did, which is let's thank some of our favorite industrial entities. Their executives, their investors will write us political checks.

However, if you had done something like research and development expensing, and expensing when a company buys a piece of equipment to be better, faster, cheaper, it is dramatically less expensive, and it actually has more economic value, more economic growth, and it is spread throughout the economy.

The problem with the Democrats' industrial policy, we are going to give all this money to certain green technologies, we are going to do CHIPS Act, is you often are writing checks, so you get rent-seeking, writing checks for last-generation technology. There is a little part of that I would have voted for, for primary research and development to do it better, faster, cheaper.

It is like the old joke, what is the fastest way to make every computer in America worthless? Have someone invent a quantum computer, and suddenly that leap. It is like when all of a sudden you have a new photovoltaic panel, if it goes up 20 percent—there are experiments in the lab right now—all the other ones now are out of the money and don't make economic sense anymore.

That is the concept. Creative destruction is one of the hallmarks of a society that becomes more productive. The way you get that is not the arrogance.

When I first got here, I think I stole this joke from my wife—she looked at me, what is the two times in life, Mr. Speaker, you think you know everything? When you are 13 years old, and the day after you get elected to Congress.

Oh, come on, guys, that is funny stuff.

The fact of the matter is, when you see these sort of policies coming from Democrats where they are so smart, they get to choose the industries that get the corporate handouts, the cash handouts, and you can't imagine that there were strings attached. Yet, if we had just done an egalitarian tax policy, say we want to maximize productivity across the society because we are smart enough to know what the breakthrough is tomorrow. That breakthrough tomorrow is the thing that raises all boats, I guess that is the saying, and makes us productive.

What do you get in a society that is more productive? Wages go up.

All right. I just want to make a point, and I did a little bit of this last week. We held a little bit of a contest, I think back in December, where we asked, give us your ideas of how you would modernize or improve or reduce spending, these things.

So far this budget year, if you got rid of foreign aid, this is for the 2025 fiscal year, all foreign aid, get rid of it, it is one week of borrowing.

Get rid of all the salaries at the Department of Education. Okay, I am fine with that, but you have got to understand, it basically comes out to 9 hours of borrowing for an entire year, and that is not spending. That is borrowing.

You have these people like me who get behind these microphones and speechify: If we get rid of the Department of Education, we are going to balance the budget. No, all the salaries just covered 9 hours of borrowing. There is a scale problem. I know seeing

12 zeroes, when you start talking a trillion, is hard. It is also our job. It is our job to understand the complexities here.

One of the complexities that we are terrified to talk about is, if anyone is interested in what we are really up against, go online, grab Congressional Budget Office's report from yesterday. Every year they do an estimate on population, fertility, growth in the society. We were using the Census Bureau's data.

I have come here behind the microphone and said, hey, our quick look at the Census Bureau data was in 11 years the United States was going to start to have more deaths than births. CBO came back yesterday and said, no, the way they are calculating where fertility rates are in the United States, in 8 years the United States will have more deaths than births.

Demographics is destiny. You want people like me to figure out the financing of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, which were all designed systems for population growth. Remember, today's worker pays for today's beneficiary. Even when we do the adjustments for net immigration, you pick up a couple more decades.

Think about that, living in a society with more deaths than births in 8 years. Matter of fact, I believe there were 17 States that last year had more deaths than births.

This goes back to my productivity argument. If you want a society and a country that still economically grows, that can still defend itself, that still is the envy of the world, that has the extraordinary privileges, are we going to adopt regulatory tax policies that maximize economic growth?

It turns out, you are going to have to do things that maximize productivity, maximize labor substitution, use that technology, use the supercomputer in your pocket. It is shocking how many people freak out every time I start to talk about using AI and these things. You don't have a choice. If we are going to keep growing, we have got to thread a needle here while jogging. We have got to manage the debt. We have got to convince the debt markets we are serious, so don't raise our interest rate because if interest rates go up a bunch, it is almost too late because we are carrying so much, our demographics are against us.

We have to have this productivity spike, and it is going to come through functionally two things—AI and synthetic biology—but I will save that for another speech. However, there is a way it can work. There is hope. There is only hope if this place sharpens its intellect. You can't keep saying the same things you were saying in the 1990s or a decade ago. The world is different.

I hope the staff, the voters, others start to really think this through and start demanding, saying, I need intellectual robustness, if that is a word.

Learn your math. Learn the opportunity, but also learn to think like an economist.

Let's put up the one chart that gets me the most hate, and it is more than a year, year-and-a-half out of date. The numbers are worse today, but it is the truth. For anyone crazy enough to watch, how many Members of Congress are willing to show this to you?

This is directly from CBO, numbers from about a year-and-a-half ago. They update it every year. CBO projects \$115 trillion debt over 2024-2054. Social Security and Medicare account for \$124 trillion of deficit. The rest of the budget has a \$9 trillion surplus. Let me walk that through. It basically means everything when we talk about non-defense discretionary, defense discretionary, all those are projected to grow slower than tax receipts, but Medicare, Social Security, and the interest that goes on top of their deficit financing produce about \$124 trillion of borrowing.

How many of you think the world is going to lend us \$124 trillion over the next 30 years?

This is based on current interest rates. Actually, it is sort of based on last year's interest rates. I was playing with a calculator a couple days ago. With my math, I have this going to \$135 trillion, not \$124 trillion.

□ 1545

It is not Republican. It is not Democratic. It is demographics.

The fact of the matter is that you could substantially change much of Medicare's costs and make services better, faster, and cheaper. Just join this century of technology in taking care of people.

The ring I am wearing that does my vitals or the technologies to incentivize things, do we pay a Medicare provider to help people be healthier instead of making more money when someone is sicker?

We did a whole presentation multiple times last year showing obesity in America is an additional \$9.1 trillion of spending over the next 10 years. Maybe as a society, we should consider changing the farm bill nutrition support to help our brothers and sisters because it is both moral and great economics.

Suddenly, people can come back into the labor force. They can form families. They can do all these other things. We have States where more than half of the population is technically obese, and we are paying for it. It is government policy in many ways that is doing it to these people. It is immoral.

I am going to get hate texts saying: You can't talk about that. Screw you.

Let's do what is right for our brothers and sisters in this country. We are Americans. Don't hide from the math. Embrace it, and fix it.

This one is the last. If you saw my staff, they were slipping me this because we were sort of speed doing the math. Let me explain.

We are trying to do this more often. We will get these questions that come

in on the comments. Someone asked this, and they actually did it as a legitimate question: Foreign aid over 4 years is \$198 billion. Think of that. Every dime of foreign aid, if you said for the last 4 years and took 4 years of borrowing, it would cover 8 days, 8.2 days of debt. Those of you who get up in front of these mikes and say that if we got rid of foreign aid, we will balance the budget, even when I do the average of the last 4 years, it is just a little over 8 days of borrowing.

It is hard when you get up in front of an audience at home and tell them the truth when it is not the same thing they heard 10 minutes earlier on a talk radio show or on a cable television show.

This isn't about ratings. This isn't about today's dopamine hit of you being angry because you saw something on the Drudge Report. This is about saving this Republic.

If you are like I am, you believe this Republic was divinely inspired. If you believe like I do, do you not have a moral obligation to save this country?

How about being a dad? My wife is my age. We were blessed. We got to adopt a couple of kids. Should they be part of the first generation that is poor? They don't have to be.

There is a way the math works. It just turns out, Mr. Speaker, that it is hard.

We have to do complex things. We are going to have to tell lobbyists and people from home that you have to modernize, join this century, and change your business models.

They are going to be mean to us. They might not even contribute to us, but there is a way to make the math save our future. I am going to argue that in the next 6 weeks around here.

We are going to make some decisions. Are we going to modernize the delivery of government? Are we going to find a way to offset? Are we going to convince the bond markets that we are serious about the future?

For everyone out there, watch us. We all give these beautiful speeches about the morality of what an amazing country we have and our place in the world and our place in history.

Mr. Speaker, these are the weeks we are going to make that history or have to live with the sins of what we do.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILL of Texas). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### 119TH CONGRESS REGULATIONS FOR USE OF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEE WITNESS

##### REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

1. Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination. Depositions shall be taken under

oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths. Depositions may continue from day to day.

2. Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three days' notice before any deposition is taken. All members of the committee shall also receive three days written notice that a deposition will be taken, except in exigent circumstances. For purposes of these procedures, a day shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day.

3. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by two designated personal, non-governmental attorneys to advise them of their rights. Only members, committee staff designated by the chair or ranking minority member, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's two designated attorneys are permitted to attend. Other persons, including government agency personnel, may not attend.

4. The chair of the committee noticing the deposition may designate that deposition as part of a joint investigation between committees, and in that case, provide notice to the members of the committees. If such a designation is made, the chair and ranking minority member of the additional committee(s) may designate committee staff to attend pursuant to regulation 3. Members and designated staff of the committees may attend and ask questions as set forth below.

5. A deposition shall be conducted by any member or committee counsel designated by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee that noticed the deposition. When depositions, including those conducted as part of a joint investigation, are conducted by committee counsel, there shall be no more than four committee counsel, two designated by the Chair(s) and two designated by the ranking minority member(s), permitted to question a witness per round.

6. Deposition questions shall be propounded in rounds. The length of each round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side and shall provide equal time to the majority and the minority. In each round, the member(s) or committee counsel designated by the chair shall ask questions first, and the member(s) or committee counsel designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions second.

7. Objections must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and nonsuggestive manner. A witness's attorney may not instruct a witness to refuse to answer a question, except to preserve a privilege. In the event of professional, ethical, or other misconduct by the witness's attorney during the deposition, the Committee may take any appropriate disciplinary action. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, members or staff may (i) proceed with the deposition, or (ii) either at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling from the Chair either by telephone or otherwise. If the Chair overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which an objection was lodged, the witness shall be ordered to answer. If a member of the committee chooses to appeal the ruling of the chair, such appeal must be made within three days, in writing, and shall be preserved for committee consideration. The Committee's ruling on appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to the members and witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chair may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chair is reversed by the committee on appeal.



8. The Committee chair shall ensure that the testimony is transcribed and may also require testimony to be electronically recorded, including by video recording. When the witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's attorney shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days after the witness has been notified of the opportunity to review the transcript, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chair. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

9. The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, including any video recording, with the clerk of the committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of the committee for the committee's use. The chair and the ranking minority member shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition, together with any electronic recording, including video recording, at the same time.

10. The chair and ranking minority member shall consult regarding the release of deposition testimony, transcripts, or recordings, and portions thereof. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition testimony, transcript, or recording, or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the committee for resolution.

11. A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of section 3(t) of H. Res. 5, 119th Congress, and these regulations.

#### REGULATIONS FOR THE REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEE WITNESSES

Except as provided by section 3(i) of H. Res. 5, 119th Congress and these regulations, witnesses shall testify before a committee in person. No remote testimony will be accepted from witnesses testifying in a government capacity. In the event the chair of a committee determines that testimony of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity is necessary and such a witness is only available to participate remotely due to extreme hardship or other exceptional circumstances, the chair may allow the witness to participate remotely, with written approval from the Majority Leader.

The official record of the committee proceeding shall include a letter from the chair detailing the necessity of allowing the witness to participate remotely, a description of why the witness could not participate in person, why such testimony was necessary for purposes of fulfilling Congress's Article I responsibility, and a letter from the Majority Leader approving of such remote participation.

The witness must agree to remain on the platform until excused by the chair. The witness should conduct a pre-hearing technology test with staff designated by the chair, to ensure the witness will have sufficient internet connection during the hearing, and to minimize the possibility of any technical issues.

No witness appearing in a governmental capacity may participate remotely. No witness testifying before a committee in response to a subpoena is permitted to testify remotely, unless both the chair of the committee and the Majority Leader authorize such testimony in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

Any text based or private messaging function in the software platform used to facilitate the participation of a remote witness must be disabled unless it is used to provide technical support to the witness, which may be excluded from the public video stream and will not be considered a committee record.

Only witnesses approved for remote participation may have participatory access on the software platform.

Committees may only utilize a software platform certified by the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer should inform committees, including the ranking minority members, each time a software platform is certified.

Witnesses participating remotely should appear before a nonpolitical, professional appropriate background that is minimally distracting to other members and witnesses, to the greatest extent possible. It remains within the full discretion of the chair to enforce rules of decorum for committee proceedings.

Any committee report of activities submitted pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI should include a list of hearings conducted with remote participation.

A witness participating remotely in a committee proceeding shall be visible onscreen within the software platform until excused by the chair. The witness shall disclose to the chair and ranking member any additional individual(s) present off screen.

Witness counsel shall be allowed access on the remote proceeding software platform if they are not in the physical presence of the witness. It is recommended that counsel facilitate a separate secure line of communication with the witness. A witness may not be unmuted by any other individual and should be allowed to use such secure line of communication while testifying to confer with counsel.

A witness may not allow an individual not invited to testify to speak on the platform. The committee chair may only provide an exception when the other individual is necessary to facilitate the witness's participation in the hearing (e.g. translators).

A chair may not authorize remote participation for more than one witness at a committee hearing without the approval of the Majority Leader in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 15, 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-20. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to transactions involving U.S. exports to Azerbaijan, pursuant

to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-21. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps [EERE-2022-BT-TP-0028] (RIN: 1904-AF49) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-22. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications; 2024-2025 Annual Specifications and Management Measures for Pacific Sardine [Docket No.: 240614-0162; RTID 0648-XD848] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-23. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Suitability and Fitness (RIN: 3206-AO17) received January 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-24. A letter from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Industry and Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of Certain Australia Group Decisions [Docket No.: 241212-0324] (RIN: 0694-AJ83) 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 Foreign Affairs.

EC-25. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer From New York to North Carolina [Docket No.: 231221-0314; RTID 0648-XE510] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-26. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 240304-0068; RTID 0648-XE445] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-27. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea Subarea and Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 240304-0068] (RTID: 0648-XD956) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-28. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Framework Adjustment 16 to the Mackerel,

Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan [Docket No.: 241022-0277] (RIN: 0648-BN02) received January 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-29. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; Amendment 7 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the American Samoa Archipelago and Final Rule; Discontinue Rebuilding Plan for American Samoa Bottomfish and Implement Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Fishing Years 2024-2026 [Docket No.: 241101-0287] (RIN: 0648-BN03) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-30. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Civil Penalty Amounts, 2025 (RIN: 2105-AF16) 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 the Judiciary.

EC-31. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting the 2024 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau and the 2024 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the United States and the Marshall Islands, pursuant to Public Law 118-42, title II, Sec. 204(e); (138 Stat. 423) and 48 U.S.C. 1931(d)(2); Public Law 99-658, Sec. 101(d)(2); (100 Stat. 3673) (H. Doc. No. 119—10); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

## 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. KENNEDY of Utah (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 376. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. SELF, Mr. RULLI, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 377. A bill to require agencies to repeal three existing regulations before issuing a new regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. EZELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BACON, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 378. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggra-

vating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 379. A bill to provide that the rule relating to "Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insuring and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage" (89 Fed. Reg. 23338 (April 3, 2024)) shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mrs. KING-HINDS):

H.R. 380. A bill to require fair shipping prices for noncontiguous areas of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. TLALIB):

H.R. 381. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to require that impacts to climate stability, consumer energy costs, and environmental justice be considered in a determination of whether proposed exportation of natural gas is in the public interest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 382. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to collect, calculate, and publish information regarding emissions of carbon dioxide and methane outside the boundaries of the United States that are associated with exports of fossil fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 383. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal fossil fuel subsidies for oil companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 384. A bill to transfer antitrust enforcement from the Federal Trade Commission to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 385. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered list of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate whether foreign persons engaged in significant corruption should be specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability

Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 386. A bill to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director of, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. ARRINGTON):

H.R. 387. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to submit to Congress a report on available assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Ms. CROCKETT, and Mr. ELLZEY):

H.R. 388. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to review the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 389. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize payments under the environmental quality incentives program to assist producers in implementing certain conservation practices along the southern border of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FONG (for himself and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 390. A bill to utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial responses to wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 391. A bill to amend the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to extend the deadline by which TikTok must be sold in order to avoid being banned; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 392. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for nurse preceptors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 393. A bill to increase penalties for crimes against children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 394. A bill to increase penalties for child pornography; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 395. A bill to require mandatory minimums for sexual abuse; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. ROY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. KIM, Mr.

LANDSMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MACE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. PERRY, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MACKENZIE, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 396. A bill to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 397. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Cumberland Street in Rochester, New York, as the "Minister Franklin Florence Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 398. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 399. A bill to permanently extend the American Samoa economic development tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CLINE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H.R. 400. A bill to prohibit contributions to the United Nations Human Rights Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. OGLES, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. LUNA, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 401. A bill to prohibit United States assessed and voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 402. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to appear before Congress before the debt limit is reached or extraordinary measures are taken to prevent default; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 403. A bill to enhance predisaster mitigation to prevent future natural disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H. Res. 38. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H. Res. 39. A resolution ranking a Member on a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 40. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. BERA):

H. Res. 41. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of January, as "Tamil Language and Heritage Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## 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. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 376.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 377.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 378.

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

Article 1, section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 379.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 380.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 381.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 382.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 383.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 384.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 385.

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

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

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 386.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 387.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 388.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 389.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FONG:

H.R. 390.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 391.

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

Article 1, section 8

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 392.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 393.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 394.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 395.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 396.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 397.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 398.

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 Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 399.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 400.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 401.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 402.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution:

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 403.

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

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in congress).

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

- H.R. 21: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 28: Mr. TIFFANY and Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 30: Mrs. HINSON.  
H.R. 33: Ms. PLASKETT.  
H.R. 38: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. FONG, Mr. STEIL, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 45: Mr. YAKYM, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MANN, and Mr. SELF.  
H.R. 53: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 70: Ms. BOEBERT.  
H.R. 75: Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 128: Ms. VAN DUYNÉ.  
H.R. 131: Mr. HURD of Colorado.  
H.R. 132: Mr. HURD of Colorado.  
H.R. 134: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.  
H.R. 141: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 142: Ms. HAGEMAN and Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 163: Mr. MANN.  
H.R. 176: Mr. MANN.
- H.R. 210: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 211: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 234: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 260: Mr. MCDOWELL.  
H.R. 264: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
H.R. 265: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
H.R. 271: Ms. FOXX, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 272: Mrs. HOUCHE.  
H.R. 273: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MCCORMICK.  
H.R. 274: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 283: Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ALFORD, and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 295: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 302: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 307: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 309: Mr. CARTER of Texas.  
H.R. 318: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
- H.R. 326: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 327: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 330: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H.R. 335: Mr. DOWNING.  
H.R. 342: Mr. MORAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida, and Mr. DONALDS.  
H.R. 343: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mrs. BICE.  
H.R. 354: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 361: Mr. BAIRD.  
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. MANN and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.  
H. Res. 30: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. RASKIN.  
H. Res. 33: Ms. ROSS and Ms. SIMON.



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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

No. 7

## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, speak to our lawmakers and fill them with bright memories, holy commitments, and deep resolve. May their bright memories remind them of the way You have guided and protected this Nation throughout the seasons of its history. May their holy commitments prompt them to be true to their duties to stand for right, though the heavens fall. May their deep resolve motivate them to not become weary in doing Your will.

Lord, remind them that without Your power, human efforts are useless. We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

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

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 2 or 3 minutes.

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

### IOWA LEGISLATURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I served 16 years in the Iowa House of Representatives before I came to the Congress of the United States. Frequently, I visit that body.

Yesterday, I participated in the opening of the 91st session of that Iowa House of Representatives. I enjoyed hearing from Iowa legislators about the issues their communities are concerned with. I also had the opportunity to swear in my grandson Patrick Grassley for his sixth year as speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives.

I wish both the Iowa House and Senate a productive session as they work to better the lives of Iowans through State law.

By the way, I can say to my colleagues here: Congress could learn a lesson not only from the Iowa Legislature but from most State legislatures in the balancing of the budget because the Federal budget needs that sort of discipline.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 2 months after Americans soundly rejected his Presidency and its policies, President Biden is doubling down. Last week, he unveiled a new front in his war on American energy: a sweeping ban on new offshore oil and gas development covering the entire east coast and large portions of the west coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and parts of the Northern Bering Sea in Alaska. All told—all told—he is closing off more than 625

million acres to new oil and gas development, on top of the bans that were already in place.

The President's decision last week was particularly notable for its size and for the clear snub to American voters. But this is just the latest in a long series of actions by the President hostile to conventional energy development: a pause on approvals of liquefied natural gas exports; a sharp decline in leases issued for oil and natural gas on public lands and waters; restrictions on drilling in large areas of the Natural Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; the cancellation of leases in the Arctic; the administration's so-called good neighbor rule, designed to effectively force fossil-fuel-powered powerplants to close. And the list goes on. In short, President Biden has done everything he can to set us up for a future of diminished conventional energy production.

That is a problem because we are nowhere near being able to rely primarily on alternative energy. And if we don't have sufficient conventional energy, we are going to find ourselves in serious difficulties.

For starters, insufficient conventional energy production could mean big increases in energy bills for American families. A lack of domestic supply—or the need to rely on expensive energy imports—would be likely to make things like gas and electricity far more expensive. Needless to say, that is the last thing that Americans are looking for after the steep increases in gas and electricity bills under the Biden administration.

And apart from price, there is the even more concerning prospect of major supply shortages. I am fairly sure Americans don't want to wait in long lines for gas—or face rationing—or wondering whether the lights are actually going to turn on when they hit the light switch.

Then there are the national security implications. If we are not producing enough conventional energy here at

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



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home, we are going to have to make up the supply from abroad, most likely from hostile nations or volatile areas of the world. As European countries learned the hard way after Russia invaded Ukraine, relying on hostile nations for your energy supply is not a winning proposition.

Plus, foreign production can be far less environmentally friendly than producing oil and gas here at home.

One of the best things that we can do for our national security is to ensure that we have a stable, reliable, and affordable domestic energy supply.

Fortunately, the Biden administration is being supplanted by the Trump administration, and I know that President Trump is committed to reversing President Biden's anti-conventional energy policies and unleashing American energy production.

Hopefully, it will be possible to undo much of the damage that President Biden has done and set us up for a secure energy future. But it is worth reflecting on what might have been—and could be again—if we don't have a Congress and a President committed to conventional, as well as renewable, energy development.

I hope that future administrations—Democrat, as well as Republican—will make American energy security a priority.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the Senate began holding hearings for the President-elect's nominees to serve in his Cabinet.

This morning, the Senate Armed Services Committee heard testimony from Pete Hegseth to serve as Secretary of Defense. Few nominees will face the kind of troubling questions that Mr. Hegseth faced going into today's hearing. He is, by outward appearance, woefully unfit for a job like Secretary of Defense. Unfortunately for Mr. Hegseth, his testimony thus far has failed to address the disturbing questions that plague his nomination. It appears Mr. Hegseth's strategy is to follow the five d's of dodgeball: dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge.

Mr. Hegseth failed to explain, for one, why someone with his lack of qualifications should be entrusted to lead our Armed Forces. Why should

America entrust our military to a television personality who has never led any large organization? It is a huge organization, DOD. He hasn't come close to having any of that kind of administrative experience. We didn't hear any good answer to that question.

Mr. Hegseth also failed to answer for his deeply flawed history of financial and organizational mismanagement. Why should he be the one entrusted to manage the Pentagon's budget? Again, no good answer.

When asked about his comments as recently as 2 months ago, when he claimed that "we should not have women in combat roles," he had no good answers.

Finally, Mr. Hegseth failed to assure us he has the temperament for the job. His history of excessive drinking is troubling for someone seeking to lead our military, and his reflexive defiance against the allegations regarding sexual assault undermines his credibility.

If Mr. Hegseth had nothing to hide about his past, then it shouldn't be a problem for the chairman of the Armed Services Committee to allow all committee members to review all FBI background documents, but today, Chairman WICKER rejected this reasonable request by Ranking Member REED to let committee members review Mr. Hegseth's past. Again, if there is nothing to hide about Mr. Hegseth, why is the chairman hell-bent on keeping all relevant information out of the hands of his colleagues? To dismiss the allegations against Mr. Hegseth but then reject full transparency is odd at best, dangerous at worst. It reeks of something hiding in the dark.

Being Secretary of Defense demands discipline, character, and restraint. Mr. Hegseth's history shows he is deficient in all these qualities, and so far, his hearing has not changed that.

Mr. President, now on the noms tomorrow, Mr. Hegseth is not the only nominee testifying this week who must answer for a disturbing record. The number of people with disturbing records who have been nominated—some of them are good nominees, but the number with disturbing records and histories—I don't think I can remember a time in history when we have had that many.

Tomorrow, we will hear from a large collection of nominees, but let's focus on two: Russell Vought to serve as Director of OMB and Chris Wright to serve as Secretary of Energy.

Let me begin with Russell Vought, a key figure in the first Trump administration and one of the chief architects—one of the chief architects—of Project 2025. This man is not just a bystander who supported it; he helped put it together.

No administration on Earth can claim to be pro-worker and then nominate someone like Russell Vought to oversee the Federal Government's budget. Again, you can't be pro-worker and be for Russell Vought. He has spent years—years—pushing for trillions in

cuts to America's social safety net—something that would cause immediate and severe harm to tens of millions of American citizens.

We all know Mr. Vought's history very well. We know his awful and radical record from the first Trump administration. Even after leaving government, Mr. Vought was the go-to authority for the most radical elements of the House GOP, advising them on budgets that punished America's families, seniors, kids, law enforcement, and others with draconian—draconian—budget cuts. His budget cuts weren't just snipping at the edges; they cut to the deep.

Tomorrow, when Vought testifies before the committee, Americans will be reintroduced to his outlandishly extreme agenda. If Project 2025 caused your stomach to turn during the election, Mr. Vought would be a nightmare scenario. If you are among America's working class or from low-income families or from middle-class families working hard to make ends meet, Mr. Vought would be disastrous. If you rely on programs like Medicare or nutrition assistance, Mr. Vought would put those services in danger. On the other hand, if you are among the wealthiest of Americans in this country, Mr. Vought is a wave of good news. He is a staunch advocate of tax cuts for the ultrarich and deregulation for America's mega corporations, even if that means adding trillions to the deficit.

As we will all see tomorrow for ourselves, confirming Mr. Vought would be a disaster for America's working- and middle-class families.

Finally, I would like to say something about President Trump's nominee to serve as Secretary of Energy, Mr. Chris Wright. There is a lot—a heck of a lot—in Mr. Wright's background that should trouble Americans who care about affordable energy and creating good-paying, clean jobs.

Mr. Wright is one of America's wealthiest fossil fuel executives and has a history of sounding like a climate change skeptic. He once said, "There is no climate crisis" and "We have seen no increase in the frequency . . . of hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and floods." What on Earth is this man talking about? Is he such an ideologue that he doesn't see the truth of the world around him?

Mr. Wright, look over at California right now and say that we haven't had increases in these kinds of problems.

Tomorrow, Mr. Wright must answer for his background and his comments. It is like putting a fox in the henhouse. If you believe in clean energy, you couldn't have a worse nominee.

If confirmed, will Mr. Wright fight to lower costs for American consumers or will he fight to help the bottom line of polluters and oil companies? Will Mr. Wright push policies that build on the progress we made in the Inflation Reduction Act that has created hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of good-paying, clean jobs or will he kill those

jobs because he is such an ideological extremist? If confirmed, will Mr. Wright advance our country into a prosperous, affordable clean energy future or will he take us backward and do the bidding of Big Oil? He must answer these questions and more tomorrow.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BARRASSO and DURBIN be permitted to complete their remarks prior to the scheduled recess.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Senate's confirmation process because today Senate committees are beginning their hearings, starting to hear from the nominees from President-elect Donald Trump—qualified nominees.

We are going to hear from many of the nominees this week, and I just heard the minority leader talk about what is happening today because at this very moment, Pete Hegseth is testifying—testifying in the Armed Services Committee. He is the President's nominee to be the Secretary of Defense.

I have been following these hearings closely. Pete Hegseth is giving strong answers to tough questions. He is confident, he is knowledgeable, and he should be confirmed quickly. We have a significant problem in our military with morale and with recruitment, and Pete Hegseth is the right person to address those issues of military readiness.

The incoming administration is ready to act—ready to act and deliver on the historic mandate that President Trump won in November. His victory in the electoral college and the popular vote gives him a mandate—a mandate to undo the damage of the current administration and to unleash new American prosperity.

President Trump understands the old saying that personnel is policy. That is why he nominated his entire Cabinet before Thanksgiving. And it is a strong team. Doug Burgum, Chris Wright, and Lee Zeldin will take the handcuffs off of American energy. MARCO RUBIO and Pete Hegseth and John Ratcliffe will restore American strength. No more weakness from America on the world stage. Scott Bessent will stop the \$4 trillion tax increase. Pam Bondi will stop the weaponization of the Justice Department, and she will actually enforce the law. Kristi Noem will make sure the border is secure.

These nominees are not a return to business as usual. Business as usual gave us painfully high prices. Business as usual gave us wide-open borders. Business as usual gave us the disastrous death of soldiers and the fall of Afghanistan.

These nominees by President Trump are bold choices. They are motivated, they are skilled, and they are committed to the safety and security of every American. Most importantly, they show that President Trump is serious—serious about bringing fresh eyes and a new outlook to Washington, DC. That is exactly what the American people voted for in November.

Senate Republicans are committed to getting President Trump's team in place quickly.

Our committee chairs are working aggressively to give each nominee a fair and speedy consideration. That is how the Senate has operated historically, especially when faced with such a mandate from the American people.

In 2009, the President coming into office, Obama, had seven Cabinet nominees confirmed on his very first day in office. Within 8 days of taking office, he had 14 nominees confirmed. All but five of his nominees in 2009 were confirmed by voice vote. President Trump deserves the same deference.

It is interesting to me to hear the Democrat leader talk about Republicans rushing the process this year. Well, 4 years ago, Senator SCHUMER pledged to hold hearings right away, he said, for President Biden's nominees. He pledged to hold votes on Inauguration Day. He said: It is "traditional for a new President."

Well, I believe Senator SCHUMER was right to move quickly, but now that the shoe is on the other foot, Democrats should work in good faith with us, with the Republicans, to uphold that tradition for President Trump.

I have my doubts. The Democrat leader reportedly told his caucus to create fireworks at this week's hearings of our nominees. Well, we have seen Democrat obstruction before. Due to Senate Democrat obstruction, President Trump had only five nominees confirmed in January during his first term. We saw obstruction for the sake of obstruction.

Americans now have chosen a new direction. They chose this President, and the President's victory was decisive.

Elections have consequences, and the Presiding Officer and I know that. This week, the U.S. Senate is engaging in our constitutional duty of advice and consent.

Advice and consent means to deliberate, to debate. It means giving advice to the nominees, and we are doing that and have done it. But it is no excuse to distract and delay or to slander and then to try to search and destroy.

The Senate is going to follow the mandate of the American people and confirm President Trump's strong nominees. We will do it swiftly. We are committed to working around the clock, including nights and weekends, if Democrats choose to deliberately delay. With this majority, with our new President-elect, we will deliver a new direction for America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, many Senators use this bully pulpit to wax poetic, but only on special occasions do I actually quote poetry.

Today, as I honor my former colleague, friend of several decades, and our Nation's 46th President, it feels appropriate to do so.

History says

Don't hope on this side of the grave

But then, once in a lifetime

The longed-for tidal wave

Of justice can rise up

And hope and history rhyme.

I recited these words—some of President Biden's favorites, by Irish poet Seamus Heaney—on the evening of his inauguration as our Nation's Vice President in 2008. As I reflect on his time in our Nation's highest office, I think it is only right to use these words again.

Over the course of his long service to this country, President Joseph Biden has been the source of hope and an author of history. And just as Heaney observed, he became one of the rare leaders who have made hope and history rhyme. America is better for it.

Over the decades I have known President Joe Biden, he has proven to be one of the finest public servants America has seen.

Coming from humble beginnings, he worked hard and put himself in positions to give back to this Nation that has given so much to him. When it came to making decisions of consequences on issues that mattered most to the American people, Joe Biden put America first.

Through immense personal tragedy, through setbacks and obstacles, President Biden has taken the strength and wisdom he learned from his family, held steadfast on to his faith in America, and gave millions of people in this Nation reasons to hope.

His record as a Senator, while serving as Vice President under Barack Obama, and while sitting behind the Resolute Desk himself speaks for itself.

When future generations hear the name "Joe Biden," they will think of the incredible growth, recovery, and progress America has made under his leadership. The COVID-19 pandemic changed life in America as we knew it. It claimed thousands of American lives per week and brought our economy to a virtual halt.

But thanks to Joe Biden, we recovered from the devastation of this pandemic. We passed the American Rescue Plan to support working families and

businesses and address the public health crisis. This law deployed vaccines to millions of Americans and normalcy returned. In 2020, the world economy was in shambles due to COVID-19. In April 2020, our economy lost nearly 21 million jobs in a single month, and our unemployment rate skyrocketed to 14.7 percent. But thanks to Biden's leadership, many workers were able to get back to work.

Since Joe Biden has taken office, our economy has added 16 million jobs. Twenty million new business applications have been filed, the most in any single Presidential term in history.

And under Joe Biden, unemployment was under 4 percent for the longest stretch in 50 years. Four years ago, "Infrastructure Week" was nothing more than a punch line and a broken promise, but thanks to Joe Biden, we passed a bipartisan infrastructure law that replaced our aging infrastructure and expanded access to clean drinking water and the high-speed internet.

Thanks to Joe Biden, we took historic action to address the climate crisis through the Inflation Reduction Act, the most significant investment in clean energy, sustainability, and climate resilience in America's history. And we guaranteed American leadership in science and technology with the Chips and Science Act, a bipartisan bill bringing semiconductor manufacturing back to America and bolstering our competitiveness for generations.

Because of his leadership, we were able to enact the most significant gun safety legislation passed in nearly 30 years—the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Thanks to Joe Biden, over \$180 billion—billion dollars—in student loan debt has been forgiven for more than 5 million Americans, giving them, finally, a chance at life. We lowered the cost of prescription drugs, made historic gains in expanding health insurance coverage, and continue to fight for the reproductive rights of all Americans.

History will also remember Joe Biden for the Violence Against Women Act. He wrote the bill. He championed it while in the Senate, bipartisan legislation aimed at making sure every woman can live free from fear, violence, and abuse.

And as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am proud to say that I worked with Joe Biden to confirm 235 judges to the Federal bench under his leadership, including the first African-American woman and former public defender as a member of the Supreme Court, and that is only here at home.

On the global stage, he restored faith in America as a world power, a global leader, and a responsive ally that would not tolerate the post-World War II global order to be undermined by autocrats like Putin. He defended Ukraine, boosted competition with China, and strengthened alliances in the South Pacific. He oversaw the expansion of NATO and its bolstering of

defenses of its Baltic members. But, most importantly, thanks to Joe Biden, the Office of President once again stood for decency, civility, respect, and empathy. I sincerely hope our Nation does not lose sight of these values.

There is no doubt, when it comes to Heaney's words, President Biden's life has imitated art. Throughout his time in public service, President Biden inspired hope in so many millions of people, and in his commitment to ensuring that America lived up to her lofty ideals, he left a legacy that will shape history.

President Biden, it has been an honor to count myself as your colleague and your friend.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the world, I want to say to you—and to Jill and all of your family who shared you with us for so long—thanks for making hope and history rhyme.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

#### MORNING BUSINESS—CONTINUED

#### CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of election for the State of West Virginia. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificate was ordered to be printed in the record, as follows:

#### STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the Fifth day of November, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, Jim Justice was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of West Virginia, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

Witness: His excellency our governor, James C. Justice, and our seal hereto affixed at Charleston this Seventeenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

By the governor:

JAMES C. JUSTICE,  
Governor.  
MAC WARNER,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator-elect will now present himself

at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator, escorted by Mrs. CAPITO, advanced to the desk of the President pro tempore; the oath prescribed by law was administered by the President pro tempore; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### LAKEN RILEY ACT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 5, which the clerk will report.

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.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week, I had a chance to lay out some of my top priorities for the new Congress as Republicans take the helm. Today, I want to elaborate on the first of those priorities, which is to confirm President Trump's Cabinet.

Back in November, November 5—it seems like a long time ago, but it was just the other day—Americans went to the polls to elect new leaders, including a President of the United States. Voters made their voices heard as to which direction our country should go because they plainly believed that we were heading in the wrong direction.

As a result of that vote, President Trump won the election decisively. From my perspective, that means he is entitled to his team—absent some extraordinary circumstances—because it is his team or Cabinet that will help him follow through on the promises he made on the campaign trail. Once confirmed, these men and women will then



be accountable to him and the American people to accomplish the goals he has set out for them. That is the way the process is supposed to work.

Madam President, if you remember, back in 2017, during President Trump's first term, this process was not what you might call smooth sailing. In fact, Senate Democrats did everything they could to delay and derail the President's Cabinet. They did so openly, without shame or any embarrassment.

In fact, when the Senate minority leader at the time was asked in an interview back in 2017 if he would attempt to keep Justice Scalia's seat open rather than work with Republicans to confirm a Republican President's nominee, he said, "Absolutely." Well, it is funny how history works and how things work out. But of course Democrats went on to criticize Republicans for doing exactly the same thing that Senator SCHUMER said he would do if the shoe were on the other foot. It was an embarrassing moment or should have been an embarrassing moment for the Democratic minority leader. He sent a clear message to all of us that he was willing to put partisanship ahead of the country and before the voices of the American people who voted for President Trump could be heard.

If Democrats repeat the same play this year, they will only further embarrass themselves and the party and be a disservice to the American people who elected President Trump and JD Vance on November 5. So I would like to caution my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, not to play the same shenanigans again, but unfortunately it looks like they have come up with a new tactic.

The delays we are already starting to see in the confirmation process are completely unacceptable. We know when President Trump will be sworn in—that is January 20—and we need to make sure that as many members of his Cabinet, particularly his national security Cabinet, are available to be confirmed when President Trump takes his hand off the Bible.

Just 2 days ago, Axios news reported some interesting details, for example, surrounding the Democrats' handling of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, President Trump's choice to be Director of National Intelligence. According to this report, Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee are refusing to work as a team with Republicans to schedule her hearing, citing concerns that her background checks are not yet completed.

This is unacceptable. According to Axios, Ms. Gabbard has submitted all of the paperwork required on her end as part of the background check process. And this is someone who serves currently as a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard, a former Member of Congress, somebody who has been thoroughly vetted for security purposes.

It is up to the Biden administration, because they currently hold office—in-

cluding all parts of the executive branch, including the Department of Justice and the FBI—it is up to them to make sure the paperwork is expedited so Ms. Gabbard can have her hearing and presumably, if confirmed, be available to serve on day one, after President Trump is sworn into office. So the FBI needs to work 24/7—not "We will get around to it when we can"—they need to work 24/7 to get these background checks done before the nomination hearings so the hearings can actually be set. We know that if there is the will to get it done, it can be done. And in my view, it must be done.

If Democrats are so concerned that the Senate does not yet have her background check, then the President, President Biden, should address those concerns by making sure that his FBI and his Department of Justice get the background checks done, because they are still technically in charge until January 20. There is nothing the Trump administration, the incoming Trump administration, can do officially to make that happen; it is up to President Biden and his FBI and his Department of Justice.

By slow-walking her background check and causing delays for such a critical appointment, the Biden administration is posing a threat—an unnecessary threat—to our national security. We all know we are living in a dangerous world, and now is not the time to have some prolonged and unnecessary vacancy for the Director of National Intelligence.

I would hope our Democratic colleagues and the administration—the current administration—would abandon this futile and dangerous tactic.

As other nominees are working to complete their requisite paperwork, I would urge the Biden administration to work with the incoming administration, not against the administration, to expedite this process. They talk about a peaceful transfer of power—well, that is what this includes. This is part of that peaceful transfer of power from one administration to the next.

Democrats have a duty and a responsibility to set aside any partisan tactics and to give the President an opportunity to have his Cabinet confirmed.

Just imagine how Democrats and even the mainstream media would respond if an outgoing Republican administration intentionally caused delays for crucial appointments after voters gave them a mandate. They would claim this is a threat to our Nation's security. Republicans would be accused of playing games and "playing politics" with critical government Agencies. And, of course—their favorite pet accusation—Democrats would undoubtedly call these tactics "a threat to democracy." Well, with the shoe on the other foot, the situation is no different.

Back in 2015, the Senator from Michigan, Senator Stabenow, said:

[When a President wins an election, they have the right to have their team.

That is exactly how we should understand this process. President Trump was elected, and he has a right to his team.

Again, this doesn't mean that the Senate will rubberstamp any nominee. That is what advice and consent is all about: the background checks; the hearings, like we see this morning with the Secretary of Defense nominee, Mr. Hegseth. This means committees must hold hearings and votes for each of the President's nominees. It is that simple.

And, of course, Democrats have every opportunity during these hearings to ask any questions that they want and to vote however they want. We are not saying their rights should somehow be constricted. But to deny and delay the hearings outright is simply unconscionable and dangerous.

Democrats are not entitled to sabotage this President by denying him his Cabinet. Any efforts to do so undermine the democratic process and that peaceful transfer of power that we hear so much about and which is so important.

Senate Republicans, Senate Democrats, and the outgoing Biden administration alike must act in the best interest of the country—not in their party's best interest, not in pursuit of some partisan agenda, but in the best interest of the country. And it is far from America's best interest to have President Trump sitting alone at the White House—maybe with the Vice President—and no Cabinet there to support him in his efforts.

President Biden should remember that people around the country and around the world will be watching very closely his final days in office. Unfortunately, his administration has already been marked by a multitude of failed policies and scandals. President Biden would be wise to note that the handling of the transition at the end of his term can, if mishandled, further tarnish his administration's reputation. History will not be forgiving if his outgoing administration decides to threaten the safety and security of the American people by causing unnecessary delays for Cabinet appointments, particularly his national security Cabinet.

The American people elected President Trump as the next leader of our country. Now, it is time for the Senate to do our job by making sure that the President has the team he needs to do that job, and I intend to do everything I can to see that his nominees are confirmed on a timely basis.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Alabama.

S. 5

Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, last week, the Senate took a big bipartisan step toward honoring the life and legacy of Laken Riley, answering her loved ones' call to action, and protecting American families.

But that step, no matter how big, was just that, a first step, and there are many to follow if we want to follow through for the American people on the demands to secure our border and interior immigration enforcement, make it real, take it seriously. And to do that, we have to break the cycle that we have seen year over year.

The House passed the Laken Riley Act not once but twice. Senator BUDD took this very bill to the Senate floor last year, and, unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues blocked it. I personally took the bill to the floor a second time and called on my colleagues to pass it, but not only did they say no, they stood in the way and didn't even allow us to have a hearing in the entire 118th Congress.

Democrats persisted in their obstruction in moving this bill forward. It isn't just the Laken Riley Act the Democrats are standing in the way of; it is the safety and security of our American citizens. It is progress on making sure that we begin to have a more secure border and that our streets and communities are safer.

But today is a new day in the U.S. Senate, and people's tunes have changed. While I am hearing from many of my colleagues across the aisle that they want to vote yes on this bill, that illegal aliens who commit crimes should be sent back to their country not released onto American streets, I am optimistic, but I want to caution my colleagues: Don't revert back to your partisan tribe.

We can't lose focus on what this bill is about and what it would do. It would protect American families and save innocent lives. The Laken Riley Act is bipartisan; it is straightforward; it is targeted; and it is common sense.

It will ensure that illegal aliens who committed a theft-related crime after unlawfully crossing our border are off our streets before they can commit the most heinous crime imaginable. Laken Riley's killer was first arrested for coming into our country illegally. Then he was unlawfully paroled and released by the Biden administration. Then, in New York, he was "charged with acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17."

Then, again, he was released without ICE issuing a detainer. Then, in Georgia, he was charged for shoplifting, and, again, he was released without ICE issuing a detainer.

Jose Ibarra then went on to kill Laken Riley. The Laken Riley Act would have prevented him from running wild through our country's streets. And had it been law, it would have saved Laken Riley's life.

And if we enact it into law in the coming days, it will no doubt save

American lives, and it will save families from the heartbreak and tragedy that Laken Riley's family has had to endure.

Now, I want to be clear, this bill does not attempt to fix every single thing in our immigration and border security system. We all know that there are plenty. And we have had several other border security and immigration enforcement bills in the works. I personally have the WALL Act and the Keep Our Community Safe Act. But you will notice I am not trying to tack those bills onto the Laken Riley Act as amendments because this is a targeted bill to protect American families from criminal illegal aliens; isn't that common sense?

Look, regardless of which side of the aisle you are on, I think this is clearly common ground that we should be able to rally around. I know that my Republican colleagues heard the American people's voices in November, and we are answering that call. The question remains, will enough Democrats join us to make it happen?

Unfortunately, there are some working to create another push to block this vital legislation. So special interest groups are working around the clock right now to try to kill this bill.

They are waging a campaign of misinformation and, in doing so, trying to create enough momentum so this bill doesn't become law. They have created every farfetched hypothetical that they can dream up but never discuss the real tragedies—like Laken Riley—and how they could have been stopped if we had only done our job.

I have refuted their claims in conversations with my colleagues, and we will continue to do so. But what the American people should know is this: These are the same groups that have publicly fought to keep our borders wide open for years. They are the groups who thought that Joe Biden was too tough on the border and immigration, if that is even possible.

We know how far out of touch that is. These are, of course, groups who don't want ICE detaining criminal illegal aliens. They are the very groups that actually wanted to abolish ICE.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will listen to the verdict the American people delivered on November 5, rather than the propaganda of these radical interest groups.

The time to act is now. The American people have made their voices heard. They want action, and they want it without any delays. They want the Laken Riley Act. It is a strong bipartisan piece of legislation that has support from both sides of the aisle in both Chambers.

Forty-eight House Democrats voted for it. It is cosponsored by Senators JOHN FETTERMAN and RUBEN GALLEGGO of the Democratic Party. I am grateful for their cosponsorship and their courage to say now is the time for results.

I have been encouraged by other Members of the Democratic Party who

have said: This is a bill I would like to see cross the finish line.

Last week, we had 84 Senators who voted to advance it. So each one of my colleagues is left with one simple question this week: What will you choose to protect—open borders or American families? To me, that is a pretty simple choice.

It is time to fulfill the responsibility we have to the American people to protect the citizens of this country from criminals who would do them harm. It is time to make sure that what happened to Laken Riley and her family never happens again.

It is time to pass the Laken Riley Act, and it is past time to choose American families.

I look forward to this body having the courage to do that this week.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, we are here in the second week of the 119th Congress with enormous work to do. We have a border to secure; we have streets to make safe; we have an economy to resurrect. We have, in short, a great nation to rebuild.

And nothing could be more central to that rebuilding than the strengthening of the American family, and nothing could be more urgent for our future than the revival of the American working class. And those two things go precisely together.

The truth is we have been living these last 40 years or so in the great American decline. Our economy has declined. We were once the manufacturing and trade capital of the world. Everybody wanted to trade with us. We were the envy of the world in every possible way economically. That is not true any longer. Now we are a debtor nation. Our standing in the world has declined. We were the leader of the free nations not so long ago. Now, the nations of the world rush to court China and regard the United States as yesterday's news.

Our cities have declined. They are not safe. Our health has declined. Our hope for the future has eroded. And all the while, this town has plowed ahead with the failed policies of the last 40 years. This town has assured us that everything is fine. We only need to spend a little bit more, issue a little bit more debt, give our giant corporations a few more tax breaks, maybe get involved in another foreign war or two. This town has pursued the projects of the governing class and neglected the weightier matters, the well-being of our families and of our working people.

And let's be honest. My party, the Republican party, has too often in these years been part of the problem. The Republican party has too often spoken up for corporate interest rather than for the interest of families. The Republican party has too often cooperated with a corporate agenda rather than an agenda to empower workers.

We need a change in this town. We need a change in this Congress. We need a change in this party, and that is the opportunity that we have in the moment before us, because I submit to you the fact is this: You can measure the strength of a nation in the strength of its families, and you can study the struggles of a nation in the struggles of its working people. And right now, our families and our working people in this country are struggling.

There was a time not so long ago in this country when a man got a high school degree and then got a job and then worked at it decidedly and learned a skill and worked hard and saved where he would be able to provide for a family, start a family, get married, provide for kids, have a future, have something to look forward to. That is just not true anymore. Those days, in fact, are long since gone.

During the last 40 years, real wages for working people have flatlined. And during the last 4 years, real wages for working people have declined. Here is just one measure of that. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that disposable income—that is income after taxes—fell almost 10 percent—10 percent—during Joe Biden's Presidency. And that was, I might emphasize, for all earners. That drop was even higher, more steep and more devastating, for America's working people and for America's working families.

The fact of the matter is there is no such thing as a family wage any longer, not in this economy. Now parents have to work multiple jobs to support just one or two kids, if they can afford to have children at all. I mean, let's just think. In the 1960s, the average family had just shy of four children. Today, that number has fallen by more than half. And here is the really interesting thing: Families today tell researchers they would like to have more children. To be specific, more than half, approaching 60 percent of American families, tell researchers that they would like to have more kids, but they don't. Why not? Because they can't afford it. And that is all families. The numbers are higher, once again, for working-class families.

Here is what I would say. There is something fundamentally wrong with an economy when the working people who power that economy cannot afford to have children that they want. There is something fundamentally wrong with an economy when the working people who are the strength and source of all of its might cannot provide for the children they have with the labor of their own hands. But that is our reality. That is where we are today. And it is time to do something about it.

The test of this Congress will not be what we do for foreign nations. It will not be what we do for our largest corporations. It will not even be what we spend on defense or how we increase the Nation's GDP, though those are important priorities. The test of this

Congress will be whether we strengthen America's families and whether we deliver for America's working people.

Because in those families lies the hope of this Nation. And in those working people resides the wellspring of our great national strength.

The well-being of our families and of our working people is not one priority among many, I submit to you. It is not one more interest to satisfy. It is a moral imperative. It is our overriding moral obligation, and it is, for this Congress, a moral test.

And for every Republican who went out and campaigned on strengthening families, on delivering for working people, for every Republican who has hailed the new working-class coalition that President Trump has assembled, this is the time to deliver. This is the time to stand up and be counted. Rhetoric on the campaign trail is cheap. Delivering actual solutions, delivering actual results here in this body, that is the acid test, and that is where we are today.

Now, it is time for this new majority, this Republican majority, to stand up and be counted. It is time to deliver on the agenda that we ran on. It is time to realize the promise that our voters have invested in us. It is time to realize the hope for the future that our voters are counting on us to deliver.

And to meet that test, to meet this moral priority, we must reshape our Nation's tax policy and, indeed, rebuild our Nation's economy around our Nation's families. And the surest way to do that is to reform and expand the child tax credit.

You know, the child tax credit was first proposed in its earliest form by President Ronald Reagan, who was looking for a way back in the 1980s in circumstances not so dissimilar from ours, to deliver real, meaningful tax relief to working families with children. And then, in 1994, the famous Contract with America promised what became today's modern child tax credit to deliver once again real tax relief for every working family in this country. And now it is time for us again to strengthen that pledge and that promise and to deliver new and powerful tax relief for every family that will help strengthen our working families, help put our workers on a firmer foundation, help get our economy working again for the people who make it work for the entire Nation.

Now under current law, the child tax credit is available to eligible families with up to \$2,000 in tax credit relief per child. Here is my suggestion. Here is my proposal: We should more than double that amount. We should dramatically increase it. We should make it \$5,000 per child. And more than that, we ought to allow families to apply this tax relief against payroll taxes.

Currently, even families who are paying into the payroll tax system—that is, families who have a job, workers who have a job, a mom and dad who are paying taxes—they can't begin to

claim the child tax relief until they meet a certain threshold of income.

My view is this: We ought to allow them to start applying this tax relief against every dollar that they pay into the payroll tax system. Most working-class families pay considerable sums in payroll taxes but relatively little in income taxes. And there is a lot of misinformation about this, a lot of misnomers out there, many of them, sadly, repeated by some who call themselves conservatives. You all heard that old saw that 47 percent of American taxpayers, American workers, don't actually pay into the tax system. That is just not true. Every worker who has a job is paying payroll taxes; that is over 15 percent. And many of them are paying full freight because they are self-employed or they are gig workers.

My point is this: If you have got a job and are working, you are paying into America's tax system. You are paying payroll taxes. And for families, many working-class families, they are paying significant sums in payroll taxes. But because of the increased threshold for income taxes, they don't have a whole lot of income tax liability.

So the challenge is: How do we deliver real and meaningful tax relief to these working-class families who are paying significant amounts of money in payroll taxes but yet don't qualify for those income tax deductions and benefits that higher earners get, like the home mortgage deduction, for instance. That only kicks in if you are at a certain level of income. For many working-class families, they don't qualify for those deductions. They don't qualify for those tax expenditures. But yet they are paying significant sums in payroll taxes every single year.

This proposal delivers significant tax relief to them. It allows them to claim tax relief for every child who they are raising as they go out there and they work their jobs. And I would just say to you, this is how it was meant to be. The child tax credit as it was proposed in its current form by that Republican Congress in the 1990s, as it was proposed in the Contract with America back in 1994 was supposed to be credited against payroll taxes. That was the original proposal, and there is good reason for that. These families are contributing to our economic system, to Social Security and Medicare. They are paying taxes, along with everybody else, but right now they are not getting tax relief. The Contract with America was supposed to change that. It is time to deliver on that promise: Make the child tax credit available against the first dollar earned in payroll taxes.

Here is another change. We ought to deliver the credit to families in regular installments throughout the year. The truth is many working families can't afford to wait until the end of the year to tally up and figure out how much tax credit they might get back, how much relief they might qualify for. They are paying their taxes in every

single paycheck that they earn. It is coming out of their paycheck every couple of weeks or every month. We ought to be returning real tax relief to them in the same increments. So let's make it advanceable. Let's give it to families in installments that they can use across the year as they go out there and earn a living and pay their taxes.

And we ought to make the credit available to expecting parents as well. We should say that parents who are expecting children, a child not yet born, ought to be able to claim that tax credit up to \$5,000 depending on the amount of payroll taxes that they pay, even if the baby has not yet arrived.

Pregnancy is costly. Hospital bills are outrageous, and working families who are expecting children should be able to claim tax relief on the same basis as families with older kids.

This plan would provide major generational tax relief for working families with children. And I emphasize "working." What I propose is not social assistance. It is not social insurance even. It is a tax cut. You have to work a job and pay taxes in order to earn the credit.

But under our current system, too many families do work. Under our current system, too many do pay considerable sums in taxes but do not qualify for tax relief in any meaningful way. It is time to change that and make this relief available for working families.

And this proposal advances a second important principle as well. And that is the principle that everyone who pays taxes ought to get relief, and relief ought to be available on the basis of family.

Conservatives have said for years that family is the cornerstone of society. We have said for years that it is the first and irreplaceable building block of our Nation.

Well, our tax policy ought to reflect that. Our whole national policy ought to reflect that, and we shouldn't shy away from saying that we ought to deliver tax relief and tax cuts on the basis of family formation, on the basis of family size, and, yes, on the basis of family need.

Madam President, this is only the beginning. There is much more to do. We have years of decline of the American family to reverse. We have years of neglect of the American worker to undo. The challenges are indeed formidable, but this is the moment for the revival that we seek. And so let us not delay. Let us begin.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—S. RES. 24 AND S. RES. 25

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, for almost 4 years now, Joe Biden has subjected our country to economic misery, uncontrolled crime, and international humiliation. And now, on the way out of his failed and scandal-plagued Presidency, he is showering gifts and favors

to some of the most depraved human beings.

It started last month with Hunter Biden, pardoning his own son not just for the crimes he was convicted of and pleaded guilty to but for all crimes that he may have committed. Lord only knows what Joe Biden was trying to cover up.

The hits continued when he issued 1,500 blanket commutations for criminals whose records, by his own aide's admission, he did not review, whose victims he did not consider—an affront to the pardon process envisioned by our Founders, intended to correct specific and limited errors in the criminal justice system.

Among the beneficiaries of these commutations was a corrupt judge who sent hundreds of kids to jail for bribes. Yes, a judge took bribes to imprison children. The victims of the so-called "kids for cash" judge included a young man who later killed himself.

These 1,500 commutations also benefited hundreds of drug dealers, fraudsters, and thieves. Joe Biden and those who control him, though, didn't seem to care about the victims of these criminals. Instead, they just continued their uncaring, offensive giveaway to criminals.

It has continued. In just the last 2 weeks, we learned that the Biden administration released 11 Yemeni terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, including two suspected bodyguards of Osama bin Laden. We also learned that Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and two other architects of the 9/11 attacks will avoid the death penalty as a result of the Biden administration plea deal.

That plea bargain is an insult to the sacrifice of thousands of young Americans who left their homes, their families, and their professions after 9/11 and volunteered to go fight on behalf of our country. That is an absolute disgrace, and it alone would blacken the legacy of any Presidency.

There should be a Senate resolution condemning every single one of these commutations and the release of every single terrorist. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats would block every single resolution.

Case in point: Last month, I introduced a resolution condemning the Democrats' commutation of that "kids for cash" judge. Surely, we could agree on that. But, no, Senate Democrats, led by the Senator of Illinois, objected to even that limited bill.

Therefore, I have come to the floor today not to condemn all of these atrocious actions, though they all deserve condemnation. I am simply here to judge the depth of the Democratic fealty to a disgraced President halfway out the door.

I am asking the Senate to condemn just two of President Biden's latest and most inexcusable commutations of all—his commutations of death row inmates' death sentences. Just 2 days before Christmas—2 days before Christmas—when most kids had visions of

sugarplum fairies dancing in their heads, the President announced that he was commuting the death sentence of 37 rapists, murderers, and sadists. With that action, he brought relief to 37 depraved monsters on death row and despair to the families of their victims during the holiday season.

It is difficult to express the cruelty of reminding these families of the worst days of their lives and robbing them of justice right before Christmas—a Christmas gift to 37 savage murderers and a reminder to those families that, not only will they never spend Christmas with their loved ones again, but they won't get justice for their loved ones.

The President showed disdain for the victims of these crimes and their families, presumably and cynically hoping that the Christmas holiday would suppress media attention and public backlash against his commutation. I don't think so.

Now, the President and his defenders would like the American people to think that President Biden made these commutations out of some principled objection to the death penalty. I could respect that. I know people who are opposed to the death penalty, no matter how heinous the crime, in all cases, usually founded in a deep-seated religious conviction. I can respect that. I certainly disagree with it, but I understand it.

But that is not what Joe Biden did. That is a lie. He commuted the sentences of 37 death row inmates, and he left 3 killers on death row. Who are they? You may have heard of them. The Mother Emanuel Church shooter in Charleston, the Tree of Life synagogue shooter in Pittsburgh, and the Boston Marathon bomber. So, clearly, he believes in the death penalty for some criminals but not most.

He made a choice, a moral judgment, that the victims of 37 depraved murderers and their families didn't deserve justice. He also made a choice that not even he, doddering out of the White House, could defend the commutations of racist murderers and terrorists on political grounds or inflict that kind of grave political damage on his own party.

But he wasn't motivated by principle. He was motivated by politics and guided by leftwing ideologues. He hand-picked 37 murderers to save from death row. Unlike the rest of his pardons and commutations, you can't hide behind the excuses of staff, incompetence, personal ignorance, or the affection of a father. He knew who he was pardoning, and he knew the evil crimes they committed.

I would like to discuss in a little more detail just two of the depraved savages that Joe Biden saved from death row. The first is Anthony Battle, who broke into his ex-wife's home and raped her, stabbed her to death with a butcher knife. She was heard screaming: "Help me, help me, rape." She was a U.S. marine, and Anthony Battle raped and murdered her.

Yet that murder wasn't even the crime for which he was on Federal death row. He wasn't done. While he was in prison, he beat a 31-year-old correctional officer to death with a hammer, hitting him in the back of the head three times until he was soaked in the officer's blood.

The corrections officer hadn't even done anything to provoke or confront Battle. Battle beat him to death anyway. When he was given a chance to apologize for the killing, Battle said the officer "died like a dog."

This is why we have the death penalty for correctional officers; so inhumane monsters who are stuck in prison for life have some reason not to start open hunting season on correctional officers.

This is the man that Joe Biden decided deserved mercy 2 days before Christmas, a man who raped and murdered a U.S. marine and bludgeoned a police officer to death.

Joe Biden also saved the life of Marvin Gabrion, another rapist and serial killer. While facing trial for raping 19-year-old Rachel Timmerman—yes, that is right. He was on trial for raping a 19-year-old girl. Gabrion kidnapped her.

He bound her body with duct tape, he chained her to a concrete block, and he threw her into a lake while she was still breathing. Her last moments were filled with terror and agony.

In addition, he also killed her 11-month-old baby—11 months old. He allegedly confessed in prison that he "killed the baby because there was nowhere else to put it."

This is the man that Joe Biden also decided deserved clemency 2 days before Christmas.

It is an ancient truth that some crimes are so evil that the scales of justice can never balance so long as the perpetrator lives. Every day that men like Marvin Gabrion and Anthony Battle draw breath at the expense of American taxpayers is a day that justice is denied. There is no forgiveness in this world for what they did, and there is no redemption. The sooner they exit this world, the sooner they will face the full measure of justice next.

And that is just two. I could give you 35 more examples as well. That is all I am asking for today—unanimous consent for two resolutions. The first one condemns the commutation of Marvin Gabrion, a rapist and serial killer. The second condemns the commutation of Anthony Battle, who raped and murdered a U.S. marine and bludgeoned a correctional officer to death.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 24 and S. Res. 25; further, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I listened carefully to the presentation of the Senator from Arkansas and waited to hear five words. I waited patiently as he described these heinous crimes and the action of President Biden—waiting to hear five words. To my knowledge, unless I missed it, he went through his whole speech without mentioning those five words. They are critical to this whole issue.

I would like to clarify the record on Biden's recent clemency efforts. On December 23, President Biden announced he would commute the sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals who were on Federal death row. These individuals will now have their sentences reclassified from execution—here are the five words—to life without possibility of parole—life without possibility of parole.

Now, I understand Senator COTTON is opposed to the President's commutations in at least two of these cases. I want to be clear. The crimes he described, the crimes these individuals all committed are egregious, and there must be accountability. The President's decision provides for accountability. With a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, this will ensure that these individuals will never again pose a threat to public safety, never again enjoy freedom in their entire human lives.

Now, my colleague from Arizona may disagree with the decision. That is his right. But I have long advocated for the abolition of the Federal death penalty. And I know he sees it differently.

I commend President Biden for his leadership. The death penalty is deeply, deeply flawed. History tells us a terrible tale of the victims of the death penalty in America. It has disproportionately been applied to people of color. That is a fact. That is why I serve as lead sponsor of the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act, bicameral legislation to prohibit the use of the death penalty at the Federal level.

I spoke out in July of 2020, when the Trump administration ended a 17-year hiatus on Federal executions. In total, Trump oversaw 13 executions in the last 6 months of his Presidency. I will continue to urge Congress to pass my legislation to end the Federal death penalty, following the lead of 23 States that have already done so, including my State of Illinois. This failed and unjust policy has no place in a civilized society.

If Senator COTTON is concerned about undermining the rule of law and robbing victims of justice, we should consider for just a moment President Trump's pardons—for example, President Trump's decision to grant clemency to all 10 healthcare executives and doctors convicted in one of the

largest Medicare fraud schemes in the history of our country. These decisions wiped away years of prison sentences because of the action taken by President Trump and restitution totaling hundreds of millions of dollars from some of the worst healthcare fraudsters in America's history. At least seven people pardoned by Trump have gone on to be charge with another crime, a new one.

President Trump also used his pardon power to provide relief for his political loyalists. Who am I referring to? His former campaign manager Paul Manafort, his National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, his former adviser Steve Bannon, and at least seven Republican Congressmen who have been convicted of crimes.

Now President Trump has promised he will pardon the January 6 rioters on day one of his new administration. He calls them "political prisoners."

I would like to ask my colleague from Arkansas if he supports pardoning the following individuals:

David Dempsey, convicted of assaulting police officers by using "his hands, feet, flag poles, crutches, pepper spray, broken pieces of furniture, and anything else he could get his hands on" as a weapon.

How about Shane Jenkins—a Trump pardon—convicted of using two axes to break into the Capitol and assaulting police officers by throwing furniture and a flagpole at them.

Kyle Fitzsimons, convicted of five separate assaults against law enforcement, including one that caused career-ending, life-altering injuries to U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Aquilino Gonell. A pardon? Is he ready for a pardon?

Kenneth Bonawitz—a member of the so-called Proud Boys—assaulted at least six officers, placing one officer in a choke hold, lifting him by the neck. Bonawitz injured one officer so severely, it forced him into retirement.

I don't recall the Senator from Arkansas or any of his Republican colleagues introducing similar resolutions to criticize any of President Trump's pardons, and I haven't heard any Senate Republicans urging President-elect Trump not to pardon the January 6 rioters.

President Biden's commutations providing for life imprisonment without parole are far more defensible than President Trump's use of the pardon power during his first term or what he is planning for the first day of his second term.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. If the Senator from Arkansas wants to police the use of pardon power, I urge him to instead support my resolution urging President-elect Trump not to pardon crimes committed during the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Even our former Senate colleague Vice President-elect Vance said this week:

If you committed violence on [January 6], obviously you shouldn't be pardoned.

I hope the Senator from Arkansas agrees.

So I ask unanimous consent on my resolution. It is a resolution that contains the allegations which I made earlier.

Let me read the necessary script for the record.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of my resolution at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, which I certainly will, I want to briefly address what the Senator from Illinois said about my resolution condemning these two death sentence commutations.

I want to acknowledge that the Senator from Illinois is a longtime and principled opponent of the death penalty, based I believe in part on genuine and deep faith convictions. He has had that conviction for years. As I have said, I can respect that.

The Senator from Illinois presumably wants to see the commutation of the Mother Emanuel Church shooter, the Tree of Life synagogue shooter, and the Boston Marathon bomber. I strongly disagree. I can respect it. It is not what Joe Biden did. Joe Biden picked and chose which depraved murderers and rapists deserved to live and deserved to die, denying justice to the families of all those who were killed by anyone who wasn't totally politically toxic.

Second, the Senator from Illinois said that he did not hear five words in my remarks. He repeatedly said he didn't hear five words in my remarks. Those five words he didn't hear are "life without the possibility of parole." That is true—he didn't hear those words in my remarks. That is not what these murderers were sentenced to. They were sentenced by a jury of their peers to the death penalty. And one of them that I offered the resolution on, Anthony Battle, murdered a correctional officer while he was in prison for life.

Giving these 37 depraved murderers life in prison without the possibility of parole doesn't solve the problem; it creates 37 new potential problems—open hunting season on correctional officers at every facility where they are incarcerated. Again, that is why we have the death penalty for the murder of a correctional officer—because otherwise there is nothing for these depraved men to lose.

Senator DURBIN also mentioned a few of President Trump's pardons of Medicare fraudsters or political allies or

others. I haven't reviewed every one of those cases. I am not prepared today to say whether I would support them or not. Some of them sound pretty bad. Here is what they aren't, though: heinous murderers who duct-taped a woman alive, tied her to a concrete block, and threw her in a river while the murderer was on trial for her rape and then killed her 11-month-old baby because he didn't have anything better to do with it.

He mentioned the January 6 defendants. President Trump said he is going to likely issue pardons in some of those cases. I think that is appropriate. Many of these men and women have been convicted of misdemeanor crimes like parading and picketing on public grounds without a permit, and they had the book thrown at them, including a 70-year-old great-grandma who was just walking around wearing a red MAGA hat. I expect, I hope, the President will review these cases on a case-by-case basis. I think all Presidents should do that. But whatever President Trump does with the January 6 defendants through commutations or pardons will pale in comparison to eliminating the judgment of these 37 depraved murderers' fellow citizens to impose the death penalty on them, will pale in comparison to depriving these families of some measure of justice 2 days before Christmas.

So I do object to this resolution, and I cannot believe that this Senate—our Democratic colleagues cannot bring themselves to condemn some of these pardons over the last 2 months of Hunter Biden or the "kids for cash" judge who sold kids into juvenile detention centers for bribes or, now, depraved murderers.

I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

(Mr. SCOTT of Florida assumed the Chair.)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The majority leader.

#### APPOINTMENT

The Presiding Officer. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 119th Congress: the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire; the Honorable TINA SMITH of Minnesota; and the Honorable JOHN FETTERMAN of Pennsylvania.

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 119-1

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on January

14, 2025, by the President of the United States: Treaty with the United Arab Emirates on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (Treaty Document No. 119-1); I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

#### To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (the "Treaty"), signed at Abu Dhabi on February 24, 2022. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties negotiated by the United States to more effectively counter criminal activities. The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Treaty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: taking the evidence, testimony, or statements of persons; providing and authenticating documents, records, and articles of evidence; locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; transferring persons in custody temporarily for testimony or other assistance under the Treaty; executing requests for searches and seizures; and identifying, tracing, immobilizing, seizing, and forfeiting assets and assisting in related proceedings.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

#### CONSTITUTING THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 26, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 26) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain

committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 26) was agreed to.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-123, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Zambia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-123

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Zambia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \*\$0.  
Other \$100 million.  
Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (\$80 million); National Funds (\$20 million).

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment:

Bell 412 Enhanced Performance exportable medium-lift transport helicopters; radio communication and navigation systems; weather radar and transponder capabilities; qualification and transition training for pilots and maintainers; in-country Contractor Field Service Representatives support; Program Management Reviews; technical assistance and product support; associated aviation ground support equipment; peculiar ground support equipment; hardware; special tools; test equipment; basic issue items; Quality Assurance Team inspections, inventories, validations, and ground run and flight test verification testing; air freight transportation delivery; initial spare, repair, and consumable parts; operator, maintenance, and technical manuals; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (ZA-B-UAD).

(v) Prior Related Cases; if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission; Fee; etc.; Paid; Offered; or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 13, 2025.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Zambia—Bell 412 Enhanced Performance Exportable Medium-Lift Transport Helicopters

The Republic of Zambia has requested to buy Bell 412 Enhanced Performance exportable medium-lift transport helicopters; radio communication and navigation systems; weather radar and transponder capabilities; qualification and transition training for pilots and maintainers; in-country Contractor Field Service Representatives support; Program Management Reviews; technical assistance and product support; associated aviation ground support equipment; peculiar ground support equipment; hardware; special tools; test equipment; basic issue items; Quality Assurance Team inspections, inventories, validations, and ground run and flight test verification testing; air freight transportation delivery; initial spare, repair, and consumable parts; operator, maintenance, and technical manuals; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important partner that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in South Central Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Zambia's capability to conduct peacekeeping and regional security, disaster response, and humanitarian aid missions over long distances and in non-standard weather conditions. Zambia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Bell Textron, located in Fort Worth, TX. The purchaser typically requires offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional

U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Zambia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-123

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Bell 412 is a commercial helicopter with integrated commercial off-the-shelf mission equipment. This sale will not involve the release of sensitive technology. The radio communication systems, navigation systems, weather radar, and transponder capabilities are all U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified through supplemental type certificates for civilian airspace usage.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. A determination has been made that the Republic of Zambia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Zambia.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BOOMERANG CORPORATION

● Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Boomerang Corporation of Anamosa, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1998, Bryce Ricklefs opened Ricklefs Excavating to support construction projects throughout the Anamosa community. After graduating from high school, Bryce began focusing on a career in grading and excavation. He purchased a used excavator in 1999 and began seeking larger projects. In 2002, the company began focusing on public municipal construction across eastern Iowa, expanding its services to include wastewater management, roadwork, and infrastructure projects. In 2017, Bryce rebranded Ricklefs Excavating to Boomerang Corporation to show the company's commitment to civil contracting projects that start and end with them, as well as a new era of innovation and growth.

Today, Bryce and his wife Sarah own and operate the business with a team of 200 employees. Boomerang Corporation plans, designs, and oversees construction projects throughout eastern Iowa. The company prides itself on embracing infrastructure challenges while delivering high-quality results. From concrete projects to demolition, Boomerang Corporation uses the latest

technologies, such as trenchless technologies, to install, repair, or replace pipes with minimal destruction.

In 2019, Bryce and Sarah helped found a software company Tractics to support contractors with asset tracking, project management, and timekeeping for civil construction projects.

Beyond their contributions to civil construction, the Ricklefs also focus on enhancing Anamosa's built infrastructure. In 2020, they purchased eight buildings in the downtown area that were in disrepair and rehabbed them to a usable condition. They donated one of the buildings to the city of Anamosa's police department, and it is still used today. Additionally, Bryce, the son of a home builder, recognized Anamosa's housing shortage and has personally committed to building over 60 houses in the community.

Boomerang Corporation is passionate about building up young Iowans and offers internships to local students. Demonstrating their commitment to the next generation, Boomerang Corporation partnered with the Anamosa Community School District and Kirkwood Community College to create an apprenticeship program. This initiative offers high school students the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma, as well as a certificate in a trade, such as welding. In September, Boomerang Corporation looks forward to celebrating its 27th business anniversary in Iowa.

Boomerang Corporation's commitment to designing and overseeing high-quality construction and infrastructure projects is clear. I want to congratulate Bryce and Sarah Ricklefs and the entire team at Boomerang Corporation for their immeasurable impact on the Anamosa community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDA KAUFMAN

● Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today to share a few words in honor of the 90th birthday of a dear friend Linda Kaufman. As she celebrates this impressive milestone, I extend my best wishes to Anne and her family for a happy celebration.

Ms. Kaufman was born in January of 1935 in Massachusetts. She attended Smith College and worked as a teacher for 40 years, 32 of those years spent teaching history at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge. She has also served as reader, table leader, and member of the test development committee for the Advanced Placement European History Examination of the College Board. Linda never stopped teaching and learning history; after retiring, she took many online courses at Harvard and mentored former students, always staying up to date with their many accomplishments.

Ms. Kaufman is married to her best friend Andrew Kaufman, a professor at Harvard Law School. Together, they

raised four children; Anne, David, Daniel, and Elizabeth. Outside of teaching, Linda was active in her community in Cambridge, dedicating free time to helping individuals prepare for the American citizenship exam and spending time with her grandchildren.

Linda Kaufman is a true lifelong learner and public servant. I am incredibly pleased to honor this momentous event in Linda's life and wish her joy in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED RESCISSION OF CUBA'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM—PM 3

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 Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith a report to the Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

#### REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14115 OF FEBRUARY 1, 2024, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK—PM 4

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 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in the West Bank declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024, is to continue in effect beyond February 1, 2025.

The situation in the West Bank—in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction—has reached intolerable levels and constitutes a serious threat to the peace, security, and stability of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, and the broader Middle East region. These actions undermine the foreign policy objectives of the United States, including the viability of a two-state solution and ensuring Israelis and Palestinians can attain equal measures of security, prosperity, and freedom. They also undermine the security of Israel and have the potential to lead to broader regional destabilization across the Middle East, threatening United States personnel and interests.

The situation in the West Bank continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14115 with respect to the situation in the West Bank.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

#### TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 5

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 Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of an Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy ("The Agreement").

I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National



Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of the Kingdom of Thailand with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States of America.

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive nuclear technology. Any special fissionable material transferred to the Kingdom of Thailand could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of special fissionable material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Kingdom of Thailand would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support these international markets to ensure nuclear fuel supply for the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated at any time by either party on 1 year's advance written notice to the other party. In the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key non-proliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components, subject to the Agreement remains in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Kingdom of Thailand is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol thereto with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Kingdom of Thailand was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Kingdom of Thailand's domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to immediately begin the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 14, 2025.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 152. An act 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.

H.R. 189. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 192. An act 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.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 152. An act 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; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 189. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 192. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### 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. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 83. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 84. A bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 85. 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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 86. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 87. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify work requirements under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 88. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY,

Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 89. A bill to reform restrictions on the importation of firearms and ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 90. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 91. A bill to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 92. A bill to require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 93. A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COTTON:

S. Res. 24. A resolution condemning the commutation of the death sentence of Anthony George Battle granted by President Biden on December 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. Res. 25. A resolution condemning the commutation of the death sentence of Marvin Charles Gabrion II granted by President Biden on December 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 26. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 92. A bill to require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 92

*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 "Defending American Sovereignty in Global Pandemics Act".

#### SEC. 2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES FUNDING FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UNTIL PANDEMIC TREATY IS APPROVED BY THE SENATE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The United States shall not become a party to a convention, agreement, or other international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response except pursuant to a treaty made under Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FUNDING RESTRICTION.—The Government of the United States may not obligate or expend any funds for the World Health Organization beginning on the effective date of an agreement described in subsection (a) and ending on the date on which the Senate approves a resolution of ratification with respect to such convention, agreement, or instrument.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 24—CONDEMNING THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE OF ANTHONY GEORGE BATTLE GRANTED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON DECEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. COTTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 24

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE OF ANTHONY GEORGE BATTLE GRANTED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON DECEMBER 23, 2024.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) President Joseph R. Biden undermined the rule of law and robbed victims of justice when he commuted the death sentence of Anthony George Battle on December 23, 2024;

(2) Anthony Battle was convicted of murdering his wife, a U.S. Marine, and sentenced to life imprisonment;

(3) while Battle was serving his life sentence at Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, he murdered a 31-year-old correctional officer named D'Antonio Washington by bludgeoning Washington in the back of the head repeatedly with a ball-peen hammer;

(4) when Battle was questioned by investigators, he had no remorse and stated that he was "happy" he killed Washington;

(5) this commutation is a reprehensible insult to the victims of Anthony Battle;

(6) President Biden claimed that he commuted the death sentences of Anthony Battle and 36 other murderers out of a principled opposition to the death penalty but refused to commute the death sentences of the 3 most controversial death row inmates, dem-

onstrating that President Biden was motivated by politics, not principles; and

(7) the Senate unequivocally condemns this commutation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 25—CONDEMNING THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE OF MARVIN CHARLES GABRION II GRANTED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON DECEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. COTTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 25

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE COMMUTATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE OF MARVIN CHARLES GABRION II GRANTED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON DECEMBER 23, 2024.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) President Joseph R. Biden undermined the rule of law and robbed victims of justice when he commuted the death sentence of Marvin Charles Gabrion II on December 23, 2024;

(2) Marvin Gabrion was sentenced to death for murdering 19-year-old Rachel Timmerman just 2 days before she was scheduled to testify that Gabrion had abducted and raped her;

(3) Marvin Gabrion was also the prime suspect in the disappearance and murder of several other individuals, including Rachel Timmerman's 11-month-old daughter and 2 potential witnesses at his rape trial;

(4) this commutation is a reprehensible insult to the victims of Marvin Gabrion;

(5) President Biden claimed that he commuted the death sentences of Marvin Gabrion and 36 other murderers out of a principled opposition to the death penalty but refused to commute the death sentences of the 3 most controversial death row inmates, demonstrating that President Biden was motivated by politics, not principles; and

(6) the Senate unequivocally condemns this commutation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 26—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

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

S. RES. 26

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Ms. Ernst (Chair), Mr. Risch,

Mr. Paul, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Young, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Budd, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Justice, Mrs. Blackburn.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 16. Mr. CRUZ 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 17. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 18. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 19. 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.

SA 20. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 21. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 22. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 23. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 24. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 25. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 26. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 27. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 28. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 29. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 30. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 31. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 32. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 33. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 34. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 35. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 36. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 37. Mr. COONS 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 38. 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 39. 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 40. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 41. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 42. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 43. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 44. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and 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 45. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 46. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 47. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 48. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 49. Mr. SULLIVAN 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 16. Mr. CRUZ 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. ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH DETENTION, CONTINUOUS MONITORING, OR REMOVAL OF ALIENS UNLAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Justice for Jocelyn Act”.

(b) LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION IN ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION.—No alien may be re-

leased as part of any program under the Alternatives to Detention program unless—

(1) all detention beds available to the Secretary have been filled;

(2) there exists no available option to hold aliens in detention; and

(3) the Secretary of Homeland Security has exercised and exhausted all reasonable efforts to hold aliens in detention.

(c) GPS TRACKING AND CURFEW REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ALIENS.—Each alien on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s nondetained docket shall be—

(1) enrolled in the Alternatives to Detention program;

(2) continuously subject to GPS monitoring—

(A) for the duration of all applicable immigration proceedings, including any appeal; and

(B) in the case of an alien who is ordered removed from the United States, until removal; and

(3) required to stay in their Alternatives to Detention-compliant home address between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

(d) REMOVAL OF ALIENS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH RELEASE ORDER.—Section 240(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RELEASE ORDER.—If an immigration officer submits an affidavit to an immigration judge stating that an alien failed to comply with a condition of release under section 236(a), such alien shall be ordered removed in absentia.”.

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held by a Federal court to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section and the application of such provisions to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

SA 17. Mr. MURPHY 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:

On page 3, line 8, strike the end quote and final period and insert the following:

“(4) TRUST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION.—The Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement may authorize the release of an alien detained pursuant to paragraph (1)(E) if the Director determines such alien—

“(A) does not pose a danger to the community; and

“(B) is not a flight risk.”.

SA 18. Mr. MURPHY 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:

On page 3, line 8, strike the end quote and final period and insert the following:

“(4) PRELIMINARY HEARING.—An alien detained pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)(E) is entitled to a preliminary hearing to determine whether the relevant charge, arrest, or conviction is within the scope of the relevant offense under such paragraph.”.

SA 19. 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:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ALIENS WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN AND ALIENS WHO ARE 16 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.**

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) EXCLUSIONS.—The following aliens are not subject to custody or detention under paragraph (1)(E):

“(A) Any alien who has been granted or is eligible for deferred action pursuant to the deferred action for childhood arrivals program described in the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’ issued on June 15, 2012.

“(B) Any alien who has been granted or is eligible for deferred action pursuant to the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals’ (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)).

“(C) Any alien who is 16 years of age or younger.”.

**SA 20.** Mr. KING 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:

Beginning on page 5, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 6, line 4, and insert the following:

(c) VISA SANCTIONS.—Section 243(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) RESERVING VISA SANCTIONS AS A DIPLOMATIC TOOL.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—Upon receiving notice from the Secretary of Homeland Security that the government of a foreign country is denying or unreasonably delaying accepting an alien who is a citizen, subject, national, or resident of such country, the Secretary of State shall have the exclusive authority to determine whether to discontinue granting visas as a diplomatic tool for encouraging such country to accept such alien.

“(2) SANCTION.—If the Secretary of State elects to discontinue granting visas pursuant to a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall order consular officers at the United States embassy and consulates in such country to discontinue granting immigrant visas or nonimmigrant visas, or both, to citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents of such country.

“(3) DURATION.—The sanction described in paragraph (2) shall remain in place until the Secretary of Homeland Security notifies the Secretary of State that the country subject to such sanction is cooperating with the Department of Homeland Security by accepting the return of its citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents.”.

**SA 21.** Mrs. MURRAY 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:

On page 3, line 8, strike the end quote and final period and insert the following:

“(4) PREGNANT, NURSING, AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not detain an individual pursuant to paragraph (1)(E) who is pregnant, nursing, or in postpartum recovery, unless the Secretary makes an individualized determination that such individual presents a threat to public safety or national security.

“(B) PROHIBITION ON SHACKLING.—The Secretary may not use a restraint on an individual detained under the circumstances described in subparagraph (A) if such individual is known to be pregnant, including during labor, transport to a medical facility or birthing center, delivery, or postpartum recovery.”.

**SA 22.** Mr. PAUL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE —REPUBLIC ACT**

**SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Reforming Emergency Powers to Uphold the Balances and Limitations Inherent in the Constitution Act” or the “REPUBLIC Act”.

**Subtitle A—Congressional Review of National Emergencies**

**SEC. 11. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by inserting after title I the following:

**“TITLE II—DECLARATIONS OF FUTURE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES**

**“SEC. 201. DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

“(a) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—With respect to Acts of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency, of any special or extraordinary power, the President is authorized to declare such a national emergency by proclamation. Such proclamation shall immediately be transmitted to Congress and published in the Federal Register.

“(b) SPECIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF LAW TO BE EXERCISED.—No powers or authorities made available by statute for use during the period of a national emergency shall be exercised unless and until the President specifies the provisions of law under which the President proposes that the President or other officers will act in—

“(1) a proclamation declaring a national emergency under subsection (a); or

“(2) one or more Executive orders relating to the emergency published in the Federal Register and transmitted to Congress.

“(c) PROHIBITION ON SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IF EMERGENCIES NOT APPROVED.—

“(1) SUBSEQUENT DECLARATIONS.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a national emergency before the expiration of the 30-day pe-

riod described in section 202(a), or with respect to a national emergency proposed to be renewed under section 202(b), the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, declare a subsequent national emergency under subsection (a) with respect to the same circumstances.

“(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a power or authority specified by the President in a proclamation under subsection (a) or an Executive order under subsection (b)(2) with respect to a national emergency, the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, exercise that power or authority with respect to that emergency.

“(d) EFFECT OF FUTURE LAWS.—No law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act shall supersede this title unless it does so in specific terms, referring to this title, and declaring that the new law supersedes the provisions of this title.

**“SEC. 202. EFFECTIVE PERIODS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

“(a) TEMPORARY EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A declaration of a national emergency shall remain in effect for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation under section 201(a) (not counting the day on which the proclamation was issued) and shall terminate when such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 with respect to the proclamation.

“(2) EXERCISE OF POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—Any emergency power or authority made available under a provision of law specified pursuant to section 201(b) may be exercised pursuant to a declaration of a national emergency for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation or Executive order (not counting the day on which such proclamation or Executive order was issued). That power or authority may not be exercised after such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 approving—

“(A) the proclamation of the national emergency or the Executive order; and

“(B) the exercise of the power or authority specified by the President in such proclamation or Executive order.

“(3) EXCEPTION IF CONGRESS IS UNABLE TO CONVENE.—If Congress is physically unable to convene as a result of an armed attack upon the United States or another national emergency, the 30-day periods described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall begin on the first day Congress convenes for the first time after the attack or other emergency.

“(b) RENEWAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—A national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) or previously renewed under this subsection, and not already terminated pursuant to subsection (a) or (c), shall terminate on the date that is one year after the President transmitted to Congress the proclamation declaring the emergency or Congress approved a previous renewal pursuant to this subsection, unless—

“(1) the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to Congress an Executive order renewing the emergency; and

“(2) there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval renewing the emergency pursuant to section 203 before the termination of the emergency or previous renewal of the emergency.

“(c) TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) shall terminate on the earliest of—

“(A) the date provided for in subsection (a);

“(B) the date provided for in subsection (b);

“(C) the date specified in an Act of Congress terminating the emergency; or

“(D) the date specified in a proclamation of the President terminating the emergency.

“(2) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the termination of a national emergency under paragraph (1)—

“(i) except as provided by subparagraph (B), any powers or authorities exercised by reason of the emergency shall cease to be exercised;

“(ii) any amounts reprogrammed or transferred under any provision of law with respect to the emergency that remain unobligated on that date shall be returned and made available for the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated; and

“(iii) any contracts entered into pursuant to authorities provided as a result of the emergency shall be terminated.

“(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of a national emergency shall not affect—

“(i) any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on the date of the termination under paragraph (1);

“(ii) any legal action or legal proceeding based on any act committed prior to that date; or

“(iii) any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to that date.

**“SEC. 203. REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

“(a) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘joint resolution of approval’ means a joint resolution that contains only the following provisions after its resolving clause:

“(1) A provision approving—

“(A) a proclamation of a national emergency made under section 201(a);

“(B) an Executive order issued under section 201(b)(2); or

“(C) an Executive order issued under section 202(b).

“(2) A provision approving a list of all or a portion of the provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

“(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—

“(1) INTRODUCTION.—After the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a joint resolution of approval may be introduced in either House of Congress by any member of that House.

“(2) REQUESTS TO CONVENE CONGRESS DURING RECESSES.—If, when the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), Congress has adjourned sine die or has adjourned for any period in excess of 3 calendar days, the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with and the concurrence of the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

“(3) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, the following shall apply:

“(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of ap-

proval has been referred has not reported it at the end of 10 calendar days after its introduction, that committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar.

“(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution of approval is referred has reported the resolution, or when that committee is discharged under subparagraph (A) from further consideration of the resolution, it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is subject to 4 hours of debate divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution of approval. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business.

“(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution of approval shall be subject to 10 hours of consideration, to be divided evenly between the proponents and opponents of the resolution.

“(D) AMENDMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

“(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

“(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

“(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution of approval.

“(E) MOTION TO RECONSIDER FINAL VOTE.—A motion to reconsider a vote on passage of a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order.

“(F) APPEALS.—Points of order, including questions of relevancy, and appeals from the decision of the Presiding Officer, shall be decided without debate.

“(4) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the following shall apply:

“(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it to the House within 10 calendar days after the date of referral, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

“(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the third legislative day after the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration, and except as provided in clause (ii), it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS TO PROCEED TO JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—A motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order after the House has disposed of another motion to proceed on that resolution.

“(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—Upon adoption of the motion to proceed in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), the joint resolution of approval shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate, which shall include debate on any amendments, equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(D) AMENDMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

“(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

“(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

“(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

“(5) RECEIPT OF RESOLUTION FROM OTHER HOUSE.—If, before passing a joint resolution of approval, one House receives from the other a joint resolution of approval from the other House, then—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee and shall be deemed to have been discharged from committee on the day it is received; and

“(B) the procedures set forth in paragraphs (3) and (4), as applicable, shall apply in the receiving House to the joint resolution received from the other House to the same extent as such procedures apply to a joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under this section shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification by Congress of statutory authority for the emergency powers of the President.

“(d) RULES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE.—This section is enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in the House in the case of joint resolutions described in this section, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

**“SEC. 204. APPLICABILITY.**

“This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under any provision of law that is not a provision of law described in section 604(a).”

**SEC. 12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

Section 401 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting “, and make publicly available” after “transmit to Congress”; and

(B) in the second sentence by inserting “, and make publicly available,” before “a final report”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) REPORT ON EMERGENCIES.—The President shall transmit to the entities described in subsection (g), with any proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a) or any Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a report, in writing, that includes the following:

“(1) A description of the circumstances necessitating the declaration of a national emergency, the renewal of such an emergency, or the use of a new emergency authority specified in the Executive order, as the case may be.

“(2) The estimated duration of the national emergency, or a statement that the duration of the national emergency cannot reasonably be estimated at the time of transmission of the report.

“(3) A summary of the actions the President or other officers intend to take, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, and the statutory authorities the President and such officers expect to rely on in addressing the national emergency.

“(4) The total expenditures estimated to be incurred by the United States Government during such six-month period which are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by such declaration.

“(5) In the case of a renewal of a national emergency, a summary of the actions the President or other officers have taken in the preceding one-year period, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, to address the emergency.

“(e) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—The President shall provide to the entities described in subsection (g) such other information as such entities may request in connection with any national emergency in effect under title II.

“(f) PERIODIC REPORTS ON STATUS OF EMERGENCIES.—If the President declares a national emergency under section 201(a), the President shall, not less frequently than every 6 months for the duration of the emergency, report to the entities described in subsection (g) on the status of the emergency, the total expenditures incurred by the United States Government, and the actions the President or other officers have taken and authorities the President and such officers have relied on in addressing the emergency.

“(g) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities described in this subsection are—

“(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

“(2) minority leader of the House of Representatives;

“(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

“(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.”.

**SEC. 13. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“TITLE VI—DECLARATIONS OF CERTAIN EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT**

**“SEC. 604. APPLICABILITY.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

“(b) EFFECT OF ADDITIONAL POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—This title shall not apply to a national emergency or the exercise of emergency powers and authorities pursuant to the national emergency if, in addition to the exercise of emergency powers and authorities described in subsection (a), the President proposes to exercise, pursuant to the national emergency, any emergency powers and authorities under any other provision of law.”.

(b) TRANSFER.—Sections 201, 202, and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such sections appeared on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, are—

(1) transferred to title VI of such Act (as added by subsection (a));

(2) inserted before section 604 of such title (as added by subsection (a)); and

(3) redesignated as sections 601, 602, and 603, respectively.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such title appeared the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, is amended by striking the heading for such title.

**SEC. 14. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

(a) NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT.—Title III of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631) is repealed.

(b) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.—Section 207(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by striking “concurrent resolution” each place it appears and inserting “joint resolution”.

**SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), apply with respect to national emergencies declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act on or after such date.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO RENEWALS OF EXISTING EMERGENCIES.—With respect to a national emergency declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act before the date of the enactment of this Act that would expire or be renewed under section 202(d) of that Act (as in effect on the day before such date of enactment), that national emergency shall be subject to the requirements for renewal under section 202(b) of that Act, as amended by section 11.

(c) SUPERSESION.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall supersede title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) as such title was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

**Subtitle B—Limitations on Emergency Authorities**

**SEC. 21. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS WITH RESPECT TO USE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**

The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 203 the following:

**“SEC. 203A. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.**

“(a) LIMITATIONS FOR NECESSITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2) and in accordance with this section, no authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR ISSUANCE OF GENERAL LICENSES.—An authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person if the President has, before

using the authority, issued a general license that ensures that the United States person has sufficient access to the necessities of life, including food, nutritional support, water, shelter, clothing, sanitation, medicine, health care and other vital services, and gainful employment where necessary to provide the United States person a means for subsistence.

“(3) DUE PROCESS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President shall—

“(i) provide contemporaneous notice of the action to the United States person;

“(ii) not later than one week after taking the action, provide the United States person with the record on which the decision to take the action was based, including an unclassified summary, or a redacted version, of any classified information that provides the United States person with substantially the same ability to respond to that information as the classified information;

“(iii) provide the United States person with the opportunity to request review of the decision and to submit information in support of that request;

“(iv) provide the United States person with the opportunity for an administrative hearing not later than 90 days after requesting a review under clause (iii), unless the United States person agrees to a longer period; and

“(v) render a written decision on a request for review under clause (iii) not later than 90 days after the hearing under clause (iv), or, if no such hearing is requested, not later than 90 days after the later of—

“(I) the request for review; or

“(II) the submission of information in support of that request.

“(B) FAILURE TO RENDER TIMELY DECISION.—Failure to render a decision within the time frame specified in subparagraph (A)(v) shall be considered an agency action for purposes of section 702 of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) WARRANT FOR SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President may not block or otherwise prevent the access of the United States person to property in which the United States person has an ownership interest except pursuant to a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a court-martial or other proceeding under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code), issued under section 846 of title 10, United States Code (article 46 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), in accordance with regulations prescribed by the President) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

“(2) DELAYED WARRANTS.—To the extent consistent with the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a court shall permit the temporary blocking of property under section 203 without a warrant on an emergency basis, or use other means lawfully available to the court, to enable the Federal Government to identify the property that is subject to blocking while reducing the risk of property flight.

“(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A United States person that is the target of an action taken by the President pursuant to any authority provided under section 203 may bring an action in a United States court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of any available administrative remedies, to obtain judicial review of the lawfulness of that action, including whether the action was authorized by the

Executive order or orders specifying the measures to be taken under section 203 in response to a determination issued under section 202.

“(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—In an action brought under paragraph (1)—

“(A) the review of the court shall be de novo;

“(B) any party may introduce evidence not included in the administrative record;

“(C) any administrative record or portions thereof may be entered into evidence, and questions of authentication or hearsay shall bear on the weight to be accorded the evidence rather than its admissibility;

“(D) classified information shall be handled in accordance with the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.), except that references to the ‘defendant’ in such Act shall be deemed to apply to the plaintiff; and

“(E) the court shall have the authority to order injunctive relief, actual damages, and attorneys’ fees.

“(3) OTHER MEANS OF REVIEW.—The availability of judicial review under this subsection shall not preclude other available means of judicial review, including under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, except that a person may not exercise the right to judicial review under more than one provision of law.

“(d) UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘United States person’ means—

“(1) a United States national; or

“(2) an entity—

“(A) organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; and

“(B) in which more than 50 percent of the controlling interest is owned by a person described in paragraph (1).”.

**SEC. 22. EXCLUSION OF AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE DUTIES AND IMPORT QUOTAS FROM INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**

Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

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

“(c)(1) The authority granted to the President by this section does not include the authority to impose duties or tariff-rate quotas or (subject to paragraph (2)) other quotas on articles entering the United States.

“(2) The limitation under paragraph (1) does not prohibit the President from excluding all articles, or all of a certain type of article, imported from a country from entering the United States.”.

**SEC. 23. PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWERS UNDER COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**

Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting “and declares a national emergency” after “in the interest of national security or defense,”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “there exists” and inserting “a national emergency exists by virtue of there being”.

**SEC. 24. DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS OF PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 days after the conclusion of the process for approval, adoption, or revision of any presidential emergency action document, the President shall submit that document to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) DOCUMENTS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate

congressional committees all presidential emergency action documents in existence before such date of enactment.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) SENATE.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the Senate with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the House of Representatives with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(3) DUTY TO COOPERATE.—All officers and employees of any Federal agency shall have the duty to cooperate with the exercise of oversight jurisdiction described in this subsection.

(4) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The chairpersons and ranking members of the appropriate congressional committees, and designated staff of those committees, shall be granted all security clearances required to access, and granted access to, presidential emergency action documents, including under relevant Presidential or agency special access and compartmented access programs.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency”—

(A) has the meaning given the term “agency” in section 552(f) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) includes the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Security Council.

(3) PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENT.—The term “presidential emergency action document” refers to any document created by any Federal agency before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, that is—

(A) designated as a presidential emergency action document or presidential emergency action directive;

(B) designed to implement a presidential decision or transmit a presidential request when an emergency disrupts normal executive, legislative, judicial, or other Federal governmental processes;

(C) a Presidential Policy Directive, regardless of whether the directive is available to the public, that triggers any change in policies, procedures, or operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency; or

(D) any other document, briefing, or plan, regardless of whether the document, briefing, or plan exists in any tangible or written form, that triggers any change in operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency.

**SA 23.** Mr. COONS 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:

Beginning on page 3, strike line 9 and all that follows through page 8, line 10.

**SA 24.** Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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, add the following:

**SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the ability of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to use available capacity to detain individuals determined to pose the most serious threat to public safety or risk of flight.

**SA 25.** Mr. COONS 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. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 2, and the amendments made by section 2, shall not take effect until the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security publishes in the Federal Register a certification to Congress, with the basis of the findings contained therein, that there is available the operational detention capacity, transportation capacity, and personnel to ensure that the amendments made by that section can be implemented without causing the release of, or an inability to detain or remove, aliens who present serious threats to public safety or serious flight risks.

**SA 26.** Mr. COONS 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:

On page 3, line 20, insert “manifestly unlawful” before “violation”.

On page 5, line 16, insert “manifestly unlawful” before “violation”.

On page 4, line 21, strike “an action” and insert “a manifestly unlawful action”.

On page 6, line 13, insert “manifestly unlawful” before “violation”.

On page 7, line 14, insert “manifestly unlawful” before “violation”.

**SA 27.** Mr. COONS 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:

On page 2, line 14, strike “and”.

On page 2, strike line 15 and insert the following:

(i) is not in a lawful status or in a period of stay authorized by the Attorney General; and

(iii) is charged with, is arrested for, is

**SA 28.** Mr. KING 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:

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 19 and insert the following:

“(ii) has been convicted of burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting.”;

**SA 29.** Mr. MARKEY 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 4. DESTINATION RECEPTION ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Destination Reception Assistance Act”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF DESTINATION RECEPTION SERVICES PROGRAM.**—Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **DESTINATION RECEPTION SERVICES PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible arrival’ means an individual who—

“(A) has been granted parole;

“(B) have been placed in removal proceedings; or

“(C) has a pending application for asylum.

“(2) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, in the Office, the Destination Reception Services Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’), which shall carry out the provisions of this subsection under the direction of the New Arrival Services Board (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Board’). The Program shall coordinate with the Unaccompanied Children Program and the Refugee Program to ensure that eligible arrivals receive all of the services for which they are eligible.

“(3) **NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARD.**—

“(A) **APPOINTMENTS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Destination Reception Assistance Act, the Director shall appoint 9 members to the Board who represent nongovernmental organizations with experience providing, evaluating, and offering technical assistance on eligible services provided through the Program, including organizations representing individuals with lived experience of forced migration. The Director shall designate a Chair of the Board from among its members.

“(B) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Board shall—

“(i) identify communities in which concentrations of eligible arrivals in need of assistance reside; and

“(ii) recommend the amount of funding to be allocated to such communities in accordance with formulas, policies, procedures, and guidelines established by the Office.

“(C) **CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDING.**—In determining the allocation of Federal fund-

ing to communities under this subsection, the Director shall prioritize funding for communities with—

“(i) a higher ratio of eligible arrivals compared to other communities;

“(ii) higher housing and transportation costs; or

“(iii) the most significant medium-term reception needs (in per capita or absolute terms) in which the level of direct services provided by nonprofit, faith-based, or governmental organizations to families and individuals released by the Department of Homeland Security is most acute.

“(4) **PROGRAM STRUCTURE.**—

“(A) **FRAMEWORK.**—The framework of the Program shall be similar to the framework of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to facilitate the timely delivery of Federal funding in support of eligible arrivals.

“(B) **DISTINCTION FROM ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION.**—The Program is not an alternative to detention program. Prior participation in an alternatives to detention program is not an eligibility requirement for eligible arrivals to receive Program services, nor is participating in monitoring or surveillance practices a condition while receiving Program services.

“(C) **RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Program shall provide funding to local government entities and private nonprofit organizations to provide medium-term services to eligible arrivals who have been processed and released into the United States by the Department of Homeland Security, including—

“(i) housing transition, rental, and utility assistance programs;

“(ii) medical and mental health care or insurance for such care;

“(iii) child care, child care assistance programs, and out-of-school programming;

“(iv) workforce development, job training, English language training, paid apprenticeships, work study, and loan programs;

“(v) local public transportation support;

“(vi) interpretation and translation services;

“(vii) legal services, particularly services supporting applications for work authorization, asylum, and other types of humanitarian relief;

“(viii) programs, including case management and social work services, to provide support to individuals accessing and navigating available assistance and services;

“(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation service; and

“(x) other eligible services, as determined by the Director.

“(5) **LOCAL NEW ARRIVAL SERVICES BOARDS.**—

“(A) **COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION.**—The Director shall identify, in accordance with criteria to be established by the Board, communities throughout the United States where eligible arrivals are residing.

“(B) **ESTABLISHMENT; DESIGNATION.**—Each community designated pursuant to subparagraph (A) desiring a grant under paragraph (7) shall—

“(i) establish a local new arrival services board (referred to in this paragraph as a ‘local board’); or

“(ii) at the discretion of the Director, appoint an existing substantially similar board to carry out the functions of a local board.

“(C) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Each local board shall consist of—

“(i) the head of a unit of local government within such community, or of a relevant department of such local government;

“(ii) to the extent practicable, representatives of the organizations that are represented on the Board;

“(iii) representatives of other local, private nonprofit organizations, as appropriate;

“(iv) representatives of ethnic and community-based organizations; and

“(v) an asylum seeker or parolee being served by the Program.

“(D) **CHAIRPERSON.**—Each local board established pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

“(E) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Each local board established pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall—

“(i) determine which local government entities or private nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive grants to provide the services referred to in paragraph (4)(C);

“(ii) allocate available Federal funding among the entities and organizations referred to in clause (i);

“(iii) monitor recipient service providers for Program compliance;

“(iv) reallocate Federal funding among service providers whenever a particular service provider fails to substantially comply with Program requirements;

“(v) ensure proper reporting to the Board; and

“(vi) coordinate with other Federal, State, and local government assistance programs available in the community.

“(6) **ELIGIBLE SERVICES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall annually establish guidelines specifying which services for eligible arrivals may be funded under the Program, which may include—

“(i) noncustodial housing services, including rental and utility assistance;

“(ii) cultural orientation training;

“(iii) culturally competent interpretation and translation services;

“(iv) workforce development services, including education, employment, and training services, work study, loan programs, and childcare support;

“(v) immigration-related legal services, including preparation and practice;

“(vi) referral and case management services;

“(vii) medical and mental health services or insurance for such services;

“(viii) local public transportation support;

“(ix) voluntary, coordinated relocation services; and

“(x) other eligible services, as determined by the Director.

“(B) **PUBLICATION.**—The Director shall annually publish the guidelines established pursuant to subparagraph (A) in the Federal Register before the first day of the fiscal year during which they will take effect.

“(7) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

“(A) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—The Director, after considering recommendation from the Board, may award competitive grants to communities identified pursuant to paragraph (5)(A) which have established a local new arrival services board to provide services to eligible arrivals who are residing in such communities. The allocation of available Federal funding among such communities shall be based on a formula developed by the Office. Grant funds allocated to a community pursuant to this subparagraph shall be disbursed to government human services agencies and local nonprofit organizations that have successfully provided human and social services in accordance with Federal, State, and local requirements, as applicable.

“(B) **FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS.**—A portion of the Federal funding made available to carry out this subsection shall be reserved for Federal block grants to communities. Communities receiving funding under this subparagraph shall match every \$1 of Federal funding with \$1 of non-Federal funding.



“(C) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The primary purpose of the grants awarded pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be to increase the capacity of grant recipients to provide medium-term services and other service navigation assistance to new arrivals to attain self-sufficiency.

“(D) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In making the determination for funding levels for grants under this subsection, the Director shall consider the funding levels recommendations from the Board. If the Director disagrees with such recommendations, the Director shall submit a report to the Board that explains the reasons for rejecting such recommendations.

“(E) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this subsection if the entity is—

“(i) a local government, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit organization (as such terms are defined in section 200.1 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations);

“(ii) a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

“(iii) any agency or instrumentality of a governmental entity listed in clause (ii) (excluding local governments); or

“(iv) physically located in a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States.

“(8) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—When issuing guidelines to carry out this subsection, including setting eligibility requirements and making program changes, the Director shall not be subject to the procedural rulemaking requirements set forth in subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedures Act’).

“(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2028, \$3,000,000,000 to carry out the Program.”.

**SA 30.** Ms. HIRONO 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 9 and all that follows through page 8, line 10.

**SA 31.** Ms. HIRONO 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, add the following:

**SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO ALIENS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) EXCLUSION.—An alien who is or was 18 years of age or younger on the date on which the alien is or was charged with, is or was arrested for, is or was convicted of, admits or admitted to having committed, or admits or admitted committing acts which constitute the essential elements of an offense described in paragraph (1)(E) shall not be subject to detention or custody under that paragraph.”.

**SA 32.** Ms. HIRONO 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. ANNUAL PUBLIC REPORT.**

The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall annually compile and publish, on a publicly accessible website, a report identifying the Federal costs, for the 12-month period preceding such publication, relating to the implementation of section 236(c)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 2(1)(C), including—

(1) the additional costs associated with private prison contracts; and

(2) the best estimates of the additional profit private prisons have made as a result of such implementation.

**SA 33.** Ms. HIRONO 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:

On page 2, line 21, strike “and”.

On page 3, line 8, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

On page 3, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(E) shall not apply with respect to the following individuals:

“(A) An individual who arrived in the United States before the age of 16.

“(B) An individual granted relief under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program described in the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’ issued on June 15, 2012 (commonly known as the ‘DACA program’).”.

On page 4, strike lines 19 through 21 and insert the following:

“(f) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging an action or decision by the

On page 5, line 10, strike the period at the end.

On page 5, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any action or decision by the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to release or grant bond or parole to any alien who—

“(A) arrived in the United States before the age of 16; or

“(B) was granted relief under the DACA program.”.

**SA 34.** Ms. HIRONO 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:

On page 2, line 21, strike “and”.

On page 3, line 8, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

On page 3, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) EXCEPTION.—Paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall not apply if the detention of the alien would result in the separation of an individual under the age of 16 from their parent.”.

**SA 35.** Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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, add the following:

**SEC. 4. PROTECTION FOR IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.**

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PROTECTION FOR IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A custody determination under paragraph (1)(E) shall not be a basis to terminate a grant of deferred action pursuant to—

“(i) the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’ issued on June 15, 2012; or

“(ii) the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals’ (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)).

“(B) CUSTODY.—Aliens who meet the requirements for deferred action pursuant to the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ‘Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals’ (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)) shall not be subject to paragraphs (1)(E) and (3).

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed—

“(i) to prevent the termination of a grant of deferred action for criminal conduct that would otherwise render an individual ineligible for deferred action under the policies and regulations described in subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) to modify requirements relating to enforcement for criminal conduct that would subject an alien to custody or removal pursuant to any other provision of this Act.”.

**SA 36.** Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. BOOKER) 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, add the following:

**DIVISION B—AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2025**

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This division may be cited as the “American Dream and Promise Act of 2025”.

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

**DIVISION B—AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2025**

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2025**

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Permanent resident status on a conditional basis for certain long-term residents who entered the United States as children.

Sec. 103. Terms of permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

Sec. 104. Removal of conditional basis of permanent resident status.

Sec. 105. Restoration of State option to determine residency for purposes of higher education benefits.

**TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE ACT OF 2025**

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Adjustment of status for certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure.

Sec. 203. Clarification.

**TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Submission of biometric and biographic data; background checks.

Sec. 303. Limitation on removal; application and fee exemption; and other conditions on eligible individuals.

Sec. 304. Determination of continuous presence and residence.

Sec. 305. Exemption from numerical limitations.

Sec. 306. Availability of administrative and judicial review.

Sec. 307. Documentation requirements.

Sec. 308. Rulemaking.

Sec. 309. Confidentiality of information.

Sec. 310. Grant program to assist eligible applicants.

Sec. 311. Provisions affecting eligibility for adjustment of status.

Sec. 312. Supplementary surcharge for appointed counsel.

Sec. 313. Annual report on provisional denial authority.

**TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2025**

**SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Dream Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 102. 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, and except as provided in section 104(c)(2), an alien shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions of this title.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section

104(c)(2), an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States, is subject to a grant of Deferred Enforced Departure, has temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), or is the son or daughter of an alien admitted as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (E)(i), (E)(ii), (H)(i)(b), or (L) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—

(A) the alien has been continuously physically present in the United States since January 1, 2021;

(B) the alien was 18 years of age or younger on the date on which the alien entered the United States and has continuously resided in the United States since such entry;

(C) the alien—

(i) subject to paragraph (2), is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), or (10) 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) is not barred from adjustment of status under this title based on the criminal and national security grounds described under subsection (c), subject to the provisions of such subsection; and

(D) the alien—

(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education;

(ii) has been admitted to an area career and technical education school at the postsecondary level;

(iii) in the United States, has obtained—

(I) a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school;

(II) a General Education Development credential, a high school equivalency diploma recognized under State law, or another similar State-authorized credential;

(III) a credential or certificate from an area career and technical education school at the secondary level; or

(IV) a recognized postsecondary credential; or

(v) is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in—

(I) obtaining a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent under State law;

(II) passing the General Education Development test, a high school equivalence diploma examination, or other similar State-authorized exam;

(III) obtaining a certificate or credential from an area career and technical education school providing education at the secondary level; or

(IV) obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential.

(2) **WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.**—With respect to any benefit under this title, and in addition to the waivers under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (1), (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, for family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(3) **APPLICATION FEE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require an alien applying under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application but does not exceed \$495.00.

(B) **SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR APPLICANTS WITH DACA.**—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined procedure for aliens who have been granted DACA and who meet the requirements for renewal (under the terms of the program in effect on January 1, 2017) to

apply for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this section, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2). Such procedure shall not include a requirement that the applicant pay a fee, except that the Secretary may require an applicant who meets the requirements for lawful permanent residence without the conditional basis under section 104(c)(2) to pay a fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application, subject to the exemption under section 303(c).

(4) **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(5) **MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.**—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2), 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) **CRIMINAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY BARS.**—

(1) **GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien is ineligible for adjustment of status under this title (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) if any of the following apply:

(A) The alien is inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(B) Excluding any offense under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, and any minor traffic offense, the alien has been convicted of—

(i) any felony offense;

(ii) three or more misdemeanor offenses (excluding 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, and any offense involving civil disobedience without violence) not occurring on the same date, and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct; or

(iii) a misdemeanor offense of domestic violence, unless the alien demonstrates that such crime is related to the alien having been—

(I) a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse or neglect, abuse or neglect in later life, or human trafficking;

(II) battered or subjected to extreme cruelty; or

(III) a victim of criminal activity described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii)).

(2) **WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS.**—For humanitarian purposes, family unity, or if otherwise in the public interest, the Secretary may—

(A) waive the grounds of inadmissibility under subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)), unless the conviction forming the basis for inadmissibility would otherwise render the alien ineligible under paragraph (1)(B) (subject to subparagraph (B)); and

(B) for purposes of clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), waive consideration of—

(i) one misdemeanor offense if the alien has not been convicted of any offense in the 5-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for adjustment of status under this title; or

(ii) up to two misdemeanor offenses if the alien has not been convicted of any offense in the 10-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for adjustment of status under this title.

(3) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SECONDARY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding an alien's eligibility for adjustment of status under this title, and subject to the procedures described in this paragraph, the Secretary may, as a matter of non-delegable discretion, provisionally deny an application for adjustment of status (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) if the Secretary, based on clear and convincing evidence, which shall include credible law enforcement information, determines that the alien is described in subparagraph (B) or (D).

(B) PUBLIC SAFETY.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if—

(i) excluding 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 under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, any offense involving civil disobedience without violence, and any minor traffic offense, the alien—

(I) has been convicted of a misdemeanor offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 30 days; or

(II) has been adjudicated delinquent in a State or local juvenile court proceeding that resulted in a disposition ordering placement in a secure facility; and

(ii) the alien poses a significant and continuing threat to public safety related to such conviction or adjudication.

(C) PUBLIC SAFETY DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the Secretary shall consider the recency of the conviction or adjudication; the length of any imposed sentence or placement; the nature and seriousness of the conviction or adjudication, including whether the elements of the offense include the unlawful possession or use of a deadly weapon to commit an offense or other conduct intended to cause serious bodily injury; and any mitigating factors pertaining to the alien's role in the commission of the offense.

(D) GANG PARTICIPATION.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if the alien has, within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application, knowingly, willfully, and voluntarily participated in offenses committed by a criminal street gang (as described in subsections (a) and (c) of section 521 of title 18, United States Code) with the intent to promote or further the commission of such offenses.

(E) EVIDENTIARY LIMITATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (D), allegations of gang membership obtained from a State or Federal in-house or local database, or a network of databases used for the purpose of recording and sharing activities of alleged gang members across law enforcement agencies, shall not establish the participation described in such paragraph.

(F) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Prior to rendering a discretionary decision under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide written notice of the intent to provisionally deny the application to the alien (or the alien's counsel of record, if any) by certified mail and, if an electronic mail address is provided, by electronic mail (or other form of electronic communication). Such notice shall—

(I) articulate with specificity all grounds for the preliminary determination, including the evidence relied upon to support the determination; and

(II) provide the alien with not less than 90 days to respond.

(ii) SECOND NOTICE.—Not more than 30 days after the issuance of the notice under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide a second written notice that meets the requirements of such clause.

(iii) NOTICE NOT RECEIVED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an applicant provides good cause for not contesting a provisional denial under this paragraph, including a failure to receive notice as required under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall, upon a motion filed by the alien, reopen an application for adjustment of status under this title and allow the applicant an opportunity to respond, consistent with clause (i)(II).

(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A PROVISIONAL DENIAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if, after notice and the opportunity to respond under subparagraph (F), the Secretary provisionally denies an application for adjustment of status under this division, the alien shall have 60 days from the date of the Secretary's determination to seek review of such determination in an appropriate United States district court.

(ii) SCOPE OF REVIEW AND DECISION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, review under paragraph (1) shall be de novo and based solely on the administrative record, except that the applicant shall be given the opportunity to supplement the administrative record and the Secretary shall be given the opportunity to rebut the evidence and arguments raised in such submission. Upon issuing its decision, the court shall remand the matter, with appropriate instructions, to the Department of Homeland Security to render a final decision on the application.

(iii) APPOINTED COUNSEL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an applicant seeking judicial review under clause (i) shall be represented by counsel. Upon the request of the applicant, counsel shall be appointed for the applicant, in accordance with procedures to be established by the Attorney General within 90 days of the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall be funded in accordance with fees collected and deposited in the Immigration Counsel Account under section 312.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term "felony offense" means an offense under Federal or State law that is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

(B) the term "misdemeanor offense" means an offense under Federal or State law that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 5 days but not more than 1 year; and

(C) the term "crime of domestic violence" means any offense that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against a person committed by a current or former spouse of the person, by an individual with whom the person shares a child in common, by an individual who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the person as a spouse, by an individual similarly situated to a spouse of the person under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurs, or by any other individual against a person who is protected from that individual's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or any State, Indian Tribal government, or unit of local government.

(d) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIEN MINORS.—An alien who is 18 years of age or younger and meets the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of sub-

section (b)(1) shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to meet the educational requirements under subparagraph (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence or continue with removal proceedings against such an alien.

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this section, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this title or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SEC. 103. 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 10 years, unless such period is extended by the Secretary; and

(2) subject to revocation 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) REVOCATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may revoke 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 section 102(b)(1)(C); and

(2) prior to the revocation, provides the alien—

(A) notice of the proposed revocation; and

(B) the opportunity for a hearing to provide evidence that the alien meets such requirements or otherwise to contest the proposed revocation.

(d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is revoked under subsection (c), shall return to the immigration status that the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

SEC. 104. 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 section 102(b)(1)(C);

(B) has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States during the period in which the alien has permanent resident status on a conditional basis; and

(C)(i) has obtained a degree from an institution of higher education, or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, of a program in the United States leading to a bachelor's degree or higher degree or a recognized postsecondary credential from an area career and technical education school providing education at the postsecondary level;

(ii) has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or

(iii) demonstrates earned income 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, in the case of an alien who was enrolled in an institution of higher education, an area

career and technical education school to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or an education program described in section 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the Secretary shall reduce such total 3-year requirement by the total of such periods of enrollment.

(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; or

(iii) the removal of the alien from the United States would result in 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.**—The Secretary may, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require aliens applying for removal of the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(5) **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—The Secretary may not remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(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.

(c) **TIMING OF APPROVAL OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this title may apply to have such conditional basis removed at any time after such alien has met the eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (a).

(2) **APPROVAL WITH REGARD TO INITIAL APPLICATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resident status without conditional basis, any alien who—

(i) demonstrates eligibility for lawful permanent residence status on a conditional basis under section 102(b); and

(ii) subject to the exceptions described in subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3)(B) of this section, already has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section at the time such alien first sub-

mits an application for benefits under this title.

(B) **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—Subsection (a)(5) shall apply to an alien seeking lawful permanent resident status without conditional basis in an initial application in the same manner as it applies to an alien seeking removal of the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status. Section 102(b)(4) shall not be construed to require the Secretary to conduct more than one identical security or law enforcement background check on such an alien.

(C) **APPLICATION FEES.**—In the case of an alien seeking lawful permanent resident status without conditional basis in an initial application, the alien shall pay the fee required under subsection (a)(4), subject to the exemption allowed under section 303(c), but shall not be required to pay the application fee under section 102(b)(3).

**SEC. 105. 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 under 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).

**TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE ACT OF 2025**

**SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “American Promise Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 202. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATIONALS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES DESIGNATED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS OR DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, an alien described in subsection (b) if the alien—

(1) applies for such adjustment, including submitting any required documents under section 307, not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) has been continuously physically present in the United States for a period of not less than 3 years; and

(3) subject to subsection (c), is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (6)(D), (6)(E), (6)(F), (6)(G), (8), or (10) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(b) **ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.**—An alien shall be eligible for adjustment of status under this section if the alien is an individual—

(1) who—

(A) is a national of a foreign state (or part thereof) (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, is a person who last habitually resided in such state) with a designation under subsection (b) of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) on January 1, 2017, who had or was otherwise eligible for temporary protected status on such date notwithstanding subsections (c)(1)(A)(iv) and (c)(3)(C) of such section; and

(B) has not engaged in conduct since such date that would render the alien ineligible for temporary protected status under section 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)); or

(2) who was eligible for Deferred Enforced Departure as of January 20, 2021, and has not engaged in conduct since that date that would render the alien ineligible for Deferred Enforced Departure.

(c) **WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), with respect to any benefit under this title, and in addition to any waivers that are otherwise available, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (1), subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), subparagraphs (D) through (G) of paragraph (6), or paragraph (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary may not waive a ground described in paragraph (1) if such inadmissibility is based on a conviction or convictions, and such conviction or convictions would otherwise render the alien ineligible under section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B)).

(d) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **FEE.**—The Secretary shall, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require an alien applying for adjustment of status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application, but does not exceed \$1,140.

(2) **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(3) **WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this section, cease processing of the application and close the case. Withdrawal of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this title or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

**SEC. 203. CLARIFICATION.**

Section 244(f)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(4)) is amended by inserting after “considered” the following: “as having been inspected and admitted into the United States, and”.

**TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In this division:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this division that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) **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.

(3) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term “area career and technical education school” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(4) **DACA.**—The term “DACA” means deferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012.

(5) **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)).

(6) **FEDERAL POVERTY LINE.**—The term “Federal poverty line” has the meaning given such term in section 213A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a).

(7) HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms “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).

(8) 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)).

(9) 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.

(10) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary credential” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(11) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(12) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “Uniformed Services” has the meaning given the term “uniformed services” in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—For purposes of adjustment of status under this division, the terms “convicted” and “conviction”, as used in this division and in sections 212 and 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182, 1254a), do not include a judgment that has been expunged or set aside, that resulted in a rehabilitative disposition, or the equivalent.

**SEC. 302. SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA; BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

(a) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant an alien adjustment of status under this division, on either a conditional or permanent basis, 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.

(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 adjustment of status under this division, on either a conditional or permanent basis. The status of an alien may not be adjusted, on either a conditional or permanent basis, unless security and law enforcement background checks are completed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

**SEC. 303. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL, APPLICATION AND FEE EXEMPTION; AND OTHER CONDITIONS ON ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

(a) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.—An alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for relief under this division shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such relief and may not be removed until, subject to section 306(c)(2), a final decision establishing ineligibility for relief is rendered.

(b) APPLICATION.—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 adjustment of status under this division. 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 Sec-

retary 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.

(c) FEE EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying an application fee required under this division if the applicant—

(1) is 18 years of age or younger;

(2) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the applicant files an application under this division, that is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line;

(3) is in foster care or otherwise lacks any parental or other familial support; or

(4) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability.

(d) ADVANCE PAROLE.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for adjustment of status under this division and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final decision regarding such application, the alien shall be eligible to apply for advance parole. Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien granted advance parole under this division.

(e) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to this division, who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to this Act, or who has pending an application under this division, shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

**SEC. 304. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE AND RESIDENCE.**

(a) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—Any period of continuous physical presence or continuous residence in the United States of an alien who applies for permanent resident status under this division (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) 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 OR RESIDENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain—

(A) continuous physical presence in the United States under this division 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; and

(B) continuous residence in the United States under this division if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 180 days, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that the alien did not in fact abandon residence in the United States during such period.

(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—

(A) the serious illness of the alien;

(B) death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien;

(C) processing delays associated with the application process for a visa or other travel document; or

(D) restrictions on international travel due to 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.

(3) 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 paragraph (1).

(c) WAIVER OF PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—With respect to aliens who were removed or departed the United States on or after January 20, 2017, and who were continuously physically present in the United States for at least 4 years prior to such removal or departure, the Secretary may, as a matter of discretion, waive the physical presence requirement under section 102(b)(1)(A) or section 202(a)(2) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or because a waiver is otherwise in the public interest. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a procedure for such aliens to apply for relief under section 102 or 202 from outside the United States if they would have been eligible for relief under such section, but for their removal or departure.

**SEC. 305. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.**

Nothing in this division 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 under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)).

**SEC. 306. AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to aliens who have applied for adjustment of status under this division a process by which an applicant may seek administrative appellate review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of such status.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as provided in subsection (c), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien may seek judicial review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of such status, under this division in an appropriate United States district court.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien seeking administrative or judicial review under this division may not be removed from the United States until a final decision is rendered establishing that the alien is ineligible for adjustment of status under this division.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may remove an alien described in paragraph (1) pending judicial review if such removal is based on criminal or national security grounds described in this division. Such removal shall not affect the alien’s right to judicial review under this division. The Secretary shall promptly return a removed alien if a decision to deny an application for adjustment of status under this division, or to revoke such status, is reversed.

**SEC. 307. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An alien’s application for permanent resident status under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) may include, as evidence of identity, the following:

(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.

(6) A State-issued identification card bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(7) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENTRY, CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE, LACK OF ABANDONMENT OF RESIDENCE.—To establish that an alien was 18 years of age or younger on the date on which the alien entered the United States, and has continuously resided in the United States since such entry, as required under section 102(b)(1)(B), that an alien has been continuously physically present in the United States, as required under section 102(b)(1)(A) or 202(a)(2), or that an alien has not abandoned residence in the United States, as required under section 104(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit the following forms of evidence:

(1) Passport entries, including admission stamps on the alien's passport.

(2) Any document from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security noting the alien's date of entry into the United States.

(3) Records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States.

(4) Employment records of the alien that include the employer's name and contact information, or other records demonstrating earned income.

(5) Records of service from the Uniformed Services.

(6) Official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony.

(7) A birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States.

(8) 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.

(9) Automobile license receipts or registration.

(10) Deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts.

(11) 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.

(12) Tax receipts.

(13) Insurance policies.

(14) Remittance records, including copies of money order receipts sent in or out of the country.

(15) Travel records.

(16) Dated bank transactions.

(17) Two 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.

(18) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(c) 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 may 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.

(d) 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 may submit to the Secretary a diploma or other document from the institution stating that the alien has received such a degree.

(e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDENTIAL, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—To establish that in the United States an alien has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternate award from a public or private high school, has obtained the General Education Development credential, or otherwise has satisfied section 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the alien may submit to the Secretary the following:

(1) A high school diploma, certificate of completion, or other alternate award.

(2) A high school equivalency diploma or certificate recognized under State law.

(3) Evidence that the alien passed a State-authorized exam, including the General Education Development test, in the United States.

(4) Evidence that the alien successfully completed an area career and technical education program, such as a certification, certificate, or similar alternate award.

(5) Evidence that the alien obtained a recognized postsecondary credential.

(6) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is enrolled in any school or education program described in section 102(b)(1)(D)(iv) or 104(a)(1)(C), the alien may 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.

(g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt from an application fee under this division, the alien may submit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

(1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To establish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien may provide proof of identity, as described in subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is 18 years of age or younger.

(2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To establish the alien's income, the alien may provide—

(A) employment records or other records of earned income, including 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 two 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, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien is in foster care, lacks parental or familial support, or has a serious, chronic disability, the alien may provide at least two 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, 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.

(h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satisfies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth in section 104(a)(2)(C), the alien may submit to the Secretary at least two 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.

(i) 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 may 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.

(j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EARNED INCOME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the earned income requirement under section 104(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

(A) establish compliance with such 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 earned income requirement by submitting at least two types of reliable documents that provide evidence of employment or other forms of earned income, including—

(A) bank records;

(B) business records;

(C) employer or contractor 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;

(F) remittance records; or

(G) any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(k) 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 under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) is being obtained fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the use of such document or class of documents.

#### SEC. 308. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register interim final rules implementing this division, which shall allow eligible individuals to immediately apply for relief under this division. Notwithstanding section 553 of

title 5, United States Code, the regulation shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment. The Secretary shall finalize such rules not later than 180 days after the date of publication.

(b) **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 division.

**SEC. 309. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may not disclose or use information (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) provided in applications filed under this division or in requests for DACA for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) **REFERRALS PROHIBITED.**—The Secretary, based solely on information provided in an application for adjustment of status under this division (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) or an application for DACA, 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) **LIMITED EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for adjustment of status under this division may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application for adjustment of status under this division;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony offense 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. 310. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish, within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible nonprofit organizations that will use the funding to assist eligible applicants under this division by providing them with the services described in subsection (b).

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Grant funds awarded under this section shall be used for the design and implementation of programs that provide—

(1) information to the public regarding the eligibility and benefits of permanent resident status under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)), particularly to individuals potentially eligible for such status;

(2) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, to individuals submitting applications for adjustment of status under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)), including—

(A) screening prospective applicants to assess their eligibility for such status;

(B) completing applications and petitions, including providing assistance in obtaining the requisite documents and supporting evidence; and

(C) providing any other assistance that the Secretary or grantee considers useful or necessary to apply for adjustment of status under this division (whether on a conditional

basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)); and

(3) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, and instruction, to individuals—

(A) on the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship;

(B) in civics and English as a second language;

(C) in preparation for the General Education Development test; and

(D) in applying for adjustment of status and United States citizenship.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2034 to carry out this section.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

**SEC. 311. PROVISIONS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.**

An alien’s eligibility to be lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this division (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) shall not preclude the alien from seeking any status under any other provision of law for which the alien may otherwise be eligible.

**SEC. 312. SUPPLEMENTARY SURCHARGE FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in section 302 and in cases where the applicant is exempt from paying a fee under section 303(c), in any case in which a fee is charged pursuant to this division, an additional surcharge of \$25 shall be imposed and collected for the purpose of providing appointed counsel to applicants seeking judicial review of the Secretary’s decision to provisionally deny an application under this division.

(b) **IMMIGRATION COUNSEL ACCOUNT.**—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account which shall be known as the “Immigration Counsel Account”. Fees collected under subsection (a) shall be deposited into the Immigration Counsel Account and shall remain available until expended for purposes of providing appointed counsel as required under this division.

(c) **REPORT.**—At the end of each 2-year period, beginning with the establishment of this account, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Congress concerning the status of the account, including any balances therein, and recommend any adjustment in the prescribed fee that may be required to ensure that the receipts collected from the fee charged for the succeeding two years equal, as closely as possible, the cost of providing appointed counsel as required under this division.

**SEC. 313. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVISIONAL DENIAL AUTHORITY.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Congress a report detailing the number of applicants that receive—

(1) a provisional denial under this division;

(2) a final denial under this division without seeking judicial review;

(3) a final denial under this division after seeking judicial review; and

(4) an approval under this division after seeking judicial review.

**SA 37.** Mr. COONS 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:

At the end add the following:

“(3) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of the Laken Riley Act (or an amendment made by such Act), section 3 of the Laken Riley Act (and the amendments made by such section) shall have no force or effect.”.

**SA 38.** 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, add the following:

**SEC. 4. ACCELERATED TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EASEMENTS AND LEASES TO INSTALL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PROPERTY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided by subparagraph (E), not later”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) **SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PROPERTY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of an application for an easement, right-of-way, or lease to, in, over, or on a building or other property described in clause (ii), install, construct, modify, or maintain a communications facility installation—

“(I) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall grant or deny the application not later than 120 days after receiving the application; and

“(II) if the Secretary does not grant or deny the application within the time required by subclause (I), the regional official of U.S. Customs and Border Protection who oversees the building or other property may grant or deny the application.

“(ii) **PROPERTY DESCRIBED.**—A building or other property described in this clause is a building or other property—

“(I) owned by the Department of Homeland Security and operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

“(II) located less than 100 miles from an international land border of the United States.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subparagraph (E) of section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, as added by subsection (a), applies with respect to applications described in that subparagraph that are filed on or after, or pending on, the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 39.** 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:

On page 2, strike lines 7 through 19, and insert the following:

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **CUSTODY.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General shall take into custody any alien who—

“(A)(i) is inadmissible by reason of having been convicted of any offense described in section 212(a)(2); or

“(ii) has been arrested for, or charged with, any such offense and failed to appear for a hearing or procedural appearance relating to such charge;

“(B)(i) is deportable by reason of having been convicted of any offense described in subparagraph (A)(ii), (A)(iii), (B), (C), or (D) of section 237(a)(2); or

“(ii) has been arrested for, or charged with, any such offense and failed to appear for a hearing or procedural appearance relating to such charge;

“(C)(i) is deportable under section 237(a)(2)(A)(i) on the basis of conviction for an offense for which the alien has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 1 year; or

“(ii) has been arrested for, or charged with, any such offense and failed to appear for a hearing or procedural appearance relating to such charge;

“(D)(i) is inadmissible under section 212(a)(3)(B) or deportable under section 237(a)(4)(B); or

“(ii) has been arrested for, or charged with, any terrorism offense described in either such section and failed to appear for a hearing or procedural appearance relating to such charge;

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

“(ii)(I) is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense; or

“(II) is charged with any of the crimes listed in subclause (I) and failed to appear for a hearing or procedural appearance relating to such charge or for a hearing relating to the alien's immigration status, when the alien is released, without regard to whether the alien is released on parole, supervised release, or probation, and without regard to whether the alien may be arrested or imprisoned again for the same offense.”.

**SA 40.** Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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:

In section 3, add at the end the following:

(g) **PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.**—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of one or more constitutionally protected rights, including due process rights, of any individual in such State by the Department of Homeland Security or any agency within the Department of Homeland Security, 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 subsection to the greatest extent possible.

**SA 41.** Mr. MURPHY 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:

On page 2, beginning on line 14, strike “and” and all that follows through “(ii)” on line 15, and insert the following:

“(ii) is 14 years of age or older; and  
“(iii)

**SA 42.** Mr. MARSHALL 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. PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY ALIENS.**

(a) **GRANTS FOR ANGEL FAMILIES.**—Section 1403 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) such program is operated by a State and offers compensation to—

“(A) victims and survivors of victims of criminal violence, including drunk driving and domestic violence, for—

“(i) medical expenses attributable to a physical injury resulting from a compensable crime, including expenses for mental health counseling and care;

“(ii) loss of wages attributable to a physical injury resulting from a compensable crime; and

“(iii) funeral expenses attributable to a death resulting from a compensable crime; or

“(B) angel families for—

“(i) medical expenses attributable to any injury resulting from a compensable crime, including expenses for mental health counseling and care;

“(ii) loss of wages attributable to emotional distress resulting from a compensable crime; and

“(iii) funeral expenses attributable to a death resulting from a compensable crime;”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) the term ‘angel family’ means the immediate family members of any individual who is a victim of homicide committed by—

“(A) an alien described in section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)) who is unlawfully present in the United States; or

“(B) any member of an international criminal organization involved in the unlawful trafficking of controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), including an international drug cartel.”.

(b) **VICTIMS OF IMMIGRATION CRIME ENGAGEMENT OFFICE.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Title I of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 111 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“**SEC. 104. VICTIMS OF IMMIGRATION CRIME ENGAGEMENT OFFICE.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ALIEN.**—The term ‘alien’ means an individual who—

“(A) is described in section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)); and

“(B) is unlawfully present in the United States.

“(2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office established pursuant to subsection (b).

“(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish, within the Office of the Secretary, the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office to provide proactive, timely, and professional services to victims of crimes committed by aliens who are inadmissible under section 212(a), deportable under section 237(a), or otherwise unlawfully present in the United States, and to the family members of such victims.

“(c) **DUTIES.**—The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall—

“(1) create a hotline for victims described in subsection (b) and for the family members of such victims—

“(A) to ensure that such victims and family members receive the support they need, including by—

“(i) providing information available to help victims and their family members understand the immigration enforcement and removal process;

“(ii) liaising with social service professionals to assist in providing support services referral information; and

“(iii) directing victims and their family members to a wide range of available resources;

“(B) to assist victims and family members of victims to register for automated custody status information related to the criminal alien;

“(C) to provide victims and their family members with releasable criminal or immigration history about the criminal alien; and

“(D) to provide immediate services to victims and their family members and collect metrics and information to determine additional resource needs and how to improve services to victims; and

“(2) conduct a case study on providing proactive, timely, and professional services to victims of crimes, and the family members of such victims, that are committed by aliens who are inadmissible under section 212(a), deportable under section 237(a), or otherwise unlawfully present in the United States.

“(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report regarding the impact on victims of crimes committed by aliens who are inadmissible under section 212(a), deportable under section 237(a), or otherwise unlawfully present in the United States that includes—

“(1) a summary of the case study described in subsection (c)(2); and

“(2) information regarding—

“(A) the demographics of such victims and criminal aliens;

“(B) the locations of such crimes;

“(C) the type of crimes committed; and

“(D) whether the criminal aliens have committed multiple crimes.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 103 the following:

“Sec. 104. Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office.”.

**SA 43.** Mr. MARSHALL 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. INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORTABILITY RELATED TO SEX OFFENSES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, CHILD ABUSE, OR VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTION ORDER.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act”.

(b) **INADMISSIBILITY.**—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(J) **SEX OFFENSES.**—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a sex offense (as such term is defined in section 111(5) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))), or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is inadmissible.

“(K) **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, CHILD ABUSE, OR VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER.**—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of—

“(i) a crime of domestic violence (as such term is defined in section 237(a)(2)(E));

“(ii) a crime of stalking;

“(iii) a crime of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment; or

“(iv) a crime of violating the portion of a protection order (as such term is defined in section 237(a)(2)(E)) that involves protection against credible threats of violence, repeated harassment, or bodily injury to the person or persons for whom the protection order was issued, is inadmissible.”.

(c) **DEPORTABILITY.**—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AND” and inserting “AND CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN”; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting before the period at the end the following “, and includes any crime that constitutes domestic violence, as such term is defined in section 40002(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a), regardless of whether the jurisdiction receives grant funding under that Act”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) **SEX OFFENSES.**—Any alien who has been convicted of a sex offense (as such term is defined in section 111(5) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))) or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is deportable.”.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or in the amendments made by this section, may be construed to limit the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security to not deport an alien determined to be inadmissible or deportable under the provisions of law referred to in section 3, for humanitarian purposes, to preserve family unity, or if otherwise in the public interest.

**SA 44.** Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and 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:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 4. JOINT OPERATIONS CENTERS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Advanced Border Coordination Act of 2025”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CENTERS.**—The term “Centers” means the Joint Operations Centers established under subsection (c)(1).

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) **PARTICIPATING FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “participating Federal agency” means—

(A) the Department;

(B) the Department of Defense;

(C) the Department of Justice; and

(D) any other Federal agency as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall establish not less than 2 Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States to provide unified coordination centers, where law enforcement from multiple Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies can collaborate in accordance with the purposes described in paragraph (2).

(2) **MATTERS COVERED.**—The Centers shall provide centralized operations hubs for matters relating to—

(A) implementing coordination and communication for field operations between participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed;

(B) coordinating operations across participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed, including ground, air, and sea or amphibious operations; and

(C) coordinating and supporting border operations, including deterring and detecting criminal activity relating to—

(i) transnational criminal organizations;

(ii) illegal border crossings;

(iii) the seizure of weapons;

(iv) the seizure of drugs;

(v) the seizure of high valued property;

(vi) terrorism;

(vii) human trafficking;

(viii) drug trafficking; and

(ix) such additional matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—To ensure effective transmission of information between participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, for the purposes described in paragraph (2), coordination and communication shall include—

(A) Federal agencies sharing pertinent information with participating State, local, and Tribal agencies through the Centers; and

(B) Federal agencies notifying participating State, local, and Tribal agencies of operations occurring within the jurisdictions of those agencies.

(4) **WORKFORCE CAPABILITIES.**—The Centers shall—

(A) track and coordinate deployment of participating personnel; and

(B) coordinate training, as needed.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall consult with participating Federal agencies, and shall seek feedback from participating State, local, and Tribal agencies, to report to Congress—

(1) a description of the efforts undertaken to establish the Centers;

(2) an identification of the resources used for the operations of the Centers;

(3) a description of the key operations coordinated and supported by each Center;

(4) a description of any significant interoperability and communication gaps identified between participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies within each Center;

(5) recommendations for improved coordination and communication between participating Federal agencies in developing and operating current and future Centers; and

(6) other data as the Secretary determines appropriate.

**SA 45.** Ms. CORTEZ MASTO 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. INNOVATIVE BORDER TECHNOLOGIES.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Emerging Innovative Border Technologies Act”.

(b) **INNOVATIVE AND EMERGING BORDER TECHNOLOGY PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (referred to in this section as “CBP”) and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department’s Chief Information Officer, Chief Procurement Officer, Privacy Officer, Civil Right and Civil Liberties Officer, General Counsel, and any other relevant offices and components of the Department of Homeland Security, shall submit a plan to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives for identifying, integrating, and deploying new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure to enhance CBP capabilities to meet its mission needs along international borders or at ports of entry.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) information regarding how CBP utilizes the CBP Innovation Team authority under paragraph (3) and other mechanisms to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (3);

(B) an assessment of the contributions directly attributable to such utilization;

(C) information regarding—

(i) the composition of each CBP Innovation Team; and

(ii) how each CBP Innovation Team coordinates and integrates efforts with the CBP acquisition program office and other partners within CBP and the Department of Homeland Security;

(D) the identification of technologies used by other Federal departments or agencies not in use by CBP that could assist in enhancing mission needs along international borders or at ports of entry;

(E) an analysis of authorities available to CBP to procure technologies referred to in paragraph (1);

(F) an assessment of whether additional or alternative authorities are needed to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (1);

(G) an explanation of how CBP plans to scale existing programs related to emerging

or advanced technologies that are safe and secure into programs of record;

(H) a description of each planned security-related technology program, including objectives, goals, and timelines for each such program;

(I) an assessment of the potential privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and safety impacts of these technologies on individuals, and potential mitigation measures;

(J) an assessment of CBP legacy border technology programs that could be phased out and replaced with technologies referred to in paragraph (1), including cost estimates relating to such phase out and replacement;

(K) information relating to how CBP is coordinating with the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate—

(i) to research and develop new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (1);

(ii) to identify new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure and that are in development or have been deployed by the private and public sectors and may satisfy the mission needs of CBP, with or without adaptation;

(iii) to incentivize the private sector to develop technologies, including privacy enhancing technologies, that may help CBP meet mission needs to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations; and

(iv) to identify and assess ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with the private sector, small, and disadvantaged businesses, intra-governmental entities, university centers of excellence, and Federal laboratories to leverage emerging technology and research within the public and private sectors;

(L) information relating to CBP's coordination with the Department of Homeland Security official responsible for artificial intelligence policy to ensure the plan complies with the Department's policies and measures promoting responsible use of artificial intelligence;

(M) information regarding metrics and key performance parameters for evaluating the effectiveness of efforts to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (1);

(N) the identification of recent technological advancements relating to—

(i) manned aircraft sensor, communication, and common operating picture technology;

(ii) unmanned aerial systems and related technology, including counter-unmanned aerial system technology;

(iii) surveillance technology, including—

(I) mobile surveillance vehicles;

(II) associated electronics, including cameras, sensor technology, and radar;

(III) tower-based surveillance technology;

(IV) advanced unattended surveillance sensors; and

(V) deployable, lighter-than-air, ground surveillance equipment;

(iv) nonintrusive inspection technology, including non-X-ray devices utilizing muon tomography and other advanced detection technology;

(v) tunnel detection technology; and

(vi) communications equipment, including—

(I) radios;

(II) long-term evolution broadband; and

(III) miniature satellites;

(O) information relating to how CBP is coordinating with the Department of Home-

land Security's Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Privacy Officer, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer, General Counsel, and other relevant offices and components of the Department in researching, developing, acquiring, or scaling new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure; and

(P) any other information the Secretary determines to be relevant.

(3) CBP INNOVATION TEAM AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner for CBP is authorized to maintain 1 or more CBP Innovation Teams to research and adapt commercial technologies that are new, innovative, disruptive, privacy enhancing, or otherwise emerging or advanced and may be used by CBP—

(i) to enhance mission needs along international borders and at ports of entry; and

(ii) to assess potential outcomes, including any negative consequences, of the introduction of emerging or advanced technologies with respect to which documented capability gaps in border security operations are yet to be determined.

(B) FUNCTIONS.—Each CBP Innovation Team shall—

(i) operate consistent with the Department of Homeland Security's and CBP's—

(I) procurement and acquisition management policy; and

(II) policies pertaining to responsible use of artificial intelligence; and

(ii) consult with the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to ensure programs, policies, and procedures involving civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy considerations are addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

(C) OPERATING PROCEDURES, PLANNING, STRATEGIC GOALS.—The Commissioner for CBP shall require each CBP Innovation Team maintained pursuant to subparagraph (A) to establish, in coordination with other appropriate offices of the Department of Homeland Security—

(i) operating procedures, which shall include—

(I) specificity regarding roles and responsibilities within each such team and with respect to Department of Homeland Security and non-Federal partners; and

(II) protocols for entering into agreements to rapidly transition such technologies to existing or new programs of record to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (1);

(ii) planning and strategic goals for each such team that includes projected costs, time frames, metrics, and key performance parameters relating to the achievement of identified strategic goals, including a metric to measure the rate at which technologies described in paragraph (1) are transitioned to existing or new programs of record in accordance with clause (i); and

(iii) operating procedures that ensure each such team is in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations and with the Department of Homeland Security's policies pertaining to procurement and acquisition management, privacy, civil rights and civil liberties, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence, including risk assessments and ongoing monitoring to ensure accuracy and reliability.

(D) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Commissioner for CBP shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives information relating to the activities of CBP Innovation Teams, including—

(i) copies of operating procedures and protocols required under subparagraph (B)(i) and planning and strategic goals required under subparagraph (B)(ii);

(ii) descriptions of the technologies piloted by each such team during the immediately preceding fiscal year, including—

(I) information regarding which such technologies are determined to have been successful; and

(II) the identification of documented capability gaps that are being addressed; and

(iii) information regarding the status of efforts to rapidly transition technologies determined successful to existing or new programs of record.

(4) COST-BENEFIT.—Before initiating the large-scale deployment of any new technology contained in the plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider the costs and benefits to the Government to ensure that the deployment of such technology will provide quantifiable improvements to border security.

**SA 46.** Mr. BUDD 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. PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the "Protect Our Law enforcement with Immigration Control and Enforcement Act of 2025" or the "POLICE Act of 2025".

(b) ASSAULT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(G) ASSAULT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of, any offense involving assault of a law enforcement officer is deportable.

"(ii) CIRCUMSTANCES.—The circumstances referred to in clause (i) are that the law enforcement officer was assaulted—

"(I) while he or she was engaged in the performance of his or her official duties;

"(II) because of the performance of his or her official duties; or

"(III) because of his or her status as a law enforcement officer.

"(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph—

"(I) the term 'assault' has the meaning given that term in the jurisdiction where the act occurred; and

"(II) the term 'law enforcement officer' is a person authorized by law—

"(aa) to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, or the incarceration of any person for any criminal violation of law;

"(bb) to apprehend, arrest, or prosecute an individual for any criminal violation of law; or

"(cc) to be a firefighter or other first responder."

(c) REPORT ON ALIENS DEPORTED FOR ASSAULTING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Homeland Security an annual report identifying the number of aliens who were deported during the previous fiscal year pursuant to section 237(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (b).

**SA 47.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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:

On page 2, line 15, strike “is charged with, is arrested for,”.

**SA 48.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 4. PROTECTING SENSITIVE LOCATIONS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Protecting Sensitive Locations Act”.

(b) **POWERS OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AT SENSITIVE LOCATIONS.**—Section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i)(1) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(i) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

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

“(iii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(iv) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(v) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

“(vi) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(B) The term ‘early childhood education program’ has the meaning given the term under section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

“(C) The term ‘enforcement action’—

“(i) means an apprehension, arrest, interview, request for identification, search, or surveillance for the purposes of immigration enforcement; and

“(ii) includes an enforcement action at, or focused on, a sensitive location that is part of a joint case led by another law enforcement agency.

“(D) The term ‘exigent circumstances’ means a situation involving—

“(i) the imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to any person or property, including a situation implicating terrorism or the national security of the United States;

“(ii) the immediate arrest or pursuit of a dangerous felon, terrorist suspect, or other individual presenting an imminent danger; or

“(iii) the imminent risk of destruction of evidence that is material to an ongoing criminal case.

“(E) The term ‘prior approval’ means—

“(i) in the case of officers and agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, prior written approval to carry out an enforcement action involving a specific individual or individuals authorized by—

“(I) the Assistant Director of Operations, Homeland Security Investigations;

“(II) the Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Investigations;

“(III) the Assistant Director for Field Operations, Enforcement and Removal Operations; or

“(IV) the Executive Associate Director for Field Operations, Enforcement and Removal Operations;

“(i) in the case of officers and agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, prior written approval to carry out an enforcement action involving a specific individual or individuals authorized by—

“(I) a Chief Patrol Agent;

“(II) the Director of Field Operations;

“(III) the Director of Air and Marine Operations; or

“(IV) the Internal Affairs Special Agent in Charge; and

“(iii) in the case of other Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, to carry out an enforcement action involving a specific individual or individuals authorized by—

“(I) the head of the Federal agency carrying out the enforcement action; or

“(II) the head of the State or local law enforcement agency carrying out the enforcement action.

“(F) The term ‘sensitive location’ includes all of the physical space located within 1,000 feet of—

“(i) any medical treatment or health care facility, including any hospital, health care practitioner’s office, accredited health clinic, alcohol or drug treatment center, emergent or urgent care facility, or community health center;

“(ii) public and private schools (including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, and postsecondary schools (including colleges and universities), sites of early childhood education program facility, sites of after school programs, other institutions of learning (including vocational or trade schools), or other site at which individuals who are unemployed or underemployed may apply for or receive workforce training;

“(iii) any scholastic or education-related activity or event, including field trips and interscholastic events;

“(iv) any school bus or school bus stop during periods when school children are present on the bus or at the stop;

“(v) a location at which emergency service providers distribute food or provide shelter;

“(vi) any organization that—

“(I) assists children, pregnant women, victims of crime or abuse, or individuals with significant mental or physical disabilities; or

“(II) provides—

“(aa) disaster or emergency social services and assistance; or

“(bb) services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including food banks and shelters;

“(vii) any church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship, including buildings rented for the purpose of religious services, retreats, counseling, workshops, instruction, and education;

“(viii) any Federal, State, or local courthouse, including the office of an individual’s legal counsel or representative, and a probation, parole, or supervised release office;

“(ix) the site of a funeral, wedding, or other religious ceremony or observance;

“(x) any public demonstration, such as a march, rally, or parade;

“(xi) any domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, supervised visitation center, family justice center, or victim services provider;

“(xii) any congressional district office;

“(xiii) any public assistance office, including Federal, State, and municipal locations at which individuals may apply for or receive unemployment compensation or report violations of labor and employment laws;

“(xiv) any office of the Social Security Administration;

“(xv) any indoor or outdoor premises of a State Department of Motor Vehicles;

“(xvi) any public library; or

“(xvii) any other location specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security for purposes of this subsection.

“(2)(A) An enforcement action may not take place at, or be focused on, a sensitive location unless—

“(i) the action involves exigent circumstances; or

“(ii) prior approval for the enforcement action was obtained from the appropriate official.

“(B) If an enforcement action is initiated pursuant to subparagraph (A) and the exigent circumstances permitting the enforcement action cease, the enforcement action shall be discontinued until such exigent circumstances reemerge.

“(C) If an enforcement action is carried out in violation of this subsection—

“(i) no information resulting from the enforcement action may be entered into the record or received into evidence in a removal proceeding resulting from the enforcement action; and

“(ii) the alien who is the subject of such removal proceeding may file a motion for the immediate termination of the removal proceeding.

“(3)(A) This subsection shall apply to any enforcement action by officers or agents of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

“(i) officers or agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(ii) officers or agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

“(iii) any individual designated to perform immigration enforcement functions pursuant to subsection (g).

“(B) While carrying out an enforcement action at a sensitive location, officers and agents referred to in subparagraph (A) shall make every effort—

“(i) to limit the time spent at the sensitive location;

“(ii) to limit the enforcement action at the sensitive location to the person or persons for whom prior approval was obtained; and

“(iii) to conduct themselves as discreetly as possible, consistent with officer and public safety.

“(C) If, while carrying out an enforcement action that is not initiated at or focused on a sensitive location, officers or agents are led to a sensitive location, and no exigent circumstance and prior approval with respect to the sensitive location exists, such officers or agents shall—

“(i) cease before taking any further enforcement action;

“(ii) conduct themselves in a discreet manner;

“(iii) maintain surveillance; and

“(iv) immediately consult their supervisor in order to determine whether such enforcement action should be discontinued.

“(D) The limitations under this paragraph shall not apply to the transportation of an individual apprehended at or near a land or sea border to a hospital or health care provider for the purpose of providing medical care to such individual.

“(4)(A) Each official specified in subparagraph (B) shall ensure that the employees under his or her supervision receive annual training on compliance with—

“(i) the requirements under this subsection in enforcement actions at or focused on sensitive locations and enforcement actions that lead officers or agents to a sensitive location; and

“(ii) the requirements under section 239 of this Act and section 384 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367).

“(B) The officials specified in this subparagraph are—

“(i) the Chief Counsel of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(ii) the Field Office Directors of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(iii) each Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(iv) each Chief Patrol Agent of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

“(v) the Director of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

“(vi) the Director of Air and Marine Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

“(vii) the Internal Affairs Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

“(viii) the chief law enforcement officer of each State or local law enforcement agency that enters into a written agreement with the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to subsection (g).

“(5) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall modify the Notice to Appear form (I-862)—

“(A) to provide the subjects of an enforcement action with information, written in plain language, summarizing the restrictions against enforcement actions at sensitive locations set forth in this subsection and the remedies available to the alien if such action violates such restrictions;

“(B) so that the information described in subparagraph (A) is accessible to individuals with limited English proficiency; and

“(C) so that subjects of an enforcement action are not permitted to verify that the officers or agents that carried out such action complied with the restrictions set forth in this subsection.

“(6)(A) The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall each submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes the information set forth in subparagraph (B) with respect to the respective agency.

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to the submitting agency during the reporting period—

“(i) the number of enforcement actions that were carried out at, or focused on, a sensitive location;

“(ii) the number of enforcement actions in which officers or agents were subsequently led to a sensitive location; and

“(iii) for each enforcement action described in clause (i) or (ii)—

“(I) the date on which it occurred;

“(II) the specific site, city, county, and State in which it occurred;

“(III) the components of the agency and the names of the agents involved in the enforcement action;

“(IV) whether the enforcement action took place with prior approval or if the enforcement action was the result of exigent circumstances, and—

“(aa) if prior approval was granted, documentation confirming conditions of approval; or

“(bb) if under exigent circumstances, a description of those circumstances;

“(V) a description of the enforcement action, including the nature of the criminal activity of its intended target;

“(VI) the number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken into custody;

“(VII) the number of collateral arrests, if any, and the reasons for each such arrest;

“(VIII) a certification whether the location administrator was contacted before, during, or after the enforcement action; and

“(IX) the percentage of all of the staff members and supervisors reporting to the officials listed in paragraph (4)(B) who completed the training required under paragraph (4)(A).

“(7) Nothing in the subsection may be construed—

“(A) to affect the authority of Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies—

“(i) to enforce generally applicable Federal or State criminal laws unrelated to immigration; or

“(ii) to protect residents from imminent threats to public safety; or

“(B) to limit or override the protections provided in—

“(i) section 239; or

“(ii) section 384 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367).”.

**SA 49.** Mr. SULLIVAN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM.**

Section 707(p) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a confirmation hearing.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Wednesday, January 15; 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 resume consideration of Calendar No. 1, S. 5.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 12 noon.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIEF ASHLEIGH CASEY

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake Police Chief Ashleigh Casey. Chief Casey began her law enforcement career as a 9-1-1 operator and Police & Fire Dispatcher for the City of Euless, joining the police force just three years later. Following her time with Euless Police Department, she spent two years with DFW Airport's Department of Public Safety before joining the Southlake Police Department in 2000. In 2015, she was appointed Assistant Chief of Police where her strategic vision and leadership helped guide the department towards continuous improvement. In June, she made history by becoming the first female Chief of Police of the Southlake Police Department.

Chief Casey's management of an \$11.5 million budget and oversight of police technology projects kept the department at the forefront of innovation and operational efficiency. Her thoughtful leadership helped the department achieve the highest levels of performance excellence and maintain its status as a top law enforcement agency, recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies with Gold Standard accreditation. Her team has benefited from her focus on employee well-being and professional development. As a leader, Chief Casey has been crucial in enhancing public trust and cooperation with law enforcement through public engagement and school safety programs.

In addition to obtaining a Master Peace Officer Certification, Chief Casey has completed the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, FBI National Academy, and School of Executive Leadership at the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration.

I congratulate Chief Casey on her well-deserved appointment to lead Southlake's police force after 27 years serving and protecting North Texas.

### APPRECIATING CAPT. JOHN C. WILSON

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Greatest Generation of survivors of the Great Depression and victors of World War II and the Cold War over communism is passing and another American Patriot to recognize is Captain John C. Wilson, USMC (Ret), of Jackson, South Carolina.

His loving obituary has been published by the Aiken Standard:

Retired Capt. John C. Wilson, U.S. Marine Corps, 93, beloved husband of Mrs. Sharon "Sam" Woodruff Wilson and a true patriot and hero, entered into rest on Monday, January 7, 2025, in the comfort of his home. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Johnna Lisa Wilson.

The family will greet friends on Monday, January 13, 2025, at Matlock Baptist Church, 980 Main Street, Jackson, SC 29831, beginning at 1 o'clock, followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 2 o'clock with Pastor Dale Reeves officiating. The interment with full military honors accorded by the United States Marine Corps Honor Guard will follow in Jackson Memorial Park, Jackson, South Carolina. James L. Hammons Marine Corps League Detachment #939 members will be honorary pallbearers.

John enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the tender age of sixteen. Following boot camp, his first deployment, at seventeen, was to China to attempt to keep peace between the communists in the North and the free people of the South. The United States soon realized this was impossible and removed the Marines from China.

His second deployment was to Korea, where he fought in the famous "Chosin Reservoir Battle" for three weeks in subzero temperatures. Following a brief assignment back in the States, he was again deployed to Korea. During this deployment, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart Medal for his sacrifice and service to our country.

In 1967, John served his first deployment to Vietnam. During this assignment, for his leadership, he received a Battlefield Commission to 2nd Lt. He was wounded during the Battle of Plains. For this action, he received his second purple heart. His last deployment in 1968 was back to Nam again, where he fought in the famous Battle of Khe Sanh. John's lifelong desire was to be a Company Commander, and he was promoted to Captain to fill that empty position. During the Khe Sanh Battle, he was wounded and was awarded his third Purple Heart.

After twenty-five years of honorable service to our country, John retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1973. Our country is forever grateful for men like John Wilson, where valor and sacrifice are a common virtue.

Following his retirement from the USMC, John retired from Kimberly-Clark, Beech Island, SC, after twenty-four years of service.

Capt. Wilson is a life member of Matlock Baptist Church, Jackson, South Carolina, the James L. Hammons Marine Corps League 939, the CPL Matthew Vincent Dillon Memorial Purple Heart Chapter 2005, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Military Officers Association, MOAA.

Left to cherish John's memory with his wife, Sam, are a daughter, Terry Lynch, Monroe, NC; a grandson, Justin Cane Jarrett, Jackson, SC; stepchildren, Tonya Marie Eisenhower, Aiken, SC, and Lori Lee Mixon, Walterboro, SC; and several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Matlock Baptist Church, 980 Main Street, Jackson, SC 29831.

### RECOGNIZING ZACH FRIEND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Friend, the author and public servant, for his commitment to the people of Santa Cruz County. Mr. Friend served as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor representing the 2nd District for over a decade. His expertise and experience include serving in the White House Council of Economic Advisers, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives, but his greatest impacts have been working in local government.

After moving on from national and state politics, Mr. Friend spent almost a decade working for the Santa Cruz Police Department as a Crime Analyst and Public Information Officer. In 2013 he was elected to serve as the Representative for the 2nd District on the County Board of Supervisors. While on the board he has worked to improve community access to local government, and has chaired and served several commissions including transportation, criminal justice reform, environment and land use, flood control, air quality and more.

As a County Supervisor Mr. Friend has also helped to open a new Aptos Public Safety Center that includes the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Probation and the Board's first permanent office—increasing access to public safety and County resources in the district. He also launched the County's first mobile app. My Santa Cruz County allows residents to do everything from reporting potholes to graffiti to abandoned vehicles and even learn about local parks all from their smartphones.

Mr. Friend is the author of *On Message: How a Compelling Narrative Will Make Your Organization Succeed*, an Amazon.com best seller in the Marketing category and winner of the Axiom Business Book Award and distinguished himself as a regular commentator on national television on public affairs.

In 2024 Mr. Friend announced he would not seek a fourth term to spend more time with his wife, Tina and their son Elliot. During his time as a County Supervisor, he was frequently tapped to engage with lawmakers and staff at the state and federal levels when the county needed an advocate. Santa Cruz County is thankful for Mr. Friend's commitment to the 2nd District.

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIAKA OGBOGU

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Chiaka

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

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

Ogbogu, a star athlete from Coppell. As one of only twelve players nationwide named by USA Volleyball to compete on the U.S. Women's National Team in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, Chiaka has shined on the world stage.

Her stardom is nothing short of remarkable, making her Olympic debut at the Tokyo Summer Games in 2021 where she played a key role in securing the team's historic gold medal. Chiaka's experience competing worldwide, including in Italy, Poland, and Turkey, has established her as a leader on the team.

Before embarking on her professional volleyball career, Chiaka was a student athlete at Coppell High School and at the University of Texas at Austin. While in college, she graduated with the most blocks in school history. Despite her success, Chiaka has a humble attitude.

I thank Chiaka for continuing to set a great example for North Texans of all ages as she makes our entire country proud.

#### REMEMBERING COACH PRESTON

### HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Pat Preston, a Bakersfield athletics and education leader who passed away on December 22, 2024, at the age of 76.

Coach Preston served our community as an athlete, coach, and educator throughout his life. After being awarded Bakersfield's All-City pick for Lineman of the Year in 1965, Coach Preston would go on to play linebacker for Stanford University from 1966 to 1970, where he served as co-captain. Following his graduation from Stanford University, Coach Preston returned to Bakersfield High School to be a defensive coach, then went on to serve as Head Coach at Hanford High School, where he served for four years. However, the Bakersfield community beckoned his return, inviting Coach Preston to be the Drillers Head Coach, and he accepted.

Some Drillers who were present for these golden seasons can still remember how his return to Bakersfield reawakened the team's camaraderie and belief in itself. Coach Preston is remembered for leading the Drillers through a 39-game winning streak, including three consecutive undefeated seasons in the Yosemite Division in 1988, 1989, and 1990. Under Coach Preston's leadership, the Drillers also garnered eight league and four section football championships. Keeping the team focused with both his humor and his intensity, Coach Preston cared equally for each person on his team—from the waterboy to the quarterback—and taught them how to be dynamic and energized in all that they did. In 1999, Coach Preston was hired as the Assistant Principal for Liberty High School where he continued to serve our community.

Coach Preston has been inducted into several local halls of fame—the Bob Elias Hall of Fame, Bakersfield High Alumni Association Hall of Fame, and the Drillers Football Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife Patti, and two sons Nathan and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pat Preston, a

Kern County community leader and someone who has helped shape generations of young people in our community.

#### THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Patti Davis which appeared in The New York Times on Monday, January 13, 2025.

THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

(By Patti Davis)

I've heard people say they couldn't live in Los Angeles because they'd miss the changing of the seasons, but spending much of my childhood on a ranch in Malibu, I watched as the storms rolled in during the winter months, the land turning green and lush, then blossoming in wild colors and sweet scents in spring, browning and drying out in summer before the air turned cusp in autumn and orange leaves fell from trees to blanket the ground.

There were groves of oak trees, endless green pastures and a pond where ducks made their home every year. Tiny frogs jumped all over the banks of the pond. I'd scoop some up in my hands and laugh when they leaped out, back into the mud. When the winds kicked up in October and November, parts of the ranch did burn a couple of times. But then the rains would come and the land would heal.

The ranch was where we spent our weekends. During the week we lived in Pacific Palisades, so quiet it felt almost like a secret refuge from the noise and busyness of downtown. But that was Los Angeles, too. Now that world is gone.

To look at the footage and the photographs of what the voracious fire turned those neighborhoods into is like looking at a war zone. Everyone is trying to process the grief, the shock. The truth is we'd lost it all well before the fires so mercilessly swept through. The flames just sealed the deal.

I once thought that the land I loved so much would last forever. I couldn't imagine an Earth that would groan and rage and turn chaotic because of human carelessness, human greed and the ignorant assumption that we could just keep pumping poisons into the atmosphere with no repercussions.

Often over the past few days, I've been reminded of the aftermath of Sept. 11, how no one seemed like a stranger.

During these fires, my own home was spared, but everywhere you go people are sharing stories, asking how others are doing. People who never met before, and may never meet again, stop on sidewalks, in stores, to share their fears, their despair. To weep over their losses. To try to make sense of it.

My anger over what we have done to this fragile, exquisite Earth was muffled by grief until the other evening when I was watching a news program that had a panel of commentators. The subject was Los Angeles on fire, and one person mentioned climate change as a cause. Another commentator smirked and said he didn't believe it was the cause.

I felt rage surge up past my grief.

My first thought was "You think you know more than scientists? The scientists who have been warning us for decades?" Then I thought "This young man wasn't even born when I was running through tall green

grasses at our ranch beneath skies that were clear and blue. He has no idea what Earth used to be like." The beauty I grew up around seems like it was so long ago, but it really wasn't.

I'm still heartbroken, but I want us to be angry. Not a destructive anger, a righteous anger. I want us to stand up for an Earth that was created with perfect balance, with beauty and mystery and a divine artistry. An Earth that was put here not for our consumption and our greed but for our nourishment. An Earth that has so much to teach us, and that needs protection, now more than ever.

We have thrown an entire planet out of balance, and now we are suffering the consequences—weather patterns so severe we have no idea how to combat them, and the resulting fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, more severe than anything we've known before.

We can grieve and be righteously angry at the same time. Or there is another scenario. We can be nomads wandering across barren acres of land that were there for our sustenance, if only we'd had the sense to know that and protect the Earth we were given.

#### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES FROM OPERATION TURKEY

### HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, the volunteers of Operation Turkey Dallas and Operation Turkey Forth Worth for their work to provide Thanksgiving meals to people in need.

After Richard Bagdonas gave his Thanksgiving leftovers to a homeless man in Austin, he was inspired to launch Operation Turkey, which expanded to our community in 2012. North Texas answered the call to serve, with local volunteers providing thousands of warm meals per year.

Their work begins well before this, but on the day before Thanksgiving, volunteers gather for a Turkey Tailgate to smoke turkeys, sort toiletry and clothing donations, and prepare for an early start. The morning of, helpers of all ages set up, cook, plate, package, and deliver meals and other items to North Texans in need. In 2023, Operations Turkey Dallas and Fort Worth provided a combined 5,400 meals to members of our community.

I thank the volunteers of Operation Turkey for ensuring North Texans have a hot meal on Thanksgiving. Their work exemplifies the generosity that makes our community special.

#### RECOGNIZING DAISY ELLA PRICE KAHN

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman, Daisy Ella Price Kahn, who made significant contributions to her community and to the field of education.

Daisy was born in Marshall, Texas, to the late Memphis and Daisy Bell Price, and she

was the middle of five children. A proud graduate of Wiley College with a degree in Social Studies and English, Daisy went on to teach and inspire countless students in the Fort Worth Independent School District. She earned her Master's in Education Counseling from Texas Woman's University and dedicated her career to supporting students, ultimately retiring as the Lead Counselor at Trimble Tech High School in 2001.

Her impact, however, did not end there. Daisy returned to the district as a part-time and substitute counselor, where she continued to mentor and guide students until 2008.

Beyond her work in education, Daisy was an active member of several civic and social organizations. She was deeply involved in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she held numerous leadership roles and performed with the AKA DFW Metroplex Choir. Daisy was also a dedicated member of the Fort Worth Wiley College Alumni Club, the Perennial Cultural Club, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, among others.

Her service to the community extended to her church, historic Greater St. James Baptist Church, where she served as a soloist, Sunday School Teacher, and chair of the Historical Preservation Committee Funds. Daisy leaves behind a loving family, including her three daughters, Denise, Dr. Daphne Kahn-Wiley, and Danielle Kahn, as well as her grandson, Ian Wiley. Her legacy of service, compassion, and commitment to her community will forever be remembered.

It is my honor to recognize the life of Daisy Ella Price Kahn—a woman who touched so many lives through her work, her faith, and her unwavering dedication to others. Her contributions will continue to inspire future generations.

REMEMBERING MRS. REEDIA  
FAYE MINSHEW

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Reedia Faye Minshew of Carthage, Mississippi. Mrs. Reedia Faye Minshew was a beloved mother, grandmother, neighbor, and friend and she will be greatly missed. Mrs. Reedia, affectionately known as 'Mamaw', was well known for her faithful presence at Cabin No. 1 at the Neshoba County Fair. Since 1889, the Neshoba County Fair has been a staple of Mississippi history. The Gardner family, from Dixon, Mississippi—just up the road from the fairgrounds—were among the first attendees of the Neshoba County Fair. Mrs. Minshew's father had eight siblings who all grew up going to the fair, and Reedia attended every single Neshoba County Fair throughout her lifetime.

While her legacy of attending the Neshoba County Fair and her family's history at Cabin No. 1 are known, Mrs. Reedia was also an athlete and entrepreneur. Mrs. Reedia owned and operated the Shoe Rack in Carthage, Mississippi, and in her retirement taught a karate class. She is survived by her children and grandchildren. I am honored to have met her and to remember her legacy.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN  
HERO WALLY FUNK

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Wally Funk. At age nine, Wally Funk took her first flying lesson, sparking a lifelong passion. As a teenager, Wally earned her pilot's license and has gone on to become an accomplished flight instructor and aviator. Wally joined Oklahoma State University's Aviation Team, earning countless awards including the "Outstanding Female Pilot" trophy, "Flying Aggie Top Pilot" award, and "Alfred Alder Memorial Trophy" two years in a row.

In 1961, Wally volunteered for the Women in Space Program, enduring the same strenuous physical and mental tests as the men of Mercury 7. After ranking third out of the 13 who graduated, beating out U.S. Astronaut John Glenn on many of the tests, Mercury 13 was denied the opportunity to travel to space. Decades later, at the age of 82, Wally became the oldest woman to venture into space on Blue Origin's New Shepard suborbital spacecraft. She was recently inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, symbolizing the remarkable career of Grapevine's very own aviator-turned-astronaut.

Wally's perseverance has inspired many North Texans. I Congratulate Wally on her deserved induction to the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. I look forward to hearing about more of her accomplishments in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO  
COUNCILWOMAN CINDI FOWLER

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilwoman Cindi Fowler in honor of her exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and significant contributions to the residents of Louisville Metro Council District 14.

Since her election in 2012 and re-elections in 2016 and 2020, Councilwoman Fowler has represented the neighborhoods of Valley Station, Pleasure Ridge Park, and Kosmosdale with integrity and a steadfast commitment to community growth and well-being.

Councilwoman Fowler demonstrated leadership through her service as Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Chair of Parks & Sustainability, Chair of Government Oversight/Audit & Appointments, and her impactful roles with organizations like the National League of Cities and the Kentucky League of Cities.

She has been a dedicated advocate for community development, serving on the boards of Southwest Community Ministries, Mattingly Edge, Dixie Area Business Association, Riverport Business Association, and Valley Woman's Club.

Councilwoman Fowler's commitment to the betterment of Kentucky is reflected in her sponsorship of transformative legislation and initiatives, including Sadie's Law, the Union

Safety Ordinance, the Metro Golf Course Ordinance, the \$50 million New Dixie Highway Project, and the Catalytic Converter Ordinance. Additionally, her support for projects such as the Sun Valley Pool investments, U of L Mary & Elizabeth Hospital Women's Health and Birthing Services, Veteran's Village in Southwest Louisville, and the Watson Lane Elementary School redevelopment has significantly enhanced quality of life for Kentuckians.

Mr. Speaker, Councilwoman Fowler's visionary leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to the people of Kentucky has left a lasting legacy. I express my profound gratitude for her leadership, vision, and service, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

RUSSELL COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Russell County, Kentucky, on celebrating its bicentennial. Russell County is an integral part of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District that is full of rich history and wonderful people. Russell County and its communities have been a special part of Central Kentucky for two centuries.

Russell County was established in 1825 from parts of Adair, Cumberland, and Wayne counties as the 81st county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Russell County is proudly home to Lake Cumberland and Wolf Creek Dam. These attractions have brought tremendous tourism opportunities and are a major economic driver in the 1st Congressional District.

As we commemorate this bicentennial, I want to thank the citizens of Russell County for their patriotism and community pride. I am proud to represent the good people of Russell County in Congress, and I look forward to seeing even more prosperous years to come.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN  
HEROES FOUNDERS ROWING CLUB

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes on the Founders Rowing Club in Southlake, who gained national recognition by finishing in the top 10 at the U.S. Youth National Championship. This incredible achievement follows their earlier triumph as regional champions.

Despite being one of the smallest teams in the nation, the group of thirteen daring young women have remained undeterred, inspiring many others to dream big. The team worked year-round to reach this point, often completing double workouts. From practicing at Bachman Lake six days a week, rain-or-shine, to being involved in the North Texas community out of the water, the members of Founders Rowing Club are true all-rounders whose dedication will take them far.

Local SMU alum, Matthew Naifeh, serves as their coach and has been instrumental in the

team's upward trajectory. Matthew learned to row at the Episcopal School of Dallas and has continuously pushed the team to realize their limitless potential, serving as an example of the many dreams that can come true in Texas' 24th Congressional District.

Congratulations to the Founders Rowing Club on all then success. I look forward to continuing to cheer these women on.

**AFFORDABLE SHIPPING FOR ALL  
ACT**

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Shipping for All Act, a bill to end discriminatory and exclusionary shipping practices faced by residents and businesses in the non-contiguous areas of our country, particularly Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

This blatant discrimination and exclusion is illustrated by Hawaii, my home state. We are over 2,500 miles from the West Coast and depend on shipping to bring in more than 90 percent of the products we need. Like our other non-contiguous family, we do not have the same manufacture, transport and delivery options as does the contiguous continental U.S.

Rather than treating us equally, residents and businesses of the non-contiguous U.S. face four persistent and unfair shipping practices that drive up costs and make life harder for millions of Americans.

First, as confirmed by the Federal Trade Commission, many online retailers outright refuse to ship basic products to our parts of the United States, effectively treating our areas as if we are foreign countries. This exclusion prevents millions of Americans from even accessing essential goods.

Second, even when retailers do offer shipping to the non-contiguous areas, they frequently deny customers free shipping options, even though such options are readily available for customers in the contiguous U.S. This is true even when the actual cost of shipping from the continental U.S. to a non-contiguous area is higher than to another location in the continental U.S. This leaves residents in these areas at a distinct disadvantage when trying to purchase products online.

Third, when private shipping services are made available, the prices are often inflated and bear no reasonable relation to the actual distance. For example, the cost to ship a 2-pound package from Los Angeles to Hawaii can exceed \$45, while the same package from Los Angeles to New York City, the same distance, costs only \$14. This price disparity is both unreasonable and unjust.

Fourth, the United States Postal Service (USPS) also treats the non-contiguous areas unfairly. It recently created a new Zone 10 for shipments to Hawaii, Alaska and other non-contiguous areas, which will increase shipping rates for Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail and USPS Ground Advantage packages to and from those locations by 5 percent. The introduction of Zone 10 fundamentally discriminates against the non-contiguous parts of our country, which runs directly counter to the

foundational USPS charge to provide equal access to the U.S. mail.

The Fair Shipping Access for All Act will ensure that no shipping company, including the USPS, can impose discriminatory rates or exclude non-contiguous areas from receiving shipments. It will also require that shipping rates for non-contiguous areas reflect the actual cost of service, rather than arbitrary price increases.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It's about fairness, equity and ensuring that all Americans, regardless of where they live, have equal access to affordable shipping options.

Mahalo.

**RECOGNIZING ALAN HAFFA'S CAREER AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT**

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alan Haffa, a dedicated public servant to the people of Monterey. Dr. Haffa's commitment to public service began at a young age as an Eagle Scout, where he learned valuable skills like leadership and service. Through this organization he met his wife, Arlene, to whom he has been married for 26 years and shares two children. After graduating from Monterey High School, Dr. Haffa received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and M.A.'s in Comparative Literature and Classics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Following graduation, Dr. Haffa set out to work in the service of others.

In 2004, in response to divisions within, the local school district, Monterey Peninsula Unified (MPUSD), Dr. Haffa rose to the occasion and became a board member, steering the board in a clearer direction. He was influential in questioning district consultants regarding the construction of 11 new schools. Dr. Haffa had serious concerns regarding the number of children these schools would have and where residents would work. Had the district sold bonds for the new schools, the district would still be in debt today, and schools in Monterey would have had to close. The leadership that Dr. Haffa displayed, questioning out-of-state consultants, protected students and citizens.

In addition to his community service, Dr. Haffa taught at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) and directed the Gentrain Program, an interdisciplinary, team-taught course in civilization. At MPC he has served on the Faculty Senate and for the past two years he has been co-chair of the College Council, which is the highest advisory board to the college president. Dr. Haffa has also fought for lifelong learning at the college, and in 2011 he was the MPC Teachers Association faculty union co-negotiator.

**RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR OFFICER CASEY SANDERS**

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Police Officer Casey Sanders of the Euless Police Department for his 33 years of exceptional service to our community.

A graduate of Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Officer Sanders continued his education at Tarrant County College before serving as a Sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard for seven years. In 1992, he began his law enforcement career, graduating as salutatorian of his police academy class. Throughout his career with the Euless Police Department, Officer Sanders has taken on a variety of important roles, including Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Crisis Negotiator Team Leader, Critical Incident Stress Management team member, Peer Support team member, and Mental Health Officer in the HEB Behavioral Intervention Unit. He has also been an advocate for his fellow Guardsmen through his work with the National Guard Association of Texas.

Officer Sanders has received numerous awards during his time with the Euless Police Department, including Rookie of the Year, Certificate of Merit, and Certificate of Civic Achievement. He has also been honored with the Outstanding Service Award by the Euless Fire Department.

North Texas is safer thanks to Officer Sanders' decades of service. On behalf of a grateful community, I extend my deepest congratulations to Officer Sanders on his well-deserved retirement.

**HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I use today to celebrate a significant milestone in the history of our community—the 95th anniversary of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our Mother of Mercy is the only African American Catholic church in Tarrant County and the Fort Worth Catholic Diocese, making it a unique and invaluable institution in our region. Founded in January of 1929 by Father Narcissus Denis of the Josephite Fathers, the church began humbly, holding Mass in a house-turned-rectory and later in a converted drug store. Over the years, it has grown into a thriving parish and community center that continues to serve the diverse needs of its congregation.

Throughout its rich history, Our Mother of Mercy has been a steadfast pillar of faith in our community. It has produced leaders across various fields—elected officials, business leaders, community advocates, and television personalities—who have made substantial contributions both locally and nationally.



The church's commitment to service has also been exemplified by initiatives like the establishment of St. Veronica's Mission in the Lake Como area, which served the community for over 25 years.

Today, as it continues to be a cornerstone of our district, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church remains dedicated to faith, unity, and outreach. Its ongoing legacy enriches the lives of all who are fortunate to be part of this vibrant community.

On behalf of the 33rd Congressional District of Texas, I extend my warmest congratulations to the parishioners, clergy, and leaders of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church as they celebrate this incredible milestone. Their unwavering dedication to faith and service is an inspiration to us all. Let this recognition stand as a tribute to the church's ongoing legacy and its continued positive impact on Fort Worth and beyond.

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HONORING LARRY CONDON

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life and memory of Larry Condon. A New York Advocate and well-respected man who dedicated much of his time providing transformative philanthropic funding to a host of initiatives. At the time of his passing, Larry was still working tirelessly for others. He was serving as Chairman Emeritus of the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, a Life Trustee at the New York Botanical Garden, and an honorary advisor to the Public Theater.

Larry became one of the six original trustees of the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, which during its 30-year life distributed 450 million dollars to the Public Theater, The New York Botanical Garden, the Joyce Theater, WNET, and many other cultural, environmental and civil rights organizations. This was coupled with his leadership of the Mertz Gilmore foundation which focused on climate change, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, community engagement, and the performing arts in New York City.

His work with the New York Botanical Garden was immense. Larry underwrote multiple initiatives including exhibitions, visitor programs, scientific works, and important capital projects including the Haupt Conservatory. Larry also worked diligently to protect and endow the LeEsther T. Mertz Library, the world's leading botanical library.

Larry Condon lived his life in pursuit of improving the world around him for generations to come. From his first job as a high school teacher to his philanthropic work, Larry provided growth and love to those around him. He will be sorely missed.

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HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DR. RICHARD BENSON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dr.

Richard Benson, president of The University of Texas at Dallas. In 1980, Dr. Benson began his career in higher education as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Rochester. He quickly progressed, serving as the dean for graduate studies in the College of Engineering and Applied Science and the chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. After, he spent 10 years heading the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at Penn State, as well as 11 years as dean of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. In 2016, Dr. Benson became the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas and has spent the past eight years overseeing monumental campus and academic growth.

His tenure at UT Dallas has seen the construction of two million square feet of new buildings, including the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, Engineering and Computer Science West, Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, Brain Performance Institute, and two new student housing complexes. Additionally, Dr. Benson has elevated the university's innovative research by expanding its partnership with UT Southwestern Medical Center and opening a 150,000 square foot Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building. Under his leadership, UT Dallas has experienced record enrollments, expanded its sports program, and has been recognized as a top value college by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, and Forbes, enhancing the university's reputation as an educational powerhouse in North Texas.

I thank Dr. Benson for consistently leading with integrity and passion during his more than four decades of guiding and inspiring young minds.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANTHONY AQUARO

**HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Anthony Aquaro was born in Brooklyn on February 27, 1921, and served our Nation in the United States Navy during World War II from 1942 to 1945 as a first-class boatswain's mate on the USS *Impulse* and the USS *Kingsmill*.

In 1944, while on leave, Aquaro married his high school sweetheart, Gloria. The couple, believed to be Staten Island's longest-married, were together for nearly 80 years.

Aquaro joined the FDNY as a firefighter when he was 31 and served for 26 years with Engine 269 on Union Street in Brooklyn highlighting his commitment to his community. Aquaro later settled in New Dorp in 1965 and had two children. He later became the grandfather of four and the great-grandfather of eight.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Anthony Aquaro for his dedicated service to our community, city, and Nation. His unwavering commitment and bravery have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. We mourn his loss alongside his family and friends, and his legacy will be forever remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN WAGNER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on January 13, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8 and YEA on Roll Call No. 9.

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HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO BILL ROBERTSON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero and Bedford resident, Bill Robertson. Now 100 years old, he has spent decades serving our community and country.

After a year at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Bill enlisted in the Army Air Force and flew P-51 fighters during World War II. He returned to North Texas after the war, working for Southwestern Engraving Company before teaming up with his father to found Process Engraving Company in Fort Worth. After a successful career, Bill retired in 1996 and handed the reins of his family-run business to his son. Named "Optimist of the Year" in 1988 by the Breakfast Optimist Club of East Fort Worth, Bill has helped feed, educate, and serve Tarrant County residents for 26 years. A man of deep faith, he is also a member of Woodland Heights Baptist Church.

I thank Mr. Robertson for his heart of service and positive vision, as I join the many North Texans wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

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REMEMBERING KELLY BLANTON

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Dr. Kelly Blanton, an educational visionary who dedicated his career to improving the education of his students and peers.

Born on January 12, 1937, near Savoy, Texas, Dr. Blanton moved west during the dust bowl and was raised in Kern County. Through the Great Depression and World War II, Dr. Blanton lived alongside his six siblings and parents at farm labor camps. While residing at Wasco Labor Camp, they supported the family by picking cotton. Discovering his early passion for education, Dr. Blanton would successfully pursue degrees from Bakersfield College, San Francisco State University, California State University, Fresno, and ultimately a Doctorate from the University of Southern California.

With humble beginnings, Dr. Blanton would commit to ensuring that education remained a transformative force in the lives of young people. Dr. Blanton's career in education began in

1959 as a teacher at Palm Avenue School in Wasco, California. He would achieve his first leadership role as Maple Elementary School District's Superintendent and later join the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office in 1971. As the 18th Superintendent of Schools for Kern County from 1986 to 1999, Dr. Blanton's leadership made our community's schools stronger, safer, and more modern.

During his life, Dr. Blanton introduced educational policies and programs that continue to benefit children and families in Kern County and across California. He was instrumental in creating alternative education programs which have achieved reduced dropout rates and continue to provide countless students with a second chance to succeed. Dr. Blanton also championed new programs to accommodate physically disabled students and provide internet connectivity to the many rural districts in Kern County. A leader who believed in giving his students and teachers every resource they would need to succeed, it is nearly impossible to find a school in Kern County that does not owe Dr. Blanton a great debt of gratitude. One of his most enduring contributions was the development of the Self-Insured Schools of California, which provides comprehensive insurance policies to schools across California and now the largest public school health pool in the United States. His foresight in establishing this initiative continues to provide affordable and comprehensive healthcare for thousands of educators and their families. He also helped revitalize the heart of the Kern community by both relocating the Kern County Superintendent of Schools office to downtown Bakersfield and also establishing Downtown Elementary School to serve the children of Bakersfield's downtown workers.

Dr. Blanton is preceded in death by his wife Yvonne, whom he was married to for sixty-four years and is survived by his daughter Shelley, son Timothy, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me as I express our gratitude to Dr. Kelly Blanton for his lasting contributions to our community and state. His legacy will be upheld through the lives of the children he inspired, the educators he empowered, and the communities he enriched.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2025, I was not recorded on Roll Call Votes No. 8 and No. 9. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call Votes No. 8 and No. 9.

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HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO TINA WASHINGTON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Tina

Washington. As director of the Fort Worth non-profit Above the Clouds-Texas, Tina is making a remarkable impact by providing free arts education to North Texas children aged 5-17. Her organization is dedicated to supporting financially insecure families through classes like classical ballet, hip-hop and drama, along with the requisite equipment, like ballet shoes and tutus.

Tina and her team at Above the Clouds-Texas, are helping to instill self-discipline, self-control, and higher self-esteem in our youth. The mentorship and growth opportunities help steer young North Texans away from negative influences, empowering them to dream big and work hard to achieve goals.

I commend Tina's steadfast dedication to uplifting families by enriching the lives of North Texas children through the creative arts.

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TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY STATE SENATOR DENISE HARPER ANGEL

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kentucky State Senator Denise Harper Angel in recognition of her remarkable 49 years of public service, including 36 years as an elected official.

As a trailblazer and devoted public servant, Senator Harper Angel has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the well-being of Kentucky's most vulnerable populations. From her historic election as the first woman to serve as Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator to her distinguished tenure in the Kentucky State Senate, her career has been defined by advocacy, leadership, and meaningful action.

Senator Harper Angel has been instrumental in advancing critical legislation to protect children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, including the creation of the Kentucky Golden Alert Program, the passage of the SAFE Act, and initiatives addressing youth suicide and sexual violence. Her dedication to justice, accountability, and victim support has left a lasting impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Through her tireless service on numerous legislative committees, her efforts have strengthened Kentucky's communities, supported victims of crime, and enhanced public safety. Senator Harper Angel's steadfast leadership, from improving forensic processes to increasing compensation for victims, has set a standard of excellence and compassion for public service.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Denise Harper Angel's legacy is a testament to the power of servant leadership, and her work will inspire future generations. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing her unwavering dedication and relentless commitment to protecting and supporting our Commonwealth's most vulnerable populations and congratulating her on her retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE MCPHERSON FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bruce McPherson for his tireless dedication to not only public service but to the people of California. Mr. McPherson was nominated to be the 30th Secretary of State for California and was previously an Assemblyman and a State Senator. However, his career did not begin with politics.

Mr. McPherson was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California. He attended Santa Cruz High and then went on to study at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. After graduation he worked for the Santa Cruz Sentinel starting as a reporter and eventually rising to the position of editor, after being inspired by his father, Mr. McPherson began his career in public service.

Mr. McPherson was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1993, representing the Monterey Bay region, and later serving two terms in the California State Senate. In both the Assembly and the Senate Mr. McPherson was committed to bipartisanship, often working across the aisle with elected Democrats. In 2005 Mr. McPherson was nominated to replace the former Secretary of State. He was confirmed unanimously by both Democratic-controlled houses of the California State Legislature. As Secretary of State Mr. McPherson oversaw a 500-person department with five offices across the state which managed the state's election system.

Following his time as Secretary of State, Mr. McPherson returned home with the aim of replacing the Fifth Districts' County supervisor. In 2013 he began his 12-year stint as county supervisor. During this time California underwent the COVID-19 pandemic, the CZU fires, and atmospheric river disasters. His biggest achievement, in his opinion, was the establishment of Central Coast Community Energy, a clean-energy provider that now covers the five counties of the central coast of California.

His time as a public servant has been the highlight of his career. After stepping down from the dais for the final time Mr. McPherson plans to spend more time with his wife of 55 years, Mary, as well as his daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

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HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES BRETT ROBERSON AND COREY RATTAN

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, Southlake Officers Brett Roberson and Corey Rattan who have gone above and beyond to serve North Texas students. As first responders, the selfless duo from Carroll ISD have embodied the spirit of North Texas' School Resource Officer (SRO) community through

their dedication to ensuring safe school environments.

The Southlake Kiwanis presented the officers with the distinguished Heart of Service Award in recognition of their efforts to improving the lives of children. After receiving nominations from community members, the Southlake Kiwanis also recognized Officer Roberson of Carroll Middle School as 2023

SRO of the Year and Officer Rattan of Carroll Senior High School as 2024 SRO of the Year.

The Carroll Middle School administration did not fall short in praising Officer Roberson for her profound impact on the school community, highlighting her support on all ends, spanning personal and emergency needs. In the same spirit, Carroll Senior High School principal Christina Benhoff applauded Officer Rattan as

a jack of all trades who serves not only as a mentor but also as a friend and role model to students.

I'm grateful for our North Texas law enforcement community, especially SROs Roberson and Rattan, who are instrumental in keeping our schools safe and supporting students.

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senator-elect Jim Justice, of West Virginia, was administered the oath of office by the President Pro Tempore.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S127–S158*

**Measures Introduced:** Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 83–93, and S. Res. 24–26. **Pages S139–40**

**Measures Passed:**

**Majority Party's Membership on Certain Committees:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 26, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Pages S136–37**

**Measures Considered:**

**Laken Riley Act—Agreement:** Senate continued 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 S130–36**

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 S130**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. **Page S158**

**Appointments:**

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 119th Congress: Senators Whitehouse, Shaheen, Smith, and Fetterman. **Page S138**

**Swearing in of Senator Justice:** The Chair laid before the Senate the certificate of election of Senator-elect Jim Justice, of the State of West Virginia, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law. **Page S130**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to the United States Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–3) **Page S138**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024, with respect to the situation in the West Bank; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–4) **Page S138**

Transmitting, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the text of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–5) **Pages S138–39**

**Removal of Injunction of Secrecy:** The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Treaty with the United Arab Emirates on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Treaty Doc. No. 119–1).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S136**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S139**

Measures Referred:	Page S139
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S140–41
Additional Statements:	Pages S137–38
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S141–58
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S158

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:42 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S158.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the expected nomination of Peter B. Hegseth, to be Secretary of Defense, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representative Waltz and former Senator Coleman, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 28 public bills, H.R. 376–403; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 38–41, were introduced. **Pages H148–49**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H149–50**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kim to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H115**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:16 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H124**

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 38, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H124**

**Committee Ranking:** The House agreed to H. Res. 39, ranking a Member on a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H125**

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 40, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Pages H125–26**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:26 p.m. and reconvened at 2:01 p.m. **Page H138**

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, January 13th:

*Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability:* H.R. 153, to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 426 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 10.

**Pages H138–39**

*Protection of Women and Girls in Sports:* The House passed H.R. 28, to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 206 nays with one voting “present”, Roll No. 12.

**Pages H126–38, H139–40**

Rejected the Adams motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Workforce by a yea-and-nay vote of 208 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 11. **Pages H139–40**

H. Res. 5, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 28), was agreed to on Friday, January 3, 2025.

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to the situation in the West Bank is to continue in effect beyond February 1, 2025—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–7).

**Pages H141–42**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the rescission of Cuba's designation as a State sponsor of terrorism—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–8).

**Page H142**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the agreement for cooperation between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Kingdom

of Thailand concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–9).

Page H142

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H138, H139, and H139–40.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress, without amendment.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress. The Oversight Plan for 119th Congress was adopted, as amended.

### THE NEED TO MAKE PERMANENT THE TRUMP TAX CUTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Need to Make Permanent the Trump Tax Cuts for Working Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* 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:* to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Chris Wright, to be Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., 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, 10 a.m., SD–419.

*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, 1 p.m., SD–342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* 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.

*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, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

*Special Committee on Aging:* 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

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Stay-at-Home Federal Workforce: Another Biden-Harris Legacy”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “America Builds: the State of the Nation’s Transportation System”, 10:15 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

12 noon, Wednesday, January 15

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 15

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of S. 5, Laken Riley Act.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 33—United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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