



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

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”; and

(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.

“(e) 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 CHRISSY 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 inter-party 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 (FEEL) 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.

H.R. 5995: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TURNER, Ms. 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.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

No. 199

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of time and eternity, use our lawmakers today as instruments of Your will. Give them the wisdom to find joy in Your presence, trust in Your precepts, and confidence in Your prevailing providence. As they trust You to enable us to find shelter from the storms that batter our Nation and world, fill them with Your peace. May this be a day when our Senators serve You with gladness because Your joy has filled their hearts. Lord, keep them within the circle of Your will as they seek to honor You with lives of integrity.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

REMEMBERING SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week, America lost a towering figure of the 20th century: former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Through her life, her work, and her legacy, Justice O'Connor forever changed the nature of the Supreme Court. She was the first woman to ever hold the solemn title of "Justice."

And with every case she oversaw and every opinion she authored, Justice

O'Connor carried out her historic role with integrity and distinction. She moved our country forward in so many ways: protecting women's rights, protecting clean air, protecting voting rights, and fighting discrimination.

I can't help but reflect on her calm and steady presence on the Court, even in the most tumultuous of times and in the most divisive of cases. That presence was so needed during her tenure, and she will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with Justice O'Connor's family and loved ones.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Madam President, now, on the supplemental, America's national security is on the line around the world—in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the Indo-Pacific. Autocrats and radical extremists are waging war against democracy, against our values, against our way of life.

Before the year is out, it is important for the Senate to pass an emergency national security supplemental package providing aid to Ukraine, to Israel; humanitarian aid to innocent civilians in Gaza; and deterrence against adversaries in the Indo-Pacific. Both parties understand the consequences will be severe if we fail. Just this morning, OMB Director Shalanda Young warned congressional leaders that absent action from Congress, funding to help Ukraine will run out by the end of the year.

Alarming, process on the national security package has been on ice for weeks—not because Republicans objected to Israel aid or aid to Ukraine or humanitarian aid to innocent civilians in Gaza or the Indo-Pacific but because Republicans have injected partisan and extreme immigration measures into the debate.

Let me repeat that. The holdup on the security supplemental has not been over Ukraine or Israel or the Indo-Pacific but over Republicans' decision to inject hard-right immigration measures into the debate.

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



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Democrats agree immigration should be debated and addressed. But if Republicans want to raise the issue of immigration right now, the onus is on them to present us with bipartisan ideas. Democrats have spent weeks—weeks—engaging in good faith on this issue. In fact, the President's supplemental proposal puts money directly toward vetting asylum claims, reducing court backlogs, and stopping fentanyl, which is exactly what our Republican colleagues say they want.

But instead of meeting us in the middle, Republicans have tripled down on extremist policies that seem dictated by Donald Trump and Stephen Miller, like indefinite detention of asylum seekers and sweeping powers to shut down the immigration system.

Democrats want to be reasonable on immigration. We are willing to make concessions, but we will not keep going in circles if Republicans aren't interested in even meeting us halfway.

Now, just because both sides can't reach an agreement does not mean that we can't get something done. But it must be broadly bipartisan. Neither side can dictate what can be in the bill, which is what many of our Republican colleagues seem to want.

The two parties don't disagree seriously on Israel or Ukraine aid or humanitarian assistance to Gaza or the Indo-Pacific. We should, therefore, work toward passing these areas where we have bipartisan agreement.

The world is watching what we do in Congress these coming weeks. You can bet Vladimir Putin is watching, Hamas is watching, Iran, President Xi, North Korea. All our adversaries are watching closely.

If Congress fails to defend democracy in its hour of need—all because of border policies inspired by Donald Trump and Stephen Miller—the judgment of history will be harsh indeed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Madam President, now, on NDAA, Democrats have committed to working with Republicans to pass the annual Defense authorization bill through Congress before the end of the year.

Four months ago, the Senate passed our own version of the NDAA with strong bipartisan support. Our bipartisan NDAA made a critical downpayment to rein in the Chinese Government on fentanyl trafficking, the purchase of U.S. farmlands, outbound investments, and more.

We also passed critical parts of AUKUS, one of the most important tools we have for outcompeting the Chinese Government. We must include all of AUKUS in the final agreement.

But, right now, a number of House Republicans—who like to talk a big game on China—are actually sabotaging some of the best tough-on-Chinese-Government accomplishments we have passed in the NDAA. Instead of standing up to the Chinese government, House Republicans seem to be doing their bidding.

For one, House Republican leadership is dangerously close to killing a bipar-

tisan measure to disrupt opioid supply chains—many of which began in China—and punish those who facilitate fentanyl trafficking. This measure, the FEND Act, was adopted with strong bipartisan support in the Senate. It has been championed by the leadership of both the Banking and Armed Services Committees.

Holding the Chinese Government accountable for the fentanyl crisis is the definition of a legislative layup, but House Republicans are trying to kill this bill if they don't get their way on unrelated measures. Instead of making the layup, they are throwing up an air ball.

Incredibly, there is more. Earlier this summer, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a measure limiting the free flow of U.S. investment into China for sensitive advanced technologies like semiconductors, AI, and more. It would codify elements of an Executive order that President Biden issued in August on outbound investments.

What is more commonsense than stopping U.S. dollars from helping Chinese companies beat us on chips and AI and quantum computing?

Yet, once again, House Republicans, with the apparent blessing of their leadership, are blocking the bipartisan measure.

So House Republicans will talk a good game on fighting the Chinese Government but oppose measures to hold that government accountable for the fentanyl crisis, which is so afflicting America. House Republicans will howl that President Biden is not tough enough on China but refuse to codify restrictions on outbound investments that President Biden already issued.

There are only two words to describe House Republicans' record when it comes to China: cynical and hypocritical. We have a chance—a chance—to pass real, bipartisan reforms to help us outcompete the Chinese Government, but House Republicans are going out of their way—out of their way—to kill these wins.

Finally, on UAPs, while it is not related to China, House Republicans are also attempting to kill another commonsense, bipartisan measure passed by the Senate, which I was proud to cosponsor with Senator ROUNDS as the lead sponsor, to increase transparency around what the government does and does not know about unidentified aerial phenomena.

Unidentified aerial phenomena generate intense curiosity for many Americans, and the risk for confusion and misinformation is high if the government isn't willing to be transparent.

The measure I championed with Senator ROUNDS would create a board, just like we did with the JFK assassination records, to work through the declassification of many government records on UAPs. This model has been a terrific success for decades. It should be used again with UAPs, but, once again, House Republicans are ready to kill this bipartisan provision.

Now, we are going to get the NDAA done this year, just like we have for more than six decades, but there is still some more work to do.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Madam President, on the assault weapons ban, later this week, I will join my Democratic colleagues here on the floor to ask unanimous consent to pass the assault weapons ban. I will come to the floor to try and pass the assault weapons ban because, right now, the scourge of gun violence in America is a national crisis.

It wasn't always this way. After I led passage of the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban 30 years ago, America saw a significant decrease in mass shootings and gun deaths.

It is simple: The assault weapons ban works. It saves lives. And one decade since the expiration of the ban, we need it more than ever.

As of today, there have been more mass shootings than days in the year 2023.

Let me say that again. As of today, there have been more mass shootings than days in 2023. And the American people are tired of fearing for their lives, their children's lives, their friends' lives every time people leave the house.

The people of Lewiston, ME, where a gunman murdered 18 people at a bowling alley and restaurant with an assault rifle, are tired of fearing for their lives. The people of Allen, TX, where a gunman murdered eight people at a shopping mall with an assault rifle, are tired of fearing for their lives. The people of Louisville, KY, where a gunman murdered five people at a bank with an assault weapon, are tired of fearing for their lives.

So when Democrats come to the floor this week, again, to pass the assault weapons ban and other gun safety legislation, I urge my Republican colleagues to stand with us. Stand with the American people. Stand against the gun lobby. Stand against gun violence.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I would like to begin today with a few words about the late Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Justice O'Connor was a transformative figure in the history of our country and of our highest Court. She was a trailblazer in both legislative politics and constitutional jurisprudence, and I am grateful for her extraordinary life and for her dedicated service.

I know our colleagues join me in offering our deepest condolences to Justice O'Connor's children, grandchildren, and the entire O'Connor family.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate has less than 2 weeks to pass supplemental legislation on urgent national security priorities. As I have said for months, that means addressing both grave threats to America's interests overseas and a glaring border security crisis right here at home.

Senate Republicans know that national security begins with border security, and we have made it crystal clear that, in order to pass the Senate, any measure we take up in the coming days must include serious policy changes designed to get the Biden administration's border crisis under control. Apparently, some of our colleagues aren't ready to take that reality seriously.

Senator LANKFORD, Senator GRAHAM, and their fellow Republican negotiators are still at the table, working diligently on solutions, but from the White House to the Capitol, Washington Democrats are wasting time with bizarre public scoldings. Instead of engaging actively in the border security discussions required to complete a viable national security supplemental, the Biden administration has chosen to lecture—lecture—Congress with a brag reel of its supposed leadership in countering Putin in Europe.

The administration's account glossed over its record of self-deterrence toward Russia, insisting that "the time to help democratic Ukraine fight against Russian aggression is right now."

If only President Biden had felt that sort of urgency in late 2021 and early 2022, as I and other Republicans urged the administration to give Ukraine the lethal assistance it needed to resist Putin's escalation. If only this lethal assistance—and critical investments in cutting-edge capabilities for U.S. forces—hadn't required so much prodding.

Last week, at the Reagan National Defense Forum, the previous administration's former National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brien, made the case for supporting Ukraine.

He pointed out, rightly, that helping degrade the military power of a major U.S. adversary is in America's national security interest and that we shouldn't hesitate to give Ukraine the weapons it needs to do the job. He observed that the Biden administration's "self-congratulatory talk" doesn't square with its "parsimonious" approach to actually getting decisive weapons to the battlefield. As he put it, President Biden's team ought to "stop patting [itself] on the back."

For their part, it is time for Senate Democrats to start demonstrating they are more interested in reaching a productive outcome in border security dis-

cussions than in wringing their hands in the press. The junior Senator for Connecticut has concluded that beginning to stem the humanitarian and national security crisis on our southern border amounts to "closing the border indiscriminately." Apparently, restoring a functional asylum and parole system, orderly points of entry, and meaningful enforcement of our immigration laws is a bridge too far for Senate Democrats.

Let's be absolutely clear on what we are dealing with here. Let's establish exactly what it is that the Democratic leader has called "extraneous" to America's national security.

On President Biden's watch, CBP has recorded 6.5 million—million—encounters at the southern border and 1.7 million known "got-aways." Last fiscal year's alltime record apprehensions at the southern border included 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist—a massive increase.

The Biden administration tried to convince the American people that they were serious about this historic crisis by having asylum seekers download a smart phone app. Instead, week after week, all we can see are numbers that somehow keep getting worse.

Meanwhile, liberal State and local officials told us that the increasing chaos of their "sanctuary cities" could be mitigated if only we raced to give work permits to that ever-growing population of illegal aliens. Now, setting aside the fact that that creates the exact wrong incentive, the Biden administration has already tried this approach and failed. In New York City alone, just 2 percent of recent arrivals have even applied. President Biden's officials have even admitted that they expected this unserious approach to produce a further surge in arrivals.

As recently as 2 weeks ago, the White House was trying to sell its flawed, insufficient supplemental proposal as a solution to the crisis. As the junior Senator from Tennessee has pointed out, the President's answer to the border crisis wasn't to enforce immigration law; it was to turn ICE into a concierge service for illegal aliens.

Washington Democrats appear to be hell-bent on exhausting every half-baked idea before they get serious about actually fixing our broken enforcement system and securing our southern border. That is the job the American people expect them to do. That is the foundation of America's national security. And time is running out.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in the depths of World War II raging in Europe, a group of people decided to charter a ship and come to the United States. They were Jewish people from European countries. The ship was known as the USS *St. Louis*. It went to the port in Havana, Cuba, and was

turned away. It tried to land in the United States and was turned away again. It eventually returned to Europe, a boatload of Jewish people. Hundreds of them died in the Holocaust.

We reflected on that after World War II and decided it was not a period in American history that we should take pride in but a lesson to us of what happens when people are in desperate situations and ask for help.

I believe it was in 1951 that we entered into the Geneva Convention, an agreement when it came to refugees who sought refuge at the shore. The United States, under Presidents of both political parties, wanted to establish once and for all that what happened to the USS *St. Louis* did not reflect the values of the United States of America. So in 1951, we established, with many nations around the world, a standard for what to do with refugees, people who sought refuge in your country because of fear of staying in their own country.

The system worked well for us for many decades, but now we are facing a new challenge we have never seen before. The number of refugees from around the world is at a record-breaking pace—some refugees because of war, some because of fear, religious belief, state of the environment—and they are moving in massive numbers all over the globe, particularly into Europe and the United States.

So we have seen recordbreaking numbers appearing at our border to the south of our country, and we have heard from the other party quite a bit about this—deservedly so.

I am a person who believes in immigration. My mother was an immigrant to this country, and I am proud to be in the Senate, a first-generation American, representing the great State of Illinois, as the Presiding Officer does. But I understand the overwhelming numbers we are facing at the border and President Biden is facing really argue for us to take a hard look at the way we approach this.

If you have ever been to an immigration court—and I have in the city of Chicago—it is an overwhelming experience. You see people standing three and four deep against the wall, waiting for their numbers to be called. Usually—in fact, almost without fail—their cases are postponed for another 6 months or another year.

It takes years for a person's refugee claim to be litigated. That is just plain wrong. Justice delayed in this situation is clearly justice denied. And the fact that half of them don't win in their litigation is an indication that if they were tried at an earlier date, the resolution of their future would be obvious.

So now we hear from our Republican friends that before we can provide any more military assistance to Ukraine in their war against Vladimir Putin, the war criminal from Moscow, if we are going to provide any assistance to Israel to fight off the Hamas terrorism

group, we have to resolve the problems at our southern border before we can go forward.

It troubles me because I have been working on immigration for at least 20 years, maybe more, and I know how difficult the issue is. It is hard to explain in the United States of America, a nation of immigrants, why immigration is such a hot, controversial topic. Virtually everyone in this country is only a generation or two removed from being an immigrant to this country, and yet there has been resistance throughout our history—unless we needed cheap labor to build the transcontinental railroad, when we invited Chinese workers to come in. We treated them, unfortunately, in an inhumane fashion and didn't give them, largely, the eligibility to become citizens. But we needed the labor. We needed the workers. It has happened many times before.

What troubles me about the debate now about the southern border is it is one-half of the immigration equation. Yes, we need order at the border. Yes, we need to have changes in the laws that reflect the reality of the overwhelming numbers from all over the world who are coming to our shores and our border. But there is also an incredible demand for legal immigration into this country even now.

The Presiding Officer, my colleague from the State of Illinois, has legislation which addresses one aspect of that. Her bill—and I hope I describe it accurately—says that if you are an undocumented person in this country and you can pass the physical and the required tests, background test and the like, you can serve in our military, and if you do it honorably, we will make you citizens of the United States.

Do we need that? Do you know what the recruiting numbers are at the Army and the Navy and the Air Force? They can't reach their quotas each month. They can't find enough people to join our military forces. There are those who are undocumented who want the chance to serve and risk their lives for this country. Should we give them the chance? I think we should.

Let me tell you about others that we need. In my State of Illinois, in the inner city in Chicago and the rural areas downstate, we are holding our breath, hoping that we can keep hospitals open. Do you know why? We don't have enough medical personnel. Yet there are people all around this world who have medical credentials as doctors and nurses and skilled technicians who want to come to the United States, but we don't give them the chance.

I think it is a reasonable thing to do. I think it would make us a better nation and a healthier nation to keep those hospitals open, and they are desperate to find new personnel. We need legal immigration for that.

The same holds true when it comes to agricultural workers. In our State of Illinois, we desperately need them for

virtually every aspect of farming and agriculture. Are they available and ready to come? Yes. But we need a change in the immigration law to reach that.

The point I am trying to make is there are many issues involving immigration. Enforcement and making certain that the people who come here are not a danger to our country are primary. The second to that is to make sure we have an orderly process, and third, that we recognize that legal immigration is needed now more than ever.

A few years back, I was part of an effort called the Gang of Eight—John McCain, myself, CHUCK SCHUMER. We came together and wrote a comprehensive immigration bill. It hadn't been done for over 25 years. We brought it to the floor of the Senate, and it passed.

You see, we have 11 million undocumented people in the United States. They are people who are raising families, going to work, attending churches and synagogues and temples that you attend. They are part of America, but legally they are not on the books.

If we had a system I think that is fair, that passed the U.S. Senate, which said once and for all they can step forward out of the shadows, register with the government, pay their fair share of taxes, pay into Social Security, help us deal with the financial challenges of our entitlement system, and work in this country legally, registered, and we know exactly where they live—that, to me, is a sensible approach. It is one that passed on the floor of the Senate. It is one which we should turn to again.

As we are giving work permits to those who are in temporary protected status, we should be giving work permits to those who have been here for years and years, raised a family, and proven that they can be a good neighbor to anyone in this country. Give them a chance to legally work. I think that is important, and we should do that.

I want to tell you a story about one person. She is a resident of the State of Illinois.

Twenty years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act said that if you were brought here as an infant, toddler, or small child, you should be given a chance to earn your way to citizenship in America.

When they test this proposition across the country, Democrats and Republicans agree that is only fair. Those little kids didn't have a vote when their family decided to come to the United States. They have grown up here. They have been educated in our schools here. They have advanced degrees. They want to be part of America's future, and they should be given that chance.

Well, unfortunately, the bill did not pass. But President Barack Obama, the former Senator from Illinois, created a program called DACA, which addressed that very serious gap in immigration law for these young people. Eight hun-

dred thousand young people qualified for the DACA Program. Now it is under attack in the courts, and the question is, Will it survive even for those 800,000? I am not sure it will. But we do know that these Dreamers can offer a lot to this country. Let me tell you the story of one of them.

Her name is Mitchell Soto-Rodriguez. She first came to Blue Island, IL, from Mexico City as a 9-year-old with her family. When she was a sophomore in high school, Mitchell was in a car accident with her mom and sister. The police officer who came to the scene made an impression by being respectful, professional, and speaking Spanish to make her mother feel more comfortable. The experience prompted Mitchell to decide that she wanted to serve her community as a police officer.

Mitchell obtained an associate's degree from Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. Last year, she graduated magna cum laude from Governors State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Understanding how immigrants contribute to our communities, Blue Island decided to permit DACA recipients like Mitchell to work as police officers. Today, Mitchell serves her community as a part-time police officer while she is attending the police academy and working as a security officer at the local high school.

But DACA was always intended to be a temporary solution for Dreamers like Mitchell. Since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn it and deport these Dreamers back to the countries they may not even remember. The permanent solution is enacting a piece of legislation that I did introduce 20 years ago, the DREAM Act. It would provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers all across the country.

Without permanent protections, these young people have been forced to live in limbo and fear that DACA will be overturned by the courts. They have to renew their status every 2 years, which means their lives are in 2-year increments.

In September, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal, though the decision left in place protections for current recipients like Mitchell while her appeal is pending.

Until the DREAM Act is passed, Mitchell's service to her community and to our Nation is at risk, as is the service that so many Dreamers are providing in their communities as teachers, medical professionals, servicemembers, and so much more.

Immigrants have been a critical part of the American success story, and our Nation needs immigrants like Mitchell and her family more than ever today. If DACA is struck down, experts predict that our economy will lose billions of dollars, \$11.7 billion in lost wages. And without continued legal immigration, the U.S. working-age population will

shrink by over 6 million by 2040. As more Americans retire, this could contribute to a 23-percent reduction in the monthly Social Security checks that beneficiaries have been promised.

These young people, these DACA recipients and many others, want to be part of our economy, pay their taxes, pay into Social Security, and we desperately need them to do it. With over 9½ million jobs open right now in America, our farmers, hospitals, and small business owners desperately need immigrants to meet their workforce needs.

To resolve these challenges, we should create additional lawful pathways for immigrants to work in the United States. We should also give our undocumented population—most of whom have been here for decades—legal status so they can fully contribute to our society.

I am ready to negotiate with my Republican colleagues in good faith to solve the problem at the border. And it needs a solution. I readily acknowledge that. But at the same time, I hope they will take a positive approach as well knowing that we desperately need legal immigration. And if people are clear to come to our country for that purpose, we will be better for it in so many different levels.

There are some on the other side—I am going to be very blunt about this—who believe in the theory of not one more immigrant in this country. They don't know the history of the United States. They don't know what these immigrants have meant to us. In my family and the families across the whole country, you can point to immigrants who have made a solid difference in building a family and in building an economy which we all prosper from today.

So let's get it right when it comes to enforcement at the border, but let's not tell half the story. Let's tell the other half of the story that legal immigration is critical to our future, and people like Mitchell Soto-Rodriguez, who is wanting to serve as a police officer in her community in Illinois, is an asset to this country, and we need her in our future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REED. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAYWARD

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to recognize one of the hardest working public servants in my State—indeed, in any State—Mark Hayward. Mark will be retiring at the end of the year as the District Director of the Small Business Administration in the State of Rhode Island.

This is no normal retirement. Mark's commitment to public service and Rhode Island stretches back 45 years. He was first elected to the city council in his hometown of East Providence, RI, while he was still a student at Providence College. His peers on the council quickly recognized the intelligence, the compassion, and the work ethic that dominated his career. And despite his youth, they voted him mayor of the town.

After 6 years as mayor, Mark made the decision to leave Rhode Island for Washington, DC, in order to serve as Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency and later as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial and International Affairs at the Department of the Interior.

But the pull to return to Rhode Island was strong. After joining SBA in 1990, Mark moved to the Rhode Island office, which he was soon appointed to lead as the District Director. In total, Mark has spent a remarkable 29 years as acting and then permanent SBA District Director for the State of Rhode Island.

Most of our small businesses have never known a world without Mark's guidance. But his story is characterized by more than longevity. It is defined by hard work and an encyclopedic knowledge of SBA programs and business opportunities. Mark's combination of dedication and knowledge has been particularly valuable during times of crisis. From snowstorms to hurricanes, to the devastating floods that struck the Ocean State in 2010, Mark has been there to orchestrate the response and help businesses and homeowners recover.

This past August, Mark was on the scene working to help small businesses recover from a devastating fire on Block Island that destroyed one of the island's landmark hotels and harmed a number of small businesses. But Mark's skill and commitment shone highest during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when he seemed to be everywhere all at once. He was ever-present on Zoom townhalls, constantly on the phone with myself and other Members of the delegation, and always available to small business owners who needed help understanding the finer points of the Paycheck Protection Program and COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

He was in demand because everybody knew that no one is better at slicing through the redtape than Mark.

It is not exaggerating to say that the loans and grants he helped Rhode Island businesses secure kept them afloat. Across his two-plus decades as permanent District Director, Mark has helped pipe \$6.8 billion into Rhode Island's economy, enabling our small businesses to start, to grow, and to thrive while staying local. That is a hugely significant number, particularly for a State of Rhode Island's size.

Mark's work ethic during the pandemic was simply an extension of the

work he puts in every day. Mark has long worked early mornings and been on call at all hours of the week and weekend, always ready to listen and to help.

Don't just take my word for it. SBA leadership has asked Mark to cover vacant Regional Administrator positions five times during his tenure with the Agency—a clear demonstration of the trust and respect his peers hold for him.

For Mark, this isn't just business, it is personal. It is about his dedication and commitment to public service. He is not just helping small businesses with their finances. He visits and patronizes them in his free time, embracing the mantra "to shop local." And, at this point in his career, it is hard to find a Rhode Island business that he hasn't helped.

That is why we are going to miss Mark. Our entrepreneurs will miss his guidance, and I will miss his thoughtful advice and quick wit. I know he will fill his time with his family, his wife Nancy, his children—Patrick, Kelsey, and Megan—and grandchildren, Johnny and Lily. And in true Mark Hayward fashion, I also know he will find new ways to continue serving in Rhode Island.

And, I must say, this is a Rhode Island story. So the following should be obvious. Mark's grandmother and my grandmother would talk about once a week on the telephone in Portuguese, just to make sure the whole State was running properly, and, if they had to give advice, they would give advice. So he is an old family friend as well as a brilliant public servant.

Mark, congratulations on your retirement, and thank you.

Let me yield to my colleague.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am happy and proud to join my senior Senator in congratulating our friend Mark Hayward, the District Director of the Small Business Administration in Rhode Island, on his very well-deserved retirement after serving at SBA for more than 40 years. It is a really remarkable career.

In that time, as JACK said, Mark strengthened small businesses all across the Ocean State and created economic opportunity for Rhode Islanders from every community and background.

He was so well regarded within the SBA that he was actually called down to Washington for a detail to help break in a new Small Business Administrator who needed to learn the ropes. The person that the organization trusted to get her going and working in a good way was Mark Hayward. Of course, he came back to New England and back to Rhode Island.

JACK mentioned Mark's role in the pandemic. He had actually told us he was planning to retire before the pandemic, but he couldn't walk away from what was happening. So he went to

work to make sure that Rhode Island did a good job in the pandemic.

It was not easy. These were big new programs that we had created, and implementing them and getting the money to flow smoothly through the banks and undoing the clogs that emerged and the different errors that were experienced was a big project.

Mark made Rhode Island a model of good implementation of our pandemic response. Other SBA offices around the country looked to what he was doing and modeled on that.

It was just a pretty gallant and wonderful thing that he was willing to remain at the helm through that difficult period, to work through these big programs and make them succeed and to help small businesses across our State through a period of real financial uncertainty and peril. Mark and his team delivered much needed Federal funding to businesses in every community, often providing a lifeline that allowed small business owners to keep their doors open and to keep their people on the payroll.

That pandemic reinforced what we already knew about Mark. He knows Rhode Island's small businesses better than anybody, he is determined to be helpful, and he will stand up and rise to the occasion when the demand is there for his skills.

So I join JACK in congratulating our friend Mark on an incredible run. We thank you, sir, for your dedication to lifting up small businesses across Rhode Island and for your commitment to public service. We have loved working with you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF

Mr. REED. Madam President, next week, the Naval War College in Newport, RI, will host the unveiling of the keel plate for the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-138, which will be named for an extraordinary American and an extraordinary Rhode Islander: Ambassador J. William Middendorf.

I won't be able to honor Ambassador Middendorf in person. So I would like to take this opportunity, along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE, to say a few words of appreciation for his contributions and public service.

Ambassador Middendorf, who now resides in the town of Little Compton, RI, was born 99 years ago, on September 24, 1924, in Baltimore, MD. He remains a person of tremendous intellect, interests, and achievement. To this day, he continues to share his strong and always interesting opinions as a frequent contributor for the Providence Journal.

I don't always agree with him, but his column always makes for a lively read, and he has been preparing an upcoming book on the way called "On My Watch: Tyrants and Patriots."

I would like to highlight some of Ambassador Middendorf's extensive record

of achievement and patriotic accomplishments.

In the 1940s, while our Nation was at war, he served in the Navy as an engineering officer and navigator aboard the landing craft support ship USS LCS-53 and earned his bachelor of naval science from the College of the Holy Cross under the Navy's V-12 Program. After he was discharged from the Navy, he earned a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard University in 1947 and then an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business at New York University in 1954.

Ambassador Middendorf became an investment banker and cofounded Middendorf, Colgate and Company, which became a prominent Wall Street firm, and he took on important roles in the national Republican Party.

In 1969, he left his investment firm and was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands and continued in that position until 1973. He then served as Under Secretary of the Navy with an appointment from President Nixon.

On April 8, 1974, Ambassador Middendorf became the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, serving through the Ford administration. During his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he championed and oversaw the development of four major Navy programs: the Ohio-class submarine program and the accompanying Trident missiles, the Aegis surface-launched missile system, the CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter for the Marine Corps, and the F/A-18 Hornet carrier-based attack aircraft.

Ambassador Middendorf is also credited with creating the famed Marine Corps Marathon. As Secretary of the Navy, he encouraged and approved the first Marine Reserve Marathon and provided replicas of the Iwo Jima statue to be used as trophies for the male and female marathon winners.

After his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he returned to the private sector as president and chief executive officer of Financial General Bankshares, which he reorganized and renamed as First American Bank.

In 1980, Ambassador Middendorf led the CIA transition team for President Reagan's incoming administration. He was later named the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, a post he served in until 1984, when he accepted the appointment as U.S. Representative to the European Community, which is now known as the European Union. He served in that role until 1987.

On June 10, 2022, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that the future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-138, now under construction at Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine, will be named the USS *J. William Middendorf*. The name selection follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes.

I congratulate Ambassador Middendorf on his well-deserved honor and express my gratitude to the ship-

builders and sailors who are bringing this new Arleigh Burke destroyer into the service of our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am delighted to have the chance to follow my senior Senator to add a few words about Bill Middendorf and celebrate the fact that the newest Arleigh Burke-class missile destroyer of the U.S. Navy will be named the USS *J. William Middendorf*.

Bill was Secretary of the Navy and U.S. Ambassador—a very distinguished career. If you go back to the time that he was Secretary of the Navy, the sequence was Paul Ignatius, who went on to become President of the Washington Post and an Assistant and Under Secretary of the Army; followed by John Chafee of Rhode Island, who went on to serve with great distinction in the U.S. Senate; followed by, if I recall correctly, John Warner, who became a very distinguished Senator representing Virginia; and then in that line came Ambassador Middendorf. So, clearly, the name selection follows an impressive tradition of service by some impressive Navy Secretaries.

Ambassador Middendorf was born in Baltimore, actually, and served in World War II as a naval engineer officer and navigator, and, after a successful business career, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1969 and then served as Under Secretary of the Navy.

In 1974, Ambassador Middendorf was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, and, in that capacity, he did something very important for Rhode Island, which was to champion the Navy's submarine program, including overseeing the creation of General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset Point location, a facility which Senator REED has done so much to make a powerful economic engine in Rhode Island and a powerful shipbuilding facility to make sure that America's power overseas is at its apex.

This Quonset Point facility is a very important legacy, and I am delighted to join my senior Senator in wishing Ambassador Middendorf—Secretary Middendorf—congratulations on the keel laying and, very soon, a happy 100th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the majority leader has said he plans to schedule a vote on President Biden's \$106 billion supplemental funding request as soon as this week. He knows, as well as I do, that, as written, this proposal stands zero chance of becoming law. If Senator SCHUMER puts this funding request on the floor of the Senate, I believe the cloture vote—the requirement here that 60 Senators agree to cut off debate—will fail. In the

House, the legislation is so unpopular that it will never even make it to the floor for a vote.

The strong opposition to the President's proposal is completely warranted, not for what it includes so much as for what it does not include. The supplemental is supposed to be all about national security, but it fails to deliver anything on one of the most urgent national security priorities, and that is the crisis at the southern border. National security begins with homeland security, right here at home, and we have a major security vulnerability right here on our Nation's doorstep.

Since President Biden took office, we have logged more than 6.5 million illegal crossings at the southern border. On top of that, there have been roughly 1.7 million people who have gotten away. They call them "got-aways," the Border Patrol does. They are people who have been identified—at least by their physical presence—on a camera or a sensor, but when the Border Patrol shows up to try to find them, they are nowhere to be found.

The truth is, the Biden administration has zero idea of who these 1.7 million people are or what they are capable of or what their intentions are. They could be people just simply coming here to work. They could be terrorists. They could be carrying illegal drugs that took the lives last year alone of 108,000 Americans. They could be people with long rap sheets. They could be convicted murderers or child abusers. We simply have no idea, and that is the point. Uncontrolled illegal immigration is dangerous.

The migration crisis has precipitated another crisis. When thousands of people are pouring across the border each day, it provides a perfect diversion for drug cartels in allowing them to move fentanyl, for example, across the border. Fentanyl alone took the lives of 71,000 young people last year alone. Fentanyl poisoning is the No. 1 cause of death for those Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 years old. As I have said, we are losing somewhere around 110,000 Americans a year.

In all the time I have been working on this issue, I have never seen anything like the current situation at the border. Texas, as you know, has a 1,200-mile common border with Mexico, so this is ground zero for the Biden border crisis, but this is unlike anything we have ever seen before.

President Biden, during his time in office, has shattered every record on the books when it comes to illegal border crossings. In less than 3 years, he has set new records for the most crossings in a single day, in a single month, in a single year. I say "he" has because this would not happen if President Biden would simply use the laws that are already on the books to try to bring some control out of this chaos.

It is important to realize this didn't just materialize out of thin air. It was a direct result of the Biden administra-

tion's refusal to enforce the law. Instead, the Biden administration has sent a signal that our borders are open to anyone who can show up at our borders, and that message has gotten through loud and clear.

A recent story in the New York Times highlighted just how far the President's open borders message has traveled. In the past year, more than 24,000 Chinese citizens have been apprehended at the southern border. That is more than the previous 10 years combined. Many of these individuals claim asylum, but whether or not their claims are successful really doesn't impact on their ability to stay in the United States. As the New York Times noted, those who are not granted asylum end up staying anyway because China usually will not take them back.

It is no secret that word travels fast. When a group of migrants reaches the southern border and is allowed to remain in the United States, then people watching on television or people on the other end of a telephone call are told: I made it. You can too. So they keep coming. Chinese citizens now represent the fourth largest group making the trek to our southern border. That is astonishing, and it ought to be concerning.

The reason so many people from around the world are making this expensive and dangerous trip is that they are all but guaranteed by Biden administration policies to be able to stay. There is absolutely no deterrence, no consequence. The Border Patrol has told me countless times that the migrants used to run away from them, but now they run to them and turn themselves in, knowing that they will be able to stay. Migrants used to go to great lengths to avoid being arrested because, once it happened, it was most likely game over. Law enforcement would detain the migrants and determine whether they had a legitimate cause to remain in the United States, but if they didn't, they would be removed or repatriated to their home countries. If someone wanted to claim asylum, law enforcement would conduct a credible fear screening to determine whether they had a colorable case for asylum, but if they did not, they would be returned to their home country. That is what the Border Patrol calls consequences and what I would call a deterrent for people coming who know they don't have any arguable legal basis to be able to stay.

But, today, that entire story has been flipped on its head. Personnel and detention facilities are so underwater that the normal processes have gone out the window. When thousands of migrants are crossing the border every day, law enforcement simply doesn't have the ability to detain each and every person long enough to determine if their claims to stay in the United States are legitimate. Today, migrants want to be arrested or detained by Border Patrol because they know they are highly unlikely to be removed. In fact,

they are all but guaranteed a yearslong stay, probably, even openly, with a work authorization.

Today, migrants are quickly processed and released while they await a court date that is years away. Recently, we had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee where some of the immigration judges who have the most experience in considering these cases testified that only about 15 percent of the people who ultimately appear in front of an immigration judge legally qualify for asylum. That means 85 percent of the people in that line do not. Yet what is causing this huge backlog is the 85 percent who prevent the 15 percent from getting their cases heard on a timely basis.

Since President Biden took office, the immigration court backlogs have more than doubled; now it is more than 2.9 million cases. As a result, the wait for a court date just keeps on growing.

You know, that is part of the plan of the smuggling organizations that get rich by smuggling individuals into the United States. The more people they can move into the United States, the more money they make, and the more they can stack up immigration court hearings, the more they can ensure that people are actually released rather than detained. Then the smugglers win, and we lose.

Earlier this year, the Associated Press reported that, in New York, court dates were being assigned in the year 2033—not 2023, the present year, but 2033, a decade away.

With each day that passes, it becomes clearer and clearer that money alone will not fix the problem. After all, the border crisis isn't the result of scarce resources but of an intentional refusal by the Biden administration to actually enforce the law. It is clear we need more than funding to solve this crisis. What we need are policy changes that will lead to real change—in other words, stop the exploitation of our asylum laws and of our catch-and-release policies. President Biden has proven he is not up to the job. He apparently doesn't care. He has had nearly 3 years to do something meaningful to stop this crisis, but he has simply refused to do so.

Congress has a responsibility to act, and this national security supplemental is the best place to force action. Whether or not Democrats will admit it, the border crisis is a major national security risk, and it has to be addressed. I know it is not easy, as border security and immigration are some of the thorniest issues we debate here in Congress, but we will not continue to fund broken policies that have contributed to the situation we find ourselves in today. We need and will insist on real, substantive changes.

This side of the aisle has been clear that a security supplemental must include funding and policy reforms to address the crisis at the southern border, and if that doesn't happen, we will not proceed to the rest of the supplemental. Yes, there is a bipartisan

group of our colleagues working on a border provision that includes both funding and policy changes. I am eager to see what they come up with, but unfortunately it looks like we are running out of time. That means that if Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, puts a bill on the floor that fails to address the crisis at the border with real, substantive policy reforms, we will not proceed to that bill.

National security begins at home. Our security cannot come second to that of other countries around the world, our allies, even those like Ukraine and Israel.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the Wall Street Journal had such an interesting report in last week, and I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. As you know, I have talked so much about the importance of protecting our children from what is happening online.

The Journal had worked with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and they were reporting on the tests that they jointly had conducted on Instagram. What they were trying to do was to see what type of content that Instagram's algorithms were recommending to pedophiles who were interested in sexual content.

Now, think about this, because in the physical world, you have got laws against pedophiles and the content that they are making and creating and distributing. But in the virtual space, our children do not have that protection. That is the premise that the Canadian Centre for Child Protection was working from, and this is what the Wall Street Journal was reporting on.

The results were absolutely disgusting. When you go in and you look at what they saw, you realize that Instagram actually delivers short videos showing content of children and adults in sexual situations. See, it is serving it up for these pedophiles. It is delivering it. All they have to do—a click of the mouse, and it is right there on their screen.

Here is an example feed that the test produced. Bear in mind, their researchers are going in. They are looking at this, and this is some of the content that was found in the researchers' feed: an adult uncrosses her legs to reveal her underwear; sprinter at a track meet runs over a small boy who steps on the track; advertisements promoting trips to Disneyland; child in a bathing suit records herself posing in a mirror; adult-content creator gives a

“come hither” motion; girl dancing in a car while a song with sexual lyrics plays. That is a snippet of what one researcher had come up in their platform, in their feed.

The tests also found that Instagram was providing videos and pictures of missing and exploited children as well as videos confirmed to be child sexual abuse material. We call that CSAM. At the Senate Judiciary Committee, we have done some good work in working to prohibit CSAM and to protect our children. All of this legislation should come to the floor. It should be immediately passed.

Now, of what I have just read to you of what the researcher found, there is even more. The report showed that Instagram was well-aware that its algorithms could produce this stream of content. Bear in mind, this is illegal content. This is child sexual abuse content.

Former Meta employees—and, of course, we know Meta owns Facebook and Instagram. Former Meta employees told the Journal that Meta knew its algorithms could specifically aggregate content sexualizing children. And this ties in with so much of what Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have found as we led hearings looking into what was happening in these online platforms and how it was affecting our children. These platforms know what is happening. They are fully aware. They know that these algorithms will aggregate that content and then they will serve it up to you—fully aware of it.

But you know why they don't change it? They don't change it because they put profits over the protection of our children. They make a conscious choice to keep it the way it is.

Now, before releasing Reels, that app, Meta's safety staff warned the product would chain together videos of children and inappropriate content. The safety team actually provided recommendations that Meta should either increase those content detection capabilities or prevent the recommendation of any content containing—minors being a part of this content. They gave them choices and options and said: Here is a way that you can go about protecting children before you put Reels and that platform out there.

Now, those are two suggestions that were made to Meta by their own staff. This is how you can protect children: Increase your detection capabilities or prevent the recommendation.

Now, it is the algorithms that feed up these recommendations: If you like this, you are going to like this. You loved this. Just wait; you are going to love this.

Now, Meta said no to each of those. There again, why is it that they said no? Well, it is what we see repeatedly: They are putting profits ahead of protecting our children.

So think about this. How do these platforms—how does Meta get their net worth? Well, all of this is based on the number of eyeballs they capture, the

length of time that they can keep people on their site. So they ignore the suggestions on how to make that site safer for our children.

Meta employees actually said that preventing the system from pushing this content to users who are interested in it—well, what users do you think are interested in child sexual abuse content? It is pedophiles. It is criminals. So here you go. These employees said that preventing the system from pushing this content to users interested in it “requires significant changes to the recommendation algorithms that also drive engagement for normal users.”

I cannot believe that they are so hardened, that they are so careless, that they would think that: If somebody wants this, serve it up. It may have a child who is sexually exploited or even a child who is missing in that video, but—you know what—serve it up. They think the dollar is worth it.

The Journal also reported on Meta documents. Now, this is not just hearsay. It is not anecdotal. These are actual corporate documents. Now, these documents showed that “the company's safety staffers are broadly barred from making changes to the platform that might reduce daily active users by any measurable amount.”

Now, in other words, they have the tools; they have the technology. They could put in place things that would protect children, but the company will not let the employees take the action that would protect children because it might mean that a user is not on the site for as long a period of time. And as I said, they get their valuation from the number of eyeballs they capture and the amount of time they spend on the site.

This is absolutely unbelievable, but it is the way Meta is choosing to operate. And Meta is not alone. You have got others of these social media platforms that are right in there with them. They keep dishing up this harmful and destructive content.

Why do we have a mental health crisis for our children in this country? Could this possibly be a part of the problem? Why is it that one in three American teenage girls has contemplated suicide? Could this possibly be a part of the problem? Why is it that we are finding out that well over a third of all kids meet a drug dealer online? Why is it that we are learning that children that meet and are groomed by a sex trafficker are first meeting them online?

The lack of care and concern for our Nation's children: stunning. And this is Big Tech. They would rather make a buck than protect a child. Don't try to take away their ability to keep people locked in on that screen. The longer they can keep them, the happier they are.

Well, all of this is one of the reasons that, for the last several years, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have worked on the Kids Online Safety Act, and we have

continued this work because it is obvious that these platforms cannot be trusted to do even the bare minimum to protect our Nation's children. We are saying, a bare minimum.

Now, the Kids Online Safety Act has the support of 49 Senators in this Chamber, and I thank everyone who is a part of this. We also, Madam President, have 230 advocacy organizations in this country that are in support of the Kids Online Safety Act. And interestingly enough, with the polling we have seen lately, 86 percent of the American people support the Kids Online Safety Act.

Here is what it would do: First, it would force platforms to give families the ability to protect minors' information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of algorithmic recommendations. These are all things that parents and kids want to be able to do because, maybe, there is stuff that they are seeing that they really don't want to see.

Next, it would give parents the safeguards that are needed to protect their kids' online experience as well as a dedicated channel to report harmful behavior. We have met with parents who talk about reporting cyber bullying, reporting videos that are different challenges online. Some of these parents, their children have been injured. Some of them have lost their lives. Some of them committed suicide. They want a dedicated channel to report harmful behavior, and the legislation requires these platforms to respond to parents and kids.

Predatory content and content that promotes self-harm, suicide, and eating disorders to minors will now, indeed, be a problem for these platforms to deal with. No longer would they be able to deny and deflect knowing this content is on their site.

We also included requirements for annual risk assessments and independent research reports we can use to assess safety threats to underage users.

Madam President, it is time for the Senate to finally act on the harms online platforms are posing to our little ones. Our Kids Online Safety Act, the REPORT Act—we have got great bills that would rein in some of this reckless behavior.

And as I have described, platforms like Meta know. They are fully aware of the harms this is causing. We have had whistleblowers talk to us about the harms and that they know these harms exist.

So with 49 Members of this Chamber supporting the legislation, it is time that we move forward with it, and we should get this done before the end of the year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wanted to say a few words about the \$106 billion emergency foreign aid supplemental bill that may soon be coming before us. And I should be clear that there are a number of pieces of that bill that I strongly support, but in its present form, I do not think it serves the interests of the American people. Let me say a few words as to why.

First, while I strongly support Ukraine's valiant efforts to defend itself against Putin's invasion and Israel's need to defend itself against incoming rocket and missile attacks, I am deeply concerned that this legislation has no investments to address the needs of working families in the United States, 60 percent of whom are living paycheck to paycheck.

So let us be clear: Yes, there are enormous emergencies abroad, but there are also very serious emergencies in our own country, including the crises we face in childcare, in primary healthcare, housing, and in other needs. The American people do not want us to continue to ignore these issues.

Secondly, at a time when Congress will likely soon pass a \$900 billion Defense bill, this supplemental bill includes tens of billions that should be covered as part of the base defense budget and handled through normal appropriations, not allocated as emergency spending. We can save tens of billions of dollars in this bill and dedicate that money to some of the horrendous domestic crises that we face.

Thirdly, and maybe most importantly, at a time when some 16,000 Palestinians have been killed in the last 2 months—two-thirds of whom are women and children—and tens of thousands more have been injured; at a time when 1.8 million people, Palestinians, have been displaced from their homes and are struggling every day, having been thrown out of their homes—they don't know where they are going. They are struggling to get food and water and medical supplies and fuel just to survive. And I want you to think about what is going on with the children. There are a lot of children in that country. What is going on psychically, looking up at the sky: Is a bomb going to fall? Where am I spending the night? How do I get food? That is what is going on there right now; at a time when over 250 people have been killed in the West Bank—I am not talking about Gaza, I am talking about the West Bank—since October 7 and more than a thousand Palestinians have been driven off of their land in the West Bank—no, in the midst of all of that, I do not believe we should be appropriating over \$10 billion for the rightwing extremist Netanyahu government to continue its current military approach.

What the Netanyahu government is doing is immoral. It is in violation of

international law. And the United States should not be complicit in those actions.

We are all clear that Hamas—a corrupt terrorist organization—began this war with their barbaric attack against Israel on October 7. Given that reality, Israel has a right to defend itself. But it does not have, in my view, the right to wage all-out war against innocent men, women, and children—Palestinians—who had nothing to do with the Hamas attack.

Therefore, I believe it is appropriate for us to support defense systems that will protect Israeli citizens from incoming missile and rocket attacks, but I believe that it would be irresponsible for us to provide an additional \$10.1 billion in unconditional military aid that will allow the Netanyahu government to continue its current offensive military approach.

That approach has included indiscriminate bombing that has killed, as I mentioned before, 16,000 people, most of whom are civilians.

And I want to make this point. All of us, many of us—I hope most of us—understand that what is going on in Ukraine is horrendous. Putin, almost 2 years ago, attacked Ukraine. The result is massive destruction. Hundreds of thousands of young Russian soldiers are dead. Some 30,000 Ukrainian soldiers are dead. It is a disaster.

But, interestingly enough, according to the United Nations, about 10,000 civilians have been killed since Russia's unprovoked invasion in February 2022. Ten thousand civilians have been killed in Ukraine in a terrible war in almost 2 years. Fifteen thousand Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza area in 2 months.

Israel's indiscriminate approach is, in my view, offensive to most Americans. It is in violation of U.S. and international law, and it undermines the prospects for lasting peace and security. Israel must dramatically change its approach to minimize civilian harm and lay out a wider political process that can secure lasting peace. And that must include a guarantee that displaced Palestinians will have the absolute right to return to their homes as Gaza rebuilds. It will include no long-term occupation or blockade of Gaza, an end to the killings of Palestinians in the West Bank, and a freeze on new settlements there, and, perhaps most importantly, a commitment to broad peace talks to advance a new two-state solution in the wake of this war.

The Biden administration has, appropriately—and I applaud them for this—been trying to get the Israelis to be more targeted in their approach, but there is little evidence that they have succeeded. Just today—just today—air strikes—Israeli airstrikes—hit two U.N. schools housing displaced people—today, two U.N. schools housing displaced Palestinians. More than 900 Palestinians have been killed since Friday. Israeli evacuation orders are delivered with little notice to people with

no electricity and limited communication services, most of whom have already been displaced, have already been traumatized, and already lack basic necessities. And even then, the bombing continues.

As we proceed on this supplemental bill—which has some very, very important issues—count me in 100 percent for the humanitarian support that we need, not only in Gaza but all over this world. Count me in for that. Count me in for serious discussions about how we improve border security. Count me in to help the people of Ukraine withstand Putin's terrible invasion. But do not count me in to give another \$10 billion to a rightwing extremist government in Israel—by the way, whose Prime Minister's, I guess, trial for corruption is continuing. Don't count me in to support that \$10 billion.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Irma Carrillo Ramirez to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Born in Brownfield, TX, Judge Ramirez received her B.A. from West Texas State University and her J.D. from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She then entered private practice at a law firm in Dallas before going to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas. During her 11 years as a litigator, she tried nine cases to verdict, including four jury trials.

Since 2002, Judge Ramirez has served as a magistrate judge in the Northern District of Texas. As a magistrate judge, she has presided over 13 trials. She also served as the presiding judge in over 440 consent cases, and she has been assigned more than 2,400 cases for full case management. In addition to her service as a magistrate judge, Judge Ramirez currently presides over the reentry court in the Northern District of Texas and helps oversee the district court's civil pro bono panel.

Judge Ramirez is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators—Mr. CORNYN and Mr. CRUZ—and the American Bar Association unanimously rated her as “well qualified” to serve on the Fifth Circuit. She has deep ties to Texas, and her significant experience as both an advocate and magistrate judge will serve her well on the Fifth Circuit.

If confirmed, Judge Ramirez will be the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Fifth Circuit and the only active Hispanic judge on the Fifth Circuit.

During Judge Ramirez's confirmation hearing, Senator CORNYN called her “exceptionally qualified” and said that “[y]ou can tell that Texas is very proud of Judge Ramirez.” I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SANDERS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

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

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

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we start the vote now.

VOTE ON RAMIREZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ramirez nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 326 Ex.]

YEAS—80

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Grassley | Reed |
| Bennet | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Romney |
| Booker | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Boozman | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Brown | Hirono | Sanders |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Butler | Kaine | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Kelly | Scott (FL) |
| Capito | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Carper | King | Shaheen |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Smith |
| Collins | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Cooms | Lummis | Tester |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Tillis |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | McConnell | Vance |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warner |
| Cruz | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Moran | Warren |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Welch |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Fetterman | Murray | Wicker |
| Fischer | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Young |
| Graham | Peters | |

NAYS—12

| | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Blackburn | Hoeven | Paul |
| Britt | Lee | Schmitt |
| Crapo | Marshall | Sullivan |
| Daines | Mullin | Thune |

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| Barrasso | Hawley | Rubio |
| Braun | Johnson | Tuberville |
| Cardin | Risch | |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is con-

sidered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 317.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 317, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

REMOVING EXTRANEOUS LOOPHOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 4, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, to explain to the Senators and our colleagues what we have just done, a few moments ago, I filed cloture on a motion to proceed on a shell bill for a national security supplemental.

The step I am taking tonight will ensure the process for the supplemental moves forward and that, hopefully, disagreements on immigration do not prevent us from doing what we must do to protect America's security.

I urge every single Senator to think where we are at this moment in history. America's national security is on the line around the world—in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the Indo-Pacific. Autocrats and dictators are waging war against democracy, against our values, against our way of life. That is why passing this supplemental is so important. It could determine the trajectory of democracy for years to come. We are at a moment in history.

Tonight, I would like to announce that the administration has invited President Zelenskyy to address Senators via secure video as part of our classified briefing tomorrow so we can hear directly from him precisely what is at stake in this vote. I ask that all Senators—all Senators—attend this important briefing.

In the coming days, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and sup-

port moving forward on the supplemental package. We can't ever put a price on defending democracy in its hour of need, because if Ukraine falls, Putin will keep on going. Autocrats around the world will be emboldened. Democracy, this grand and noble experiment, will enter an era of decline. History will render harsh judgment on those who abandon democracy.

I urge all Senators to work with us to move forward on a national security supplemental.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2087 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2087) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Lummis substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1370) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking "October 1, 2023" and inserting "October 1, 2028".

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after October 1, 2023, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze, rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f)."; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), in the second sentence, by striking "Subject to subsection (a), the" and inserting "The".

The bill (S. 2087), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 483, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 483) commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service for 225 years of work protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the United States.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 483) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THOMPSON SHOES

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Thompson Shoes of Manchester, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Thompson Shoes in Manchester was founded by Gary and Keith Thompson in 1958 as the first of nine shoe stores owned by the Thompson brothers. Keith ran the Manchester location until 1990 when the location was purchased by Tracy Bessey. The current owners, husband and wife duo Todd and Shelly Schrader, purchased the Manchester Thompson Shoes location from Tracy Bessey on January 1, 2011. Under the Schrader's ownership, Shelly serves as president, with Todd serving as vice president. The store offers a variety of athletic shoes, dress shoes, and boots. In addition to shoes, they also carry socks and offer shoe sizing services to customers at the store. The Schraders have also built a special bond with Keith Thompson and Tracy Bessey over the years. Both former owners have paid regular visits to the store's events since 2011.

Small businesses are often successful because of the hard work and dedication of their team. Dianne

Oberbroeckling has spent 38 years at the Thompson Shoes Manchester location, working for all three owners and serving three decades of customers. Gary and Keith Thompson passed away in 1993 and 2023 respectively, leaving behind a legacy of community service, hard work, and dedication to customer service.

Thompson Shoes in Manchester is actively involved in both the Manchester and Delaware County communities and has been recognized for its hard work. They are involved in the Maquoketa Valley, West Delaware, and Edgewood-Colesburg school districts by supporting both students and athletics programs. Since 2018, they have hosted the Move for Mimosas races. The races are free of charge and allow participants to try out new shoes from various vendors while enjoying a mimosa. They also sponsor the Hero Hustle, an annual triathlon and duathlon supporting the police, fire, and ambulance departments of Delaware County. In 2022, they won the Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year award for their continued dedication to the community. Thompson Shoes in Manchester celebrated its 65th business anniversary in 2023.

Thompson Shoes' commitment to providing quality shoes at a great price in Manchester, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Shelly and Todd Schrader, and the entire team at Thompson Shoes for their continued dedication to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME—CLASS OF 2023

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a group of exceptional individuals—and teams—who have greatly impacted the world of sports in Missouri and beyond. The Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2023 is a testament to the rich athletic heritage of my home State and the remarkable dedication and accomplishments of its members and teams. Each inductee has not only achieved personal excellence, but has also inspired and uplifted others through their commitment to sportsmanship, leadership, and public service. It is with great pride that I present these impressive inductees, whose contributions have forever enriched the sports history of Missouri.

Adam Wainwright—a St. Louis Cardinals icon, Adam Wainwright's 18-season Major League Baseball career is marked by 200 wins, two World Series titles, multiple Gold Glove Awards, and consistent excellence commanding the bump as the Cardinals' Ace. He is one of the alltime greats to have worn the birds on the bat and is celebrated not only for his on-field achievements, but also for his community contributions, notably founding the nonprofit Big League Impact.

Greg Vitello—with a 46-year tenure, Greg Vitello's coaching career in soccer and baseball at De Smet Jesuit

High School includes multiple State championships and a legacy of developing collegiate athletes. His soccer teams won five State titles while his baseball squad also captured a State crown. During my varsity baseball years under Coach Vitello, he not only honed my athletic skills but also taught me invaluable lessons in sportsmanship and integrity. I am honored to have known and played for him and pleased to witness his recognition for not only nurturing athletes but also shaping upstanding members of society.

Bernie Miklasz—a revered sports journalist and broadcaster, Bernie Miklasz's work with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and various media outlets has provided insightful coverage of major sports for over three decades. He has earned numerous national awards during his 30-year tenure at the Post-Dispatch, including the Eppy Award for Best Sports Blog.

Todd Lyght—an outstanding National Football League cornerback, Todd Lyght's 12-season career, primarily with the St. Louis Rams, included 37 interceptions, a Super Bowl win, and Pro Bowl and All-Pro honors in 1999. Demonstrating consistency and skill with 835 combined tackles in 175 career games, he has extended his football legacy beyond his athletic achievements by enriching the community as a dedicated high school coach and college assistant coach.

Barret Jackman—Barret Jackman, a stalwart defenseman in the National Hockey League, spent 16 seasons with the St. Louis Blues, earning the Calder Memorial Trophy in 2003 as the NHL's Rookie of the Year. He was respected for his physical play and leadership throughout his illustrious career.

Kenny Wallace—a NASCAR legend from St. Louis, Kenny Wallace's racing career spanned an impressive 905 races with 9 wins and numerous top finishes, afterwards being known for his contributions as a broadcaster. Even after his remarkable NASCAR career, he continues to race on local dirt tracks across the country.

Jay Delsing—with over 700 PGA TOUR events under his belt, Jay Delsing notched seven professional wins during his golf career, including making the cut on the PGA TOUR 276 times. Following his athletic career, Delsing has made significant contributions to the sport as a broadcaster for FOX Sports.

Tony Van Zant—a high school football star, Tony Van Zant's record-setting performance at Hazelwood Central High School led to his recognition as the National Player of the Year in 1985 and a State championship for the Hawks. He played for the University of Missouri where he rushed for 2,376 yards and 36 touchdowns.

Kelly Mulvihill Stahlhuth—a tennis powerhouse, Kelly Mulvihill Stahlhuth's achievements include three high school State championships, four All-Big Ten honors at Indiana Uni-

versity, three Big Ten Conference wins, and a successful coaching career at Washington University. She won 215 matches, secured 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament and was selected as the 2015 NCAA Division III Coach of the Year.

The 1959–1974 Saint Louis University Men's Soccer Era—this era of Saint Louis University men's soccer is distinguished by 10 national titles and numerous All-American selections, showcasing dominant collegiate play. Three players combined to win five Herman Trophy awards, the Nation's highest individual honor for collegiate soccer.

Linda Wells—an accomplished softball coach, Linda Wells' career includes over 900 wins, leading teams at the University of Minnesota and Arizona State University to national prominence. She guided teams to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, including two Women's College World Series berths while at Arizona State.

St. Joseph's Academy Girls Tennis Program—this program's unparalleled success includes 18 State championships and numerous individual and doubles titles, reflecting sustained excellence in high school tennis. As of recent, the team has captured an astounding 12 State titles in only the last 15 years.

Doug Smith—a former singles and doubles champion in the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference, Doug Smith has made a significant mark as the longtime coach of the St. Joseph's Academy Girls Tennis Program by leading them to 12 State championships, the most in State history. His tennis journey includes contributions to multiple State titles and honors such as induction into Aberdeen Central High School's Hall of Fame and the Missouri Valley Tennis Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Lindsay Kennedy-Eversmeyer—a trailblazer in soccer, Lindsay Kennedy-Eversmeyer's career includes both professional athletic and coaching success, notably leading a women's semi-pro team to a national championship. She became the first female to play men's professional indoor soccer with the St. Louis Steamers in Major League Soccer and coached the Fire & Ice squad to the 2017 Women's Premier Soccer League national title.

Dave Loos—the most successful men's basketball coach in the Ohio Valley Conference, Dave Loos' career includes over 500 wins and multiple NCAA Tournament appearances with Austin Peay State University. His teams won nine conference championships, and he is the program's alltime wins leader with 420 victories.

Crystal City High School Girls Track & Field Era, 1984–1989—under Coach Dick Cook, this era of Crystal City High School Girls Track & Field is marked by six consecutive State championships and numerous individual titles, demonstrating a phenomenal period of dominance. The team captured these State crowns behind 16 combined individual and relay gold medals.

Dick Cook—Dick Cook's 49-year coaching career in track and field, including 34 years at Crystal City High School, is highlighted by multiple State championships and a legacy of developing top athletes. His Crystal City teams won six consecutive State titles from 1984-1989 during his legendary tenure.

Khalia Collier—a pioneer in sports, Khalia Collier has made significant contributions as the owner of the St. Louis Surge in the Global Women's Basketball Association and in her roles with the Dallas Mavericks of the National Basketball Association and St. Louis CITY SC of Major League Soccer. She built the Surge into a two-time championship franchise, promoting women's sports and community engagement, and became the first female VP in Dallas Mavericks history.

Mark Mullin—Mark Mullin's 40-year career in NCAA Division II athletics, including 28 years as the director of athletics at Missouri University of Science and Technology, is distinguished by numerous team successes and individual honors. His programs captured 24 conference and divisional titles and had student-athletes earn 290 All-America honors under his leadership.

Randy Albrecht—a renowned junior college basketball coach, Randy Albrecht's 36-year career at St. Louis Community College-Meramec includes 736 wins and multiple coaching awards, solidifying his status as a coaching legend. He posted 28 consecutive winning seasons and secured a No. 1 national ranking in 1988-1989.

Dr. Tom Smith—as Missouri Baptist University's athletic director for 22 years, Dr. Tom Smith oversaw the addition of 18 new athletic programs and multiple national championships. His tenure included four NAIA national titles and 33 conference tournament championships.

Harry Weber—an exalted sculptor, Harry Weber's work includes over 150 large, commissioned sculptures, many depicting famous sports figures, and is renowned for his artistic contributions to sports memorabilia. His bronze busts and statues are prominently displayed in 15 professional and college stadiums nationwide, including Busch Stadium in St. Louis and Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City.

The 1973 Washington High School State Championship Football Team—the 1973 Washington High School football team's outstanding season culminated in an undefeated record and the only State football championship in the school's history, a testament to their skill and determination. The Blue Jays went 11-0 in 1973 behind six All-State players to capture the Class 3 State crown.

In conclusion, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2023 encompasses an incredibly distinguished array of individuals—athletes, coaches, teams, and contributors—each leaving a unique and lasting imprint on Mis-

souri's rich sports heritage. Their extraordinary achievements and sustained contributions to their respective sports have not only etched their names in history, but also honored the State of Missouri and ignited inspiration in numerous others. Their persistence, exemplary performance, and unwavering commitment stand as beacons of motivation, highlighting the significant influence of sports in cultivating character and fostering civic engagement. Today, we commend these esteemed individuals and teams for their noteworthy feats and express our profound gratitude for their enduring impact on Missourians. I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the inductees of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2023.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL DEL PRIORE

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madame President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the legacy and great work of the late Michael Del Priore from Folk Shoals, SC. Michael graduated from Columbia High School and began his career as an artist, which spanned more than 40 years. He first worked for J.B. White's Department Store as an advertising artist. In addition to this job, he produced art for "The State" newspaper and other local businesses.

Michael's natural talent led him to meeting Gian Cassone who introduced him to the techniques of painting portraits with oil and pastels. Michael was commissioned to paint his first portrait of an elected official for Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn to be displayed in the Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia.

Relocating to Charleston, SC, Michael became a student under Ray Goodbred at the Gibbes Museum of Art. Michael Del Priore continued to perfect his craft and was awarded the distinct opportunity to paint an official oil portrait for former Governor and then-U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond to honor his 50 years of public service.

Michael Del Priore served as the past chairman and a member of the board of directors for what is now known as the Portrait Society of America. Michael's talents inspired both at home and on a national level. In 2018, just 2 years before his passing, Governor Henry McMaster awarded him the "Order of the Palmetto" to recognize the great strides he made as an artist over his lifetime. Michael's portfolio includes portraits for President Reagan, former House Speaker John Boehner, various other Members of Congress, elected officials in South Carolina, and many others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4666. An act to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans.

H.R. 4667. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue guidance and rules for lenders and the Small Business Administration on handling amounts of Paycheck Protection Loans returned by borrowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5283. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal land management agencies.

H.R. 5961. An act to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4666. An act to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4667. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue guidance and rules for lenders and the Small Business Administration on handling amounts of Paycheck Protection Loans returned by borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5283. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal land management agencies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5961. An act to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2876. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value of approximately \$70,000,000 (Transmittal No. RSAT-23-9456); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2877. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Memorandum of Justification for the Emergency Authorization of Third Party Transfer of One Patriot System, Ancillary Equipment, and 40 MIM 104-B/C Guided Missiles from Germany to Ukraine Under Section 3(d)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2878. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2879. A communication from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2022 annual report for the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2880. A joint communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2881. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2882. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1284. A bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1414. A bill to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1416. A bill to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3385. A bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3386. A bill to temporarily suspend the importation of beef and beef products from Paraguay and to require the establishment of a working group to evaluate the threat to food safety and animal health posed by beef imported from Paraguay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3387. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update and clarify its rule on substances generally recognized as safe and to establish within the Food and Drug Administration the Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3388. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and political subdivisions thereof to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies involving one or more persons with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3389. A bill to authorize safety and prevention training programs for fishing vessel operators and crewmembers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3390. A bill to improve purchasing of food by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3391. A bill to require the Postal Service to implement recommendations from the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service for improving identification and notification of undelivered and partially delivered routes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3392. A bill to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3393. A bill to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 483. A resolution commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service for 225 years of work protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 161

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to modify the restriction in section 3326 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the appointment of retired members of the Armed Forces to positions in the Department of Defense to apply to positions at or above the GS-14 level.

S. 349

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from

Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

S. 1565

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2217, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms.

SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2277, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

S. 2419

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2419, a bill to prohibit certain uses of automated decision systems by employers, and for other purposes.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to establish an inter-agency task force on employer surveillance and workplace technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2926

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2926, a bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes.

S. 3141

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from

Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes.

S. 3341

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3341, a bill to improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3344

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3344, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 483—COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR 225 YEARS OF WORK PROTECTING, PROMOTING, AND ADVANCING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 483

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service traces its antecedents to the creation of the Marine Hospital Service in the Act entitled "An Act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen", approved July 16, 1798 (1 Stat. 605);

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service has compiled an exceptional record of service to the health of the people of the United States and the world through concerted efforts in disease prevention, health promotion, environmental intervention, disease control, biomedical research, health care delivery, health program management, policy development, and implementation;

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service has been instrumental in the achievement of many innovations and breakthroughs throughout the field of health care;

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service continues to serve underserved and vulnerable

populations in hard-to-fill, and often hazardous and remote, duty stations;

Whereas, because of the diverse and varied training and background of its officers, the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service has maintained a highly effective, mobile, and adaptive cadre of health and medical experts that have performed efficiently during public health emergencies, including pandemics, epidemics, natural disasters, and other adverse situations, with courage, proficiency, and valor;

Whereas the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service have worked to eradicate diseases such as smallpox, and have improved the health of mothers, children, and handicapped individuals through significant accomplishments such as the control of tuberculosis and the development of protective vaccines; and

Whereas the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service have bravely put themselves at great personal risk to combat recent disease outbreaks related to Ebola, Zika, H1N1 flu, and COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends all of the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service in observance of the 225th anniversary of the Commissioned Corps.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1370. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1370. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking “October 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2028”.

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after October 1, 2023, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze, rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f).”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), in the second sentence, by striking “Subject to subsection (a), the” and inserting “The”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5; that following

the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the AliKhan nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during Thursday’s session ripen at 11:30 a.m. and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the AliKhan nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOUGLAS CRAIG SCHMIDT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE NICKOLAS GUERTIN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KRISTEN SARRI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, VICE MONICA P. MEDINA, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DUSTIN L. CROWE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9433(B) AND 9436(A):

To be colonel

DANIEL E. FINKELSTEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MAYREM MORALES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANTHONY K. ONITSUKA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TROY E. MENO

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

JAMES M. DEGROOT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANDREW C. ODDO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANDREW J. ACOSTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

VICTORIA K. SOMNUK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

TREVOR I. BARNA
STEPHANIE R. COOPER
JACQUELINE J. DEGAINE
EMILEE O. ELBERT
JESSICA M. FARRELL
CHAD E. HIGHFILL
RYAN A. HOWARD
PETER G. JUETTEN
KEVIN D. KORNEGAY
FRANK E. KOSTIK
RYAN W. LEARY
MICHAEL G. LIPKIN
AARON L. LYKLING
AMY E. NIEMAN
MICHAEL G. POND
TIFFANY D. POND
JESS B. ROBERTS
JEFFREY H. ROBERTSON
YOLANDA A. SCHILLINGER
FRANCES M. SMITH
ANDRES VAZQUEZ, JR.
JENNIFER L. VENGHAUS
JOSEPH K. VENGHAUS
WAYNE H. WILLIAMS
0003391400

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRIAN D. ANDES
PAULA J. BECKER
KYLE V. BURGAMY
JOSHUA M. CARTER
TODD M. CHARD
LANCE E. CLARK
VAN CLERMONT
BRETT A. CRAMER
TIMOTHY A. DAVIS
KATHERINE L. DEPAUL
CHRISTOPHER D. DONLIN
COLLIN P. EVANS
JENNA C. FERRELL
TODD C. GATELY
CHRISTOPHER D. GOREN
ROBERT F. GOTHERIDGE
THOMAS F. GOWER
SAMUEL W. GRABILL
GAVIN G. GRIMM
JODIE L. GRIMM
MITCHELL D. HERNIAK
STEVEN C. HIGGINS
HSENIAN HUANG
JOHN F. HUMMEL
NICHOLAS E. HUDD
SIMONE L. JACK
MATTHEW M. JONES
JAMES S. KIM
CHRISTOPHER J. KOSCHNITZKY
TIMOTHY J. KOTSIS
ERIK D. LAPIN
DANIEL A. LARSON
GEORGE R. LAVINE
NATHAN S. LEW
DYLAN S. MACK
BLAKE A. MARTIN
TIMOTHY J. MATHEWS
TIMOTHY J. MINTER
MATT D. MONTAZZOLI
JESSICA J. MORALES
JUSTIN L. NOTTINGHAM
JAMES L. PAUL
JOHN P. POLICASTRO
ROBERT J. RAUCKHORST
VIVIAN M. REDD
JOSHUA P. SCHEEL
KALIN P. SCHLUETER
KATHERINE M. SPANNAGEL
KEITH A. STEWART
STEVEN P. SZYMANSKI
MATTHEW J. TEXTOR
GREGORY A. VETTER
KRISTOPHER J. WHITTENBERGER
RYAN T. YODER
SEAN B. ZEHTAB
000238340
000308250

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BRYCE R. GREENWOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CALEB J. PORTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

HORACE ALLEN III
BRET A. BOHANNON
ANDREA L. HICKMAN
KENNETH J. HUENINK
ERIN L. JACKSON
THOMAS R. WEBER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

ANDREW S. BERRYMAN
JASON W. CARTER
COLE D. KELLY
DANIEL J. MCAULIFFE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TIMOTHY P. PLACKETT

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ERICK R. ABERCROMBIE
RYAN M. ACKLAND
TRAVIS A. AIELLO
CHRISTOPHER J. ALFARO
MATTHEW J. ALTOMARI
JORGE A. ALVAREZGONZALEZ
ELIZABETH AMEZCUA
JOSHUA N. ANDERSON
MATTHEW S. ANDREWS
RYAN C. ANNESS
JOHN ANTHONY
MARCO A. ARRIAGA
CHRISTOPHER A. ARROYO
JUSTIN N. AUGUSTINE
TYLER S. BAHN
MATTHEW T. BARNES
MICHAEL T. BARNUM
WILLIAM E. BARR
BRIAN J. BASILE
LOUIS T. BATSON V
PATRICK J. BAUSE
ANDREW V. BEHRENDIS
JOHN S. BEHRMANN
COLLIN B. BELL
MICHAEL E. BELTON
COREY R. BELTON
ROBERT J. BENDA III
JOSHUA C. BENSON
BRETT M. BERKMAN
ADAM E. BEST
BRENT C. BIRCHUM
BRYCE A. BISKUP
MARK J. BLAIR
JORDAN O. BLAKE
JAMES J. BLAUL
MELISSA G. BLUXLEVEN
BRANDON BOCIAN
WILLIAM K. BOGNER
COLTON G. BOWSER
COLIN P. BOYNTON
JOHN G. BRADLEY
MICHAEL D. BRESLIN
MARK T. BROKAW, JR.
KARL A. BRONK
JEFFREY M. BROYAN
MITCH A. BRUCE
STAFFORD A. BUCHANAN
MARC B. BUCKS
JAMIE W. BUNCE
LUCAS J. BURKE
CATHERINE J. BURNS
DANIEL F. BURNS
ALEX M. BUTTA
CHARLES T. BYERS, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. CAIN
DAVID M. CAIN
CODY M. CALHOUN
AUDREY F. CALLANAN
JOHN J. CAMPBELL
SEAN C. CAMPBELL
JOSHUA C. CAMPBELL
KELLY M. CANDIES
JEFFREY F. CARBEN
SEAMUS B. CAREY
HANS C. CARNICE
JUSTIN M. CARRASCO

THOMAS B. CARSON
THOMAS A. CECIL
ZACHARY J. CESARZ
DANIEL P. CHAMBERLIN
TRAVIS K. CHAMBERLIN
KEENAN J. CHIRHART
DANIEL S. CHIRIBOGA
BRIAN K. CHONG
ANTONIO J. CILLO
RUSSELL H. CLARKE
MELANIE N. CLIFTON
JOSHUA D. COHOON
FRANK M. COLPO
DOUGLAS A. COLUMBUS
DAVID R. CONLAN
JAMES P. CONNOLLY
ROBERT A. COPLEN
TAMARA D. CORDERO
SETH C. CORMIER
NARCISO CORRAL, JR.
ALFONSO J. CORTES
DAVID M. COSTANZO
ROY B. CROCKETT
MATTHEW R. CURRY
LANE A. DAIGLE
DUONG X. DAM
JASON M. DASILVA
CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS
MARCUS R. DAVIS
NATHAN E. DILLER
MATTHEW J. DILLON
MATTHEW M. DISTEFANO
ANDREW N. DOBSON
TAYLOR T. DODD
MICHAEL A. DORSEY
JACOB S. DUNN
ERIC A. EASTMAN
SEAN M. ECKERT
MARK S. EDGAR
LUCAS T. ELGIE
JOHN R. EPPEL
ANDREW C. ERICSON
SLADE B. ERMIS
ANTHONY O. ESPINOZA
EVAN J. FAIRFIELD
CAITLIN T. FERRARELL
JOHN T. FISCHER
ALEXANDRA C. FITZGERALD
ERIC D. FLANAGAN
RYAN M. FLOONG
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 PATRICK A. SCHRAFFT
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 CARLY E. SCHWARZENBERG
 JAMES A. SHEEHY
 DEREK L. SHIVERS
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 CHRISTOPHER J. SILVA
 JESSE A. SIMMERMON
 MICHAEL J. SKALICKY
 JOHN P. SKOGLMAN
 LINDSEY M. SLYMAN
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 BRIAN N. SMITH
 GEOFFREY A. SMITH
 KEVIN A. SMITH
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 DIMITRI STEPANOFF
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 BRIAN J. STROM
 GENEVIEVE M. STUDER
 HEIDI C. SYKAS
 JOHN W. SYKAS III
 MICHAEL E. TAKENAKA
 RAYMOND N. TAKOR
 JOSEPH E. TAYLOR
 VINCENT J. TEIXEIRA
 LINK T. TERRY
 NATHANIEL H. THAYER
 MICHAEL J. THOMAS
 SHAUN E. THOMAS
 NICHOLAS M. THOMPSON
 VINCENT L. THOMPSON
 NICOLAS L. TIMM
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 TYWAN E. TURNER, SR.
 STEVEN J. UZIEL
 STEVEN A. VALENTI
 BENJAMIN G. VANWINGERDEN
 FRANCISCO J. VEGA
 JONATHAN R. WALASKI
 FRANK E. WALKER
 JONATHAN B. WALLACE
 ROBERT K. WALLACE
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 NATHANIEL E. WARTHEN
 SPENCER S. WATERS
 JOHN R. WATKINS
 NICHOLAS D. WEBSTER
 ROBERT A. WELLS
 DANIEL M. WENDEL
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 JACOB E. WIDRICK
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 ANDREW S. WILLIAMSON
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 MATTHEW L. WOOD
 MILLARD B. WOODARD
 JOSHUA A. WOODS
 ALEX D. WOODWARD
 JAMES C. WORKMAN, JR.
 ANDREW D. WRIGHT
 ANDREW A. YAGER

KYLE D. YAKOPOVICH
 BO K. YANG
 JAKE T. YEAGER
 BRETT A. YODER
 VINCENT V. YOUNG
 JOHN M. YUNKER, JR.
 DANIEL M. YURKOVICH
 JONATHAN J. ZAINEA
 FRANK C. ZASTOUPIL
 DIANNA R. ZEMPEL
 ANGELA S. ZUNIC

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 ADRIAN ADAME, JR.
 CARTER D. ADAMS
 GHISLAINE I. AGYEMAN
 BRIAN T. ALLEN
 CHRESTON F. ALLEN
 PHILIP J. ALLEN
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 JUSTUS ANDERSON
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 JOHN CURTIS I. ANDREWS
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 NIKOLAS C. ANTHONY
 ZACHARY D. APPERSON
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 COURTNEY R. ARNOLD
 CLAYTON P. ARNOTT
 ANDREW J. ARZOUAN
 NICHOLAS R. ASARESE
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 DEAN H. ASZMAN
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 TIMOTHY R. BAUER
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 DANIEL A. BEBEE
 GABRIEL A. BENJAMIN
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 ROBERT D. BIGGERS
 SETH C. BILLINGSLEY
 ANDREW J. BISHOP
 JOSEPH T. BISHOP
 TYLER W. BLAIR
 EVAN D. BLOOM
 JOSHUA B. BLYTHE
 ZACHARY R. BOMBRIA
 SHARON C. BONG
 BRITTANY C. BORDERS
 ANTHONY L. BORREGO
 BRAD M. BOSSERMAN
 DOUGLAS M. BOVR
 ROMELL A. BOYCE
 JUSTIN T. BRACCI
 AUSTIN N. BRANCH
 EVAN D. BRAS
 MATTHEW A. BRATTAIN
 COREY M. BREDESON
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 DANIEL P. BREW
 DANIEL L. BREWER
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 MICHAEL A. BROKAW
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 MAXWELL S. NEWELL
 BENJAMIN E. NEWMAN
 MATTHEW R. NIUSMA
 DAVID W. NOBLE, JR.
 WHITLEY C. NOEL
 HALEY A. NOWAK
 KRISTINA L. NUNES
 SCOTT A. O'BRIEN
 ZHAIRE A. O'BRIEN
 ANDREA OCCHIPINTI
 ROSS M. OCHS
 ANDREW D. OGDEN
 SEUN OI
 RICHARD D. OLDS
 ROBERT D. ONEILL II
 CHRISTOPHER S. ORMSBEE
 DANE M. OSHIRO
 SAMUEL J. OTTAVIO
 COLTON J. OVIATT
 DANIEL J. PACHECO
 MARCUS D. PACHECO
 MAXMILLION PAGE
 WILLIAM J. PAGLIARULO
 MARTIN G. PALERMO, JR.
 LOUIS A. PANEK
 NICHOLAS S. PAPARELLA
 KATIELYNN PAPA
 GIOVANNA M. PARHAM
 JONATHAN M. PARKER
 MATTHEW D. PARKER
 SAHIL K. PATEL
 ROBERT S. PATTERSON
 SETH W. PATTON
 KORD M. PAULEY
 JOHN R. PEACOCK
 SEAN C. PECHON
 MICHAEL J. PENCE
 CODY E. PENNINGTON
 SYDNEY S. PERCIVAL
 RENEE N. PERDUE
 KEVIN N. PEREZ
 PALOMA D. PEREZURENA
 FREDERICK J. PERRINE
 JACOB W. PERSONS
 STEPHEN T. PICCHINI
 JOSEPH PICCIRILLI
 ANDREW C. PIECH
 DAVID S. PIEKUT
 AUSTIN S. PILE
 MEGAN L. PINARD
 NICK A. PINKERTON
 MATTHEW PIOTROWICZ
 TYLER E. PODOBNIK
 LEAH M. POLLARI
 NICHOLAS V. PORTERA
 JOSEPH R. PORZIO
 TIMOTHY S. POTTET
 DANNY J. POWLEN
 JONATHAN M. POWELL
 MARK A. PRIGLO
 DAVID E. PROFPEN
 ASHLEY E. PULIDO
 MICHAEL J. PUTNEY
 BO QU
 NICHOLAS P. QUASNITTSCHKA
 RICHARD D. QUINTANILLA
 BRANDON L. RABIN
 ANTHONY J. RAMOS
 MICHAEL J. RASMUSSEN
 DAKOTA L. RAYMOND
 JAMES E. REICHOW
 ALLISON K. REITMAYER
 JACOB S. RHINE
 JOSEPH T. RICCARDI
 ZACHARY C. RICE
 JUSTIN M. RICH
 JOHN A. RICHARDS
 MIRAQUEL C. RIDENHOUR
 DYLAN J. RIEDELL
 LAUREN E. RIFLEGGONZALEZ
 CONOR M. RILEY
 MATTHEW J. RILOFF
 THOMAS C. RIMMER
 DYLAN L. RINE
 LUKE G. RITTER
 CHRISTOPHER J. RIXEY
 TREVOR H. ROBBINS
 JOHN S. ROBINSON IV

JAMES A. ROCHA
 JOSENRIQUE J. ROCHA
 PAUL L. ROCHE IV
 JOSHUA L. RODRIGUEZ
 MICHAEL K. ROESKE
 LOUIS E. ROGER
 MARK D. ROHLFING
 JONATHAN G. ROMAN
 MICHAEL J. ROSENBAUM, JR.
 MIRANDA F. ROSENKRANZ
 ASHLEY R. ROSS
 EDWARD T. ROSS
 JEREMY T. ROSS
 TORY J. ROTH
 GARLAND W. ROWLAND, JR.
 JOHN D. RUCK
 EVAN S. RUPPERT
 SEAN M. RUSAW
 JAMES D. RYAN
 LUKE P. RYNISH
 SEAN T. RYNNING
 ROUSSEAU SAINTILFORT
 JASON R. SAMPSON
 KRAMER E. SAMPSON
 NATHAN A. SAMPSON
 ANDREW J. SANCHEZ
 ANGEL A. SANDI, JR.
 LAVONTAY R. SANTOS
 ANNELEISE M. SATZ
 DWAYNE A. SAUNDERS, JR.
 ALEKSANDRA J. SAWYER
 MATTHEW I. SCALISE
 PHILIP C. SCHAEFFER
 MATTHEW N. SCHAIDLE
 MAX E. SCHLESSEL
 REBECCA A. SCHMIDT
 DANIEL T. SCHNEIDER
 STEVEN F. SCHREMS, JR.
 DAVID K. SCHROEDER
 ROBERT A. SCHULLER
 CYLE J. SCHULTZ
 JULIE M. SCHUMACHER
 DAVID L. SCHWAB
 KRISTIE L. SCINTO
 JAMES D. SCISCOE
 WARD E. SCOTT III
 EMILY M. SECREST
 KELIS J. SECREST
 RAYMOND K. SEESE
 ALYSSA A. SERVANTES
 ZACHARY M. SESSA
 IAN T. SHARBEL
 BRADLEY J. SHELL
 TREVOR J. SHIMULUNAS
 DAVID G. SHUFORD, JR.
 BENJAMIN D. SHULER
 JOSEPH P. SKOPOWSKI
 NICHOLAS A. SKORINA
 JACOB C. SLAUGHTER
 DANIEL J. SLAVIN
 MICHAEL A. SMARGIASSI
 ALEXANDER E. SMITH
 JOSIAH B. SMITH
 KATHERINE L. SMITH
 RONALD J. SMITH, JR.
 TRUDIAN A. SMITH
 ANDREW B. SNELL
 PATRICK M. SNOWMAN
 ANDREW P. SNYDER
 NICOLAS SOLISZ
 KIMYEN T. SOTO
 JACOB G. SPAULDING

JORDAN I. SPEAR
 JEFFREY D. SPECHT
 MELISSA M. SPENCER
 HOLLY M. STARKES
 KYLE R. STEENBERGE
 WYATT J. STONE
 QUINTON B. STOUDEF
 WILLIAM E. STRAUSS
 JACKSON B. STREIFF
 DARRREN A. STRICKLAND
 ANDREW R. STUEVE
 SEAN W. STYERWALT
 NICHOLAS C. SUTTON
 CASEY W. SVATEK
 MATTHEW K. SWEENEY
 DAVID M. SWENSEN
 ALEXZANDER K. SZALLAR
 EDWARD C. SZEMPLE
 MATTHEW A. TATE
 ALEJANDRO P. TAVIZON
 JAMESON W. TAYLOR
 JONATHON K. TAYLOR
 TONI E. TAYLOR
 JAMES A. TEASDALE
 JOEL E. THOMPSON
 KYLE A. THOMPSON
 CHRISTOPHER P. TILQUE
 ZACHARY S. TINGLEY
 JOSEPH G. TOM
 RYAN S. TRACY
 CHRISTOPHER J. TRAYNOR
 MORGAN C. TRENT
 CORY D. TRIBBLE
 MICHAEL E. TRONCOSO
 GUADALUPE TUBERA
 BRYAN W. TULL
 CHASE A. TURNER
 JOHNNATHON P. TURNER III
 STEFAN B. TURUNC
 VICTORINO T. UNTALLAN
 PHILIP S. URBAN
 RYAN C. VAHSEN
 JUAN T. VALENCIA
 MARCO A. VALENZUELA
 WILSON A. VALLE
 ANDREW D. VANDERPLAS
 BRANDON S. VANDEVENDER
 MICHAEL P. VANLIEW
 KEVIN S. VANOUS
 TAYLOR J. VANSTRATEN
 JON A. VANTOL
 ZACHARY T. VANWETTERING
 JOEL VAZQUEZ
 ZACHARY L. VAZQUEZ
 KARL L. VELASCOLEHMANN
 MARK D. VETERE
 JOSE M. VIGIL
 JESSE R. VILLANUEVA
 CHRISTOPHER A. VILLARREAL
 PATRICK W. VINCENT
 PIERCE J. VIRAG
 ERIC A. VISCARDI
 SCOTT P. VOIGT
 GREGORY J. VONER
 WYATT J. VOSBURGH
 THEODORE J. WADDELL
 JOSHUA D. WAGGONER
 STEVEN W. WAGNER
 J. D. WALKER II
 KEITH L. WALLACE
 JOSEPH F. WALSH
 JASON R. WANDREY

PATRICK D. WATRAL
 ADAM J. WATSON
 BRICE M. WATT
 PHILLIP M. WEARS
 NATHANIEL M. WEATHERBIE
 MATTHEW C. WEBER
 ROBERT M. WEDE
 DELANEY T. WELCH
 SHANE T. WESCOTT
 CALEB P. WEST
 PAUL K. WESTLAND
 ANSLEY R. WHITE
 BRIAN J. WHITE
 CONNOR J. WHITE
 PATRICK R. WHITEHURST
 TYLER S. WIERSMA
 ALEXANDER J. WILCOX
 JARED T. WILKINS
 RYAN A. WILLIAMS
 ETHAN E. WILLINGS
 CHRISTOPHER D. WILLIS
 BRANDT P. WIMER
 TIMOTHY P. WINKLER
 MATTHEW S. WITCOFSKY
 SAMUEL D. WOLBORSKY
 JOSEPH M. WORTH
 BROCK B. YACKEY
 EUGENE J. YANG
 PAUL W. YATES
 BENJAMIN R. ZEISS
 JASON K. ZIMMER
 JOHN E. ZIMMER
 PAUL J. ZIMMERMAN
 EDWARD S. ZUR

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JEREMY G. WILSON

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBIN J. GLEBES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

MAXWELL E. FULDAUER

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 4, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHRISTINA ANDERSON SMITH'S SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christina Anderson Smith's service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more than 22 years, Tina has been one of the House's elite court reporters providing expert stenographic support to committees and the House floor. She is among the first African-American official reporters for the House; and from her seat in the well of the House, she has had a front-row seat to history while producing the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Tina was born in Wilmington, North Carolina. Her father was one of the Veterans Affairs Department's first African-American hospital administrators—a position that required frequent relocation—and she grew up in North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Michigan.

After completing a bachelor's degree at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, and a court reporting certificate from Southern Business College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Tina began her court reporting career in 1986, often working with public defenders at the Broward County jail.

Over the next decade, Tina expanded the scope of her work to include criminal and civil court divisions, and she became proficient in deposition work with a heavy focus on personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

In 1999, she moved from Florida to Maryland to work as an official reporter with the Prince George's County Courts in Upper Marlboro, a position she held until she came to the House in June 2001.

While her career has taken her from the jailhouse to the People's House, Tina's service to the Nation extends beyond the U.S. Capitol.

She served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1996 until she was honorably discharged in 2004. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, she was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, working for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the whole House, I wish to express my thanks for Tina's trailblazing and dedicated service to her country. While I will miss our chats during votes, I know Tina and her family look forward to this next chapter, and I wish her all the best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NESTOR R. WEIGAND, JR.

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nestor R. Weigand, Jr. who passed away on November 1, 2023. He was a pillar of the Wichita business community, a strong advocate for Kansas values, a devout Catholic, and a dedicated father. He will be missed dearly by those who knew him.

Nestor was born and raised in Wichita, calling the city home for most of his life. After serving honorably in the Army Reserve, he joined the family real estate business, J.P. Weigand & Sons, in 1961. In 1983, he became President and CEO of the company and for the next forty years he built one of the most respected businesses in the state of Kansas. Friends, customers, and even competitors recognized his devotion to his businesses and the real estate profession. In 1978, he was elected by his peers the president of the Kansas Association of Realtors. Ten years later he would go on to become president of the National Association of Realtors where he advised President Ronald Reagan and worked to strengthen fair housing laws across the country.

Nestor was proud to be a lifelong Wichita resident and made it a priority to give back to his community. He served in leadership roles at the Institute of Logopedics (now Heartspring), the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Highway Commission, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Kansas Policy Institute. One of his passionate roles was serving on the board of Wesley Hospital, where he served both as a member and as Chairman for over forty years.

Nestor's contributions to his business, his community, and his country cannot be understated. I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends as they say goodbye to their beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and companion.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SURFING SANTAS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. George Trosset of Rockledge, Florida, for his charitable work in creating and organizing a popular local event called Surfing Santas. Surfing Santas is an annual event hosted by the Florida Surf Museum Charity in Cocoa Beach that raises money for charities like Grind for Life, which helps individuals with cancer.

Surfing Santas is a Christmas Eve spectacle where participants are encouraged to wear

Christmas attire and surf on Cocoa Beach. When Trosset began the organization in 2009, there were two participants, himself surfing as Santa, and his son, George Jr., surfing as an elf. Trosset also had two spectators, his wife Nina, and their grandson Anderson.

Today, Surfing Santas regularly has 400 to 500 participants and close to 10,000 spectators. The Christmas event, which is now in its 15th year, has grown to include a costume contest, live music, and a show by a local Hawaiian Dancers group.

Surfing Santas is a widely beloved event that has made at least 8 billion people around the world smile and has raised close to \$250,000 dollars towards charity. Last year a Surfing Santa plush toy blasted or aboard a private Blue Origin space mission.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing George Trosset and his family, as well as saluting all the Surfing Santas participants for their charitable spirit and their efforts to bring people together in a fun and festive way during the holidays. Surfing Santas is an incredible community event that has quickly become a tradition for families on the Space Coast.

RECOGNIZING CHARLENE MAHER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, since 2016 Charlene Maher has served as the president and CEO of Blue Cross of Idaho. Charlene came to Idaho with decades of experience in multiple different facets of the healthcare industry. This broad range of understanding has made her an invaluable asset to the company and to Idaho's larger business community.

As a trained nurse herself, Charlene is keenly aware of the importance of ensuring communities have quality and affordable healthcare options. Her innovative approach and her dedication to improving access to healthcare for all Idahoans has truly distinguished Charlene as a leader in the industry, as evidenced by her seat on the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Board of Directors, her time as president of the Idaho Association of Health Plans, her participation as a member of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and her contributions to various other state and national industry groups.

Charlene's contribution to Idaho's healthcare landscape throughout her time as CEO of Blue Cross of Idaho has been immense. I am grateful for her work and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

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

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

HONORING THE SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL ANNIVERSARY OF TEX-
ARKANA, TEXAS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Texarkana, Texas.

On December 8, 2023, the City of Texarkana celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary—that's 150 years of bringing together the best that Texas and Arkansas have to offer. Two states, one city. It's twice as nice. And, it is a great place to call home. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the values, resilience, culture, and rich heritage of the citizens of Texarkana for fifteen decades.

Since its founding in 1873, Texarkana has grown from a small settlement along the Texas-Arkansas border to a thriving city that stands as a beacon of innovation, progress, and unity. The city's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and preserving its unique State Line heritage is unsurpassed. From its vibrant manufacturing and industrial base, support for the Red River Army Depot, and its deep roots in agriculture to its investments in education, health care, technology, infrastructure, and planning, Texarkana stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision and a commitment to excellence.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 150th anniversary of Texarkana's founding. Congratulations to Texarkana on this momentous milestone. May the next 150 years be filled with continued growth and prosperity. Happy anniversary, Texarkana.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES J. HARDY
FOR BECOMING A KNIGHT OF
THE LEGION OF FRANCE

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Charles J. Hardy for being named a Knight of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian honor.

Hardy joined the 282nd Engineer Combat Battalion on July 16, 1943, and was one of many brave soldiers who risked their lives during the Second World War. He fought valiantly in the battle of Saint-Malo and captured enemy submarine pens throughout his time on the Western front. He also contributed to the liberation of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and France. During these grueling campaigns, Hardy consistently demonstrated fearlessness and determination.

Today, Hardy will be remembered and honored for his courageous service 79 years ago by receiving France's highest honor.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL'S
UNDEFEATED SEASON

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the undefeated Florida State University Seminole football team, who recently secured the 2023 ACC Championship title.

Under Head Coach Mike Norvell's leadership, the Seminoles are 13–0 despite a devastating injury that prematurely ended the collegiate career of Quarterback Jordan Travis. This team plays with their hearts, and it shows. Throughout this season, they've displayed incredible grit, determination, and perseverance even when the odds were against them.

Sadly, the College Football Playoff Selection Committee failed to recognize this team's incredible talent by excluding them from the 2023–24 College Football Playoffs. This was a devastating blow to the team and the city of Tallahassee, who proudly displayed the Seminole spirit all season.

It's a shame that an undefeated team, who earned every bit of their perfect season, won't get a shot in the College Football Playoffs. Make no mistake, Florida's Second Congressional District knows our Seminoles are champions even if the selection committee denies them a chance to prove it.

I congratulate Florida State University on a perfect season. I thank them for playing with their hearts and making our district proud. Go Noles.

RECOGNIZING KERREEN CONLEY'S
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF
BELLEVILLE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerreen Conley as she ends her twelve-year tenure as Mayor of the City of Belleville, Michigan after serving her local Wayne County community for over three decades. Her tremendous dedication to public service while also maintaining a full-time career is impressive and worthy of commendation.

Kerreen graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management before pursuing Master's degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and in Human Resources and Organizational Development from Eastern Michigan University. She began her decades of public service in 1990, working as Controller for the City of Ypsilanti before becoming Belleville City Manager in 1995 and Novi's Director of Developmental Services in 1998. Kerreen was successfully elected to the Belleville City Council in 2000, and was elected as the City's Mayor in late 2011. After serving three consecutive terms, she decided not to seek re-election and plans to dedicate her full attention to Human Resources Consulting when her political tenure draws to a close.

Kerreen can look back on an accomplished mayoral record that truly benefitted her community. Chief among her achievements is the preservation of essential city services, such as the Belleville District Library. The library, which is over a century old and sits in the heart of downtown Belleville, recently received some much-needed renovations that will ensure it can continue to serve tri-community residents for years to come. As mayor, Kerreen also served on the bipartisan Board of Directors of the Conference of Western Wayne alongside the chief elected officials of seventeen other member communities. She has chaired the Conference since January 2020, coordinating emergency services and working to alleviate countless other needs for an area encompassing 340 square miles and over 700,000 residents.

Perhaps most impressively, Kerreen was a dedicated mayor while simultaneously juggling various other demanding roles. She has been the Chief Executive Officer of RD Advisors, LLC for over a decade and served as Redford Township's Human Resources Director from 2014 through 2016 before assuming a similar role in Canton Township. Two years ago, she took on her current title of Senior Manager Human Resources Consultant at Rehmann. In addition to her time in local government and HR work, Kerreen has made many other significant contributions to our local community. She has dedicated herself to various organizations over the years, notably serving as an advisory board member at the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan for seven years and being an avid fundraiser for various local non-profits, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Kerreen's devotion to serving the residents of Wayne County and beyond is nothing short of inspirational, and I am proud to have such a selfless individual leading our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Kerreen Conley for her lifetime of dedication to serving Wayne County's local communities as she wraps up her tenure at the helm of the City of Belleville. For the last three decades, Kerreen has worked tirelessly to benefit those around her and has made significant contributions to preserving and providing invaluable local services. We thank her for her tremendous efforts, and wish her all the best as she embarks upon her next endeavor.

THANKING MY 2023 FALL INTERN
CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO
ILLINOIS' 13TH DISTRICT

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the incredible dedication and hard work of the interns who have supported our office during the 2023 fall semester. I have been honored to work with Madison Barr, Rochelle Williams, Thomas Greco, Jameel Muhammad, and Colin Bellows in my Washington office and Cameron Shivley in my Belleville office. Each of these special and talented individuals has brought new perspectives and an

incredible work ethic to our office. I am inspired by their dedication to service and helping the people of Central and Southern Illinois.

I thank Madison, Rochelle, Thomas, Jameel, Colin, and Cameron for their service. I wish them all the best as they continue their professional and academic journeys.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MIKE DAVIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Mike Davin, who will be leaving our office this week.

Hailing originally from Philadelphia, Mike has dedicated his career to public service. Mike has worked on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fifth District for the past ten years, where he moved up through the ranks from Intern to Legislative Director. He has worked tirelessly to advance common-sense energy policies, recognize deserving veterans, and streamline government regulations.

Recently, Mike was a critical part in ensuring members of the U.S. Army's 720th Military Police Battalion who served our nation in the Vietnam War received a Bronze Star for their service. As Legislative Director, Mike has instilled a sense of comradery in the office, showcasing the positive impact of working together.

Mike is a loving father and husband, and I know that as he enters this next chapter in his career, he will have the love of his family supporting him along the way.

I am eternally grateful for Mike's work on behalf of the District and our Nation, and I wish him and his family the best.

RECOGNIZING THE TRAILBLAZING CONGRESSWOMAN DIANE WATSON IN CELEBRATION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate former Ambassador and Congresswoman Diane Watson's 90th birthday. Congresswoman Watson paved the way for the many Black female legislators, myself included, who would come after her. She is a true trailblazer, becoming the first Black female member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board and the first Black female California State Senator. Today we recognize her remarkable contributions to Los Angeles, the State of California, and the United States.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, Congresswoman Watson attended local Los Angeles public schools before earning her Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), her Master's degree in School Psychology from California State University at Los Angeles (Cal State LA), and

her PhD in Educational Administration from Claremont Graduate College.

Congresswoman Watson began her life of public service as an elementary school teacher and worked diligently up the ranks to become an assistant principal and a school psychologist, touching the lives of countless students. She also served as a Health Education Specialist for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), at UCLA, and at Cal State LA. In 1975, distinguished members of the Los Angeles community encouraged her to seek election to the LAUSD School Board. She won her election, and in this role, she worked to expand school integration and to raise the rigor of academic standards for all students.

In 1978, Congresswoman Watson became the first Black woman elected to the California State Senate, where she served on the Senate Judiciary Committee and as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee from 1981 through 1998. At the state level, she championed legislation for nutrition assistance programs, breast cancer research, and access to health care.

In 1999, President Clinton appointed Congresswoman Watson as the Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, where she helped stop illegal toxic waste from being dumped into surrounding waters. After her election to the House of Representatives in 2001, she served California's 33rd District faithfully for a decade, representing areas of Los Angeles that are now part of the 37th District.

Congresswoman Watson became a vocal leader on issues related to racism and xenophobia, supporting reparations for descendants of enslaved Americans, educational system reform, and a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's criminal justice system. She also called out the rise of Islamophobia following the 9/11 attacks. Her tenure as a legislator demonstrated a dedication to creating legislation and initiatives for the betterment of all.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman Watson was a trailblazer, building a legacy of mentorship, leadership, and strength for others to emulate in their own public service careers.

I am honored to commemorate her impact on communities throughout California and the United States. I hope you will join me in wishing Congresswoman Diane Watson a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MICHAEL SCHOEN FOR CANCER RESEARCH

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Schoen, who recently became the first individual to raise over \$1 million for cancer research through the Pelotonia bike ride. Pelotonia is a two-day event where participants bike hundreds of miles through Central Ohio, raising money for cancer research at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—the James.

Michael has been a staunch supporter of cancer prevention and treatment initiatives throughout his entire life, having established the Herman Schoen Memorial Cancer Re-

search Endowment Fund in honor of his late grandfather and serving on the James Foundation Board at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

When his mother tragically passed away from small-cell lung cancer, Michael turned his grief into action. He rode in his first Pelotonia in 2010 and promised to ride every year until the battle against cancer is won or until he no longer can. Michael's commitment to finding a cure for cancer has become an inspiration to his community and to all those who know him. This year, Michael became the first individual rider in Pelotonia history to raise over \$1 million for cancer research, raising \$115,000 in 2023 alone, and was awarded the 2023 Pelotonia Legacy Award for his outstanding leadership.

On behalf of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Michael Schoen on this amazing accomplishment. His incredible determination brings us one step closer to a cancer-free world and we will continue to support him on his journey in the years to come.

OSCAR ORTIZ'S COMMENDATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted organizer and champion for educational equity. Oscar was a visionary: he fought for a just, inclusive future where everyone thrives. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and respected member of the Illinois Third Congressional District community.

Born in our great City of Chicago on April 21, 1962, to Benito and Mirta Ortiz, Oscar dedicated his life to empowering our community through education. He believed that education was a powerful tool to build a just future. He knew education could unlock our collective potential and enable us to realize our dreams. With that in mind, Ortiz became an elementary and high school teacher, helping our young people find their power and joy in learning. Whether it was at Jahn and Lowell Elementary Schools or Jefferson Alternative School, el maestro Ortiz was always present for all his students, their parents, and faculty.

His desire to serve our community and defend public education in Chicago led him to join the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) in May 2003, where he quickly became a committed and active member, never missing a meeting or event. There, Oscar served as a sergeant-at-arms, as the Lowell delegate, and as a member of the Legislative Committees, always with the intention of advancing social justice and equity through education.

Oscar generously committed his time on earth to countless social justice causes. He believed in the power of organized communities and worked tirelessly to build a better future for Chicago and our nation. I, personally, will miss his calls to action and the way he could stir our passions and stoke our courage on the bullhorn at direct actions. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us. I will miss him dearly, and I know that countless others will, too. He was a true, loyal friend.

His wife, Sabina; sons, Gabriel and Daniel; brother Ed; parents, Benito and Mirta; all his loved ones, and to the entire CTU family, are in my heart and in my prayers. Together, as we mourn his passing, let us celebrate the blessing he was in all of our lives, the impact he had on our community, and the mark he has left in our great City of Chicago. Oscar vive, la lucha sigue. Rest in power, Oscar.

RECOGNIZING JEANICE SWIFT'S SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF ANN ARBOR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Mrs. Dingell. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeanice Swift, Superintendent of the Ann Arbor Public School system in Ann Arbor, MI for a decade of tremendous service. Her daily passion and drive to improve the educational opportunities for all our area's children is worthy of commendation.

Dr. Swift came to AAPS in 2013 with more experience than most gain in a lifetime. She earned a Bachelors and Masters in Education, as well as her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Before she arrived in Michigan, Dr. Swift spent almost 30 years working her way up the educational ladder, beginning as a classroom teacher in Texas before moving to Colorado Springs, CO. There, she was Assistant Principal, Principal, and Executive Director of her school district before taking the role as Assistant Superintendent.

Since coming on as Superintendent of AAPS in August of 2013, Dr. Swift has been a great asset to our students. Her tenure has seen an increase in graduation rates, SAT scores, and a substantial reduction in suspension rates across the district. Under her leadership, AAPS made significant expansions to its preschool and early learning programs as well as the adoption of a comprehensive LGBTQ policy.

Dr. Swift's strong leadership on behalf of our children cannot be understated. In 2017, she was named as a Superintendent to Watch by the National School Public Relations Association and in 2018 she was named as the Michigan Superintendent of the Year. In 2019, she worked on and successfully passed a \$1 billion capitol bond for the district, the largest the state had seen in almost 30 years. Faced with an unprecedented pandemic, Dr. Swift successfully navigated the district through two school years of staffing challenges, safety protocols, and a transition to remote-virtual schooling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating all that Dr. Swift was able

to accomplish for the children of Ann Arbor over her decade at the helm of AAPS. Her work has set AAPS with a stronger base and a promising future. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. I thank Dr. Swift.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Wall Street firms.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act investments in habitat and ecosystem restoration, pollinators, and wildlife crossings.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine transnational repression, focusing on authoritarians targeting dissenters abroad.

SD-419

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine sovereign asset confiscation for Ukrainian victory.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fentanyl in Native communities, focusing on Federal perspectives on the growing crisis.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold hearings to examine the status of Department of Defense recruiting efforts and plans for fiscal year 2024.

SR-222

DECEMBER 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider the nomination of J. Todd Inman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Sara E. Hill, and John David Russell, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

SH-216

11 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-419

DECEMBER 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land.

SD-366

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5699–S5718

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3385–3393, and S. Res. 483. **Page S5712**

Measures Reported:

S. 1284, to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1414, to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service.

S. 1416, to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network. **Page S5712**

Measures Passed:

Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S5709

Schumer (for Lummis/Manchin) Amendment No. 1370, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5709**

Commending the Officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service: Senate agreed to S. Res. 483, commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service for 225 years of work protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the United States. **Page S5709**

Measures Considered:

RELIEVE Act—CLOTURE: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency

treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program. **Pages S5708–09**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. **Pages S5708–09**

Prior to the consideration of this measure, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5708**

Rayes Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. **Page S5708**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Page S5708

Prior to the consideration of this measure, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5708**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5708**

AliKhan Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; that motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Thursday, November 30, 2023, ripen at 11:30 a.m. **Page S5714**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 80 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. EX. 326), Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S5699–S5709**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Kristen Sarri, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S5714–18**

Messages from the House: **Page S5711**

Measures Referred: **Page S5711**

Executive Communications: **Page S5712**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5712–13**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5713–14**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5709–11**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S5714**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—326) **Page S5708**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5714.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 6568–6584; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 907, were introduced. **Pages H6109–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6111**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2798, to make reforms to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–297, Part 1); and

H. Res. 906, 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 In-

come Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program” (H. Rept. 118–298). **Page H6109**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Lee (FL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6083**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H6083**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:03 p.m. and reconvened at 3:01 p.m. **Page H6084**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

I–27 Numbering Act of 2023: S. 992, amended, 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; **Pages H6085–86**

Directing the Administrator of General Services to sell the property known as the Webster School: H.R. 4688, to direct the Administrator of General Services to sell the property known as the Webster School; **Pages H6086–87**

Testing, Rapid Analysis, and Narcotic Quality Research Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment

to 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; **Pages H6087–89**

DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act: H.R. 1713, amended, to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities; **Pages H6089–90**

DOE and NSF Interagency Research Act: H.R. 2980, amended, to provide for Department of Energy and National Science Foundation research and development coordination; **Pages H6090–92**

DOE and NASA Interagency Research Coordination Act: H.R. 2988, amended, to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination; and **Pages H6092–94**

Caregiver Outreach and Program Enhancement Act: H.R. 3581, amended, 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. **Pages H6103–05**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

One Seat Ride Act: H.R. 1547, amended, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers; **Pages H6084–85**

Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023: H.R. 3848, amended, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness; **Pages H6094–97**

Elizabeth Dole Home- and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023: H.R. 542, amended, 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 **Pages H6097–S6103**

Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world: H. Res. 894, strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world. **Pages H6106–08**

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

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CHOICE IN AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES ACT OF 2023; DETERRENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL 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 PROGRAM

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4468, the “Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023”; H.R. 5933, the “DETERRENT Act”; and 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. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5933, the “DETERRENT Act”, H.R. 4468, the “Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023”, and 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. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4468, the “Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule makes in order only the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule

provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 5933, the “DETERRENT Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in Part B of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 88, the 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”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Walberg, Peters, and Scott of Virginia.

REEXAMINING VA.GOV

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Reexamining VA.gov”. Testimony was heard from Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine drug shortages, focusing on supply challenges, impacts, and policy solutions from a Federal health program perspective, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “America’s Future: Leading a New Era of Energy Dominance, Security, and Environmental Stewardship”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5677, the “5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act”; H.R. 6544, the “Atomic Energy Advancement Act”; H.R. 5718, the “Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023”; H.R. 4167, the “Protecting America’s Distribution Transformer Supply Chain Act”; H.R. 6192, the “Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act”; H.R. 6185, the “Guaranteeing Reliable Infrastructure Development Act”; H.R. 6421, the “Affordable HOMES Act”; H.R. 4045, the “Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act”; legislation on the Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act; legislation on the Deploying American Blockchains Act; H.R. 5390, the “Critical Infrastructure Manufacturing Feasibility Act”; H.R. 5398, the “Advancing Tech Startups Act”; H.R. 5146, the “Advancing Gig Economy Act”; H.R. 3950, the “Transparency In Charges for Key Events Ticketing Act”; legislation on the STOP Act of 2023; H.R. 6543, the “No Hidden Fees on Extra Expenses for Stays Act”; H.R. 6125, the “Online Dating Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 5202, the “Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 2964, the “Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety”; H.R. 1797, the “Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act”; H.R. 6132, the “Awning Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 4310, the “Youth Poisoning

Protection Act”; H.R. 4814, the “Consumer Safety Technology Act”; H.R. 2365, the “National Plan to End Parkinson’s Act”; H.R. 5372, the “Expanding Seniors’ Access to Lower Cost Medicines Act of 2023”; H.R. 2880, the “Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act”; H.R. 5393, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fair assessment of pharmacy performance and quality under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; H.R. 5385, the “Medicare PBM Accountability Act”; H.R. 5386, the “Cutting Copays Act”; H.R. 4881, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit cost sharing for drugs under the Medicare program; H.R. 5389, the “National Coverage Determination Transparency Act”; H.R. 133, the “Mandating Exclusive Review of Individual Treatments Act”; H.R. 5396, the “Coverage Determination Clarity Act of 2023”; H.R. 5371, the “Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023”; H.R. 5388, the “Supporting Innovation for Seniors Act”; H.R. 5380, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage; H.R. 3842, the “Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2023”; H.R. 5397, the “Joe Fiandra Access to Home Infusion Act of 2023”; H.R. 6366, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the work geographic index for physician payments under the Medicare program and to revise the phase-in of clinical laboratory test payment changes under such program; H.R. 6369, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend incentive payments for participation in eligible alternative payment models; H.R. 5555, the “DMEPOS Relief Act of 2023”; H.R. 6545, the “the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act”; H.R. 6364, the “Medicare Telehealth Privacy Act of 2023”; and H.R. 1352, the “Increasing Access to Biosimilars Act of 2023”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Fostering Financial Innovation: How Agencies Can Leverage Technology to Shape the Future of Financial Services”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, hearing entitled “The Future of Freedom and Democracy in Belarus”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Africa, hearing entitled “The Sahel in Crisis: Examining U.S. Policy Options”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Protecting our Preparedness: Assessing the Impact of the Border Crisis on Emergency Management”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Identity Management Innovation: Looking Beyond REAL ID”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 4524, the “Parity for

Tribal Law Enforcement Act”; H.R. 4748, the “Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act”; H.R. 6368, the “Indian Buffalo Management Act”; and H.R. 6443, the “Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Limiting Access and Damaging Gateway Economies: Examining the National Parks Air Tour Management Program”, 10:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “Examining Opportunities to Promote and Enhance Tribal Forest Management”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled “The Importance of Protecting Female Athletics and Title IX”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Water Resources Development Acts: Status of Past Provisions and Future Needs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 522, the “Deliver for Veterans Act”; H.R. 3738, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; H.R. 5914, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3722, the “Daniel J. Harvey, Jr., and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act”; H.R. 5938, the “Veterans Exam Expansion Act of 2023”; H.R. 1753, the “Jax Act”; H.R. 5890, the “Every Veterans Claim Act of 2023”; H.R. 5785, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship; H.R. 3790, the “Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2023”; H.R. 4016, the “Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act”; and H.R. 4190, the “Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with the IRS Whistleblowers: Hunter Biden Investigation Obstruction in Their Own Words”, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Full Committee, business meeting on Documents protected under Internal Revenue Code section 6103, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 5 through December 8, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: December 6, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the status of Department of Defense recruiting efforts and plans for fiscal year 2024, 3 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 6, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Wall Street firms, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 7, business meeting to consider the nomination of J. Todd Inman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: December 6, to hold hearings to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act investments in habitat and ecosystem restoration, pollinators, and wildlife crossings, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: December 5, to hold hearings to examine drug shortages, focusing on supply challenges, impacts, and policy solutions from a Federal health program perspective, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 6, to hold hearings to examine transnational repression, focusing on authoritarians targeting dissenters abroad, 10 a.m., SD-419.

December 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, and other pending nominations, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: December 6, business meeting to consider the nominations of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, 11 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: December 6, to hold an oversight hearing to examine fentanyl in Native communities, focusing on Federal perspectives on the growing crisis, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 5, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 a.m., SH-216.

December 7, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Sara E. Hill, and John David Russell, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 6, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, December 6, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, December 6, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled “Back to the Future”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

December 7, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “Regional Missile Defense Assets—Assessing COCOM and Allied Demand for Capabilities”, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, December 6, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 9 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Financial Services, December 6, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Housing Affordability: Governmental Barriers and Market-Based Solutions”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, December 6, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

December 6, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “White House Policy on AI”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, December 6, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, December 6, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1449, the “Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act”; H.R. 3250, the “National Museum of Play Recognition Act”; H.R. 3396, the “Fire Department Repayment Act of 2023”; H.R. 5490, the “Bolstering Ecosystems Against Coastal Harm Act”; H.R. 6009, the “Restoring American Energy Dominance Act”; H.R. 6011, the “ROWATA Act”; H.R. 6233, the “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act”; and H.R. 6285, the “Alaska’s Right to Produce Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, December 6, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “White House Policy on AI”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 6, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6494, the “Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 6276, the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6278, the “Maximizing Office Value and Efficiency Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, December 6, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Background Checks: Are VA HR Failures Risking Drug Abuse and Veteran Harm?”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, December 6, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Hidden Cost: The True Price of Federal Debt to American Taxpayers”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

December 6, Subcommittee on Tax, hearing entitled “Tax Policies to Expand Economic Growth and Increase Prosperity for American Families”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: December 6, to hold hearings to examine sovereign asset confiscation for Ukrainian victory, 2 p.m., SD-608.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through November 30, 2023

| | <i>Senate</i> | <i>House</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Days in session | 163 | 166 | .. |
| Time in session | 770 hrs, 8' | 607 hrs, 2' | .. |
| Congressional Record: | | | |
| Pages of proceedings | 5,697 | 6,052 | .. |
| Extensions of Remarks | .. | 1,151 | .. |
| Public bills enacted into law | 37 | 14 | .. |
| Private bills enacted into law | .. | .. | .. |
| Bills in conference | 1 | 1 | .. |
| Measures passed, total | 354 | 288 | 642 |
| Senate bills | 64 | 8 | .. |
| House bills | 15 | 162 | .. |
| Senate joint resolutions | 7 | 3 | .. |
| House joint resolutions | 7 | 12 | .. |
| Senate concurrent resolutions | 1 | .. | .. |
| House concurrent resolutions | 6 | 11 | .. |
| Simple resolutions | 254 | 92 | .. |
| Measures reported, total | *216 | 281 | 497 |
| Senate bills | 183 | .. | .. |
| House bills | .. | 227 | .. |
| Senate joint resolutions | .. | .. | .. |
| House joint resolutions | .. | 10 | .. |
| Senate concurrent resolutions | 2 | .. | .. |
| House concurrent resolutions | .. | 5 | .. |
| Simple resolutions | 31 | 39 | .. |
| Special reports | 19 | 4 | .. |
| Conference reports | .. | .. | .. |
| Measures pending on calendar | 207 | 131 | .. |
| Measures introduced, total | 3,937 | 7,617 | 11,554 |
| Bills | 3,381 | 6,532 | .. |
| Joint resolutions | 51 | 104 | .. |
| Concurrent resolutions | 23 | 80 | .. |
| Simple resolutions | 482 | 901 | .. |
| Quorum calls | 2 | 5 | .. |
| Yea-and-nay votes | 325 | 246 | .. |
| Recorded votes | .. | 438 | .. |
| Bills vetoed | 3 | 5 | .. |
| Vetoes overridden | .. | .. | .. |

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through November 30, 2023

| | |
|--|--------|
| Civilian nominees, totaling 400, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 148 |
| Unconfirmed | 243 |
| Withdrawn | 9 |
| Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,901, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 927 |
| Unconfirmed | 974 |
| Air Force nominees, totaling 6,041, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 5,174 |
| Unconfirmed | 867 |
| Army nominees, totaling 8,602, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 6,472 |
| Unconfirmed | 2,130 |
| Navy nominees, totaling 5,021, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 4,929 |
| Unconfirmed | 92 |
| Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,246, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 1,230 |
| Unconfirmed | 16 |
| Space Force nominees, totaling 812, disposed of as follows: | |
| Confirmed | 801 |
| Unconfirmed | 11 |
| <i>Summary</i> | |
| Total nominees carried over from the First Session | 0 |
| Total nominees received this Session | 24,023 |
| Total confirmed | 19,681 |
| Total unconfirmed | 4,333 |
| Total withdrawn | 9 |
| Total returned to the White House | 0 |

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 119 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 285 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 5

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, December 5

Senate Chamber

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Additional roll call votes are expected.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Balderson, Troy, Ohio, E1161
Budzinski, Nikki, Ill., E1160
Delia C. Ramirez, Ill., E1161

Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1160, E1162
Dunn, Neal P., Fla., E1160
Estes, Ron, Kans., E1159
Kamlager-Dove, Sydney, Calif., E1161
Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E1161

Moran, Nathaniel, Tex., E1160
Posey, Bill, Fla., E1159
Reschenthaler, Guy, Pa., E1160
Simpson, Michael K., Idaho, E1159
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1159



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