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No. 199

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 4, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LAUREL M. LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### COAST GUARD BASE GUAM

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the establishment of U.S. Coast Guard Base Guam, the Coast Guard's new, dedicated base of operations in my district, focused on logistics and operational support throughout the Western Pacific.

Under the command of Commander Dana Hiatt, the opening of this new base signifies a milestone in the relationship between our Nation and regional allies in the Pacific.

As illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, also known as IUU, continues to plague the region, it is essential that the U.S. Coast Guard expand its presence accordingly to counter IUU fishing in U.S. territorial waters and those of our allies in the Freely Associated States. The Coast Guard's role in search and rescue operations is also invaluable.

Just last month, in a joint Navy-Coast Guard operation, a Navy helicopter saved three divers 29 miles off the coast of Guam. It took just 2 hours from the report of the missing divers for them to be pulled out of the water. I applaud the tireless efforts of our Coast Guard and sailors for saving these divers and the dozens of others they save off Guam every year.

Guam's location in the Indo-Pacific is vital to keeping a free and open Pacific and supports our military in its mission to protect the interests of the United States in the region. This new base reasserts a core idea that keeps our island and Nation safe: What is good for Guam is good for America.

Madam Speaker, I could not be prouder to welcome these new coast-guardsmen and their families to our beautiful island, and I look forward to continuing to support and grow the partnership between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the people of Guam.

### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

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

Holy God, as we approach the winter of another year, we are reminded how quickly time flies and how fleeting our lifetimes. As sobering as this thought is, may it not paralyze us but instead propel us to pray to appreciate how You have received us into Your gracious and eternal plan.

We pray, then, that in the time we have been given—time with our families, in our vocations, in the moments we share—that we would take the time to love each other deeply. For all the mistakes we make and the missteps we take each day, if we have loved, then through Your mercy, all else will fall away.

May we demonstrate our love through hospitality to those around us, offering what we have without grumbling but sharing the gifts You have so graciously given us to serve others.

When we speak today, may we do so as if we are speaking the very words that would come from Your mouth. As we serve You, may we do so with the strength You alone provide.

In all things that we attempt and accomplish today, may You be pleased with our desire to bring glory to You, for it is in Your eternal and gracious name we pray.

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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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



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The SPEAKER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would now entertain requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1501

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAMMACK) at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ONE SEAT RIDE ACT

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1547) to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1547

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

**SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "One Seat Ride Act".*

**SEC. 2. STUDY ON COMMUTER SERVICE.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study identifying the benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation and major obstacles to providing commuter rail passenger transportation that does not involve a transfer for passengers.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) *consider economic, logistical, and quality of life factors in analyzing the major obstacles to implementing single-seat trips on commuter rail passenger transportation for as many passengers as possible; and*

(2) *include in such study an analysis of the costs and benefits with respect to single-seat trips on commuter rail passenger transportation on the New Jersey Transit Raritan Valley line during peak hours and the impact such trips would have on other New Jersey Transit lines.*

(c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report on the study required under subsection (a).

(d) *COMMUTER RAIL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION DEFINED.*—In this section, the term "commuter rail passenger transportation" has the meaning given such term in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1547.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1547, which requires the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study analyzing the costs and benefits of providing commuter rail service that does not require riders to change trains. Furthermore, the Secretary must submit the report to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs within 1 year of the legislation enactment.

The one-seat-ride issue for commuter rail passengers is something that I championed both here and in the New Jersey State Senate. Examining this issue is a priority for my constituents who rely on New Jersey Transit.

Anyone living in the Seventh Congressional District of New Jersey or along the Raritan Valley Line can describe the difficulties of commuting to and from New York City. Seventh District residents who travel to Manhattan by train are regularly frustrated with unnecessary delays mainly due to the aged infrastructure, often making weekly commutes hours longer than they need to be.

Worsening matters, passengers traveling on the New Jersey Transit Raritan Valley Line must change trains, almost always on a different track, at Newark Penn Station to make trips to the city. During peak commute hours, Raritan Valley passengers have very little time to make their way, alongside thousands of other rushed passengers, through Newark Penn Station.

These daily transfers make trips longer and increasingly exhausting for

passengers. The longer commute times cause commuters to spend less time with their families, making it more difficult to make their child's sporting events, scouting meetings, and cherished family dinners.

According to the Raritan Valley Line Coalition, the RVL makes up about 10 percent of New Jersey Transit's daily ridership systemwide.

Additionally, the impact of a one-seat-ride service has been studied in a report published by the Regional Plan Association. The report shows its impact on towns surrounding the train line in a positive way. Rail lines with one-seat-ride service into Manhattan are more desirable and encourage more development of residential housing units, retail stores, and offices located near existing train stations.

Some of the benefits of a town with a one-seat-ride option are that towns with the one-seat-ride service have fewer vacancies and a more diverse and economically viable selection of restaurants, stores, and offices in downtown, and they have increased train service westbound, allowing towns along the RVL east and west to flourish.

My hope is to get, in the future, as many commuters on rail traveling westbound in the morning as they do eastbound.

One-seat-ride on the RVL is something that my constituents and many New Jerseyans want to see become a reality before the completion of the Gateway Project years down the road.

I thank Representative WATSON COLEMAN of New Jersey for cosponsoring this legislation, and I note this bill passed out of committee with strong bipartisan support.

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

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

Madam Speaker, this bill would direct the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of the benefits of one-seat commuter rail transit nationwide and the obstacles transit agencies face in providing that level of service.

This bill also would require a cost-benefit analysis for one specific rail transit line, New Jersey Transit's Raritan Valley Line. A comprehensive study was completed last year by New Jersey Transit on this topic.

The study concluded that the best option to provide better transit service for that region is to move ahead with the Gateway Program, which will provide more capacity for all New Jersey Transit rail lines that go into New York Penn Station.

Local officials in New Jersey and New York are actively pursuing that option and have received substantial funding from the Biden administration, including under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through the Mega Grant Program, the Federal-State Partnership, and the Capital Investment Grant Program.

Currently, Federal Transit Administration staff are working hard to finalize a full funding grant agreement to deliver \$6.9 billion for the new Hudson River tunnel, which would be the largest capital investment grant in history.

For those who are interested in supporting more New Jersey Transit services, or for those Members from other parts of the country who have their own transit priorities, one of the best ways to support them is for Congress to provide substantial funding through the Capital Investment Grant program. Given that, I have a request for my colleagues today: In addition to just voting to study the need for more transit service, I would encourage them to also support funding for more transit service.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to work toward sustainable transit investment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1547 represents an important step in improving the commuter experience for all individuals who rely on transit, and the bill also ensures, as it reviews the broad issue, that the New Jersey Transit Raritan Valley Line is examined specifically.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1547, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### I-27 NUMBERING ACT OF 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 992) to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 992

*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 “I-27 Numbering Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. NUMBERING OF DESIGNATED FUTURE INTERSTATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1105(e)(5)(C)(i) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240) is amended by inserting “The routes referred to in clause (i) (other than subclauses (V)(aa) and (V)(bb) and subclause (IX)(aa) of that clause) and clause (iv) of subsection (c)(38)(A) are designated as Interstate Route I-27. The route referred to in subsection (c)(38)(A)(i)(V)(aa) is designated as Interstate Route I-27E. The route referred to in subsection (c)(38)(A)(i)(V)(bb) is designated as Interstate Route I-27W. The route referred to in subsection (c)(38)(A)(i)(IX)(aa) is designated as Interstate Route I-127N.” before “The route referred to in subsection (c)(45)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1105(c)(38)(A)(i) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240) is amended—

(1) in subclause (V)—

(A) by striking “Lamesa, the Corridor” and inserting the following: “Lamesa—

“(aa) the Corridor”; and

(B) in item (aa) (as so redesignated), by striking “87, and the Corridor” and inserting the following: “87; and

“(bb) the Corridor”; and

(2) in subclause (IX)—

(A) by striking “(IX) United States Route 287” and inserting the following:

“(IX)(aa) United States Route 287”; and

(B) in item (aa) (as so redesignated), by striking “Oklahoma, and also United States Route 87” and inserting the following: “Oklahoma; and

“(bb) United States Route 87”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials in the RECORD on S. 992, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of S. 992, the I-27 Numbering Act of 2023, a bipartisan bill that has passed the Senate.

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure favorably reported companion legislation that amended a bill introduced by Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON in November.

This legislation officially designates segments of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor of Texas, previously marked as a

future Federal interstate route, as Interstate Route 27.

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor connects with other highways to span from the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas through our country’s heartland to Alberta, Canada, and serves as a crucial infrastructure asset for American agricultural and energy accessibility. This designation will benefit farmers, ranchers, and producers across Texas and the country, boosting our trade economy.

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

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

Madam Speaker, this bill would designate portions of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas as the future Interstate 27. This route plays an important role in commerce, helping facilitate the movement of agricultural products from hubs to markets.

This bill incorporates technical assistance from the Federal Highway Administration to prevent duplicative route numbering from being used on different roadway spurs. This change will make the designation clearer for travelers.

Similar bipartisan legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent earlier this year.

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 992 to officially designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27.

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor is a significant north-south transportation corridor that will unlock transportation capabilities for the energy industry in the Permian Basin and enhance Texas’ key economic engines of international trade, energy, and the largest agricultural production in the country.

This is a big deal for this part of the United States, specifically for Texas. Madam Speaker, when you think about energy security being national security, Interstate 27 is going to play a massive role in allowing the delivery of that energy not just to our country but also throughout the rest of the world.

□ 1515

In addition, food security is national security, and Interstate 27 will play a massive role in allowing the delivery of food to our own country.

This new designation literally paves the way for safer roads in West Texas, and clearly marks Midland and Odessa as the energy hub of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JODEY ARRINGTON and Senator TED

CRUZ for their hard work and partnership on this important issue. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to make sure that we can continue to deliver energy and food throughout the United States.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative NORTON, for her leadership on getting this bill to the floor, and I thank her for yielding to me.

I also thank my good friends, Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. ARRINGTON, for carrying this legislation along with Senator CRUZ, Senator LUJÁN, and Senator CORNYN on the Senate side for their work on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to designate a portion of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate 27. I-27 starts in my hometown of Laredo, Texas, which ranks number one in trade of all the Nation's 450-plus airports, seaports, and border crossings. It starts off in Laredo, then goes up into west Texas and off to New Mexico.

In the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill, I was able to secure language designating this as a future interstate making it eligible for Federal funding.

This bill today formally names it the I-27 in Texas and in New Mexico. Upgrading this route to an interstate will result in a \$17.2 billion increase in the Texas GDP and 178,000 of new jobs.

I certainly urge my colleagues in the House to pass this bipartisan bill to support trade and growth in Texas and New Mexico. I see my good friend Mr. ARRINGTON, and I thank him for his leadership in west Texas. I am glad that we are able to connect Laredo with west Texas and onto New Mexico.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding, and I am thrilled to, once again, join forces with my close friend, ally, and champion for rural America, HENRY CUELLAR, to do some good not only for Texas or for the food, fuel, and fiber capital of the world, which is west Texas, but to provide energy dominance and agriculture security and independence for this great Nation of ours. That is no small thing for the hardworking, God-fearing, freedom-loving people in rural America.

Madam Speaker, I am not just talking about west Texas, where Henry and I are from; I am saying all up and down the backbone of the United States of America and heartland communities all the way from the largest inland port in Laredo, as the gentleman mentioned, to the Canadian border.

The ag and energy corridor is critical for our food security and energy independence, and it will more seamlessly and cost effectively and safely move that critical product to export terminals and markets around the world,

giving our farmers, ranchers, and energy producers a much-needed advantage.

Mr. CUELLAR and I worked together on many of the elements that I see as essential to the future prosperity of rural America. I always say, rural America is not just the energy basin and breadbasket, it is the backbone of America's traditional values.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank Mr. CUELLAR for being such a loud and proud champion for these forgotten men and women. The formula is straightforward; namely, we need freer markets, less taxes and regulations. We need fairer trade deals for our producers and manufacturers.

Mr. CUELLAR and I worked hand in hand on USMCA; a much better deal for these United States of America and especially the workers here, the best workers in the world here in the United States. It is a reliable farm bill safety net which we are working on. We have to get the next farm bill done so that we can provide stability in the ag economy and then, finally, critical infrastructure.

Mr. CUELLAR and I have worked on new payment models for rural hospitals that provided greater access for these hardworking folks. Now we have got this artery from Laredo through my hometown of Plainview.

I grew up, Madam Speaker, not even a mile from I-27. To think that this project has come to fruition, at least on the Texas and New Mexico side, if we can connect those dots all the way to Canada, I think we are going to bless generations of not only folks in Laredo and the greater west Texas area, but we are going to bless Americans all over this country.

We have the lowest spend in terms of discretionary spending for families on food and a big part of that is our producers, but another piece is critical infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I say hats off to HENRY CUELLAR, my Democrat co-lead. I thank Senators CRUZ and CORNYN, the leads in the Senate. I also thank AUGUST PFLUGER, RONNY JACKSON, TERESA FERNANDEZ, TROY NEHLS, LANCE GOODEN, and then, of course, the folks from Ports-to-Plains led by John Osborne and James Beauchamp from Midland-Odessa who leads MOTRAN. We have a lot of partners here to make this a success, but what a great day for rural America.

Madam Speaker, in closing I just say, God bless my partner and friend, HENRY CUELLAR, and God bless those freedom-loving people working hard to feed and clothe the American people in rural America.

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, again, I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation championed by my colleague Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas here in the House,

along with Mr. CRUZ and Mr. CORNYN in the Senate.

Ports-to-Plains Corridor connects with other routes to span more than 2,300 miles across eight states. It connects significant agriculture and energy centers to the rest of our Nation, which relies on these industries.

This bill ensures congressional follow-through on this designation by formally naming segments of the corridor in Texas Interstate Route 27 and will contribute to the continuity of American advantages in agriculture, international trade, connectivity, and economic development.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 992, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SALE OF WEBSTER SCHOOL

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4688) to direct the Administrator of General Services to sell the property known as the Webster School.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4688

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

#### SECTION 1. SALE OF WEBSTER SCHOOL.

(a) SALE.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Administrator of General Services shall sell the property described in subsection (b) at fair market value and at highest and best use.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property described in this subsection is property located in the District of Columbia generally consisting of Lot 822 of Square 375 at 940 H Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, including the building known as the Webster School, subject to survey and as determined by the Administrator of General Services.

(c) TREATMENT OF NET PROCEEDS; FUTURE APPROPRIATION.—Any net proceeds received from the sale under this section shall be paid into an account in the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code. Upon deposit, the net proceeds from the sale may be expended only subject to a specific future appropriation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4688.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank Delegate Holmes Norton and the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chairman PERRY for their leadership on this bill to shed wasted space in the Federal Government's real estate portfolio.

H.R. 4688 directs the General Services Administration to sell the vacant Webster School building in downtown Washington, D.C.

The Webster School was originally purchased by GSA at the request of the Secret Service in 2003. However, for 20 years, no plans or funding have been secured for its Federal use and the building sits vacant, in disrepair in the middle of downtown D.C.

It makes no sense for taxpayers to pay for buildings that have never been occupied and have no real use or benefit.

I was pleased to see, after the committee's passage of H.R. 4688 in July, that GSA notified Congress of its intent to dispose of the Webster School, along with 22 other unneeded properties across the country.

However, it is important that we pass this bill to ensure that the property is actually sold and sold for the highest market value.

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

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

Madam Speaker, this bill, which I introduced with the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chair, SCOTT PERRY, would direct the General Services Administration to sell the Federal property known as the DANIEL WEBSTER School in the District of Columbia for fair market value by December 31st, 2025.

Built in 1882, the Daniel Webster School, a red brick, three-story building has been used for a variety of purposes over the years, however, since the 1980s, the building which is located in downtown D.C. has been vacant and has fallen into disrepair.

The General Services Administration purchased the Webster School 20 years ago, yet the school remains unoccupied, draining the General Service Administration's resources for decades. This bill would return the site to productive use.

During my service in Congress, I have enacted bipartisan bills to transfer unused and underused Federal land in D.C. to the D.C. government or the

private sector to redevelop neighborhoods and to generate tax revenue.

This includes the southeast and southwest waterfronts. My hope is to see the Daniel Webster School similarly reactivated. The sale provision in this bill is the same as the sale provision in the bill enacted in 2016 that directed the General Services Administration to sell the general property in D.C. known as the Cotton Annex, which is now being converted into housing.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman PERRY for his partnership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this bill is a small, but necessary step in the rightsizing of the Federal real estate portfolio.

The Federal real estate portfolio has far too much empty space as it is, and we should not hold onto known empty buildings at the taxpayers' expense.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4688.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

#### TESTING, RAPID ANALYSIS, AND NARCOTIC QUALITY RESEARCH ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1734) to require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Testing, Rapid Analysis, and Narcotic Quality Research Act of 2023" or the "TRANQ Research Act of 2023".

##### SEC. 2. XYLAZINE DETECTION AND ANALYSIS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term "Federal laboratory" has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) INSTITUTE.—The term "Institute" means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (19 U.S.C. 1001).

(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term "nonprofit organization" means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code.

(6) XYLAZINE.—The term "xylazine" means the nonopioid tranquilizer methyl benzene compound frequently used in veterinary medicine as an emetic and sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant properties.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

(1) support intramural basic measurement science and research of the Institute to advance—

(A) analytical methods to identify, understand, differentiate, and categorize substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances;

(B) measurement technologies to shorten analysis timelines and enhance narcotic and opioid detection and analysis capabilities;

(C) new data tools, techniques, and processes to identify and publicly disclose relevant information concerning substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances; and

(D) such other areas as the Director determines to be critical to the development and deployment of technologies to measure and analyze the presence of xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances;

(2) support activities to inform and expand the development of near-real time spectrometry capabilities regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances;

(3) convene and consult with organizations engaged in the analysis of new psychoactive substances to develop coordinated strategies and voluntary best practices for the safe handling, transport, data-sharing, and analysis of substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances, including—

(A) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

(B) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(C) the National Institute on Drug Abuse;

(D) Federal laboratories;

(E) States and territories;

(F) State fusion centers;

(G) the private sector;

(H) intergovernmental organizations;

(I) institutions of higher education, and

(J) nonprofit organizations;

(4) establish or expand collaborative partnerships or consortia with other government agencies and persons engaged in related research and development, such as institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, public health agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector, to enhance narcotic and opioid detection and analysis capabilities regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances; and

(5) encourage graduate and post-graduate research to include detection and identification of xylazine and other new psychoactive substances in relevant course studies when practicable.

(c) CONTROLS.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Director shall ensure proper security controls are implemented to protect sensitive information, as the Director considers appropriate and consistent with applicable provisions of law.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,

Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section. Such report may include recommendations for legislative action to improve the ability of the Director to carry out this section.

**SEC. 3. STUDY ON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGIES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.**

(a) *STUDY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the capabilities of the Federal Government to respond to the threats of new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(2) *MATTERS EVALUATED.*—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the following:

(A) The capabilities, including technologies and analytical methods, of Federal, State, and local agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(B) An analysis of timeframes for identification and development of technologies and methods to identify new psychoactive substances by Federal, State, and local agencies.

(C) Facilities, including laboratories, used by Federal, State, and local agencies for the identification of new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(D) Federal grant programs to fund new technology development to detect and identify new psychoactive substances.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLZEY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1734, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1734, the TRANQ Research Act sponsored by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

This is an important bill that will help us combat the dangers of novel synthetic opioids. Unfortunately, there is no area of our country that hasn't been touched by the deadly fentanyl epidemic. Now these drugs are being mixed with animal tranquilizers to create deadly new combinations.

Drugs like tranq are presenting new challenges to law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and first responders. H.R. 1734 authorizes critical research and development to help us better understand, detect, and handle

these drugs. With that knowledge, we can help to slow their spread and reduce lives lost to these deadly drugs.

This bill takes advantage of the tremendous expertise of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is already doing cutting-edge work on detecting and analyzing fentanyl. With the passage of the TRANQ Research Act, NIST will be able to apply their expertise to these dangerous new variants.

This bill authorizes NIST's work to quickly identify illicit drugs, analyze them, and establish best practices for first responders to handle these dangerous substances. By doing that, it provides critical protections for the police officers and EMTs that encounter these drugs, helping them to stay safe and protected as they do their work. It will also give us the knowledge we need to stop the spread of tranq and other novel synthetic opioids.

This bill has already passed the House with a unanimous bipartisan vote of 425-0. I would like to see that same level of backing today.

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

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

I rise today in support of this bill that I proudly cosponsored. I also thank my colleagues, Representatives CARAVEO and COLLINS, for leading this legislation, as well as Chairman LUCAS for his support. I also thank Senators PETER WELCH and TED CRUZ over in the other body for their work.

Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, have taken a terrible toll on communities across this country, including in my own district. Fentanyl is now involved in more deaths of Americans under 50 than any other cause of death.

This epidemic is a horrifying ordeal, and now our communities must deal with various chemicals being added to these drugs to enhance their effects and also make them harder to detect. One chemical that criminals have started to use is a common animal tranquilizer called xylazine. When added to fentanyl, this animal tranquilizer can have terrible side effects, including horrible wounds at the injection site.

These additives are also consequential to our first responders and law enforcement as they deal with these drugs on the street. Drug mixtures usually contain a very small amount of synthetic opioids, which makes it very difficult to detect and hard to identify new variants. Even small amounts of some substances can be dangerous for law enforcement and public health officials to handle.

H.R. 1734 would address these challenges by leveraging the National Institute of Standards and Technology's unique research capabilities to help develop technologies to quickly characterize and safely handle street drugs. For decades, the Nation's measurement laboratory has helped to develop safe and effective drug detection techniques

and handling practices. NIST also collects and analyzes drug samples in circulation, and this helps health authorities and law enforcement to better respond to this crisis. This bill would codify and enhance those ongoing efforts. It also adds reporting requirements for NIST and the GAO so that Congress can better understand our Federal capabilities in responding to this crisis.

This is a good example of how we can activate the unique expertise in our government labs to benefit communities across this country. It is also a good example of the bipartisan work that we do in the Science Committee. I thank my colleagues again, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to speak on his bill.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on the Science Committee. It is great serving with him on the committee of the future.

I rise in support of the TRANQ Research Act, which I introduced in March. It passed the Science Committee and the House unanimously. It then passed the Senate unanimously after it had been amended to include some technical changes and a reporting requirement on America's ability to address the growing threat of new psychoactive drugs. I support these changes, and I ask all Members to join me in sending this commonsense bill to the President for his signature.

As you will recall, the TRANQ Research Act directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to study dangerous fentanyl additives like xylazine that are putting the public and law enforcement at risk.

Xylazine, which is also known as the zombie drug, is a dangerous substance containing a veterinary tranquilizer which makes fentanyl even more dangerous than it already is. The zombie drug has been popping up in nearly every State, and the DEA is reporting a substantial increase in the amount of fentanyl seized that contains this deadly additive.

Exposure—and that is right, just exposure—to these drugs, whether you are taking them or not, can be deadly, and that means that law enforcement officers who are finding these drugs are in danger. This research is going to help them identify ways to detect fentanyl and its additives in the field and therefore take appropriate measures to protect themselves while keeping our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one piece of a much larger fight against fentanyl and the other drugs plaguing our communities and ending so many lives prematurely. By understanding what these additives are, how to test for them, and how to safely handle them, we can better protect our first responders and our Border Patrol agents.

I thank everyone who has made this moment possible: Representative

CARAVEO, Chairman LUCAS, Ranking Member LOFGREN, members of the Science Committee. I thank them for helping get this bill across the finish line.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. COLLINS has just remarked, he and Dr. CARAVEO took the lead on this legislation. We are grateful and fortunate, indeed, that Dr. CARAVEO is here in our body, dedicated to our constituents, but also bringing the expertise that a medical doctor can have to an item like this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. CARAVEO).

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1734, the TRANQ Research Act. I also thank my colleagues, Congressman MIKE COLLINS, Chairman FRANK LUCAS, and Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN for working with me to run this bipartisan legislation. I also thank Senators PETER WELCH and TED CRUZ for moving this bill through the Senate.

As a doctor, I have seen firsthand the horrific impact the drug crisis has had on families in my community and across the country. Last year alone, more than 107,000 Americans lost their lives to drug overdoses, due in large part to the crisis.

Fentanyl is a drug with very high potency that is relatively easy to manufacture, and criminals making fentanyl can add different chemicals to change its molecular structure, creating a variant that is novel and difficult to detect.

Just in the past year, we have seen a dramatic increase in criminals mixing a common animal tranquilizer called xylazine with fentanyl. If injected, this combination can have horrible side effects, including large wounds at the injection site that have led to limb amputations.

Horrifyingly, tranq is already spreading across the country. Having seen the disastrous effect fentanyl has had on Colorado, I am proud to lead the charge to act against xylazine now to protect our families.

One of the major challenges we face to combat drugs like fentanyl and xylazine is detecting them. These drug mixtures usually contain a very small amount of the drug, and traditional laboratory methods are not designed to detect or identify new drug variants.

The TRANQ Research Act addresses this challenge by leveraging our Nation's scientific capabilities to allow our first responders to be able to detect, identify, and better understand novel opioids and other substances. Additionally, thanks to our partners in the Senate, the bill will also help Congress conduct oversight over Federal programs to respond to threats from new psychoactive substances like xylazine.

We know combating the drug crisis will take bipartisan action. I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman COLLINS and my colleagues

to get this bill signed by the President and to keep pushing for commonsense solutions that both parties can agree on to keep American families safe. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that when this bill is signed by the President, it will be the first bill introduced by a freshman in the 118th Congress to become law. I congratulate the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for this achievement. I think it is a reflection of just how important this topic is, and I am so glad our colleagues have all recognized the growing dangers of novel synthetic opioids and have given this bill such strong support.

Again, I thank Representative COLLINS and my colleagues for everything they have done to help support this. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1734.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DOE AND USDA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1713) to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1713

*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 "DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretaries") shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretaries shall carry out and coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate inter-

agency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries may—

(1) conduct collaborative research over a variety of focus areas, such as—

(A) modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to agriculture and energy, such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or energy systems;

(B) fundamental agricultural, biological, computational, and environmental science and engineering, including advanced crop science, crop protection, breeding, and biological pest control, in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(C) integrated natural resources and the energy-water nexus, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183));

(D) advanced biomass, biobased products, and biofuels, including in collaboration with the activities authorized under section 9008(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b));

(E) diverse feedstocks for economically and environmentally sustainable fuels, including aviation and naval fuels;

(F) colocation of agricultural resources and activities and ecosystem services with diverse energy technologies and resources, such as geothermal energy, nuclear energy, solar energy, wind energy, natural gas, hydropower, and energy storage;

(G) colocation of agricultural resources and activities with carbon storage and utilization technologies;

(H) invasive species management to further the work done by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds;

(I) long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of transformative science and technology solutions in the agriculture and energy sectors, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538);

(J) grid modernization and grid security;

(K) rural technology development, including manufacturing, precision agriculture technologies, and mechanization and automation technologies; and

(L) wildfire risks and prevention, including the power sector's role in fire prevention and mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infrastructure;

(2) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

(3) promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, industry partners, and other appropriate entities by providing reliable access to secure data and information that are in compliance with Federal rules and regulations;

(4) support research infrastructure and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary; and

(5) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies to—

(A) improve the efficiency of agriculture operations and processing of agricultural products; and

(B) reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with such operations and such processing.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1713, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1713, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act.

This bill allows the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to work together to improve how we grow our food, fiber, and fuel in America.

As a farmer and rancher myself, I am proud to sponsor this bill, which will help us address cross-cutting research challenges that will advance crop science, maximize carbon storage, enhance precision agricultural technologies, and more.

DOE and USDA already have a successful track record of collaboration to mitigate invasive species, modernize the grid, address the energy-water nexus, develop biofuels, and improve agriculture operations.

□ 1545

DOE has some of the country's most advanced computing capacities as well as world-class research facilities and a depth of scientific expertise.

These resources can be used to support the work being done by America's farmers and ranchers, ultimately strengthening our agricultural production.

The bill before us today is smart, bipartisan legislation that codifies the partnership between DOE and USDA, ensuring they can continue to work together on these interdisciplinary challenges.

I thank my Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN for working with me on this legislation and helping to pass it through the Science Committee with unanimous support.

I appreciate her support of agriculture research, and I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan bill introduced by Chairman LUCAS and myself authorizing cross-cutting, joint research and development between the Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Together, these agencies leverage their incredible capabilities to address some of our multidisciplinary research challenges in crop science, carbon storage, and precision agriculture technologies.

Codifying the partnership between these agencies is a testament to our commitment to combat climate change and to serve the agricultural communities like those in my district and throughout the Nation.

We generated substantial momentum through the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which included research support toward agricultural productivity improvement goals.

This bill will sustain and strengthen this momentum by empowering deeper cooperation between two of our top science agencies, enabling national research and ag capability to fully realize the opportunities presented by new and emerging technologies.

The technologies that are being used on farms in my district are really cutting edge. For example, on farms in my district, there is in use a giant machine that roams the fields, and by computer, identifies weeds and zaps them with lasers.

This is done automatically, it doesn't use any pesticides, and those weeds are permanently gone. It is really an example of how we are entering a high-tech

area in precision agriculture. The Federal Government can help facilitate progress in this field through bills like the one before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and as I have no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we have heard, H.R. 1713, the DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act, is smart, bipartisan policy to make it easier to address the agriculture research challenges facing our Nation.

By passing this bill, we are supporting the science and technology that will enable easier production agriculture.

I thank Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN for her support of this critical issue. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1713, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DOE AND NSF INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2980) to provide for Department of Energy and National Science Foundation research and development coordination, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2980

*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 "DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") and the Director of the National Science Foundation (in this section referred to as the "Director") shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and National Science Foundation mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Director shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement, as the case may be, shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed



process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director may—

(1) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas, such as—

(A) basic plasma science and engineering, including applications in astrophysics, materials science, fusion science, and accelerator science;

(B) fundamental biological and computational science and engineering, including computational neuroscience and neuromorphic computing, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(C) modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large-scale data analytics, predictive analysis, and advanced computational, storage, and networking capabilities in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to energy and climate;

(D) quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

(E) energy and materials science and engineering, including artificial photosynthesis, plasma, solar fuels, and fusion, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under sections 303 and 307 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641 and 18645), and section 973 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16313);

(F) advanced manufacturing technologies, including efficient storage systems and alternatives to high-temperature processing, for the purposes of optimizing energy consumption, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 975 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 16315);

(G) microelectronics, including novel chip architectures, memory systems, and interconnects; and

(H) advanced physics, including high energy and particle physics, accelerator research and development, and high performance computational tools, including in collaboration with the programs authorized under section 303 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18641);

(2) promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities;

(3) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, as the Secretary and Director determine necessary; and

(4) organize education, training, and research initiatives relating to STEM education and workforce development, including—

(A) internships, fellowships, and other research or work-based learning opportunities;

(B) educational programming for students at all levels, especially experiential and project-based learning opportunities; and

(C) professional development opportunities for educators and researchers.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Director shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial successes.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2980, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2980, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act. This bill supports the longstanding partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, allowing them to work on cutting-edge and research technology challenges.

DOE is our Nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences, while NSF is the backbone of the collaborative research environment between government and academia.

Together, they can tackle some of the Nation's toughest challenges in physics, quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence, and material science.

The bill enhances both DOE and NSF's capacities and leverages each other's investments in research and development, maximizing the impact of our taxpayer dollars.

There has never been a more important time for this kind of breakthrough

research. The Chinese Communist Party has made no secret of their goal to surpass us as the world leader in science and technology.

They are attempting to outspend us, out-educate us, and outpace us in everything from quantum computing to advanced manufacturing.

They know that the Nation that leads the way in technological development sets the rules of the road and determines how that technology will be used.

We simply cannot afford to live in a world where China is technologically ahead of us. It is bad for our economy and dangerous for our national security.

We must ensure our investments in research and development go as far as possible. This bill helps us to do that.

By authorizing the collaboration between DOE and NSF, we are maximizing our return on investments and ensuring we can stay on the cutting edge of technological development.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD, for introducing this important legislation and shepherding it through the Science Committee where it passed unanimously.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan bill introduced by Ms. STEVENS and Mr. BAIRD authorizing collaborative research between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation in critical areas of our national competitiveness.

It builds on the longstanding partnership between these agencies to leverage each other's investments and expertise in a wide range of fields, including quantum science, artificial intelligence, fusion energy, and advanced manufacturing.

Alongside these research partnerships, it also authorizes collaborative initiatives in education and training and development of a strong STEM workforce. We will not be able to succeed unless we have the talented workforce to get the job done.

Lastly, it promotes secure data and information transfer capabilities between both agencies to develop a shared, agile data ecosystem.

In a time when many emerging technologies are on our doorstep, it is important that we empower our leading science agencies to work with each other to capture these interdisciplinary opportunities.

Both NSF and DOE have an extensive history of joint activities such as support for the development of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a world-class tool for scientific discovery in astronomy.

The DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act strengthens the legislative foundation that was set in the CHIPS and Science Act, and this enables both agencies to foster a more collaborative

research environment to maximize their collective impacts on our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, the Science Committee is blessed to have many talented Members of Congress dedicated to science and our future.

One of them is one of the coauthors of this bill, a senior Member of the committee and a talented Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for her very kind and generous words. I can only hope that my constituents in Michigan hear the praise from the ranking member from the great State of California for the work that we do together on the Science Committee.

Certainly, it is a sincere privilege to be also joined on the floor today with our chairman, Mr. LUCAS, as he reminded us with the TRANQ legislation that Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. WILLIAMS will be the first Members of the freshman class to get a bill signed into law for this term in Congress.

It wasn't all too long ago when Dr. BAIRD and myself shared that same distinction for the Building Blocks of STEM Act, the bill that we passed through the Science Committee, through the House floor, and alongside our colleagues in the Senate, getting it signed into law on December 24th, 2019.

Suffice it to say, Dr. BAIRD and I were not at the White House for the signing of the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

Today, Dr. BAIRD and I are pleased to offer the DOE and NSF Research Interagency Act to the House floor, a bill that has already passed through the Science Committee.

The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation represent some of our Nation's most cutting-edge research activities, as has been shared by our committee leadership, supporting the innovation that we require to solve our most pressing issues and remain competitive on the world stage.

The DOE and NSF employees, in particular, are not necessarily in two buildings that are right next to each other. They are in a similar geographic area, but they do not share building space.

The employees and the funded researchers are world-renowned scientific minds, and they are pushing on the door of what we think is possible.

They are making science fiction a reality every single day, and we encourage and implore their activities to proliferate, to manifest, and to continue to come together, particularly on the heels of the CHIPS and Science Act, a bill that many of us, including myself

on the Science Committee, helped to author and pass through into law just a little over a year ago.

If we are going to achieve the goals of the CHIPS and Science Act without the full funding, particularly for the NSF, we need this legislation. We need the interagency efforts of DOE and NSF to come together.

We will continue to promote cross functionality of research if it is with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in fusion science, or if it is combining the DOE's expertise in computational sciences, including the scientific potential of the fastest supercomputers in the world.

What NSF is doing with artificial intelligence and machine learning will continue to be key to unlocking the metrics needed to create safe and trustworthy AI applications so the United States can continue to lead in this innovation sector.

Combining NSF's material science expertise, which the United States is in a phenomenal race to lead on, with the work being done across the Department of Energy and the Ames National Laboratory on critical minerals will be key not only to untangling our supply chains but in creating a circular economy that promotes worker safety and environmental protections while securing our economic prosperity, energy independence, and national security for decades to come.

Lastly, combining the work that both agencies are doing with quantum technologies will be key to unlocking the potential of this revolutionary emerging technology, including for our manufacturers and applications for cybersecurity.

These are just some of the examples of the amazing potential that fostering a partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation will mean for our Nation and the next generation, proving once again that Federal sciences are the key to our Nation's future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill to push forward our Nation's scientific ecosystem and bolster our competitiveness on the world stage.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise in support of H.R. 2980, the DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act.

This will accelerate U.S. competitiveness in emerging technology areas and key economic sectors while enabling taxpayer dollars to be used more efficiently, allowing more to be done with less.

I appreciate all the work done by my colleagues, Representatives Stevens and BAIRD, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2980, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

#### DOE AND NASA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH COORDINATION ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2988) to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2988

*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 "DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this section referred to as the "Administrator") may carry out, as practicable, cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities to support the advancement of Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration mission requirements and priorities. The Secretary and Administrator, in accordance with subsection (e), may make competitive awards to carry out such activities.

(b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through memoranda of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreements.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator may—

(1) conduct collaborative research and development activities in a variety of focus areas that may include—

(A) propulsion systems and components, including nuclear thermal and nuclear electric propulsion, radioisotope power systems, thermoelectric generators, advanced nuclear fuels, and heater units;

(B) modeling and simulation, machine learning, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for mission-related purposes;

(C) fundamental high energy physics, astrophysics, and cosmology, including the nature of dark energy and dark matter, in accordance with section 305 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18643);

(D) fundamental earth and environmental sciences, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644) and section 60501 of title 51, United States Code;

(E) quantum information sciences, including quantum computing and quantum network infrastructure, in accordance with sections 403 and 404 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8853 and 8854);

(F) radiation health effects, in accordance with section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(G) ground- and space-based technology necessary for the transmission to the Earth's surface of solar energy collected in space; and

(H) other areas of potential research and development collaboration the Secretary and the Administrator determine important to achieving agency missions and objectives;

(2) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary data sets on space and aeronautical information on high-performance computing systems with variable quality and scale;

(3) promote collaboration and data and information sharing between the Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Laboratories, and other appropriate entities by providing the necessary access and secure data and information transfer capabilities; and

(4) support the Administration's access to the Department's research infrastructure and capabilities, as practicable.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to—

(1) carry out reimbursable and non-reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) MERIT REVIEW PROCESS.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall ensure any competitive awards made to carry out the activities under section (a) shall follow all appropriate laws and agency policies, including the following:

(1) Selection by merit-review-based processes.

(2) Consideration of applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(1) Interagency research and development coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration carried out under this section.

(2) How such coordination activities expand the technical capabilities of the Department and the Administration.

(3) Collaborative research and development achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial activities, including potential applications of clean energy technologies, such as marine energy.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(g) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2988, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

The Department of Energy and NASA have a long history of collaboration, which has enhanced our understanding of our universe and our ability to explore beyond our planet.

The *Voyager* spacecraft, which were launched more than 40 years ago and are now flying in interstellar space, continue to operate under DOE's propulsion systems.

The work DOE and NASA are doing on nuclear energy is critical to our ability to establish a long-term human presence on the Moon. That same technology can be used here on Earth, too, helping to improve this clean and reliable energy source.

The DOE-NASA partnership will also help us advance our high-performance computing systems, which help keep us at the forefront of research and development. This partnership will also help us with satellite development, space situational awareness, and even planetary defense from near-Earth objects.

In short, it allows two of our premier scientific agencies to better work by collaborating on some of our most challenging scientific issues.

I thank my colleague, Representative WILLIAMS, for introducing this legislation and Representative SORENSEN for cosponsoring it.

This bipartisan bill earned unanimous support in the Science Committee, and I urge my colleagues to give it the same support on the floor today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee ranking member, Mr. SORENSEN, for their work on this important bipartisan bill.

Enhancing interagency collaboration between the Department of Energy and NASA can have a multiplier effect on the creative, innovative, and inspiring work of these two important agencies. It is an important element in fur-

thering both agencies' missions and our Nation's aspirations in science and exploration.

DOE's and NASA's joint research and development activities include amazing scientific endeavors, such as nuclear power and nuclear space propulsion, high-energy physics and sophisticated astronomy, Earth and environmental sciences, and quantum information technology.

This partnership is already having impressive results. For example, just last week, an international team of 170 scientists produced a catalog of 294 gamma-ray-emitting pulsars discovered using NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope that was developed in coordination with DOE. Fermi's discoveries mean astronomers now know of more than 27 times the number of known gamma-ray pulsars before the telescope was launched in 2008.

Last month, DOE marked the largest delivery of plutonium-238 since the U.S. restarted domestic production over a decade ago. DOE uses this material to develop heat sources to power NASA robotic spacecraft that can't effectively use solar energy.

This is a very practical bill. It maximizes our Federal R&D capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all House Members to vote in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) to speak on his bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud sponsor along with my colleague across the aisle, Mr. SORENSEN, for this bill, H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act.

This legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to carry out research and development activities focused on the advancement of shared DOE and NASA mission priorities.

Now, of course, the DOE and NASA have been cooperating for a very long time, but this allows it to be done in a more efficient, focused way, which includes research and development in critical technology areas like radiation health effects—something I know something about—quantum information science, high-energy physics, and data analytics.

The DOE has a long and productive history of interagency collaboration with NASA, as I alluded to. Over the decades, this relationship has evolved to include new areas of research, such as Earth and environmental sciences. For example, NASA and DOE have established a joint lab known as the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to tell my colleagues that this joint effort is at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in my home State of New York, and I would be remiss in not bragging that the work that has gone on at Brookhaven has led to seven Nobel

Prizes. I had the honor of touring this lab and seeing the amazing instruments that they have, such as an 800-meter-long track that is accelerating X-rays to near the speed of light. They are doing absolutely amazing science. Imagine what will grow out of this cooperation.

The Brookhaven booster synchrotron, which is what I was just referring to, can simulate cosmic radiation conditions in space and allows them to study its impact on astronaut health and spacecraft instrumentation.

In addition, H.R. 2988 requires the Secretary and the Administrator to conduct these activities in a manner consistent with the strong security provisions the Science Committee passed in the Chips and Science Act of 2022.

As the Energy Subcommittee chairman, one of my top priorities is research security, and the inclusion of this language will protect our Nation's investments from hostile foreign actors such as China and Russia.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SORENSEN, for working with me on this important legislation and continuing the bipartisan tradition of the Science Committee.

H.R. 2988 is the kind of commonsense, good governance bill that we can all agree on. It shows that Republicans and Democrats are still capable of putting political differences aside to advance meaningful bills that strengthen U.S. leadership in science and maximize the return on investment for the American taxpayer.

On a personal note, I will take a moment to thank my mother for inspiring a lifelong love of science in me. I also thank Mr. LUCAS for allowing me to be a part of science, space, and technology as it grows and shines in the United States.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, Mr. WILLIAMS worked on this bill, but so did Mr. SORENSEN, a valued member of our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN), a freshman Member and the only meteorologist in the House of Representatives. I think he is the first meteorologist in nearly half a century to serve, and his curiosity and expertise is really so helpful to the Science Committee, as well as his plain common sense. I thank him for his work on this bill.

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I was thrilled to lead the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act alongside my colleague and chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, Congressman WILLIAMS.

I would be remiss if I didn't also share that my mother gave me the wonder of what is going on above so that I could spend the first 22 years of

my professional life as a meteorologist helping explain how things work.

Also, I hope that the people at home see that this body is working together today in a bipartisan way, just like NASA and the Department of Energy have for decades and decades. They have improved our understanding of the universe by working together.

This bill seeks to build and expand upon that legacy by advancing coordination on fundamental and applied science. The collaborative research and development efforts that this bill facilitates will have a profound impact not just for my constituents but for the entire rest of the country.

As a meteorologist, I know that we need to improve climate modeling and simulation to increase our understanding of how the planet is changing. It will help us make smart decisions to change the trajectory while creating resilient communities. This takes interagency collaboration.

Most importantly, as we see here in the Science Committee, when we collaborate, we inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers. When the first humans land on Mars, they are going to rely on the things that we develop today. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 2988, the DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act, is smart legislation that will help us stay competitive in the race to return humans to the Moon and send them to Mars.

Without key collaborations like this, we would be unable to make critical strides in our energy production and propulsion technologies. I thank Representatives Williams and Sorensen for their leadership in moving this bill forward.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2988, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOUSING OUR MILITARY VETERANS EFFECTIVELY ACT OF 2023

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3848) to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3848

*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 "Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023" or the "HOME Act of 2023".*

#### SEC. 2. PER DIEM PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

*Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (a)—*  
*(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—*  
*(i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB), by striking "115 percent" and inserting "133 percent"; and*  
*(ii) by adding at the end the following:*

*"(iii) During each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026, the Secretary may waive the maximum rate for per diem payments under clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and, subject to the availability of appropriations, provide such payments at a rate that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section if the Secretary notifies Congress of such waiver."*

*"(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii), waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more than 50 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities in a fiscal year.";* and

*(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*"(4) The Secretary may not provide more than 12,000 per diem payments under this section in a fiscal year.";* and

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

*"(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023, and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate for per diem payments under this section that includes, for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department, the following data:*

*"(1) The average rate for such a payment.*

*"(2) A list of locations where the rate for such a payment is within 10 percent of the maximum rate for such a payment authorized under this section.*

*"(3) The average length of stay by a veteran participating in a program described in section 2012(a) of this title.".*

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

*(a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Secretary determines necessary—*

*(1) food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items required for the safety and survival of the veteran;*

*(2) transportation required to support the stability and health of the veteran for appointments with service providers, the conduct of housing searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies; and*

*(3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones, and related service plans required to support the stability and health of the veteran through the*

maintenance of contact with service providers, prospective landlords, and family members.

(b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collaborate, to the extent practicable, with one or more organizations to manage the use of land of the Department of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans for living and sleeping.

(2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration under paragraph (1) may include the provision by either the Secretary or the head of the organization concerned of food services and security for property, buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six months thereafter until the date specified in subsection (d), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with respect to the period covered by such report—

(1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the amount of funds under this section—

(A) each such medical center requested from the Secretary; and

(B) to which the Secretary provided each such medical center;

(2) data, disaggregated by each such medical center, relating to how each such medical center used amounts provided by the Secretary under this section;

(3) the number of covered veterans to which the Secretary provided assistance under this section;

(4) the total amount of assistance the Secretary provided to covered veterans pursuant to subsection (a)(3) for communications equipment, broken down by the type of equipment provided;

(5) the total amount of assistance the Secretary provided covered veterans pursuant to subsection (a)(2) for ridesharing;

(6) the number of covered veterans who received such assistance; and

(7) a description, for each rideshare used by a covered veteran with such assistance, of the reasons such covered veteran used such rideshare.

(8) the number of covered veterans who lived or slept on Department land;

(9) the amount of funds used to make available Department land for covered veterans to live and sleep;

(10) the number of Department employees whose primary responsibilities involved providing services for covered veterans living or sleeping on Department land;

(11) the average length of time a covered veteran lived or slept on Department land, and

(12) the period of time the Secretary expects Department land will be made available for covered veterans to live and sleep.

(d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2024.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered veteran” means—

(1) a homeless veteran; and

(2) a veteran participating in the program carried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).

#### SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “May 18, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3848, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3848, as amended, offered by my friend and colleague, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, from the great State of Oregon.

The HOME Act is a data-driven solution to build on efforts across multiple Congresses to bring veterans out of homelessness and to get them back on track.

Just last week, the VA announced that they housed more than 38,000 homeless veterans in 2023—and that is a great improvement—due to the incredible private organizations that work with the VA to find veterans homes.

□ 1615

However, our efforts must continue.

No veteran should be without a warm place to call home. Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER’s bill would rightfully increase the grant and per diem rate for homelessness providers around the country to keep rates in line with inflation.

This bill would also authorize the VA to fund rides through ride-share partnerships to transport homeless veterans to their VA healthcare appointments, search for and find permanent housing, a key Democratic request to move this bill forward on the House floor.

Additionally, this bill funds communication devices, including smartphones and tablets, so our veterans can pursue employment opportunities, make appointments, and stay in contact with their families, to help prevent the self-isolation that often precedes veteran suicide.

It is critical to get these programs running again so veterans can continue to be housed and get to their appointments, whether it is for physical or mental health care. We need to get our veterans back on track. This is a hand up not a handout.

We have seen firsthand the success of the Grant and Per Diem Program in housing veterans. This VA grant program shows that public and private partnerships between the government and private sector can work.

I thank Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY, for originally proposing the increase in the GPD rate during the COVID-19 era. The original rate was sufficient, but due to inflationary pressures that have been exerted by Bidenomics, it is now unfortunately not. Bidenomics has caused a tremendous amount of hardship for Americans, particularly homeless veterans.

Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER’s bill will combat the impact of the

Biden administration’s rising inflation head-on by increasing homelessness providers’ grants to account for the out-of-control inflation. The grant rate increase is especially important now with the news that homelessness is up 11 percent nationwide.

Just 2 weeks ago, the VA’s annual Suicide Prevention Report revealed that the suicide rate for VHA users with indications of homelessness increased by over 38 percent from 2020 to 2021. In 2021, the suicide rate for homeless veterans using VHA was 186.5 percent higher than veterans who are housed.

That is a staggering number and underscores how important it is to continue our work to get veteran homelessness and suicide to functional zero. We, as a country, must utilize innovative thinking and approaches to confront these disturbing trends as we work to find an upstream solution to prevent veterans from becoming homeless in the first place. The HOME Act is a fiscally responsible way to start.

I appreciate all the homelessness stakeholders, such as the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and the New England Center and Home for Veterans who have worked with the committee to ensure we brought a great bill to the floor today. Without their input, the important changes we made at my subcommittee would not have been possible.

I also thank my friends, the full committee ranking member, Mr. TAKANO, and my ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, for working across the aisle and getting to a “yes” back in July at our last full committee markup.

Passing this bill with strong bipartisan support will show our Senate colleagues that we have a united front on this issue. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to continue to provide for homeless veterans by including this bill in a larger bicameral, bipartisan package.

Chairman BOST made a commitment to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that he would ensure we would get this fixed.

We, as members of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, gave our word that we would do everything in our power to help those who have defended this Nation and given us the ability to live in freedom. Today, we take great strides to keep it.

Once again, under Chairman BOST’s leadership, Congress will come together with a practical solution to do the right thing for the men and women who have served.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3848, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3848, as amended, the Housing our Military Veterans Effectively, or HOME Act.

I have conflicting emotions as I finally stand here advocating for the

passage of the HOME Act. On one hand, I am elated to finally see this language move forward that will ultimately get more veterans off the street and into housing. That is my goal here, to end veteran homelessness. On the other hand, I remain frustrated with the length of time it took this body to take up this bill and the fact that I will have to be back on the floor next year advocating for the same authorities here to be extended yet again since most of this bill expires on September 30, 2024.

Last week, VA announced they met their goal to house 38,000 veterans this calendar year several months early. I am very proud of this accomplishment, but unfortunately, this does not reflect the full picture of the reality we face related to veteran homelessness in our country.

HUD's 2023 Point-in-Time Count will be released soon. Based on initial reports from communities across the country, it will likely show a dramatic increase in veteran homelessness. We are losing ground. The VA is doing incredible work to get veterans into housing, but when one veteran gets housed, another is falling into homelessness.

We need to bolster the prevention tools the VA and providers have to quickly address a veteran's housing insecurity the moment it occurs. The Democratic-led authorities in the HOME Act are those very tools.

This bill, which includes two Democratic bills, from Congresswomen CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and WILLIAMS, gives the VA and its community providers the flexibilities and resources they need to effectively house veterans experiencing homelessness and at risk of becoming homeless.

However, the bill before us today isn't perfect. It has technical flaws that we quickly brought to the attention of our Republican colleagues, but they refused to fix it. If we send the language we are considering today over to the Senate, the Senate will have to amend the language, pass it, and send it back to the House for final passage, leaving more time that the VA and providers operate without these authorities, more time that homeless veterans go without, and more time that homeless veterans spend on the street.

I need not say to all in this Chamber that we know that December is upon us. I spoke in the Chamber just a few weeks ago about the fact that winter was upon us and yet we had not passed the HOME Act.

I am really disappointed by this unforced error of being in a position where we find ourselves here on the floor to pass an empty gesture. We reported this bill out to the House in July. As happens, there have been additional changes that needed to be made. We had agreement with the Senate on these changes, yet the majority chose not to proceed with the agreement. We are here on a bill that is not going anywhere any time soon.

The reality of this situation is that Republicans are playing games and using homeless veterans as their pawns. Homeless veterans do not have time for games. Maybe it seems easy because these most vulnerable veterans don't have lobbyists stating their case or advocating their case. Every night they spend on the street is a night this Congress could have prevented. These are our most vulnerable veterans, in the most vulnerable situations, and we owe it to them to keep our word to send the VA the resources they need to help them.

For some homeless veterans, this is literally a matter of life or death.

At the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity legislative hearing on this bill earlier this year, we heard directly from the VA about a homeless veteran who was imminently considering taking his life by suicide before the VA intervened and got him the help he needed using the authorities this bill would reauthorize.

The VA's recent Suicide Prevention Report indicated that homeless veterans are 186 percent more likely to die by suicide than any other veteran. These Democratic-led provisions are suicide prevention tools. They are life-saving. In only 12 days from when the authorities in this bill lapsed at the end of the public health emergency, between May 11, 2023, and May 23, 2023, the VA was forced to cancel over 42,000 rides that supported over 18,000 veterans to attend 10,000 medical appointments. Just 12 days caused that big of an impact. Here we are, 207 days later, and I can barely fathom how many homeless veterans went without in that period.

If we are going to help homeless veterans, we need a hotline-ready bill to send to the Senate. By hotline, we are talking about the Senate hotline for House bills that have been passed and are ready to pass the Senate because they have no flaws, no substantive flaws.

Why aren't we sending to the Senate hotline-ready bills from the House of Representatives when we know the language that needs to be put in those bills has all been agreed to by the four corners? Senators TESTER and SCHUMER both assured me last week that if we sent the Senate both of the four-corners agreed-upon language for this bill and for the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, they would get these bills onto the Senate hotline so that they have a chance of getting to the President's desk by Christmas.

As we enter the holiday season and a cold winter, we should take our duty to help homeless veterans as seriously as possible. We must do all we can to get these veterans housed and off the streets during the coldest months of the year. We did have a choice here. We had a choice.

Instead, we have before us here a flawed bill that the Senate will have to amend and send back to us. We can end veteran homelessness. It is a choice

that Congress can make to fully fund the resources and authorities that the VA and its partners need to get veterans into stable permanent housing.

We saw proof of this during the pandemic, one of the most difficult times in our country's recent history, when we actually reduced veteran homelessness by 11 percent. We know what works. We know that the Democratic-led flexibilities and authorities included in the HOME Act will reduce homelessness.

I must register my disagreement with what my colleague from Wisconsin has claimed, that the grant and per diem rates were adequate. They were never adequate. It was because of the flexibilities we included during the health emergency that we were able to address the always inadequate levels of funding. It is a falsehood to try to claim that it was about inflation. No, these program per diem rates for the many, many organizations out there that help our veterans across the country were never adequate.

We had an opportunity to move forward a compromise today, but a different choice was made. I am going to hope against hope that somehow this bill does get to the President before the end of the year and that we don't have it on our conscience that we made homeless veterans suffer any more than they already have.

I will ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3848, as amended, today, and I will also say a prayer that we see through to doing the right thing.

I would submit to my colleagues on the other side, after all, isn't that why we are here, to do the right thing?

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, on any given night, there are around 1,400 Oregon veterans who go to sleep without a roof over their heads. This is heartbreaking and unacceptable. We owe it to our veterans to do better. They stepped up to serve our country, and it is our responsibility to ensure they are cared for in return.

That is why I introduced the HOME Act, which would lift veterans out of homelessness. To account for recent inflation, this legislation increases financial assistance for nonprofit organizations that provide transitional housing to veterans in need.

The financial assistance offered would be higher in areas with elevated rates of suicide among veterans. It also creates a new stipend for homeless veterans. This could be used to buy food, clothing, and even cell phones to help them communicate with family members and healthcare providers.

I thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for his support and the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for his leadership on this issue.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed legislation. Together, we can empower our Nation's heroes and ensure they all have a place to call home.

I have been on this job for 10 months, and I do have hope that we will continue to move forward for our veterans and do everything that we can every day we are in this job to support them.

□ 1630

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I wish that we could be sending over to the Senate today a hot-line-ready bill.

We knew what we had to put into this bill. The majority knew what corrections needed to be made. By tradition, subsequent to the vote that we took today, we could have done those corrections and had a bill that could have gone on the Senate hotline. Absent any Senator's objection, it could have been sent to the President's desk for sure by the Christmas holiday.

By some miracle something could happen. There could be a heating of the conscience. There is a conscious choice being made today to not send the Senate a bill that is substantively freed from the flaws that we could have fixed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I hope against hope that we still can get this done by the end of the year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remind my great friend and colleague from the State of California, as the previous ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee where the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the White House were held by his party, that this could have been passed in this period of time.

In that period of time under Democratic control, the per diem rate was set at 125 percent by Speaker Emeritus KEVIN MCCARTHY and was agreed to by the now ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

As many Members of this body have been sitting for a decade or multiple decades, I was serving in the United States Navy, freezing outside in combat, and now a veteran. There is a difference between the life experiences.

The time for talk and political sharpshooting each other is over. The time to act is now. In fact, I do agree with my colleague that we cannot allow another veteran to go homeless as winter is upon us here.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask Mr. TAKANO and the other Democrats on that side of the aisle to join me, as I will join them, in working collectively as Members of this body to ensure that everything that is done here is for a higher purpose. The higher purpose is making sure that those who have protected our

lives, as we live in freedom, are able to live in peace and prosperity. If they need a hand up, they get it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3848, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ELIZABETH DOLE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS ACT OF 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 542) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 542

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Elizabeth Dole Home- and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023” or the “Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Increase of expenditure cap for non-institutional care alternatives to nursing home care.
- Sec. 3. Coordination with Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.
- Sec. 4. Home- and community-based services: programs.
- Sec. 5. Coordination with assistance and support services for caregivers.
- Sec. 6. Development of centralized website for program information.
- Sec. 7. Improvements relating to Home-maker and Home Health Aide program.
- Sec. 8. Reviews and other improvements relating to home- and community-based services.
- Sec. 9. Modification of certain housing loan fees.
- Sec. 10. Definitions.

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE CAP FOR NONINSTITUTIONAL CARE ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE CAP.—Section 1720C(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The total cost” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the total cost”;

(2) by striking “65 percent” and inserting “100 percent”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) The total cost of providing services or in-kind assistance in the case of any veteran described in subparagraph (B) for any fiscal year under the program may exceed 100 percent of the cost that would otherwise have been incurred as specified in paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, based on a consideration of clinical need, geographic market factors, and such other matters as the Secretary may prescribe through regulation, that such higher total cost is in the best interest of the veteran.

“(B) A veteran described in this subparagraph is a veteran with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a spinal cord injury, or a condition the Secretary determines to be similar to such conditions.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal years beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. COORDINATION WITH PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

Section 1720C of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) In furnishing services to a veteran under the program conducted pursuant to subsection (a), if a medical center of the Department through which such program is administered is located in a geographic area in which services are available to the veteran under a PACE program (as such term is defined in sections 1894(a)(2) and 1934(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395eee(a)(2); 1396u-4(a)(2))), the Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the PACE program operating in that area for the furnishing of such services.”.

#### SEC. 4. HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES: PROGRAMS.

(a) PROGRAMS.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1720J the following new section (and conforming the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

#### “§ 1720K. Home- and community-based services: programs

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In furnishing non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care pursuant to the authority of section 1720C of this title (or any other authority under this chapter or other provision of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs), the Secretary shall carry out each of the programs specified in this section in accordance with such relevant authorities except as otherwise provided in this section.

“(b) VETERAN-DIRECTED CARE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Veteran-Directed Care program’. Under such program, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with the providers described in paragraph (2) to provide to eligible veterans funds, to the extent practicable, to obtain such in-home care services and related items as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and selected by the veteran, including through the veteran hiring individuals to provide such services and items or directly purchasing such services and items.

“(2) The providers described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) An Aging and Disability Resource Center, an area agency on aging, or a State agency.

“(B) A center for independent living.

“(C) An Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving assistance under title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3057 et seq.).

“(3) In carrying out the Veteran-Directed Care program, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

“(A) administer such program through each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(B) seek to ensure the availability of such program in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States, to the extent practicable; and

“(C) seek to ensure the availability of such program for eligible veterans who are Native American veterans receiving care and services furnished by the Indian Health Service, a tribal health program, an Urban Indian organization, or (in the case of a Native Hawaiian veteran) a Native Hawaiian health care system, to the extent practicable.

“(4) If a veteran participating in the Veteran-Directed Care program is catastrophically disabled, the veteran may continue to use funds under the program during a period of hospitalization in the same manner that the veteran would be authorized to use such funds under the program if the veteran were not hospitalized.

“(C) **HOMEMAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.**—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Homemaker and Home Health Aide program’ under which the Secretary may enter into agreements with home health agencies to provide to eligible veterans such home health aide services as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) In carrying out the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, ensure the availability of such program—

“(A) in the locations specified in subparagraph (B) of subsection (b)(3); and

“(B) for the veteran populations specified in subparagraph (C) of such subsection.

“(d) **HOME-BASED PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Home-Based Primary Care program’ under which the Secretary may furnish to eligible veterans in-home health care, the provision of which is overseen by a provider of the Department.

“(e) **PURCHASED SKILLED HOME CARE PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Purchased Skilled Home Care program’ under which the Secretary may furnish to eligible veterans such in-home care services as may be determined appropriate and selected by the Secretary for the veteran.

“(f) **CAREGIVER SUPPORT.**—(1) With respect to a resident eligible caregiver of a veteran participating in a program under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) if the veteran meets the requirements of a covered veteran under section 1720G(b) of this title, provide to such caregiver the option of enrolling in the program of general caregiver support services under such section;

“(B) provide to such caregiver covered respite care of not less than 30 days annually; and

“(C) conduct on an annual basis (and, to the extent practicable, in connection with in-person services provided under the program in which the veteran is participating), a wellness contact of such caregiver.

“(2) Covered respite care provided to a resident eligible caregiver of a veteran under paragraph (1) may exceed 30 days annually if such extension is requested by the resident eligible caregiver or veteran and determined medically appropriate by the Secretary.

“(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to carry out pro-

grams providing home- and community-based services under any other provision of law.

“(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The terms ‘Aging and Disability Resource Center’, ‘area agency on aging’, and ‘State agency’ have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

“(2) The terms ‘caregiver’ and ‘family caregiver’, with respect to a veteran, have the meanings given those terms, respectively, under subsection (e) of section 1720G of this title with respect to an eligible veteran under subsection (a) of such section or a covered veteran under subsection (b) of such section, as the case may be.

“(3) The term ‘center for independent living’ has the meaning given that term in section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a).

“(4) The term ‘covered respite care’ has the meaning given such term in section 1720G(d) of this title.

“(5) The term ‘eligible veteran’ means any veteran—

“(A) for whom the Secretary determines participation in a specific program under this section is medically necessary to promote, preserve, or restore the health of the veteran; and

“(B) who absent such participation would be at increased risk for hospitalization, placement in a nursing home, or emergency room care.

“(6) The term ‘home health aide’ means an individual employed by a home health agency to provide in-home care services.

“(7) The term ‘in-home care service’ means any service, including a personal care service, provided to enable the recipient of such service to live at home.

“(8) The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(9) The terms ‘Native American’ and ‘Native American veteran’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3765 of this title.

“(10) The terms ‘Native Hawaiian’ and ‘Native Hawaiian health care system’ have the meanings given those terms in section 12 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11711).

“(11) The terms ‘tribal health programs’ and ‘Urban Indian organizations’ have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

“(12) The term ‘resident eligible caregiver’ means an individual who—

“(A) is a caregiver, or a family caregiver, of a veteran and resides with that veteran; and

“(B) has not entered into a contract, agreement, or other arrangement for such individual to act as a caregiver for that veteran unless such individual is a family member of the veteran or is furnishing caregiver services through a medical foster home.”

(b) **DEADLINE FOR IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the Veteran-Directed Care program and the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program are administered through each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with section 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), by not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 5. COORDINATION WITH ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

(a) **COORDINATION WITH PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.**—

(1) **COORDINATION.**—Section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(14)(A) In the case of a veteran or caregiver who seeks services under this subsection and is denied such services, or a veteran or the family caregiver of a veteran who is discharged from the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(i) if the veteran meets the requirements of a covered veteran under subsection (b), provide to such caregiver the option of enrolling in the program of general caregiver support services under such subsection;

“(ii) assess the veteran or caregiver for participation in any other available program of the Department for home- and community-based services (including the programs specified in section 1720K of this title) for which the veteran or caregiver may be eligible and, with respect to the veteran, store (and make accessible to the veteran) the results of such assessment in the electronic medical record of the veteran; and

“(iii) provide to the veteran or caregiver written information on any such program identified pursuant to the assessment under clause (ii), including information about facilities, eligibility requirements, and relevant contact information for each such program.

“(B) For each veteran or family caregiver who is discharged from the program under this subsection, a caregiver support coordinator shall provide for a smooth and personalized transition from such program to an appropriate program of the Department for home- and community-based services (including the programs specified in section 1720K of this title), including by integrating caregiver support across programs.”

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to denials and discharges occurring on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 1720G(d) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “or a covered veteran” each place it appears and inserting “, a veteran denied or discharged as specified in paragraph (14) of such subsection, or a covered veteran”; and

(B) by striking “under subsection (a), means” each place it appears and inserting “under subsection (a) or a veteran denied or discharged as specified in paragraph (14) of such subsection, means”.

(b) **CONFORMITY OF RESPITE CARE ACROSS PROGRAMS.**—Section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(3), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii)(III) to read as follows:

“(III) covered respite care of not less than 30 days annually;”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) through (C), respectively; and

(2) by amending subsection (b)(3)(A)(iii) to read as follows:

“(iii) Covered respite care of not less than 30 days annually.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:



“(2) The term ‘covered respite care’ means, with respect to a caregiver of a veteran, respite care under section 1720B of this title that—

“(A) is medically and age appropriate for the veteran (including 24-hour per day care of the veteran commensurate with the care provided by the caregiver); and

“(B) includes in-home care.”

(C) **REVIEW RELATING TO CAREGIVER CONTACT.**—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the capacity of the Department to establish a streamlined system for contacting all caregivers enrolled in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of title 38, United States Code, to provide to such caregivers program updates and alerts relating to emerging services for which such caregivers may be eligible.

**SEC. 6. DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION.**

(a) **CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.**—The Secretary shall develop and maintain a centralized and publically accessible internet website of the Department as a clearinghouse for information and resources relating to covered programs.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The website under subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) A description of each covered program.

(2) An informational assessment tool that—

(A) explains the administrative eligibility, if applicable, of a veteran, or a caregiver of a veteran, for any covered program; and

(B) provides information, as a result of such explanation, on any covered program for which the veteran or caregiver (as the case may be) may be eligible.

(3) A list of required procedures for the directors of the medical facilities of the Department to follow in determining the eligibility and suitability of veterans for participation in a covered program, including procedures applicable to instances in which the resource constraints of a facility (or of a community in which a facility is located) may result in the inability to address the health needs of a veteran under a covered program in a timely manner.

(c) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall ensure the website under subsection (a) is updated on a periodic basis.

**SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HOME-MAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.**

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES WITH SHORTAGE OF HOME HEALTH AIDES.**—

(1) **PROGRAM.**—Beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out a three-year pilot program under which the Secretary shall provide homemaker and home health aide services to veterans who reside in communities with a shortage of home health aides.

(2) **LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall select not fewer than five geographic locations in which the Secretary determines there is a shortage of home health aides at which to carry out the pilot program under paragraph (1).

(3) **NURSING ASSISTANTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may hire nursing assistants as new employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or reassign nursing assistants who are existing employees of the Department, to provide to veterans in-home care services (including basic tasks authorized by the State certification of the nursing assistant) under the pilot program, in lieu of or in addition to the provision of such services through non-Department home health aides.

(B) **RELATIONSHIP TO HOME-BASED PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM.**—Nursing assistants hired or

reassigned under subparagraph (A) may provide services to a veteran under the pilot program under paragraph (1) while serving as part of a health care team for the veteran under the Home-Based Primary Care program.

(4) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary determines the pilot program under paragraph (1) has terminated, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the result of the pilot program.

(b) **REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing, with respect to the period beginning in fiscal year 2012 and ending in fiscal year 2023, the following:

(1) An identification of the amount of funds that were included in a budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs during such period for the provision of in-home care to veterans under the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program but were not expended for such provision, disaggregated by medical center of the Department for which such unexpended funds were budgeted (if such disaggregation is possible).

(2) To the extent practicable, an identification of the number of veterans for whom, during such period, the hours during which a home health aide was authorized to provide services to the veteran under the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program were reduced for a reason other than a change in the health care needs of the veteran, and a detailed description of the reasons why any such reductions may have occurred.

(c) **UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PROGRAM.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue updated guidance for the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program. Such updated guidance shall include the following:

(1) A process for the transition of veterans from the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program to other covered programs.

(2) A requirement for the directors of the medical facilities of the Department to complete such process whenever a veteran with care needs has been denied services from home health agencies under the Homemaker and Home Health Aide program as a result of the clinical needs or behavioral issues of the veteran.

**SEC. 8. REVIEWS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**

(a) **OFFICE OF GERIATRIC AND EXTENDED CARE.**—

(1) **REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.**—The Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of each program administered through the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care of the Department, or successor office, to—

(A) ensure consistency in program management;

(B) eliminate service gaps at the medical center level; and

(C) ensure the availability of, and the access by veterans to, home- and community-based services.

(2) **ASSESSMENT OF STAFFING NEEDS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an assessment of the staffing needs of the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or successor office.

(3) **GOALS FOR GEOGRAPHIC ALIGNMENT OF CARE.**—

(A) **ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS.**—The Director of the Office of Geriatric and Extended

Care, or successor office, shall establish quantitative goals to enable aging or disabled veterans who are not located near medical centers of the Department to access extended care services (including by improving access to home- and community-based services for such veterans).

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.**—Each goal established under subparagraph (A) shall include a timeline for the implementation of the goal at each medical center of the Department.

(4) **GOALS FOR IN-HOME SPECIALTY CARE.**—The Director of the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care, or successor office, shall establish quantitative goals to address the specialty care needs of veterans through in-home care, including by ensuring the education of home health aides and caregivers of veterans in the following areas:

(A) Dementia care.

(B) Care for spinal cord injuries and diseases.

(C) Ventilator care.

(D) Other specialty care areas as determined by the Secretary.

(5) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the findings of the review under paragraph (1), the results of the assessment under paragraph (2), and the goals established under paragraphs (3) and (4).

(b) **REVIEW OF INCENTIVES AND EFFORTS RELATING TO HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the following:

(A) The financial and organizational incentives for the directors of medical centers of the Department to establish or expand covered programs at such medical centers.

(B) Any incentives for such directors to provide to veterans home- and community-based services in lieu of institutional care.

(C) The efforts taken by the Secretary to enhance spending of the Department for extended care by shifting the balance of such spending from institutional care to home- and community-based services.

(D) The plan of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department to accelerate efforts to enhance spending as specified in subparagraph (C), to match the progress of similar efforts taken by the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with respect to spending of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for extended care.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the findings of the review under paragraph (1).

(c) **REVIEW OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the use, availability, and effectiveness, of the respite care services furnished by the Secretary under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) **COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**—

(1) **REPORT ON EXPANSION OF CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**—

(A) **REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing recommendations for the expansion

of mental health services and related support to the caregivers of veterans.

(B) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of authorizing access to Vet Centers by—

(i) family caregivers enrolled in a program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(ii) family caregivers of veterans participating in a program specified in section 1720K of such title, as added by section 4.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(A) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop recommendations as follows:

(i) With respect to home- and community-based services for veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop recommendations regarding new services (in addition to those furnished as of the date of the enactment of this Act) in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(ii) With respect to the national shortage of home health aides, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop recommendations regarding methods to address such shortage in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor.

(B) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the recommendations developed under subparagraph (A) and an identification of any changes in existing law or new statutory authority necessary to implement the recommendations, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) **CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR.**—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the Secretary of Labor.

(3) **FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CAREGIVER SUPPORT.**—

(A) **FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall solicit from the entities described in subparagraph (B) feedback and recommendations regarding opportunities for the Secretary to enhance home- and community-based services for veterans and the caregivers of veterans, including through the potential provision by the entity of care and respite services to veterans and caregivers who may not be eligible for any program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, or section 1720K of such title (as added by section 4), but have a need for assistance.

(B) **COVERED ENTITIES.**—The entities described in this subparagraph are veterans service organizations and nonprofit organizations with a focus on caregiver support (as determined by the Secretary).

(4) **COLLABORATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with the Director of the Indian Health Service and representatives from tribal health programs and Urban Indian organizations to ensure the availability of home- and community-based services for Native American veterans, including Native American veterans receiving health care and medical services under multiple health care systems.

#### SEC. 9. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 15, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “February 4, 2032”.

#### SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The terms “caregiver” and “family caregiver” have the meanings given those terms under section 1720K(h) of title 38, United States Code (as added by section 4).

(2) The term “covered program”—

(A) means any program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services; and

(B) includes the programs specified in section 1701K of title 38, United States Code (as added by section 4).

(3) The term “home- and community-based services”—

(A) means the services referred to in section 1701(6)(E) of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) includes services furnished under a program specified in section 1720K of such title (as added by section 4).

(4) The terms “Home-Based Primary Care program”, “Homemaker and Home Health Aide program”, and “Veteran-Directed Care program” mean the programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in subsection (d), (c), and (b) of such section 1720K, respectively.

(5) The terms “home health aide”, “Native American”, “Native American veteran”, “tribal health programs”, and “Urban Indian organizations” have the meanings given those terms in subsection (h) of such section 1720K.

(6) The term “Vet Center” has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code.

(7) The term “veterans service organization” means any organization recognized by the Secretary under section 5902 of such title.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home- and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023, or the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023, as amended.

The bill is a pivotal piece of legislation aimed at transforming the landscape of long-term care for our Nation's veterans. I commend Representative BROWNLEY for her bipartisan work with me on it.

Veterans, like all Americans, are living longer. This requires the Veterans Administration to adapt to this evolving veteran population to ensure that eligible veterans entering their later years have access to long-term care that meets their needs.

As of fiscal year 2022, approximately 3.1 million veterans, roughly half of VA's active patient population, were 65 years or older. These veterans, often older, sicker, and poorer than the general population, and often residing in rural areas, demand a tailored approach to healthcare.

Veterans want to remain at home for care, avoiding admission to long-term

care facilities. This preference is not only understandable but becomes imperative given the current challenges with long-term care facilities and limited admissions nationwide.

By expanding VA's noninstitutional long-term care services through Representative BROWNLEY's and my bill, we would allow aging and disabled veterans the option of staying in their homes. Institutional care can be reserved for veterans who truly need intensive round-the-clock care and services.

While many States have shifted investments from institutional to home- and community-based care, VA has not kept pace. The lack of a statutory mandate has led to inconsistent availability of home- and community-based services, leaving many veterans underserved simply based on where they live. That is unacceptable.

Veterans and veteran service organizations have consistently urged VA to focus on expanding access to home- and community-based services to allow veterans to age comfortably and safely in place.

The Veterans' Affairs Committee answered these demands head-on, and we held numerous hearings on the issue and focused on equitable long-term care access. Our bill would also rightfully eliminate the annual cap on non-institutional care to include greater flexibility in meeting the needs of veterans living with ALS or spinal cord injuries, for example.

Under current law, these veterans are often forced into institutional care simply because funding cannot be provided for home care. This bill would ensure availability of all programs, such as veteran-directed care, homemaker home health aide, home-based primary care, and purchased skilled home care at all VA medical centers.

In addition to expanding access, the Dole Act urges the VA to take a more active role in helping veterans and their caregivers navigate the multiple options that may be available to them as they consider long-term care.

It is no secret that the Nation is facing a shortage of qualified professionals capable of taking on the tasks required by home- or community-based care.

Representative BROWNLEY's and my bill would create a pilot program to bring in more professionals to serve veterans through homemaker and home health services.

Finally, I want to emphasize that we are committed to fiscal responsibility and have identified an offset to fully fund these programs that will ultimately address the pressing needs of America's aging veteran population.

The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023 is a pledge to ensure veterans receive the care they deserve, preserving their dignity and independence, whether they are catastrophically disabled or in the twilight of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Representative BROWNLEY for her dedication to this issue and her bipartisan work with me on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from 46 organizations, including all of the major veterans service organizations, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and many other groups, and I thank them for their dedication to caring for and serving veterans.

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

There was no objection.

NOVEMBER 30, 2023.

Hon. JON TESTER,

*Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JERRY MORAN,

*Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST

*Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Hon. MARK TAKANO,

*Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MEMBERS: As national organizations representing service-disabled veterans and their caregivers, we are writing to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the well-being of our nation's most vulnerable heroes. Together, we hope you quickly consider and pass the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act either as part of a veteran supported omnibus package or a standalone bill.

The enactment of this bipartisan legislation will help to ensure that severely injured, ill, and aging veterans and their caregivers have access to a comprehensive suite of VA services necessary to age in place with well-deserved dignity and much-needed support.

Most importantly, it would help veterans and their caregivers get the care and support they need now while ensuring that the required program infrastructure is available to serve veterans into the future. Disabled veterans and their families cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Paralyzed Veterans of America; AARP; ALS Association; Wounded Warrior Project; IAM ALS; Disabled American Veterans; Air Force Sergeants Association; The Retired Enlisted Association; Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Military Officers Association of America; Blinded Veterans of America; National Military Family Association; Reserve Officers' Association; Blue Star Families.

America's Warrior Partnership; Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; The American Red Cross; TEAM Public Choices; Psycharmor; Psych Hub; Vets' Community Connections; Association of Military Banks; K9s For Warriors; Travis Manion Foundation; Operation Homefront; Project Sanctuary; Modern Military Association of America; US Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce; Military Family Advisory Network.

Student Veterans of America; Military Child Education Coalition; RallyPoint; Code of Support; Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.; Easter Seals DC MD VA; Partners in Promise; Maxim Healthcare Services; Hope for the Warriors; Cohen Veterans Network; Armed Services YMCA; SolaMed Solutions; Exceptional Families of the Military; Easterseals, Inc.; Nation's Finest.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, while we are considering this bill today, I would remind my colleagues that this legislation is also a part of a comprehensive veterans package being ne-

gotiated between the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the days ahead to collectively advance not only this legislation, but many other proposals that support the interests and the well-being of all veterans.

Finally, I thank the numerous veteran service organization partners who have worked with us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 542, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 542, as amended, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023.

This bill, introduced by Representative BROWNLEY and Representative BERGMAN and reported out of committee with unanimous support in July, is truly landmark legislation.

It would require VA to provide access to all home- and community-based services, such as home health aides, home-based primary care, and respite care to all veterans and caregivers who need them.

Currently, elderly and disabled veterans only have access to important home- and community-based services if their VA medical centers have chosen to offer these services.

This bill is named for a person, who in her personal life and in public service, has dedicated herself to caring for others: Senator Elizabeth Dole. Tomorrow will mark the second anniversary of the passing of Senator Bob Dole, an Army veteran who had a dedicated caregiver in the other Senator Dole.

This legislation will enable veterans to remain at home, safely age in place, and avoid or delay admission to nursing homes and other costly institutional settings of care. It will also help connect veterans' caregivers to respite care and other supportive services that help them care for veterans at home and improve VA's coordination with other Federal long-term care programs that promote aging at home.

Finally, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023 will require VA to create a website where veterans and their families can more easily obtain information about VA's home- and community-based services programs and assess whether any of these programs may be right for them. The research is clear: veterans prefer to remain at home and their health outcomes are better when they do. Home care is by far the cheaper alternative to institutional settings.

Nearly every veteran will at some point face the need for additional care at home, or if they can't get it, spend their last years in a nursing home setting. This legislation is an investment in care for millions of veterans and current servicemembers who need this help now or in the future.

The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023 has the support of every major veteran service organization, including

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Military Officers Association of America.

It is also supported by AARP, the National Association of Counties, the National PACE Association, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

It has been these groups' number one policy priority. Shouldn't it be ours?

These groups, and dozens of others, have advocated tirelessly for passage since its introduction 2 years ago.

Despite the great need for this bill, it has been an uphill battle to get it to the floor. We have worked to get support and get the cost down. That showed when it was voted unanimously out of committee in July.

It seems the battle is not over yet because this bill cannot be taken up by the Senate as is. Since the bill was reported, we have worked with our counterparts in the Senate to ensure the bill was as near to perfect as possible. There were a few changes that were agreed upon by all four corners of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

□ 1645

Unfortunately, instead of advancing text with full sign-off, the majority has gone back to text they know has problems in the Senate, so we will have to either await amendment by the Senate or some other legislative action before this legislation can move to President Biden's desk for signature.

The programs and services in this bill are life-changing. In the next 16 years, VA will have doubled its spending on long-term care services, nearing \$15 billion, to meet these needs. While enrolled veterans have a right to institutional care, there are not enough beds or staff in institutional settings in the country to meet the projected need.

Good sense tells us that VA must move quickly to expand home- and community-based services to keep veterans safely in their homes. Providing home- and community-based services would also ensure that VA has the space and staff to care for those who truly do need institutional care.

It is disappointing that we have not gotten this bill on the fast track to signing and that disabled and elderly veterans and their caregivers will have to wait even longer for the care they deserve. This holiday season, we could have given these veterans a gift with lasting impact. The House majority instead tells us we must content ourselves to wait for the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act to be included in a larger package.

The majority has committed to moving this legislative package out of the House and the Senate with delivery to the President by the end of January. I remind everyone that there are some other big items that we have to get done in January, and I am worried about whether or not that other big item might impede our ability to get this item done.

The intention is that the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act and the HOME Act be included as key pillars of the package.

The majority has also committed in the last week to not abuse these bipartisan bills as leverage to include partisan poison pills in that package. I intend to hold my Republican colleagues to that agreement, and the stakeholders and the VSOs will, as well.

This agreement includes the fallback that if this package cannot be completed in time, then these bills should be advanced as standalone. We received a letter on Friday from a broad coalition of national organizations representing service-disabled veterans and their caregivers memorializing this agreement that said it best: "Disabled veterans and their families cannot wait any longer."

It was the same exact letter that was already included in the RECORD by my colleague from Michigan, so I don't have to include it again now.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 542, as amended, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. BROWNLEY), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health and the author of this amazing piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO for his partnership and his efforts to bring this important bill for our Nation's disabled and aging veterans and their caregivers to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, Representative BERGMAN's and my bill, H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act.

I am so proud to have authored this legislation, which delivers the largest set of reforms to the VA's long-term care programs in decades. The bill will significantly expand access to the programs disabled and aging veterans need to live their lives at home and with their families.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide access to all home- and community-based services, such as home health aides, home-based primary care, home skilled nursing, and respite care for caregivers to all veterans who need them. Currently, elderly and disabled veterans only have access to these programs if their VA medical centers choose to offer them.

My bill would also require VA to improve care coordination between the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and VA's other home-based programs. If a veteran does not meet the enrollment criteria for the comprehensive caregiver program, VA would be required to proactively assist the veteran and their caregiver in enrolling in other home-based programs and ensure there is a warm handoff for those who do not qualify for the comprehensive caregiver program.

Finally, my legislation would require VA to establish a public-facing website that will enable veterans and their loved ones to assess their eligibility for each of the home- and community-based services VA offers and provide information about how to access these services.

I have served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee since my first term in Congress, and over the last 10 years, I have participated in at least five oversight hearings related to improving long-term care for our veterans. I have also spoken with countless veterans and their loved ones, and based on my experience, one thing is very clear: Almost every veteran would prefer to age at home rather than in a facility. However, for many veterans, doing so requires certain clinical support that can be prohibitively expensive if not covered by the VA. This bill would help address just that.

Furthermore, it is important to really underscore this point: Home- and community-based care is far and away higher quality and cheaper to provide than institutional care. VA's veteran-directed care program can serve three veterans for every one who would be in institutionalized care at VA's expense. It is important to note that veterans who participate in this program are less likely to develop complications or to be hospitalized than those who do not.

Yet, this program is currently not made available to all veterans. The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act changes that.

Passage of this legislation cannot wait any longer. Like so many families across the country, thousands of elderly and catastrophically disabled veterans and their families are having critical and often difficult conversations about their long-term care. They question whether they spend their lifetimes to keep their veterans at home or whether it is safer to go to a VA-funded nursing facility.

H.R. 542 would help relieve this heartache and give families access to programs that will help veterans stay in their homes and receive the care they need, the care that they have earned, and the care that they deserve.

I will repeat one more time that, most importantly, health outcomes prove to be far better at home compared to institutionalized care.

Last week, 45 veterans service organizations, military service organizations, and community-based organizations sent a letter to House and Senate leadership, urging the swift passage of this bill and saying that, as the ranking member said, disabled veterans and their families cannot wait any longer. I could not agree more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to try to put a face to the experiences that so many disabled or aging veterans often go through and why this bill is so necessary.

This bill is for the 40-year-old veteran who is quadriplegic and who may

have to move into institutionalized care because VA won't provide the skilled nursing services that would help him remain at home.

This bill is for the 50-year-old veteran with ALS who has three small children and wants to spend the remaining time he has with them at home. He shouldn't be forced to move into a long-term care facility because the cost of his care has gone over an arbitrary spending cap.

This bill is for the Vietnam-era amputee who needs help getting dressed and preparing food but can otherwise live safely at home. He should not have to wait for Congress to act to get the care and assistance he needs.

Moreover, this bill is for the Korean war veteran whose aging spouse can no longer provide the level of care she once did. They want to stay at home together. It is unconscionable this Congress would make them wait a moment longer. They need these services and support, and they need it now.

I am, therefore, perplexed that when the majority brought H.R. 542 to the House floor, they chose to bring a version of the legislation that did not include the minor revisions that had been negotiated with our Senate counterparts. This means future House action will be warranted, which is truly inexcusable to me and the veterans, their families, and their caregivers who are waiting on passage of this bill. We had the opportunity to get this done before the end of the year, send it to the Senate, and then to the President's desk for enactment.

When Representative BERGMAN and I first introduced this legislation, we named it after Senator Elizabeth Dole. She has done more for aging and disabled veterans and their caregivers in one lifetime than most of us could hope to do in several.

It was introduced in February 2022, just a few months after the veteran she cared for, Senator Bob Dole, passed away. Tomorrow, we will mark the second anniversary of Senator Bob Dole's passing. It is a shame that we could not honor Senator Elizabeth Dole's example and life's work on this anniversary by sending a hotline-ready bill to the Senate that the President could sign before Christmas. It is shameful, and it is disrespectful, really, to play politics with a bill the veteran community wants so badly and a bill that is more cost-effective, provides better outcomes, and is what our Nation's veterans need and want.

I hope we will soon be voting on the final passage of the bill language that the House and Senate have already agreed to and that veterans and their families so desperately need. All of us will, one day, have conversations about what we want our last years to look like. Our aging and disabled veterans have more than earned the right to have the option of living out these final years at home.

Of all the things we owe these men and women, a peaceful and dignified

life after their service to our country is the least we can do. I call on my colleagues to do right by these veterans. Put politics aside, keep families together, and keep veterans healthy and at home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, and I thank Ranking Member TAKANO and Representative BERGMAN for their work on this bill.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I strongly encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support of this very important, transformational piece of legislation, H.R. 542, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 542, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1700

#### CAREGIVER OUTREACH AND PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3581) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3581

*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 “Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act” or the “COPE Act”.*

##### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO AWARD GRANTS TO ENTITIES TO IMPROVE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

##### “§1720K. Grants to provide mental health support to family caregivers of veterans

*“(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants to carry out, coordinate, improve, or oth-*

*erwise enhance mental health counseling, treatment, or support to the family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.*

*“(b) APPLICATION.—(1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.*

*“(2) Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:*

*“(A) A detailed plan for the use of the grant.*

*“(B) A description of the programs or efforts through which the entity will meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (g).*

*“(C) A description of how the entity will distribute grant amounts equitably among areas with varying levels of urbanization.*

*“(D) A plan for how the grant will be used to meet the unique needs of veterans residing in rural areas, American Indian or Alaska Native veterans, elderly veterans, women veterans, and veterans from other underserved communities.*

*“(c) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that grants awarded under this section are equitably distributed among entities located in States with varying levels of urbanization.*

*“(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize awarding grants under this section that will serve the following areas:*

*“(1) Areas with high rates of veterans enrolled in the family caregiver program.*

*“(2) Areas with high rates of—*

*“(A) suicide among veterans; or*

*“(B) referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line.*

*“(e) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used—*

*“(1) to expand existing programs, activities, and services;*

*“(2) to establish new or additional programs, activities, and services; or*

*“(3) for travel and transportation to facilitate carrying out paragraph (1) or (2).*

*“(f) OUTCOME MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall develop and provide to each entity that receives a grant under this section written guidance on the following:*

*“(A) Outcome measures.*

*“(B) Policies of the Department.*

*“(2) In developing outcome measures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the following goals:*

*“(A) Increasing the utilization of mental health services among family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.*

*“(B) Reducing barriers to mental health services among family caregivers of veterans participating in such program.*

*“(g) TRACKING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish appropriate tracking requirements with respect to the entities receiving a grant under this section.*

*“(2) Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on such tracking requirements.*

*“(h) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—*

*“(1) review the performance of each entity that receives a grant under this section; and*

*“(2) make information regarding such performance publicly available.*

*“(i) REMEDIATION PLAN.—(1) In the case of an entity that receives a grant under this section and does not meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (g), the Secretary shall require the entity to submit to the Secretary a remediation plan under which the entity shall describe how and when it plans to meet such outcome measures.*

*“(2) The Secretary may not award a subsequent grant under this section to an entity described in paragraph (1) unless the Secretary approves the remediation plan submitted by the entity under such paragraph.*

*“(j) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not ex-*

*ceed 10 percent of amounts made available for grants under this section for the fiscal year in which the grant is awarded.*

*“(k) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant funding that is otherwise available through the Department to provide mental health support among family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.*

*“(l) OUTREACH TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—The Secretary shall include, in the outreach materials regularly mailed to a family caregiver who participates in the family caregiver program, notice of mental health support provided by recipients of grants under this section that are located in the relevant Veterans Integrated Service Network.*

*“(m) FUNDING.—(1) Amounts for the activities of the Department under this section shall be budgeted and appropriated through a separate appropriation account.*

*“(2) In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31), the Secretary shall include a separate statement of the amount requested to be appropriated for that fiscal year for the account specified in paragraph (1).*

*“(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026, \$50,000,000 to carry out this section.*

*“(o) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

*“(1) The terms ‘caregiver’ and ‘family caregiver’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1720G of this title.*

*“(2) The term ‘family caregiver program’ means the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G of this title.*

*“(3) The term ‘Veterans Crisis Line’ means the toll-free hotline for veterans established under section 1720F of this title.”*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:*

*“1720K. Grants to provide mental health support to family caregivers of veterans.”*

##### SEC. 3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF FLOODING ON LOCAL PROPERTY ADJACENT TO MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8108 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, or to mitigate the risk of flooding, including the risk of flooding associated with rising sea levels” before the period at the end.*

*(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes an assessment of—*

*(1) the extent to which each medical facility (as such term is defined in section 8101(3) of title 38, United States Code) is at risk of flooding, including the risk of flooding associated with rising sea levels; and*

*(2) whether additional resources are necessary to address the risk of flooding at each such facility.*

*(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 \$25,000,000 to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).*

##### SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS.

*(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States*

shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the provision of mental health support to caregivers of veterans.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the need for mental health support among caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(2) An assessment of options for mental health support in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(3) An assessment of the availability and accessibility of mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(4) An assessment of the awareness among caregivers of the availability of mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(5) An assessment of barriers to mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “caregiver” has the meaning given that term in section 1720G of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “caregiver programs” means—

(A) the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) the program of support services for caregivers under subsection (b) of such section.

**SEC. 5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SECURITY AT COVERED FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **ANNUAL SURVEY.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the following five years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Security and Law Enforcement of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct an annual survey of covered employees to collect information regarding security at each covered facility. Each annual survey shall include questions about—

(1) the type and frequency of criminal activity experienced at the covered facility during the 12 months prior to the date the covered employee completes the survey;

(2) the number of vacant positions for Department police officers at the covered facility and the number of days each vacant position has been vacant;

(3) the availability and adequacy of covered equipment;

(4) the availability and adequacy of resources, classes, or other time set aside for training Department police officers who work at each covered facility about any skill or tactic related to law enforcement, including the proper use of force, firearms qualifications and training, procedures for responding to an active threat, and any other training required for Department police officers;

(5) any security weakness;

(6) an analysis of the relationship between the covered facility (including the Department police officers who work at the covered facility) and local law enforcement agencies;

(7) efforts by the personnel of the covered facility to address and reduce criminal activity at, or in close proximity to, the covered facility; and

(8) recommendations for the Secretary to better address and reduce criminal activity at, or in close proximity to, covered facilities.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the following five years, the Secretary shall submit to each of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives an annual re-

port regarding security at covered facilities that includes—

(1) the results of the annual survey described under subsection (a) for the year covered by the report;

(2) an analysis, made in coordination with the Director of the Office of Security and Law Enforcement of such Department and each director and police chief of a Veterans Integrated Service Network, of the results of the annual survey described under subsection (a) for the year covered by the report;

(3) a plan of action that describes how the Secretary plans to address any security weakness identified in the results of the annual survey and includes clearly-stated goals with measurable benchmarks for each goal and deadlines for each benchmark; and

(4) a list of each vacant position for police chief or deputy police chief at each covered facility, and the number of days the position has been vacant.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered equipment” means any item issued by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to a Department police officer (including batons, firearms, pepper spray, ballistic vests, body-worn cameras, and radios) for use in the provision of services under section 902 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered employee” means any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is employed at a covered facility as a police chief, a facility emergency management leader, a facility director, or a person carrying out the responsibilities of one of these positions in an acting capacity.

(3) The term “covered facility” means any facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs where Department police officers have jurisdiction.

(4) The term “Department police officer” has the meaning given to such term as used in section 902 of title 38, United States Code.

(5) The term “security weakness” means a deficiency in the facilities, staffing, or covered equipment at a covered facility that a covered employee of the covered facility determines presents a risk to the safety of visitors or staff, including an unsecured door, inoperable security camera, unsecured police operations room, a lack of security presence at an entrance to the covered facility, and a lack of security presence in an area of the covered facility or the grounds of the covered facility that the director of the covered facility determines requires an increased security presence.

**SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “March 12, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3581, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3581, as amended, the Caregiver

Outreach and Program Enhancement Act, or COPE Act.

Representative KIGGANS' COPE Act would allow for grant awards expanding access to mental health counseling, treatment, or support to caregivers of veterans participating in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

VA's caregiver program provides caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans with resources and services to help them with the important role they play in their veterans' lives.

Becoming a veteran caregiver is a noble undertaking and caregivers often put their entire lives aside in pursuit of caring for their loved ones. Mental health support is an important component of the caregiver program, but too often caregivers are reluctant to seek care at VA.

Whether it is because of stigma, not wanting to take provider resources away from veteran care, or the fear that seeking mental health care may in some way jeopardize their standing as a caregiver, caregivers should have access to every option without barriers.

The 3-year pilot program the COPE Act would create would expand caregiver mental health access to outside of VA. Ensuring caregiver wellness is critical to ensuring the highest quality of care for the veterans caregivers serve.

This new pilot program is an important next step in continuing to meet caregiver needs. Representative KIGGANS' bill would also allow VA to assist local and State authorities with funding help for the mitigation of flood risk on non-VA property that may be adjacent to VA facilities. Many VA medical facilities are at least 60 years old. Some of these facilities have, over the years and due to locations in low-lying areas, been subject to flooding that impact veteran and staff access or even threatens building function.

Flood preparedness is a prudent focus for all VA facilities that are historically at risk of flooding from storms or from water encroachment. It is important that VA has the means to work with local authorities on issues that impact the operation of its facilities.

Finally, this bill would require a review and report to Congress on the security environment at VA facilities. We know that crime has been increasing at VA campuses, and while VA claims it has reworked its policing structure and hired a record number of officers, our committee lacks the data needed for proper oversight.

Veterans and the staff that support them need to be confident that the facilities they use are safe places to receive care and seek benefits.

This review will go a long way toward identifying ways to enhance safety and improve security within the Veterans Administration buildings and campuses.

I thank Representatives KIGGANS and MACE, both members of the committee,

for their work on the various elements of this bill and for their unwavering commitment to the veterans we serve.

Additionally, to maintain our commitment to fiscal responsibility, we have identified an offset and fully funded this bill to ensure the best possible outcome for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3581, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3581, as amended, the Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act, or COPE Act.

This legislation, as amended, incorporates three Republican-sponsored bills, which were marked up at the subcommittee and full committee level over the summer.

First, H.R. 3581 would create a 3-year, \$50 million per year grant program to award grants to entities that will provide mental health counseling, treatment, or support to caregivers participating in VA's family caregiver program.

The VA would also be required to provide outreach to caregivers to inform them of available mental health support offered by grantees. The legislation also requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to assess the availability and accessibility of mental health support for veterans' caregivers.

Additionally, H.R. 3581, as amended, will authorize VA to contribute to local authorities to mitigate the risk of flooding on local property adjacent to VA medical facilities. It would also authorize up to \$125 million over 5 years for VA to carry out flood mitigation improvements.

Currently, the statute only allows VA to contribute to local authorities for improvements needed for safe ingress or egress; however, veterans' access to healthcare is frequently disrupted in areas that experience frequent flooding, and VA's ability to partner with local authorities on flood mitigation projects has been limited.

This legislation would also require VA to submit to Congress a report assessing the extent to which each of its medical facilities is at risk of flooding, including flooding associated with rising sea levels.

Finally, H.R. 3581, as amended, will establish a 5-year survey program to examine security and criminal activity at VA facilities, staffing of VA's police departments, and the availability and adequacy of VA police equipment and training.

After surveying all facilities, VA will be required to submit annual reports to Congress summarizing the survey results and providing action plans for addressing any identified weaknesses.

While I support the policy ideas in H.R. 3581, as amended, I know our colleagues in the Senate would like to make some changes to this legislation before it can be enacted. Just last Fri-

day, House committee staff met with their Senate counterparts to discuss changes to the VA security reporting provisions.

Senate staff also have proposed broadening the report on VA medical facility flooding risks such that VA would be required to assess all of its mission-critical assets, including medical facilities, cemeteries, and regional offices, and their vulnerabilities to flooding, wildfire, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other disasters.

Therefore, similar to the other veterans bills we are considering on the floor today, we already know this legislation simply cannot be taken up and passed in the Senate, and future House action will be needed.

It would have been preferable if the majority had resolved these differences before bringing this bill to the floor. Nevertheless, I will support H.R. 3581, as amended, and encourage my colleagues to join me in passing it.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS), an esteemed colleague, distinguished naval officer, and nurse practitioner.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act. Known as the COPE Act, this bill takes an important step toward providing mental health resources to those who care for our Nation's veterans. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the VA to provide grants to organizations that support family caregivers' mental health.

Caregivers play a critical role in the lives of older Americans, especially our veterans. As the only geriatric nurse practitioner in Congress, I have seen firsthand the positive impact caregivers have in the lives of the people they care for.

When I was practicing in clinic settings, I had countless conversations with the people who cared for my patients. I know that this genuinely rewarding role comes with immense emotional challenges, as well. These dedicated individuals frequently put aside their own needs to care for their loved ones and desperately need to have the resources at their disposal to effectively handle the stress of taking on such a role.

By ensuring veteran caregivers can properly take care of their mental health, the COPE Act will improve the lives of our Nation's heroes and solidify the support system they need to age with dignity. The VA offers so many great benefits and programs, unfortunately navigating the wide range of these benefits and programs is so complicated that many are unaware that they might qualify for them or that these services even exist at all.

My legislation also seeks to fix this problem by requiring the VA to reach out to eligible veteran caregivers and make them aware of the mental health benefits available to them.

I am very proud that another bipartisan bill of mine, the VA Medical Center Security Reporting Act, is included in this version of the COPE Act that is being considered today.

From 2018 to 2021, violent crimes at VA medical center campuses more than doubled from 3,141 to 6,505.

There is a significant lack of important statistics and information relevant to crime and safety on VA campuses, including the vacancy rate for VA police departments, availability of issued equipment, and recommendations to address and reduce criminal activity at medical centers.

By ensuring these statistics are properly reported, my legislation will equip us with the information we need to address the increasing crime at VA medical centers, support our law enforcement officers, and provide veterans with a safe environment to receive the quality healthcare they have earned and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am the granddaughter of a veteran, the daughter of a veteran, the wife of a veteran, and the mother of future veterans, and I served 10 years myself in the Navy as a helicopter pilot. I am also blessed to represent one of the largest veteran populations in the country in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Improving the lives of our Nation's heroes is and always will be one of my top priorities in Congress, and this bill helps to do just that.

In closing, I thank Chairman BOST for moving this legislation through the Veterans' Affairs Committee as well as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Representative CHRISSEY HOULAHAN and CHRIS PAPPAS, who joined me in introducing these important bills.

I am confident that with the passage of this legislation, we as a country will move closer to fulfilling our promise to provide for America's veteran population and those who care for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the COPE Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3581, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3581, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD**

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 894) strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

**H. RES. 894**

Whereas acts of hate, intimidation, discrimination, and violence based on ethnicity or religion have no place in our country nor in the global community;

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism is widely accepted and serves as a critical tool to help individuals comprehend and identify the various manifestations of antisemitism;

Whereas, since the massacre of innocent Israelis by Hamas, an Iran-backed terrorist organization, on October 7, 2023, antisemitic incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault in the United States have spiked 388 percent over the same period last year, according to reports from the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Center on Extremism;

Whereas drastic increases in antisemitic activity has also been seen in Jewish communities around the world since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks;

Whereas the slogan "From the River to the Sea", which is a rallying cry for the eradication of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, has been used by anti-Israel protesters in the United States and globally;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, a car with individuals holding Palestinian flags appeared to intentionally swerve out of its lane, nearly hitting a visibly Jewish family in Clifton, New Jersey;

Whereas, on October 15, 2023, an individual in New York, New York, punched a Jewish woman in the face at Grand Central Terminal solely because she was Jewish;

Whereas, on October 28, 2023, a Jewish man in Sydney, Australia, was severely injured by 3 anti-Israel rioters, in which he was punched in the head at least 12 times, suffered a concussion, 2 black eyes, and 4 spinal fractures;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, a Jewish woman's store in New York City was attacked by a mob of anti-Israel protesters all because she hung posters of Israeli hostages in the store window;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, 4 masked men walked into a restaurant in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and proceeded to tear down an Israeli flag and yelled "Free Palestine";

Whereas, on November 4, 2023, an Arizona man was arrested by Federal authorities for threatening to execute a local Rabbi and "every other JEW I can find tonight at midnight of your Sabbath";

Whereas, on November 4, 2023, during an anti-Israel protest in Washington, DC, rioters shouted their support for Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, and other acts of terror targeting Israel, called for the end of the State of Israel, and spewed hateful and vile language amplifying antisemitic themes;

Whereas, during that same protest in Washington, DC, rioters stormed and tried to scale the White House fence, vandalized property by staining blood-red handprints

onto the side of the White House pillars, and spray painted "Death to Israel" and "Glory to our Martyrs" on buildings in DC;

Whereas, on November 6, 2023, Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish man, tragically died due to injuries sustained when an anti-Israel protester struck him in the head with a megaphone in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas, on November 11, 2023, as part of a massive anti-Israel protest, rioters set off smokebombs in front of a synagogue in London, England;

Whereas, on November 12, 2023, police found several headstones at the Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, were desecrated with swastikas;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, a mezuzah was torn off the doorpost of a Jewish person's apartment and a knife was stuck into the wood in its place in Milan, Italy;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, the evening before the March for Israel in Washington, DC, anti-Israel rioters vandalized a Jewish medical tent by spray painting "Free Gaza", "Palestine Will Be Free", and "Gaza Will Win"; and

Whereas, on November 15, 2023, anti-Israel protesters illegally blocked and violently attacked the Democratic National Committee headquarters, endangering the lives of individuals inside, including Members of Congress, and injuring 6 Capitol Police Officers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns and denounces all instances of antisemitism occurring in the United States and globally;

(2) reaffirms and reiterates its strong support for the Jewish community at home and abroad;

(3) calls on elected officials and world leaders to condemn and fight all forms of domestic and global antisemitism;

(4) clearly and firmly states that anti-Zionism is antisemitism; and

(5) rejects all forms of terror, hate, discrimination, and harassment of members of the Jewish community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. KILEY. 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. Res. 894.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel, anti-Semitism has surged in the United States and around the world.

Reports show that there was a nearly 400 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the weeks after the attack. These incidents include harassment, vandalism, and assault. Americans have been punched, beaten, and forced to flee for their lives from swerving cars simply because they are Jewish.

□ 1715

A Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, was vandalized with swastikas.

On college campuses, Jewish students have been subjected to harassment, threats, and forced to hide from violent protests.

In a recent survey, 73 percent of Jewish college students said they had experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism this academic year.

In the same survey, just 39 percent of Jewish students said they felt comfortable with their peers knowing they were Jewish.

Less than half of Jewish students surveyed said that they felt safe on campus.

At a hearing before our committee last month, a college student testified that she now thinks twice before wearing any sign of her Jewish faith. This was a young woman who is maybe 20 years old. She had the courage to come and testify before Congress, but she can't safely wear something that would suggest to her fellow students and her teachers that she is Jewish.

She testified that her family and friends who live in Israel—people who are under nearly constant rocket attack from Hamas—and others check in with her every day to see if she is safe. They are in a war zone. She is in the United States, and they are checking to make sure that she is safe.

These incidents are absolutely horrifying, Mr. Speaker. They are unacceptable in the United States and in any civilized society. Members of the Jewish community should not have to hide their faith in order to safely go about their lives or receive an education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 30, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee, which agrees to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894 (Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world), so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I ask that you place our letters on this resolution into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, December 1, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on the Judiciary and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894, Strongly



condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will include the exchange of these letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this measure. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction during this Congress. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,  
*Chairman.*

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

I rise today in strong support of any and all serious and meaningful efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

The explosion of anti-Semitism around the world, on college campuses, and online is so shocking that it was the subject of nearly every Jewish household's Thanksgiving meal a week ago.

The Jewish community is absolutely right to consider this terrifying situation a five-alarm fire, as Senator SCHUMER so appropriately put it in his moving speech to the Nation just a few days ago.

Unfortunately, this resolution does absolutely nothing to genuinely counter the scourge of anti-Semitism, nor does it help bring us together with the unity of purpose that this topic merits. Rather, it is another attempt in a long series of veiled efforts by the GOP to weaponize Jewish lives for political gains. It is another partisan gotcha game that amounts to cheap value signaling, not serious action. If there ever was a time for real action, it is now.

Today, in the face of the largest increase in anti-Semitism, both violent and virulent, in this Nation's history, we have a clear choice. We can abuse this moment to try to inflict interparty political damage or we can rise to the occasion and do something real and powerful to actually help the Jewish community.

Just in the last few weeks, we have seen disgusting displays of outright anti-Semitism. Over the weekend, protesters in Philadelphia targeted a Jewish business. It is plainly and unequivocally anti-Semitic to hold Jews collectively responsible for Israel's actions.

In my district, vile, anti-Semitic graffiti has been scrawled on apartment buildings in the Upper East Side. On the Upper West Side, two Jewish women were assaulted after calling out individuals who were despicably tearing down posters of Israeli hostages.

Last week in Brooklyn, three attackers violently attacked a 15-year-old Jewish boy, yelling, "Free Palestine" as they punched and kicked the stranger.

This anti-Semitic hate is happening across the country. The Oakland City

Council rejected a bid to denounce Hamas, as speaker after speaker espoused dangerously misguided and factually erroneous views at a deeply troubling anti-Semitic public hearing.

Since the Israel-Hamas war began, the GOP has seemed gleeful at their partisan wedging at the expense of the Jewish community, and they have utterly failed to do anything serious to address this crisis. If they object to my charges, let me ask them here today three key questions:

First, what have my friends on the other side of the aisle—the only ones who actually control the agenda on the floor—done to implement the White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism? This historic whole-of-government plan, which has bipartisan support, has been completely ignored in this dysfunctional MAGA-extremist Congress. The answer is clear: They have done nothing.

Second, when will the GOP majority stop its efforts to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that must protect Jewish students from the horrendous discrimination they face on campus today? In order to enforce title VI, the law that prevents such discrimination in education, the Department needs the resources to put legal and investigatory boots on the ground. The answer: The majority still supports defunding this office, and that means Jewish students will remain at terrible risk.

Third, what will the GOP do to ensure that the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program run through the Department of Homeland Security has a meaningful increase in funding? This program keeps our synagogues and Hebrew schools safe across the country. The answer: House Republicans have done absolutely nothing to shore up this program.

I demand that we take real action. Representatives GOLDMAN, RASKIN, and I today introduced a resolution which would commit ourselves to the full implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. I implore my Republican colleagues to join it. Join us and take concrete action.

I call on them to actually protect Jewish lives by a dramatic increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program. That is what taking meaningful action would look like.

Mr. Speaker, by bringing this resolution to the floor without a single Democratic cosponsor, which is extremely unusual, and by rushing it to a vote without careful and considerate collaboration, my Republican friends have shown us who they are and precisely what are their intentions.

In my three decades in Congress, I have voted on numerous bills and resolutions addressing anti-Semitism, including my own. I have never seen an anti-Semitism-focused vehicle come to the floor without the cosponsorship of a single member of the minority party.

The House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism doesn't support such partisan gamesmanship, nor does the Anti-Defamation League, nor does the American Jewish Committee. With this resolution, the GOP has shown themselves fundamentally unserious about combating anti-Semitism. Of course, none of us should be surprised.

If our friends on the other side of the aisle were serious about combating anti-Semitism, they would have spoken up when former President Trump called the Nazis in Charlottesville very fine people. They would have condemned the former President when he dined with known Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes. Chairman JORDAN would have thought better before tweeting out "Kanye, Elon, Trump," sending out dog whistles to their white supremacist, anti-Semitic base.

They also would have chosen their recent witnesses more carefully. Chairman JORDAN chose to give a platform to Robert Kennedy, Jr., just days after he trafficked in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories suggesting Jews were responsible for COVID.

I cannot help but note that although this resolution strongly condemns and denounces anti-Semitism, its authors carefully avoided mentioning any of the obvious instances of anti-Semitism coming from their own leaders.

The resolution is flawed in other ways, as well. For example, the resolution implicitly compares some peaceful protesters with the January 6 rioters and insurrectionists. I suppose they have their reasons for that.

More problematically, the resolution suggests that all anti-Zionism—it states that all anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. That is either intellectually disingenuous or just factually wrong. It unfairly implicates many of my orthodox former constituents in Brooklyn, many of whose families rose from the ashes of the Holocaust.

While most anti-Zionism is indeed anti-Semitic, the authors, if they were at all familiar with Jewish history and culture, should know about Jewish anti-Zionism that was and is expressly not anti-Semitic. This resolution ignores the fact that even today certain orthodox Hasidic Jewish communities—the Satmars in New York and others—as well as adherents of the prestate Jewish labor movement have held views that are at odds with the modern Zionist conception.

According to the Jewish Encyclopedia, "the anti-Zionist world-view of the ultra-Orthodox groups . . ." like the "Satmar Hasidism perceives Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel as an anti-messianic act . . ." That is to say that these ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jews believe that only the Messiah can bring about the true Israel, and I assure you the Satmar Hasidic Jews are certainly not anti-Semitic.

I should also note that there are those who try to smear even progressive pro-Israel supporters with the inappropriate label of "Israel hater" or "anti-Zionist." Under this resolution, those who love Israel deeply but criticize some of its policy approaches could be considered anti-Zionist. That could make every Democratic Jewish Member of this body—because they all criticized the recent Israeli judicial reform package—de facto anti-Semites. Might that be the authors' intention?

Again, let me be unequivocally clear, most anti-Zionism, particularly in this moment, has a real anti-Semitism problem, but we cannot fairly say that one equals the other.

As the most senior Jewish Member in this House, with perhaps the largest Jewish constituency in this country, I have always and will always support real, meaningful legislation to combat anti-Semitism. This, of course, is deeply personal for me and for so many of my constituents. Indeed, I take a back seat to no one in this body when it comes to fighting against this scourge.

In the aftermath of October 7, we have a moral obligation to act to protect our own Jewish citizens and our critical ally Israel. I pray that the GOP majority makes today the day that they stop playing these partisan games and commit themselves to doing the real work to protect Jewish lives. There is not a single minute to spare.

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

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

I say briefly that I very much do applaud the gentleman from New York, who I think has shown tremendous leadership in many ways in standing up for Israel and fighting against anti-Semitism in this country.

I think one of the valuable things that we have seen over the last several weeks is that we have had bipartisan support on both counts. I actually sponsored a separate resolution dealing specifically with the problem of anti-Semitism on college campuses, and that got overwhelming bipartisan support on this floor. I think it had only about 21 "no" votes. That has been very encouraging.

With respect to the three charges that were mentioned, number one, there is legislation in the House right now to codify the President's executive order, on which I think it is important that we move forward.

Number two, far from saying we shouldn't have an Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Education, Representative BURGESS OWENS and I wrote a letter to the head of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education telling them they need to be doing more, they need to be more proactive in looking into anti-Semitic incidents at our universities, and we would certainly welcome their support on that letter.

Number three, as far as the protection for synagogues and other facili-

ties, I would be very interested in partnering with you on any such efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that strongly condemns the dramatic rise of anti-Semitism both here in our Nation and abroad.

Last week, I had the privilege and the honor, frankly, of speaking with Amir Ohana, who is the Speaker of the Knesset. We discussed a lot of things. We talked about how life has changed not only in Israel but around the world since Hamas' horrific and brutal terrorist attack against Israelis on October 7. We also talked about how we have seen an absolute explosion of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks, and harassment in Israel, here in our own Nation, and across the world.

Mr. Speaker, two interesting statistics, if I can: According to the Anti-Defamation League, since the Hamas massacre on October 7, anti-Semitic incidents around our Nation have increased over 400 percent compared to the same time period last year.

□ 1730

The second statistic, Mr. Speaker, more Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any other single day since the Holocaust. Let that sink in.

We have seen Members of this very body repeat blatantly anti-Semitic rhetoric and spread lies about Israel and her right to exist. Let me be absolutely clear: Such hate has no place in the Halls of Congress nor in our national discourse.

It is our fundamental responsibility as leaders and as Members of Congress to condemn and fight these horrific acts of hate and discrimination against the Jewish community.

That is why I am proud to work with my colleague, Congressman MAX MILLER, to introduce this critical resolution to condemn and denounce all instances of domestic and global anti-Semitism.

A few months ago, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity—really, the privilege—to take a group of people through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A lot of us have been there. It is not too far away from here in the Capitol where we are standing. That museum serves not only as a reminder of the atrocities that took place during the Holocaust, but it also serves as a stark reminder that we can never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and that we, as leaders, have an obligation and a duty to make sure that it never happens again.

For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very simple, yet critical, resolution.

It is absolutely important that we send a clear and firm message to the world that the United States House of

Representatives stands shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community here in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, as Jews around the world celebrate Hanukkah very soon in the next few days, we should remember the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.

He said: "Hanukkah tells us not to curse the darkness, but instead to bring light to the world. It tells us to fight back and not be afraid."

We should truly heed those words. I thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we hear in this resolution about the opposition to anti-Semitism. As I said before, I would be more impressed with the sincerity of that opposition if the Republican Party were not trying to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that enforces title VI to protect Jewish students on campus, and if the Republicans were not opposing an increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and for the high-risk, nonprofit security grant program that protects our synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

Mr. Speaker, the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and across the world is a real and growing problem.

I wish the majority would use its power to actually do something about it instead of playing partisan political games.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 894.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 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-2458. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold received December 1, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-2459. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Department's final rules — Consumer Leasing (Regulation M) received December 1, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-2460. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rules — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) received December 1, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-2461. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-313, "Parity in Workers' Compensation Recovery Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2462. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-317, "CJCC Data Collection Technical Correction Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2463. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-310, "Immunization of School Students Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2464. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-311, "Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2465. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-309, "Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way Designation Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2466. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-308, "Julius Hobson Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2467. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-307, "Edna Brown Coleman Way Designation Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2468. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-306, "Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2469. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-315, "Clarification of UDC PR Harris Exclusive Use Repeal Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2470. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-316, "DC Nursing Education Enhancement Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2471. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-318, "11th Street Bridget Project DOE Permit Temporary Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2472. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-303, "Medical Cannabis Patient Access Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2473. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-312, "Ward 8 Community Investment Fund Temporary Clarification Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2474. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-314, "Sexual Harassment Investigation Review Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2475. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-302, "Karin House TOPA Exemption Temporary Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON  
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2798. A bill to make reforms to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-297, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. HOUSHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 906. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4468) to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5933) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of

title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program". (Rept. 118-298). Referred to the House Calendar.

## DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, the Judiciary, and Small Business discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2798 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ARMSTRONG (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 6568. A bill to prohibit speculative ticketing as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 6569. A bill to improve purchasing of food by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JORDAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. FRY):

H.R. 6570. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 6571. A bill to establish a critical supply chain resiliency and crisis response program in the Department of Commerce, and to secure American leadership in deploying emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 6572. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness of the United States related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COLE, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 6573. A bill to prohibit data brokers from selling, reselling, trading, licensing, or otherwise providing for consideration lists of military servicemembers to a covered nation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6574. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the contempt

authority of immigration judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 6575. A bill to amend chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, to require the Postal Service to use a mobile retail unit to provide retail postal services to an area when the post office for such area is temporarily unable to provide such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. TRONE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TLAB, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BALINT, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6576. A bill to improve the full-service community school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 6577. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to require the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to appoint amicus curiae assist such court in the consideration of each application for an order or review under title I of that Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MANN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. GUEST, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6578. A bill to establish the Commission to Study Acts of Antisemitism in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO):

H.R. 6579. A bill to provide that, if an individual is expelled from Congress, any Member service previously rendered by that individual shall be noncreditable for purposes of determining eligibility for or the amount of any benefits which might otherwise be payable out of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund based on the service of that individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 6580. A bill to require that a foreign purchaser of agricultural land be subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to United States citizens and nationals in the home country of such foreign purchaser; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 6581. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6582. A bill to establish the Digital Literacy and Equity Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6583. A bill to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and to use funds received as that compensation to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 6584. A bill to restore the functions of the Office of Innovation of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H. Res. 907. A resolution to condemn the rise in antisemitism, call on all Americans to combat antisemitism in the United States, and implement aspects of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 6568.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is to further regulate ticketing sales for live events in interstate commerce.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 6569.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: to establish and encourage equitable food procurement processes within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 6570.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 6571.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is: Commerce

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 6572.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is: Commerce

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 6573.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Protection of military member's personal data

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6574.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the contempt authority of immigration judges

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 6575.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, to require the Postal Service to use a mobile retail unit to provide retail postal services to an area when the post office for such area is temporarily unable to provide such services, and for other purposes.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 6576.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes Duties, Imposts, and Excises"

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 6577.

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

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Civil liberties

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 6578.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation establishes a bicameral commission to study acts of semitism being committed and provide solutions on how best to combat this.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 6579.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide that, if an individual is expelled from Congress, any Member service previously rendered by that individual shall be noncreditable for purposes of determining eligibility for or the amount of any benefits

which might otherwise be payable out of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund based on the service of that individual, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 6580.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The legislation creates guidelines for when foreign entities purchase U.S. agricultural land.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 6581.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Workplace Discrimination

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6582.

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

Article I, 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 the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes the Digital Literacy and Equity Commission to conduct a study on digital literacy and equity, including the state of digital literacy and information literacy in the United States.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 6583.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and to use funds received as that compensation to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 6584.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To restore the functions of the Office of Innovation of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 39: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 476: Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 522: Mr. ROSENDALE.

H.R. 574: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 683: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 751: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 770: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 807: Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 936: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 997: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 1167: Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1247: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1250: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1269: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1424: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1477: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1536: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1624: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 1634: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1689: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1784: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1788: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 1831: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 1833: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 2411: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2423: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 2583: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2667: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 2708: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 2726: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 2757: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2766: Mr. KILEY.

H.R. 2809: Mr. DELUZIO and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2871: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 2955: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2965: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 3036: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3073: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 3139: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 3233: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 3238: Mrs. SYKES and Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 3272: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3420: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 3433: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 3475: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 3520: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.

H.R. 3537: Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CROW, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. KILEY.

H.R. 3649: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 3713: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3781: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 4039: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4052: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 4104: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4118: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 4138: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 4236: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 4261: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 4278: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 4326: Ms. WILD, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4335: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 4422: Mr. CROW, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 4442: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4464: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 4567: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 4683: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 4748: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 4769: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4819: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 4842: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 4864: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 4993: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 5027: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 5041: Mr. LIEU, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. IVEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 5073: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 5074: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 5136: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 5147: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 5246: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 5296: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5302: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 5341: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5399: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 5473: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 5526: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 5535: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 5585: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 5622: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 5631: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5677: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5683: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 5756: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 5778: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5780: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5785: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 5798: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 5837: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 5871: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 5947: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5956: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 5988: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. GOTTHEIMER. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 6043: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 6046: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 6049: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 6082: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 6093: Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 6114: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 6129: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 6138: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 6171: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 6179: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 6221: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 6227: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 6271: Mr. ROSE, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 6283: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 6322: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 6327: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 6399: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 6408: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6415: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 6421: Mr. BIGGS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 6437: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 6492: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 6493: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 6504: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 6516: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 6545: Mr. HUDSON.

H. J. Res. 98: Mr. KILEY.

H. J. Res. 100: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mrs. SYKES.

H. Con. Res. 46: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H. Res. 345: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 348: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 499: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 733: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H. Res. 806: Mr. BERA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H. Res. 842: Mr. CORREA and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 872: Ms. TITUS, Ms. WASSERMAN

SCHULTZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 874: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 881: Mr. CASE and Ms. SCANLON.

H. Res. 895: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 901: Mr. BERGMAN.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative RODGERS, or a designee, to H.R. 4468, the “Choice in Automobile Retail Sales

Act of 2023,” does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative FOXX of North Carolina, or a des-

ignee, to H.R. 5933, the DETERRENT Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.