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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 14, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

God of grace and truth, dwell among us today in all Your glory. In Your gracious arms, receive all of us, sinners though we are, and show us Your compassion. Welcome us into Your steadfast loving-kindness, though we are all undeserving of such divine mercy.

But isn't that the truth You have been trying to tell us all along? You have created us to be the agents of Your love, the hands of Your compassion, the mouth of Your message of righteousness and justice. But too often we fall short of Your will in our service to You.

Yet with unmerited favor, in Your fullness we have received grace upon grace. You have forgiven our faithlessness, redeemed our waywardness, and offered us the promise of Your salvation.

In this holy season, may our lives reflect the light You have shone in our darkness, the blessings You have bestowed on us. And may we find countless opportunities to share the joy we have found in You, that all may know of the depth of Your love.

By Your grace in the truth of Your 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. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COLLINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

FINISHING APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of the House taking up the remaining appropriations legislation as soon as we get back in the new year.

The past 12 months have certainly been trying, but our Conference has shown that we can pass strong conservative policy that puts America first.

To my colleagues, enjoy your time with your family. Come January, let's

be prepared to finish what the American people expect us to do, and that is to get these remaining appropriations bills across the finish line.

COMBATING RISE IN BOOK BANS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Books Save Lives Act, legislation to combat the rise in book bans.

This past school year had more than 3,000 instances of books banned across 33 States, and in my home State of Massachusetts, libraries saw challenges to books quadruple.

Let me make it plain: Book bans are discriminatory and harmful, and Congress must unite against them. As a child who endured sexual abuse, when I read Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," it was the first time in my life I knew I was not alone, and it helped me move forward. When I say that books save lives, I mean that.

My bill would recognize this by ensuring libraries offer diverse books and treat discriminatory bans as violations of Federal civil rights law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation for all the people who are saved by books each and every day.

BOLSTERING MILK CONSUMPTION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last night, in a bipartisan manner, the House passed my legislation, Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. This bill addresses the importance of providing whole milk in school cafeterias.

□ 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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It is proven that milk is the number one provider of 13 essential nutrients, as well as a great deal of long-term health benefits, including better bone health, lower blood pressure, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. These benefits are crucial for the healthy development of our Nation's youth.

Over the years, milk has been unfairly demonized, leading to the loss of nearly an entire generation of milk drinkers. This bill will give children a wide variety of milk options and bolster milk consumption, a win-win for growing children and America's dairy farmers.

Mr. Speaker, farmers feed, nutrition matters, and whole milk heals. It is time to follow the science and allow whole milk back into school cafeterias. I call on my Senate colleagues to bring this bill to the floor and pass this critical legislation.

WATER IS LIFE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we know that oil and water don't mix. Right now, there is a dirty pipeline called Line 5 running through the most critical part of the Great Lakes. It is operated by a company called Enbridge, which has a disturbing history of faulty infrastructure and environmental destruction.

A Line 5 spill would be devastating for the Great Lakes region and the entire country. The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's fresh surface water and are home to precious ecosystems and wildlife. Tens of millions of people rely on them for water, jobs, and recreation.

We cannot allow the water we rely on to live, the water that helps make Michigan such a special place for so many, to be sacrificed for corporate greed.

The good news is that President Biden could end this threat today by revoking Line 5's Presidential permit and committing to the truth that water is life.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Biden administration to stand with the people of the Great Lakes and shut down Line 5 once and for all.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Liberty Christian Academy Bulldogs for their monumental victory in the VHSL 3A State championship football game.

On December 9, the Lynchburg-based LCA Bulldogs defeated the Lafayette Rams 28-14 to finish their season with a perfect 14-0 record and earn their first VHSL State football title.

This was a history-making moment, coming 9 years after LCA filed an anti-trust complaint against the VHSL, seeking to permit themselves and other private schools to join the league. The VHSL ultimately settled and agreed to allow any private school to apply for membership, providing a major victory for all student athletes in private schools across the Commonwealth.

Now, just 8 years after they began competing in the predominantly public school league, LCA reached the pinnacle with their State championship.

The LCA Bulldogs and Coach Frank Rocco have made their school, the Lynchburg community, and Virginia's Fifth District exceptionally proud.

I am honored to represent such a phenomenal group of student athletes in Congress, and I congratulate them on this incredible achievement.

EXECUTION OF AUKUS AGREEMENT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, the House is going to vote on the National Defense Authorization Act, which I strongly support.

It is the product of bipartisan, bicameral compromise, which is exactly what the American people crave, and I congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member SMITH for their outstanding work.

Among its many positive provisions, this bill in particular will execute the new AUKUS agreement between the U.S., U.K., and Australia. For the first time since 1958, the U.S. will share nuclear propulsion technology with another nation, our great ally, Australia. It also allows for the first time ever the sale to Australia of U.S.-built nuclear submarines—three, to be exact.

This effort will rebalance the strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific in favor of free, democratic nations that today are being constantly pressurized by the aggressive actions of the world's largest navy, namely, the Chinese PLAN.

To be clear, the intent of AUKUS is to guarantee deterrence, peace, and freedom of navigation that has prevailed across the globe for the last 78 years.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA will be long remembered for this effort, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" for this bill.

CONGRATULATING CLEMSON MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I get to say once again from the House floor, "Go Tigers," as I rise to celebrate the 2023 NCAA men's soccer national champions, the Clemson Tigers.

On Monday night, the Clemson men's soccer team took to the pitch to beat Notre Dame and close out the season. This is Clemson's fourth national championship in soccer. They claimed victory in 1984, 1987, 2021, and 2023. With this victory, the soccer program has surpassed football with the most national championships. I am proud to say that Clemson is one of just seven schools with four or more men's soccer national championships.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Head Coach Mike Noonan and each of the players on the team for representing my alma mater and the State of South Carolina so well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the 2023 NCAA men's soccer national champions, and I congratulate President Clements on the success of this team and the program there at Clemson.

Merry Christmas to all. May God bless America.

And once again, go Tigers.

AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE MILITARY

(Mr. KIM of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this effort to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. It is a strong bipartisan, bicameral compromise to address many of the quality-of-life needs of our servicemembers and their families.

The conference report that I signed reiterates America's commitment to supporting a diverse force that reflects our Nation and protects the reproductive rights of servicemembers by keeping DoD's travel policy for noncovered medical care intact.

The bill includes a well-deserved pay raise for our servicemembers and expands eligibility for the basic needs allowance program so our military families can have more money in their pockets. These and several other provisions, like improvements to barracks and housing facilities and other issues, will address recruitment and retention of our military, which is vital.

Our servicemembers and their families make incredible sacrifices for us. By passing this bill, we are reinforcing our commitment to them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in both parties to support and pass this important piece of legislation.

WHOLE MILK IS A GOOD THING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's proposal to federally limit milk options to the unpopular fat-free and low-fat types and prohibit students from drinking flavored milk only starts our children off on the wrong foot.

Whole milk contains 3.25 percent fat, making it 96.75 percent fat-free as compared to the common 2 percent or 1 percent or skim that we see. This is not an incredibly great amount of fat for what the perception would be out there.

Whole milk is nutritious and simple. Whole milk doesn't contain any more sugar or carbs than skim or low-fat milk, but it does contain essential nutrients that children need to grow.

Mr. Speaker, 8 ounces of whole milk provides 8 grams of protein. That is 16 percent of the daily recommended value. This high-quality protein builds and repairs muscle, keeps us fuller longer, provides energy and focus, and helps maintain bone health and a healthy weight while supporting a healthy immune system.

An 8-ounce serving of milk, flavored or not, gives children the same amount of calcium as 10 cups of spinach, the same amount of potassium as in one small banana, the same amount of vitamin A as in three-quarters of a cup of broccoli, and the same amount of vitamin D as in three-quarters of an ounce of cooked salmon. Parents of picky eaters know how hard it is to convince their kids to eat that every day.

Whole milk is a good thing.

□ 0915

STRENGTHENING CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY AT USDA

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss why this body needs to pass the JUST Act of 2023. This bill will strengthen civil rights accountability at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Some may question why this bill is necessary. The USDA has a long and checkered history of racial policies and discrimination against Black and other minority farmers.

In the 20th century, the USDA farm lending programs undermined African-American farmers' ability to continue their operations, and the numbers don't lie.

At the beginning of the 1900s, there were more than 925,000 Black farm operators who owned more than 16 million acres of land.

The most recent numbers from 2017 paint a bleak picture. There are only 48,000 Black family farm operators left. So let's strengthen civil rights accountability at the USDA by passing the JUST Act.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I note the next order of business is the conference

report on H.R. 2670, and I wish to ask several points of parliamentary inquiry and maybe points of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PERRY. The rules of the House require that every bill must have a stated single purpose to be filed. Was such a statement filed, and if so, what is the single purpose of H.R. 2670?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not respond to hypothetical questions on measures not pending at this time.

Mr. PERRY. The body can't ask a question as to what the stated single purpose of this conference report is?

It is not a hypothetical.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will respond to parliamentary inquiries relating to a pending measure.

Mr. PERRY. The pending measure is on the suspension of the rules for H.R. 2670.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no measure pending at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman cannot be recognized for H.R. 2670 at this point, how does one comply with the section in rule XXII that says a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may raise a point of order against a nongermane matter as specified in subparagraph 2 before the commencement of debate?

We have to do it before the debate starts or we have waited too long; is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No Member has yet been recognized to even call up a measure.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2023, at Book II, page H6213.)

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if now is the appropriate time to make points of parliamentary inquiry and motions related to the properness of H.R. 2670, the conference report, being before this House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state an inquiry at this time, if he has one about the pending measure.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to whether or not when originally filed, H.R. 2670 complied with the requirements of the rules of the House to have a single purpose stated, and if so, what was that single purpose?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide an advisory opinion. The Chair would advise the gentleman that consistent with prior clarifications by the Chair, including on December 19, 2007, a motion to suspend the rules waives all points of order that would have otherwise applied to this measure.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, that is why we tried to do it before the motion was made. I am questioning how can a Member exercise his rights under the rules to raise objections when the rule clearly says it must be done before the commencement of debate. Now we are told that once a measure has been called up and the motion has been made, we can't make the inquiries or challenge the properness of the conference report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama has made a motion to suspend the rules. The effect of such motion is that all points of order are waived.

Mr. GRIFFITH. That is if the resolution passes. I am trying to establish whether or not this is even properly before the body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to suspend the rules was properly offered.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, is the Chair confirming that there was, in fact, a single purpose declaration made at the time of the filing of the bill, because otherwise it is not properly before the House at all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is confirming that the gentleman has offered a motion to suspend the rules to adopt a conference report, and that is what is pending right now.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, is the Chair indicating that the mere motion to suspend the rules, therefore, suspends the rules until such time as that motion is defeated?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Chair if that also applies to any germaneness that might apply that would otherwise be in violation of the conference reports stated in rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair just stated, that applies to any and all points of order.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the discussion about who is controlling the time, I would rise in true opposition to claim time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) opposed to the conference report?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, no, I am not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield one half of my time to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), and ask that the gentleman be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the con-

ference report to accompany H.R. 2670 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of FY24 National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA is one of the most consequential bills Congress considers. Passage of this bill each year sends an important signal to the men and women defending our freedom that Congress can function and will prioritize their needs above all else.

Enacting the NDAA has never been more valid than today. America and our allies face unprecedented and rapidly evolving threats from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and terrorist organizations throughout the world.

These threats are real. We all just witnessed terrorist acts on their threats against one of our closest allies in the Middle East, and we all pray for Israel as it counters the most vile attack on Jewish people since the Holocaust.

To stay ahead of these threats, DOD came to Congress this year, as they do every year, to request critical new authorities as a part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

We took those requests seriously. We held dozens of hearings to examine them, then we worked to improve them and add our own priorities through the committee and floor processes.

We followed regular order and had a conference committee for the first time in 2 years. We fought the Senate for weeks over each other's priorities, and we came to a compromise. That is what is before us today.

I will be the first to admit, I am disappointed we didn't get all the priorities we wanted, but the Senate is pretty disappointed they didn't get the priorities they wanted either. It takes compromise to move legislation in a divided government, and this bill is a good compromise. It is laser-focused on deterring our adversaries, especially China.

The conference report includes critical new authorities to ensure our warfighters have what they need to deter our adversaries and to prevail in future battles. It goes a long way toward ending woke policies being forced on our servicemembers by leftwing bureaucrats.

It includes provisions that ban critical race theory and require promotion based on merit. It includes several provisions that require accountability from the administration, like a Special Inspector General for Ukraine aid and a deadline for the DOD to finally pass an audit.

It improves the security of Israel by extending weapons transfers and expanding joint military training.

Finally, the conference report carries important new quality-of-life improvements for our servicemembers and their military families, including the largest pay raise in over 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a compromise, but it is a good compromise. It puts the need of our servicemembers and our national security before all else.

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

Mr. Speaker, below is a table representing \$37.6 billion in savings over the Future Years Defense Program included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

SAVINGS TABLE, FY 2024 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(In Thousands of Dollars)

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
AIR FORCE	F-15EX, Other support costs unjustified growth	26,730
AIR FORCE	KC-46A MDAP, Commodities activation excess to need	41,000
AIR FORCE	Combat Rescue Helicopter, Obsolescence ahead of need	22,784
AIR FORCE	F-16, Comms suite upgrade kits previously funded	5,705
AIR FORCE	F-16, Comms suite upgrade installation delays	5,454
AIR FORCE	F-22A, Sensor enhancement delays	434,997
AIR FORCE	F-15 EPAW, SEPM unjustified growth	15,681
AIR FORCE	Other Production Charges, T-7A depot activation ahead of need	33,609
AIR FORCE	Cartridges, Small cal/ground munitions - (A143) 7.62MM ball linked unit cost adjustment	500
AIR FORCE	General Purpose Bombs, Previously funded items	14,855
AIR FORCE	Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), Unjustified request	12,824
AIR FORCE	Joint Direct Attack Munition, PSC other government costs unjustified growth	3,877
AIR FORCE	Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Utility unjustified unit cost growth	6,059
AIR FORCE	Fuels Support Equipment (FSE), Fuel storage bladder unjustified unit cost growth	3,239
AIR FORCE	General Information Technology, Insufficient justification	25,000
AIR FORCE	Afnet, Insufficient justification	2,293
AIR FORCE	F-35, Flyaway unit cost growth	103,740
AIR FORCE	Other Production Charges, Excess to need	229,400
AIR FORCE	KC-46A Mdap, Cost overestimation: Other government costs	6,571
AIR FORCE	B-2A, Excess to need: IFF transponder	3,600
AIR FORCE	B-52, Cost overestimation: Tactical data links program support	3,199

SAVINGS TABLE, FY 2024 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

(In Thousands of Dollars)

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
AIR FORCE	F-16, SLEP costs previously funded	25,440
AIR FORCE	Combat Training Ranges, Unit cost growth: P6CTS	3,050
AIR FORCE	Fuels Support Equipment (FSE), All Terrain Berm Storage System schedule discrepancies	7,215
AIR FORCE	HC/MC-130 Recap RDT&E, Program decrease	20,000
AIR FORCE	F-35 C2D2, Program decrease	1,993
AIR FORCE	HC/MC-130 Recap RDT&E, Excess to need	5,000
AIR FORCE	Hypersonics Prototyping, Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)	150,340
AIR FORCE	B-52 Squadrons, Scheduling delays	20,639
AIR FORCE	VC-25B, Excess to Need	57,000
AIR FORCE	Advanced Weapons Technology, Excessive cost growth	10,000
AIR FORCE	Modular Advanced Missile, Program decrease	105,238
AIR FORCE	Advanced Pilot Training, Program delay	2,272
AIR FORCE	Future AF Integrated Technology Demos, Program reduction	42,200
AIR FORCE	Advanced Aerospace Sensors, Multi-Spectrum Sensing Demonstration excess to need	2,200
AIR FORCE	Advanced Technology and Sensors, Imaging and Targeting Support excess growth	2,470
AIR FORCE	Operational Energy and Installation Resilience, Excess growth	10,402
AIR FORCE	Stand In Attack Weapon, Aircraft integration delays	13,000
AIR FORCE	Airborne Sigint Enterprise, Underexecution	2,202
AIR FORCE	C-5 Airlift Squadrons (IF), SIL early to need	1,216
AIR FORCE	KC-135S, Comm 2 early to need	1,583
AIR FORCE	Air Force Studies and Analysis Agency, Modeling and Simulation Development excess growth	3,000
AIR FORCE	Classified Programs, Classified adjustment	212,081
AIR FORCE	Survivable Airborne Operations Center (SAOC), EMO excess to need	69,716
AIR FORCE	Survivable Airborne Operations Center (SAOC), Test and evaluation excess to need	12,657
AIR FORCE	Survivable Airborne Operations Center (SAOC), Management services overestimation	15,919
AIR FORCE	HH-60W, Support costs excess to need	892
AIR FORCE	KC-46A Tanker Squadrons, Direct mission support excess to need	7,168
AIR FORCE	KC-46A Tanker Squadrons, Aircrew training system previously funded	9,864
AIR FORCE	KC-46A Tanker Squadrons, Test and evaluation previously funded	20,175
AIR FORCE	Specialized Undergraduate Flight Training, T-6 avionics replacement program delay	1,182
AIR FORCE	High Frequency Radio Systems, Program support costs unjustified request	5,000
AIR FORCE	ISR Modernization & Automation Dvmt (IMAD), Unjustified growth	5,110
AIR FORCE	Contractor Logistics Support and System Support, Underexecution	40,000
AIR FORCE	Flying Hour Program, Underexecution	115,000
AIR FORCE	Base Support, Underexecution	115,000
AIR FORCE	Flight Training, Underexecution	12,241
AIR FORCE	Other Servicewide Activities, Underexecution	45,000
AIR FORCE	Primary Combat Forces, Unjustified growth	30,000
AIR FORCE	Contractor Logistics Support and System Support, Unjustified growth	18,000
AIR FORCE	US Centcom, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq reduction	6,000
AIR FORCE	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	200,000
AIR FORCE	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	28,000
AIR FORCE	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	21,900
AIR FORCE	Primary Combat Forces, Unjustified growth	30,000
AIR FORCE	Combat Enhancement Forces, Unjustified growth	36,000
AIR FORCE	Global C3I and Early Warning, Unjustified request	18,400
AIR FORCE	Other Combat Ops Spt Programs, Unjustified growth	13,000
AIR FORCE	Administration, Program decrease - contract support	500
AIR FORCE	Air Operations Training (OJT, Maintain Skills), Unjustified growth	19,000
AIR FORCE	Aircraft Operations, Unjustified growth	20,000
AIR FORCE	Air Force end strength underexecution	564,000
AIR FORCE	Air National Guard AGR end strength underexecution	33,000
AIR FORCE	A-10 aircraft divestment	4,494,727
AIR FORCE	B-1B aircraft divestment	406,851
AIR FORCE	C-130H aircraft divestment	692,418
AIR FORCE	E-3/AWACS aircraft divestment	764,689
AIR FORCE	E-8 JSTARS aircraft divestment	1,464,417
AIR FORCE	EC-130H aircraft divestment	496,521
AIR FORCE	EC-130J aircraft divestment	186,030
AIR FORCE	F-15 C/D aircraft divestment	3,699,838
AIR FORCE	F-15E aircraft divestment	1,723,000
AIR FORCE	F-16 C/D aircraft divestment	1,239,576
AIR FORCE	HH-60G aircraft divestment	1,462,747
AIR FORCE	KC-10 aircraft divestment	2,054,206
AIR FORCE	KC-135 R/T aircraft divestment	1,533,002

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
AIR FORCE	T-1A aircraft divestment	631,948
AIR FORCE	Classified Programs, Program justification review	14,737
ARMY	Aircraft Survivability Equipment, B-Kit unit cost adjustment	5,230
ARMY	Precision Strike Missile (PRSM), Unjustified growth: Software maintenance	6,250
ARMY	Bradley Program (Mod), Unjustified growth: modification 7 installation	6,204
ARMY	Signal Modernization Program, Program decrease	10,400
ARMY	COTS Communications Equipment, Program decrease	7,100
ARMY	Armored Multi Purpose Vehicle (AMPV), Program decrease	2,500
ARMY	M-SHORAD - Procurement, Excess fielding growth	10,500
ARMY	Handheld Manpack Small Form Fit (HMS), Excess to need	5,043
ARMY	Joint Battle Command - Platform (JBC-P), Unjustified Cost Growth - Fielding and Systems Engineering	5,224
ARMY	IAMD Battle Command System, Excess Interim Contractor Support	17,100
ARMY	Ground Soldier System, Excess to need	12,867
ARMY	Mobile Protected Firepower, Excessive growth - systems technical support	8,000
ARMY	Stryker Upgrade, Excessive growth - fleet modifications	4,600
ARMY	CTG, 25mm, All Types, Excess to need	7,257
ARMY	Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Family and Vehicl, Unit cost increases	2,095
ARMY	Tactical Network Technology Mod In Svc, SATCOM obsolescence previously funded	12,003
ARMY	Counter Small Unmanned Aerial System (C-SUAS), Execution delays	60,000
ARMY	Night Vision Devices, Restore acquisition accountability: Government program management costs	3,284
ARMY	Emerging Technology Initiatives, Program decrease	51,440
ARMY	Lethality Advanced Technology, Program decrease	2,827
ARMY	Aviation - Adv Dev, FARA - Excess to need	13,356
ARMY	Soldier Systems - Advanced Development, Slow expenditure rate - Advance Development	523
ARMY	Soldier Systems - Advanced Development, Excessive growth - Program management	1,333
ARMY	Maneuver - Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD), Delayed expenditure - Contract Award Delay	7,245
ARMY	Medium Tactical Vehicles, Incomplete development goals	25,000
ARMY	Light Tactical Wheeled Vehicles, Incomplete development goals	43,893
ARMY	Night Vision Systems - Eng Dev, Slow expenditure - Joint Effects Targetting System (JETS)	5,028
ARMY	Manned Ground Vehicle, OMFV slow expenditure	120,900
ARMY	Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) Engineering and Manufacturing Development Ph, Slow expenditure	1,100
ARMY	Improved Turbine Engine Program, Excessive Growth - Government Planning	1,721
ARMY	Improved Turbine Engine Program, Slow expenditure rate	8,464
ARMY	Combat Vehicle Improvement Programs, Slow expenditure - Stryker Combat Vehicle Improvement Program	10,445
ARMY	155mm Self-Propelled Howitzer Improvements, Slow expenditure - Extended Range Cannon Artillery	6,200
ARMY	155mm Self-Propelled Howitzer Improvements, Excess growth - ERCA range prototype build	5,900
ARMY	Environmental Quality Technology - Dem/Val, Program decrease	2,500
ARMY	Suite and Survivability Enhancement Systems - Emd, Maintain program management level of effort	1,200
ARMY	Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV) (6.5), Unjustified growth	3,923
ARMY	Maneuver Units, Unjustified growth	100,000
ARMY	Force Readiness Operations Support, Unjustified growth	54,000
ARMY	Servicewide Communications, Insufficient justification	25,000
ARMY	Echelons Above Brigade, Unjustified growth	7,000
ARMY	Theater Level Assets, Unjustified growth	2,000
ARMY	Aviation Assets, Unjustified growth	11,000
ARMY	Force Readiness Operations Support, Unjustified growth	5,000
ARMY	Aviation Assets, Unjustified growth	40,000
ARMY	Base Operations Support, Unjustified growth	27,669
ARMY	Specialized Skill Training, Unjustified growth	15,000
ARMY	Central Supply Activities, Unjustified growth	25,000
ARMY	Manpower Management, Unjustified growth	3,000
ARMY	Other Service Support, Unjustified growth	5,000
ARMY	Echelons Above Brigade, Underexecution	14,000
ARMY	Theater Level Assets, Underexecution	10,000
ARMY	Land Forces Operations Support, Underexecution	14,000
ARMY	Base Operations Support, Unjustified growth	2,000
ARMY	Army, Underexecution of strength	787,901
ARMY	UH-60A aircraft divestment	3,400
ARMY	UH-60L aircraft divestment	15,300
CBDP	Chemical and Biological Defense Program - Advanced Development, Program decrease	35,419
CBDP	Chemical and Biological Defense Program - Dem/Val, Excess growth	24,847
CBDP	Chemical and Biological Defense Program - EMD, Execution risk	20,597
CYBER	Robust Infrastructure and Access, Unjustified growth	34,647
DARPA	Sensor Technology, Program decrease	5,250
DARPA	Advanced Aerospace Systems, Program decrease	10,000

SAVINGS TABLE, FY 2024 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

(In Thousands of Dollars)

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
DARPA	Biomedical Technology, Program decrease	10,000
DARPA	Tactical Technology, Program decrease	20,000
DARPA	Advanced Electronics Technologies, Reduce carryover: Next generation microelectronics manufacturing	10,000
DARPA	Space Programs and Technology, Excess growth	12,500
DCMA	Defense Contract Management Agency, Unobligated balances	3,000
DCSA	Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, Unjustified growth	35,000
DEFENSE-WIDE	Other Items <\$5M, Program decrease	2,500
DEFENSE-WIDE	Undistributed, Historical unobligated balances	15,000
DEFENSE-WIDE	Savings from Foreign currency fluctuations	785,200
DEFENSE-WIDE	Classified Programs, Classified adjustment	70,968
DHA	Consolidated Health Support, Historical underexecution	6,018
DHA	Base Operations/Communications, Historical underexecution	2,500
DHA	In-House Care, Baseline adjustment	93,989
DHA	Private Sector Care, Unjustified growth	25,151
DHRA	Defense Human Resources Activity, Underexecution	45,000
DISA	Defense Information Systems Agency, Program decrease	25,000
DISA	Defense Information Systems Agency, Unobligated balances	9,900
DLSA	Defense Legal Services Agency, Historical unobligated balances	2,000
DODEA	Department and Defense Education Activity, Historical unobligated balances	7,000
DOE EM	Waste Treatment Immobilization Plant Commissioning	36,000
DOE EM	Program support - Defense Environmental Cleanup	20,956
DOE EM	Defense Uranium Enrichment D&D	2,228,000
DOE NNSA	Weapon technology and manufacturing maturation, Program decrease	20,000
DOE NNSA	Community Capacity Building Program, Insufficient justification; Academic Programs and Community Support, Underexecution	356,184
DOE NNSA	Maintenance and Repair of Facilities	18,000
DOE NNSA	Infrastructure and Safety	12,000
DOE NNSA	International nuclear security	48,535
DOE NNSA	Nonproliferation and Arms Control	100,000
DOE NNSA	Proliferation detection	50,000
DOE NNSA	NNSA Bioassurance Program	180,144
DOE NNSA	Federal Salaries and Expenses, Program direction	20,000
DOE NUCLEAR ENERGY	Nuclear Energy	17,733
DSCA	Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Program decrease - Border Security	120,000
DTRA	Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Program decrease	10,000
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff, Unobligated balances	3,600
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff - JTEEP, Unjustified growth	3,000
MDA	AEGIS BMD, Program decrease	4,000
MDA	BMD Enabling Programs, Poor justification	807
MDA	AEGIS BMD Test, Excess growth	5,049
MILITARY PERSONNEL	Unobligated balances	89,645
NAVY	Common Ground Equipment, Program decrease	5,000
NAVY	LCS In-Service Modernization, Excessive cost growth	17,030
NAVY	Shipboard IW Exploit, Excessive cost growth	16,925
NAVY	Afloat ATC Equipment, Excessive cost growth	2,118
NAVY	In-Service Radars and Sensors, Insufficient justification	15,000
NAVY	LCS MCM Mission Modules, Excess to need	14,291
NAVY	FFG-Frigate, Insufficient justification	10,000
NAVY	AS Submarine Tender, Late contract award	1,485,234
NAVY	MQ-25, Scheduling delays	199,000
NAVY	MQ-25 Ap, Scheduling delays	12,600
NAVY	Joint Strike Fighter CV, Flyaway unit cost growth	28,500
NAVY	JSF STOVL, Flyaway unit cost growth	42,666
NAVY	Special Support Equipment, Flyaway unit cost growth	19,328
NAVY	F-18 Series, F/A-18 C/D/E/F and EA-18G training equipment previously funded	5,812
NAVY	C-130 Series, Technical insertion (OSIP 019-14) Block 7 GFE unjustified growth	4,027
NAVY	MQ-4 Series, OSIP (003-23) previously funded	3,788
NAVY	Conventional Prompt Strike, Early to need	85,358
NAVY	Sidewinder, AUR Block II unit cost increase	2,859
NAVY	Small Diameter Bomb li, AUR unit cost growth	1,366
NAVY	Tomahawk Mods, Contract award delays	32,489
NAVY	CVN Refueling Overhauls Ap, Excess growth	14,658
NAVY	Outfitting, Outfitting early to need	17,684
NAVY	LPD Class Support Equipment, HWISW obsolescence installation cost growth	6,616
NAVY	Marine Group 5 Uas, Ancillary Equipment carryover	3,500
NAVY	Next Generation Jammer (NGJ), Contract savings	2,520

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
NAVY	Surface Combatant HM&E, DDG 51 ship control system cost growth	5,341
NAVY	Marine Corps Communications Systems, Marine Electromagnetic Warfare Ground Family of Systems	7,200
NAVY	Marine Corps Communications Systems, Tactical Communication Modernization	1,700
NAVY	Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) Increment II, Next Generation Jammer - Low Band	50,932
NAVY	F-35 C2D2, TR-3/B4 Unplanned cost growth	35,503
NAVY	F-35 C2D2, TR-3/B4 Unplanned cost growth	31,568
NAVY	CHALK CORAL, Program decrease	165,000
NAVY	Marine Corps Ground Combat/Support System, Slow expenditure	9,593
NAVY	Link Plumeria, Project 2937: Unjustified requirements	50,000
NAVY	Marine Corps Air Defense Weapons Systems, Slow expenditure	10,500
NAVY	Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar (G/ATOR), Slow expenditure	8,600
NAVY	Unmanned Aerial System, ILS support previously funded	3,172
NAVY	Frigate Development, Live fire test and evaluation early to need	2,800
NAVY	Small and Medium Unmanned Undersea Vehicles, Medusa unexecutable contract award date	16,515
NAVY	Advanced Undersea Prototyping, Program delays	21,725
NAVY	Medium Unmanned Surface Vehicles (MUSVs), Program delays	11,552
NAVY	Unmanned Surface Vehicle Enabling Capabilities, Prior year underexecution	4,281
NAVY	Other Helo Development, Project 3406 insufficient justification	17,595
NAVY	Electronic Warfare Development, Prior year underexecution	3,034
NAVY	Surface Combatant Combat System Engineering, Software SW factory insufficient justification	9,750
NAVY	Surface Combatant Combat System Engineering, Aegis capability package 2024 delays	5,500
NAVY	Standard Missile Improvements, Prior year underexecution	29,376
NAVY	Lightweight Torpedo Development, Project 3418 testing ahead of need	8,500
NAVY	DDG-1000, Prior year underexecution	8,334
NAVY	F/A-18 Squadrons, Next generation naval mission planning system Insufficient justification	12,000
NAVY	USMC Ground Combat/Supporting Arms Systems - Eng Dev, OPF-M termination	20,181
NAVY	SSN(X), Unjustified growth-shipbuilder studies	18,000
NAVY	SSN(X), Unjustified growth-NSWC studies	13,804
NAVY	SSN(X), Unjustified growth-management and support costs	7,950
NAVY	Unmanned Carrier Aviation (UCA), Test excess to need due to EDM delays	20,403
NAVY	Administration, Program decrease	12,000
NAVY	Mission and Other Ship Operations, Underexecution	10,000
NAVY	Weapons Maintenance, Underexecution	25,000
NAVY	Enterprise Information, Insufficient justification	18,000
NAVY	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	4,200
NAVY	Combat Support Forces, Unjustified growth	20,000
NAVY	Base Operating Support, Unjustified growth	20,200
NAVY	Specialized Skill Training, Unjustified growth	5,000
NAVY	Navy Reserve, Projected underexecution	10,000
NAVY	Navy end strength underexecution	600,000
NAVY	Terminate COBRA Block II Development	290,000
NAVY	Disestablishment of Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2	87,400
NAVY	Continuous Process Improvement/Underexecution Reviews	166,000
NAVY	AV-8B aircraft divestment	64,800
NAVY	C-2A aircraft divestment	29,400
NAVY	CH-53E aircraft divestment	36,700
NAVY	E-2C aircraft divestment	16,300
NAVY	F/A-18C aircraft divestment	126,400
NAVY	F/A-18D aircraft divestment	33,800
NAVY	F/A-18E aircraft divestment	60,000
NAVY	F/A-18F aircraft divestment	10,500
NAVY	MH-53E aircraft divestment	3,500
NAVY	MH-60R aircraft divestment	2,700
NAVY	MH-60S aircraft divestment	1,900
NAVY	P-3C aircraft divestment	2,100
NAVY	RQ-21A aircraft divestment	5,900
NAVY	TH-57B aircraft divestment	7,300
NAVY	TH-57C aircraft divestment	15,300
NAVY	UH-1Y aircraft divestment	6,900
NAVY	VH-3D aircraft divestment	1,200
NAVY	VH-60N aircraft divestment	800
NAVY	CG 69 - USS Vicksburg decommissioning	524,300
NAVY	LCS 6 - USS Jackson decommissioning	300,323
NAVY	LCS 8 - USS Montgomery decommissioning	306,429
NAVY/USMC	General Purpose Bombs, O2181 laser guided bombs contract award delay	4,626

SAVINGS TABLE, FY 2024 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

(In Thousands of Dollars)

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
NAVY/USMC	Airborne Rockets, All Types, MK 66 rocket motor unit cost growth	5,195
NAVY/USMC	Practice Bombs, 01050 BLU-109 contract award delay	6,156
NAVY/USMC	Infantry Weapons Ammunition, AB39, CTG. 7.62 millimeter MK 316 mod contract award delay	602
NAVY/USMC	5 Inch/54 Gun Ammunition, Insufficient justification	5,030
NAVY/USMC	Infantry Weapons Ammunition, Excess to need: Cartridge, caliber 50 4 API M8/1 API-T M20 linked	157
NAVY/USMC	Infantry Weapons Ammunition, Excess to need: Cartridge, Caliber 50 Linked MK322 Mod 1/Ball (1000m cap)	1,226
OSD	Environmental Security Technical Certification Program, Program decrease	30,600
OSD	Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) - Dem/Val Activities, Insufficient justification	32,900
OSD	Trusted & Assured Microelectronics, Program decrease	21,000
OSD	Information Systems Security Program, Program decrease	6,000
OSD	Operational Energy Capability Improvement, Prior year underexecution	5,635
OSD	Trusted & Assured Microelectronics, Unjustified growth	63,299
OSD	Net Centricity, Prior year underexecution	1,312
OSD	Advanced Innovative Technologies, Classified adjustment	28,600
OSD	Office of the Secretary and Defense, Program decrease	91,443
SPACE FORCE	Special Space Activities, Space Force realignment of funds	497,000
SPACE FORCE	GPSIII Follow On, Request for Equitable Adjustment	49,300
SPACE FORCE	GPS III Space Segment, Unjustified growth SV 03-10 production	18,100
SPACE FORCE	Space Force It, Data Analytics, Digital Solutions, Program decrease	10,000
SPACE FORCE	Global Positioning System III - Operational Control Segment, Excess to need	45,400
SPACE FORCE	Space Science and Technology Research and Development, Prior year carryover	21,980
SPACE FORCE	Space Technology Development and Prototyping, Inadequate justification - other activities	25,000
SPACE FORCE	Space Systems Prototype Transitions (SSPT), Underexecution	9,473
SPACE FORCE	Protected Tactical Service (PTS), Unjustified request - management services	4,300
SPACE FORCE	Weather System Follow-On, Unjustified increase - management services	1,600
SPACE FORCE	Wideband Global Satcom (Space), Underexecution	2,200
SPACE FORCE	Next-Gen OPIR - Ground, Underexecution	23,100
SPACE FORCE	Next Generation OPIR, Underexecution	5,000
SPACE FORCE	Next-Gen OPIR - Geo, Unjustified increase - management services	4,265
SPACE FORCE	Next-Gen OPIR - Polar, Unjustified increase - management services	3,265
SPACE FORCE	Narrowband Satellite Communications, Inadequate justification - management services	9,450
SPACE FORCE	Satellite Control Network (Space), Underexecution	2,100
SPACE FORCE	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	19,000
SPACE FORCE	Space Operations, Unjustified growth	2,500
SPACE FORCE	Education & Training, Unjustified growth	5,000
SPACE FORCE	Contractor Logistics and System Support, Unjustified growth	2,000
SPACE FORCE	Global C3I & Early Warning, Unjustified growth	25,000
TJS	COCOM Exercise Engagement and Training Transformation (CE2T2) - Non-MHA, No JLVC acquisition strategy	6,300
USMC	Amphibious Combat Vehicle Family and Vehicles, Unjustified growth - Program Management	3,500
USMC	Common Aviation Command and Control System, Unjustified fielding growth	2,474
USMC	Items Under \$5 Million (Comm & Elec), SBNVG unit cost growth	4,879
USMC	Marine Corps Enterprise Network (Mcen), Network transport excess growth	14,565
USMC	Unmanned Air Systems (Intel), Unit cost growth	3,364
USMC	Command Post Systems, Unit cost growth	1,958
USMC	Radio Systems, Unexecutable growth	39,732
USMC	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	32,000
USMC	Undistributed, Unobligated balances	1,000
USMC	Field Logistics, Unjustified growth	25,000
USMC	Base Operating Support, Unjustified growth	42,750
USMC	Operational Forces, Unjustified growth	14,000
USMC	USMC Reserve, Underexecution of strength	24,315
USSOCOM	Rotary Wing Upgrades and Sustainment, Underexecution	5,000
USSOCOM	Joint Service Provider, Insufficient justification	10,000
USSOCOM	Non-Standard Aviation, Theater Basing Initiatives excess to need	4,000
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Theater Forces, Program decrease	8,726
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Maintenance, Program decrease	24,300
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Management/Operational Headquarters, Program decrease	2,606
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Intelligence, Program decrease	6,000
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Operational Support, Program decrease	18,992
USSOCOM	Special Operations Command Maintenance, MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle unjustified increase	4,000
USSOCOM	EC-130J aircraft divestment	2,500
USSOCOM	MC-12W aircraft divestment	29,700
USSOCOM	A/MH-6M aircraft divestment	3,900
WHS	Washington Headquarters Services, Program decrease	10,000

SAVINGS TABLE, FY 2024 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

(In Thousands of Dollars)

SERVICE/COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF SAVINGS/PLATFORM DIVESTED	TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS
TOTAL FYDP SAVINGS		643,455
Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.	No, we didn't. Five people didn't even sign the conference report.	blow through that cap and waste taxpayer money on something else that doesn't enhance our lethality or capability or survivability.
Mr. Speaker, I concur with the Chairman's conclusions. We worked this process as bipartisan and as open as any process in Congress. We had the markup in committee, we had the floor vote, and we had a bunch of amendments. The Senate did the same. We went to a conference committee, and we had a very robust discussion.	What happened was a deal was cut by leadership, by the four corners, to shove down a predetermined bill into the conference, and said: Take it.	We have legislation to eliminate the chief diversity officer at DOD because that was the fountainhead of so many of these woke, bad ideas, and yet the House receded on that position.
We had disagreements. There are a lot of things in this bill that I do not like, but we have bipartisan control here. We have the Senate controlled by the Democrats, the White House controlled by the Democrats—they have to sign the bill—and the House controlled by the Republicans. So we worked a good compromise.	Five people didn't sign it. They sent that conference report back to us, and they said: Take it, pass this before Christmas or you are going to leave our men and women in uniform stranded.	Many of our colleagues were concerned that when you look at our military bases or installations, they were flying flags that weren't the American flag. They were flying the LGBTQ flag, the Black Lives Matter flag, whatever that flag is with all of those pink and black triangles in it. That desire that we had to fly the American flag and the flags of our service branches was also surrendered by the House of Representatives to the Senate.
Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is it supports our troops in their efforts to defend this country and to meet our national security needs. It has a robust pay increase, it has increases in basic housing allowance, and a number of other provisions to support our troops and their families.	That is what occurred. That is what is actually happening.	We wanted a parents bill of rights in DOD schools so that you wouldn't get the strange material that goes into radical gender ideology or race ideology. That was abandoned by the House of Representatives.
Critically, it solidifies our alliances with our European allies, with our allies in Asia and with Israel and our allies in the Middle East, to meet the threats that we face.	Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).	So we also expressed a great deal of concern over the censorship that the DOD was funding through a lot of its alliances. We put in our bill a prohibition on marketing through those networks that have engaged in broad-scale censorship. Unfortunately, that was replaced with a report. Instead of stopping the money flowing to censorship through the DOD, we have just asked to be informed about it as it is happening, even though we already know it is happening. That is why we have conducted these investigations.
You cannot oppose this bill and claim that you support the national security of this country because this bill represents that bipartisan compromise that we worked for to get a good bill, to meet our national security needs, and again, I would emphasize, to support our troops and to support their families.	□ 0930	This bill is insufficient to deal with the structural challenges that we have at the Department of Defense where they have veered substantially left. There is good in the bill, but it does not deserve an affirmative vote with this just absolutely unnecessary and uncalled-for extension of spying authorities that we already know have been abused.
Nothing is more important to the national security of this country than the people who we ask to defend it. This bill protects them.	Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I rise in opposition to this NDAA because there is a great deal of good in it, but only in Washington must we bring a bill to the floor so that we are able to militarily confront China while at the same time embracing the policies that make the United States more like China.	Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, before I yield to my friends and colleagues from the committee, I will respond to a charge that was made earlier that only five members refused to sign the conference report. There were 35 core conferees. Thirty core conferees did sign the conference report.
Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member in the body to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.	There is no desire on the part of our great Armed Services chairman, and even the Democrats we worked with, to have an extension of spying authorities put in this bill when we have already seen those authorities just totally abused, 278,000 violations of the existing law, as the FBI has queried information regarding Americans.	Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), my friend and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.
Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act, and I say that respectfully to both sides who negotiated the bill, but I think the points that have been made here make my point.	When the Obama-appointed inspector general was reviewing whether or not the administration was complying with existing law, they found out we were breaking the law 38 times an hour.	Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this year's NDAA, and I thank the chairman for his leadership.
The fact of the matter is what is being stated is that it is impossible to oppose the National Defense Authorization Act because we put a pay raise in it, or because we put something in there that is seemingly so important that we have to ignore the critical destruction of our civil liberties by adding FISA extensions right on the top of it, without doing the reforms necessary to protect the American people.	To extend the authorities for spying that were being violated so that people at the FBI could do queries on their neighbors, their coworkers, their ex-lovers, that does not belong in the National Defense Authorization Act. Maybe we would be able to stomach some short-term extension if the underlying bill looked a little more like the product we sent out of the House of Representatives.	I am honored to serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic
We do this every year. Then we are told: Oh, congratulations. We just had a conference committee.	We had concern over these social justice warriors that were making salaries in the hundreds of thousands of dollars at DOD, so we put a cap on that at three times what a private or airman would make. We claim that that's still in the bill, but the Senate was able to erode that and say so long as that social justice warrior is assigned any other responsibility, they are able to	

Forces. I am pleased that 53 provisions I led in this year's NDAA received broad bipartisan support.

Through this bill, conservatives have achieved major wins that counter harmful Biden administration plans to treat our military like a social experiment. However, we must continue to make necessary investments in our strategic forces. We must prepare to simultaneously address two-peer aggressors, as well as deter the growing threats from Iran and North Korea. This bill does that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill to ensure our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to defend our Nation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just briefly on the 702 issue. Section 702 needs to be reformed. There is no question about that. Nobody I know of, however, says that it should completely go away. If we don't do it on this bill, it completely goes away on January 1, which is a huge national security threat to this country, unilaterally agreed.

Now, I agree with the gentleman that we should debate that policy, but it is fascinating because on Tuesday we were set up to debate that policy. We had a couple different choices there, and the very people now who are screaming that we can't extend this without reform blocked the rule that would have allowed us to reform 702. It really doesn't make any sense.

What this bill does is it gives us time to do the reforms that need to be done without jeopardizing national security.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), the ranking member of the House Intel Committee who knows this issue very, very well.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I just reemphasize what the ranking member said. We had a robust conversation about 702 this week, and there should be more robust conversation. What is completely intolerable is the notion that the authority should be allowed to expire.

As ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, by God, let's reform it, but do not let it expire. If it expires, Americans and allies will die.

I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024 and congratulate the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for their constructive work on this legislation which advances our national security. The partnership between the Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee is as strong as it has been during my time in Congress, and I believe that this contributes to enhanced oversight of the agencies charged with protecting national security.

Among the many provisions of the NDAA, I want to particularly highlight the Intelligence Authorization Act,

which is incorporated as Division G of the NDAA. Under the leadership of Chairman TURNER, the Intelligence Committee has worked collaboratively and effectively to advance the IAA. The conference agreement we have reached with the Senate advances our national security while supporting the brave men and women in the intelligence community.

The FY24 IAA includes numerous provisions, the vast majority of which were developed on a bipartisan basis. To highlight just a few, the IAA includes a number of proposals I developed jointly with Chairman TURNER intended to accelerate the IC's adoption of cutting-edge technology, particularly artificial intelligence.

Our ability to leverage emerging technologies to the IC's mission will determine our ability to stay ahead of our adversaries in a world of great power competition.

The legislation also includes sweeping reforms to how the CIA handles allegations of sexual assault and sexual harassment. These reforms came out of a bipartisan investigation in which we found that too many CIA officers have experienced sexual misconduct and the agency's protocols for dealing with these incidents were often frustrating and not centered on victims. Our legislation would streamline those processes so victims know where to turn and what to expect.

Madam Speaker, there is no question we face dangerous and complex challenges around the world. The IC's unique capabilities are what will continue to give us the edge over our adversaries and keep Americans safe. I urge support of the NDAA and with the IAA, which is included.

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

I want to clear up one misconception, that somehow there was a block of us who were denying the ability to have a rule on the floor with respect to FISA 702.

The fact is, the question was, was there going to be a rule for something called queen of the hill, in which two bills would have been put forward with no amendments, none. There would have been no debate on the House floor. There would have been no ability to amend it here on the floor.

As usual, it would have been the people who say they are the only ones who know the information needed to make the decisions for the American people to do it in a committee, behind closed doors, often in the SCIF, without half of us knowing any of the information, and then bring it to the floor and say take it or leave it. That was what was going to occur.

We said we shouldn't do it that way, that what we should do is bring a bill to the floor that would reform FISA, allow us to offer amendments, have a debate on the warrant requirements, have a debate on who it applies to, and decide whether or not we are going to actually protect the civil liberties of the American people.

Instead, no, no, what we are going to do is pile on an extension of FISA on the back of our defense authorization; that is, on the back of our men and women in uniform. We are going to allow it to be extended and the procedures extended until April of 2025. That is what your people's House is going to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, in July, the House Republicans passed the most conservative NDAA in history that ended Biden's taxpayer-funded abortion travel fund, stopped taxpayer-funded gender transition surgeries, and prevented American citizens from being indefinitely detained without charge or trial. I was proud to vote for that legislation.

I understood that this bill would change in the Senate and knew that compromise was inevitable.

However, I cannot support a bill written by the D.C. uniparty that removes all of the reforms and watch as leadership once again suspends the rules we fought to restore, preventing Members from even amending this flawed legislation.

Even worse, this legislation includes a clean extension of FISA section 702, which has allowed the FBI to spy on U.S. citizens more than 278,000 times without a warrant. The FBI, under President Biden, has been weaponized against the American people, and major reform is needed.

FISA should not be combined with our national defense, and it is unacceptable that leadership is bypassing regular order to jam Members by forcing them to vote on two unrelated bills with one vote. Make no mistake about this, folks: This one vote will allow the United States Government to spy on you and the United States military to lock you up in Guantanamo Bay without representation.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), one of the most senior members of the Armed Services Committee and a real leader on national defense issues.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH for the diligent work for this bipartisan NDAA, which I support.

The axis of evil, war criminal Putin, the regime in Tehran, the Chinese Communist Party, dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law makes the passage of this bipartisan legislation more important than ever.

I am grateful to have provisions included such as authorization for operations for critical missions at Savannah River Site, including plutonium pit production and the Tritium Finishing Facility; the U.S.-Israel Future of Warfare Act, which provides for collaboration on defense and technology

for border security; the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act, which is protecting American companies from demands for bribes by corrupt foreign officials. This is the most significant anticorruption law since the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which promotes peace through strength.

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

I would note that even if section 702 lapses at the end of December, the intelligence community will remain able to conduct 702 collection and queries until April 11, 2024. By the way, that is even setting aside Article I authority, which the President of the United States can go exercise under the current FISC certification.

Number two, if the NDAA is passed with a FISA extension, as I said before, to April 19, 2024, it will enable the Biden administration to seek another yearlong certification which would kick it until April of 2025.

Both of those points have been independently corroborated by CRS attorneys as recently as August of this year and by Trump administration attorneys under similar circumstances as reported in *The New York Times* in 2017, an article that laid that out.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, we all know it is Christmas and you can sure tell because here we go with the ornaments. We have got a Christmas tree headed out, and we have got to put some ornaments on it. That is what is happening right now.

Of course, we are going to violate our rules. You saw it here just a few moments ago. This violates the single-subject rule because Americans are literally sick of their Representatives coming home and saying to them: Well, I didn't want to vote for that, but this was on it, and we had to get this so I had to vote for that. That is how this town works. That is how you end up \$34 trillion in debt, and that is how you spy on 278,000 Americans under the Federal Government's authority.

It violates the germaneness rule. People say what does that matter? Why does it matter if it is germane? Madam Speaker, the House passed a bill, a pretty good bill, thanks to the chairman, a pretty good bill. The Senate passed a bill. I don't think it was pretty good, but they passed a bill. Either way, you know what wasn't in either of those bills? The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act used to spy on Americans. That wasn't in the bill, but at the last minute it was airdropped into this bill.

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In this House, we put in the rules that we need to know the single purpose of a bill. When we asked, "What is the single purpose of this bill?" this

House said, "We are not even going to tell the American people. We are not going to tell them that." They are not going to tell the American people that because they want to couple these two things together and pass a terrible National Defense Authorization Act.

They are going to say the troops are not being paid when they are being paid. They are going to allow the Federal Government, under the guise of law, to spy on every American citizen.

It is unconscionable and unacceptable. My colleagues should vote "no."

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), my friend and colleague and the chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, war is on our doorstep. With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Iran's proxy conflict with Israel, North Korea's long-range ballistic missile development, and China's belligerence in the South China Sea, an axis of evil is rising again.

These nations seek to challenge the security of the world that has provided our Nation's prosperity since World War II. We are answering the call with this year's NDAA. We drafted this bill to address the growing national security threats while taking care of our servicemembers.

The bill increases the top line of defense to keep pace with our national security challenges.

It provides a 5.2 percent servicemember pay increase, the largest increase in 20 years. This bill provides a path for COVID vaccine servicemembers to be reinstated.

The bill curbs a reckless administration's diversity, equity, and inclusion appetite that detracts from warfighting.

The bill provides needed force structure focus by retaining critical aircraft and ships, preparing us to deter conflict before 2030.

Madam Speaker, this is the right bill at the right time. We need it urgently to deter catastrophic conflict.

Madam Speaker, I recognize Ranking Member NORCROSS. He is a great teammate. I thank the chairman and urge all Members to support this.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining for the various Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). The gentleman from Washington has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Madam Speaker, I want to focus on this notion that this is how this town works and how terrible that is. I really don't understand where people get the idea that the way the world works is that you get absolutely everything you want and nobody else gets anything.

That isn't how this town works. This is how life works in your family, your community, and in your neighborhood—everywhere.

I know these Members know this because we just had the vote on Israel not long ago. I would ask: What does the IRS have to do with defending Israel? Somehow, these Members decided that they had to put the IRS cuts in with Israel. They all voted for it and were happy as clams.

If you don't like the deal, fine, vote "no." That's cool.

The idea that you say that this is just the worst process in the world, apparently you don't like democracy because that is what democracy is. You compromise and work with people. You do it all the time.

Argue against the substance of the bill, but please stop tearing down this institution and tearing down this democracy. We have to try to get along with people we don't agree with.

Madam Speaker, to quote "Game of Thrones": "We make peace with our enemies, not our friends." You have to find a way to get along with people who you disagree with. The chairman of the committee did an outstanding job of doing that in this bill.

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

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

The question is: Who gets to decide? That is the question. Who gets to make these grand pronouncements of who is going to compromise? It sure as hell wasn't any of us. That wasn't the deal.

What was tried to be done with FISA was to bring two bills to the floor unamendable and decided by only small groups of people. That is what was occurring.

With respect to this, it was decided by leadership, both sides, to take and jam the FISA extension on the back of our men and women in uniform and bring that to the floor in violation of our rules for single subject, and then they say take it or leave it. That was what was done. That was the compromise.

If you poke the bear in this town, they don't like to be poked because it changes the way this town works, heaven forbid. It has been going so well and so beautifully that we are \$34 trillion in debt, and we have rampant spying on the American people that is occurring.

In 2020 and early 2021, the FBI conducted 278,000 improper searches of Americans, according to the 2022 FISC report. We are supposed to trust the FBI to fix that.

In June 2022, an FBI analyst conducted four queries of section 702 information using the last names of a United States Senator and a State senator based on information that a foreign intelligence service was targeting those individuals.

We have rampant abuses going on, and this body is just going to extend

the very mechanism of those abuses on the back of the National Defense Authorization Act. They say: Have a nice day. Merry Christmas. Go home and have your turkey. Go home and be with your families.

That is what is actually occurring.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, in the last round of debate, House Republicans were criticized for providing a pay-for for our plan to support Israel out of the IRS. The theory is that it is just totally unrelated, but a pay-for for the things we are doing, that is always related. It is only in Washington, certainly not in many of our State capitals, where you can have an ambition to go fund something and then not identify the offset that would naturally allow you to engage in that.

The only real substantive debate I have heard in favor of this bill is that it does good pay increases for our servicemembers. Undeniably, that has universal agreement within this body.

I think about the 8,600 servicemembers who were forced to separate from our military because of an ill-conceived, now withdrawn, vaccine requirement. We were told over and over again that there would be backpay, reparations, and restoration of rank for those people who were improperly told that they could not express their patriotism through military service because they didn't want to take an experimental vaccine. That is totally absent in this legislation.

In communities like mine that are military heavy, the 5 percent pay increase will be very welcome. Every one of our military families knows someone who now is not able to have their job and who has seen impacts on their spouses, their marriages, and their children because of this mandate. We ought to have really taken care of those great folks. We did not in this bill.

I am all about compromise. To me, compromise ought to reflect the work of the House and the Senate and then linking up those matters.

Neither the House nor the Senate version of this bill dealt with extending spying authorities, as my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) said. That was something that was added in. That is the process objection. The objection is not that we are unable to compromise on that which we present different views on. It is when a totally new issue just parachutes in and drops on what would otherwise be legislation we want to agree to.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, my friend from Florida (Mr. GAETZ), who is a member of the Armed Service Committee, knows very well there are hundreds of provisions in this bill that are good for our servicemembers, in addition to the 5.2 percent pay raise, which is the biggest in 20 years.

With regard to the individuals who had to leave the service because of

COVID, this bill provides a pathway for them to get back into the service without a rank punishment.

There is much in this bill that he knows is good. To characterize it as only having the pay raise as the reason to vote for it is disappointing.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), a real leader on the Armed Services Committee. He is the chairman of the Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation Subcommittee.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill.

As we look across the world, deterrence is collapsing, and we in this body need to do everything possible to restore it.

As chairman of the Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation Subcommittee, I am proud of many of the provisions that we got into the bill that will spark innovation across the Pentagon, strengthen offensive and defensive cybersecurity, and ensure our warfighters are equipped with the cutting-edge technology that they need today.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for working with the select committee on the CCP to include a lot of our recommendations, from enhanced cyber cooperation with and prioritization of aid to Taiwan to detailed analyses of China's defense spending.

At the end of this process, the chairman and the ranking member can proudly say that we will have done our work on the Armed Services Committee. We have authorized what we needed to authorize. That is a testament to their leadership and the spirit of the bipartisanship they have set.

However, we also need to appropriate money to the Defense Department. We have not done that. We are having a debate about a supplemental, which begs the question: What are we supplementing?

If we don't appropriate, we will lose \$37 billion.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I would point out that the money from the IRS was not a pay-for. It actually increased the deficit. Under the rules of the House, the people who decide how to score those things scored it as adding money to it.

It wasn't a pay-for. It was going after the IRS to appease people so they could vote for the larger package.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG), an outstanding freshman who is on the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. STRONG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

Madam Speaker, I commend Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member

SMITH for their leadership, and I thank both sides of the aisle for their vigorous debate while working together to create a bill that is focused on the defense and security of our Nation.

The NDAA passed through the House Armed Services Committee by a vote of 59-1. This shows that Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve our Nation's problems. This committee put national security first and set an example on how to bring a bipartisan bill to the United States House floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the fiscal year 2024 NDAA on behalf of our Nation and the American warfighter.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, may I inquire again as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 3½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), the ranking member on the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee.

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, Congress has a really proud tradition of passing our annual NDAA. Passing this bill is as important as ever. The NDAA is the result of hard work on both sides to support our military and provide our warfighters with the tools and the resources they need.

This bill includes my enhanced Buy American legislation to support American jobs by ensuring the reliability, stability, and security of our defense industrial base, strengthening relationships with our trusted allies. A strong military begins with a U.S. defense industrial base built with domestic components by an American workforce.

The fiscal year 2024 NDAA is a testament to compromise. I am grateful to the chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, Mr. WITTMAN, and the professional staff for what they have done to get this across the finish line for the American people.

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

Madam Speaker, we are here because it is right before Christmas and everybody says we must pass this. Okay, we should pass the National Defense Authorization Act.

We should deal with FISA, but it shouldn't be an extension of FISA that continues the same procedures that have been abused. It extends those procedures through April 2025. That is what we are going to do.

The fact of the matter is, there was an NSA analyst's backdoor search for the communication of two individuals the analyst had met on an online dating service. There was an NSA analyst's backdoor search for the communications of a prospective tenant of a rental property they owned.

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A backdoor search was conducted for the names and dates of birth of individuals who were registered competitors at an athletic event, a backdoor search for 1,600 Americans who had flown through an airport during a particular date range and were either traveling to or returning from a foreign country, all according to a report from the Privacy and Civil Rights Oversight Board.

The FISA Court issued opinions in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022 decrying FBI agents' persistent and widespread violation of such safeguards.

Now, I do believe we have bipartisan reforms. We just passed a good bill out of the Judiciary Committee. I believe it was a good bill that was passed out of the Intelligence Committee. I prefer the Judiciary Committee bill. I think we should be debating those. I think we should have one bill on the floor, and I think we should amend them.

We have 18 days remaining in the calendar year before FISA allegedly expires, which I already detailed. CRS attorneys and other outside experts are detailing how they will continue to be able to collect data under 702. Nevertheless, we could get it done by December 31 if we actually did our job.

Instead, what we are going to do is kick the can down the road, and we are going to empower the court to be able to set the procedures in place for another 16 months because that is what we do. We are the House of kicking the can down the road. That is what we do every year. We are doing it right now, and we are doing it today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as I listen to this debate, I am reminded of how blessed we are with incredible staff on both the majority and minority side who have spent months preparing this piece of legislation. I think it is important for all of us to take a pause and thank them for all of the hard work they have done in preparing this bill, and, particularly, the overtime they have put in in the last few weeks.

Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), who is an outstanding freshman member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Chair, the United States is facing a host of pressing issues, from Communist China's increased aggression in the Indo-Pacific to attacks by Iran-backed Hamas terrorists against our dear friend, Israel. This NDAA ensures our military is ready and able to meet these challenges head-on.

In south Florida and across the Nation, living and housing costs are a priority for our men and women in uniform. This NDAA secures a 5.2 percent increase in pay to our servicemembers which is the largest in 20 years, it authorizes \$394 million more than the President's budget request for new family housing and barracks, and it in-

creases eligibility for cost-of-living allowances.

While this NDAA may not be perfect, it fully funds our military, enhances capabilities and readiness, and supports our brave servicemembers.

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

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

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, as I understand it, I could go second to last, but I am prepared to close at this point, as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is correct.

Mr. ROY. I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, another point that I think merits observation is that, as we speak, with the 18 days remaining, the Senate, rather than working on ensuring that we get a better NDAA—but, more importantly in this context because that process is kind of played out—rather than figuring out how we are going to deal with FISA and reform it to make sure Americans' civil liberties are protected, we have the Senate in negotiations with the White House on figuring out what crumbs can be given for border security to be attached to Ukraine funding while Zelenskyy is paraded around Washington trying to demand more money for Ukraine when our border is wide-open.

So the Senate has plenty of time to hold themselves here in negotiation with the White House so we can beg for crumbs for the protection of our sovereignty and security of the people of Texas and the people of this country, but we don't have time to figure out how to fix FISA. It is pretty extraordinary. It is pretty extraordinary.

In the meantime, in this very bill is \$600 million authorized for Ukraine. Now, I am actually not personally all that troubled by those provisions. We supported them in the authorization bill in July, but I would note, importantly, to my colleagues on this side of the aisle, a majority of Republicans opposed an amendment for the continuation of that funding to Ukraine in a September vote on the floor.

A majority of Republicans opposed that funding, and, yet, we are authorizing it here on the back of a number of provisions that we don't support and on the back of FISA being piled on the top of that Defense authorization bill. For the life of me, I do not understand why this is how Republicans think we should end the year heading out for Christmas.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we have come to the floor today on a bill that all of us want to see passed. Every single one of us wants to pass a National Defense Authorization Act. Every single one of us wants to ensure that our men and women in uniform are paid ap-

propriately, have the tools they need to carry out their job, have the care they need when they get home, and that we do our job. Every single one of us wants to make sure that we do that.

Nevertheless, we are doing a terrible disservice to the people of this country by piling on an extension of a FISA regime that was abused—notably and clearly abused—against American citizens without reforming that piece of legislation by kicking the can down the road and by extending it not just through April but through April of 2025.

A vote for this bill is not just a bill for pay raises and support for our men and women in uniform. A vote for this bill is a perpetuation of the woke policies undermining our military, breaking down morale, driving down recruiting, and now undermining the civil liberties of the American people by not reforming FISA.

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

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

I think the most revealing thing said by the gentleman from Texas was: A majority of Republicans. A majority of Republicans supported something, so how possibly could we not do it?

That really reflects their opposition. They would like the majority of Republicans to control this bill.

Now, to the credit of the chairman and others, they recognize that bipartisan compromise is what we have to get to. They believe that what they want they get regardless of how anybody else votes. That is not the way the process works.

We have worked a very good bill and got a very good outcome here. We haven't even mentioned things like the AUKUS agreement, a crucial agreement in deterring China and strengthening our allies. There are a whole lot of things in this bill that are going to have a very positive outcome on national security.

Also, I do want to point out that this is important for the House to be involved. If we insist upon the notion that everybody has to agree, then we become irrelevant. This is the House expressing oversight of the executive branch, and, yes, it is on the Defense bill, but it is also in the Intel bill, and it is in the Foreign Affairs bill. If we aren't able to do that, then the executive branch becomes more powerful, and we disappear.

Now, in the appropriations process we tried that. The House couldn't pass roughly one-half of the appropriations bills because everybody insisted on having it exactly their way, and, again, we have rendered ourselves irrelevant.

Please vote for this bill. It is a reflection of a bipartisan and bicameral effort of the legislative branch to assert its authority and its obligation to exercise oversight.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I echo Mr. ROGERS' comments. Our staff is beyond

fantastic. I have not had as much time in this debate to thank them as I would like. They have done a great job. The floor staff and the parliamentary staff pulled it all together.

On a note of personal privilege, I specifically thank Connor Stubbs, my legislative director, for his outstanding work. He has the bad taste to be leaving my office tomorrow and going on to bigger and better things. He has done an outstanding job and is really reflective of the entire staff that I have, and that Mr. ROGERS has, HASC and SASC. These are tremendous people who work more hours than anybody could possibly calculate to make this happen. So I thank them very much for their hard work.

Again, Mr. Speaker, please, vote for this bill. It is enormously important that we do so, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to close by reminding my colleagues who are considering voting against this conference report of what it actually does and what they would be on record opposing.

The fiscal year 2024 NDAA requires military promotions to be based on merit and performance, bans the teaching of critical race theory in our military, requires border wall materials to be turned over to our Southwest border States, cuts and caps the pay of Pentagon DEI bureaucracy, defends Israel with additional weapons transfers and military training, prohibits the closure of Guantanamo Bay and transfer of terrorists to U.S. prisons, bans the contracting with Chinese companies, protects our military bases, defense research, and supply chains from Chinese espionage, trains and equips Taiwan, provides a path back to service for those discharged over the COVID-19 vaccine, creates a new monthly pay bonus, improves housing and expands benefits for junior enlisted servicemembers and their families, and, finally, the NDAA provides for the largest pay raise in over 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to keep those things in mind when they vote today.

I thank Chairman REED and Ranking Members SMITH and WICKER. It has been great to work with them in this process. I also thank our House and Senate staff. They are just top-notch.

I thank the leadership on both sides, as well as the tremendous professionals of the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Congressional Budget Office, the House Parliamentarian, and the House Clerk for all their help.

Finally, I thank the brave men and women in uniform for their willing service and sacrifice around the world to keep us free and safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of the conference report, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (NDAA).

I did not vote for the Republican majority's version of the NDAA that passed the House in July. That bill was loaded with extreme and partisan social policy riders that had no place in legislation that supports our national security and the service members who defend it. That is why I'm encouraged by the bipartisan negotiations that produced a much more balanced compromise bill. While there are still some provisions I do not agree with, nearly all the worst policy ideas from the Republican majority have been removed. Excluded from the agreement are the harmful provisions that would deny reproductive health care access to our service members and their families and attack the rights of LGBTQ+ service members.

I do disagree with some remaining provisions that I believe will continue discourage building a diverse military, and ones that would inhibit the Administration's ability to improve military resilience and readiness in the face of ongoing climate change challenges. For example, this legislation maintains a provision banning Critical Race Theory in our military education system. The definition is narrower than originally proposed, but I remain concerned with how Critical Race Theory is defined and that this provision could be used to limit how certain eras of American history are taught. This NDAA also institutes a salary cap and hiring freeze on the Defense Department's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, pursuant to completion of a department audit. I think this is unnecessary and should have been removed.

As Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I am intimately familiar with the range threats to our nation and to our partners and allies around the world. That is why I will continue to fight against the same outrageous and extreme social policy provisions included by Republicans in this year's Defense Appropriations Act that would result in deterring the American public from raising their hand to serve.

This legislation temporarily extends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) 702 authorization. I am supportive of reforms to Section 702 to ensure that the civil liberties of American citizens are protected, and Congress must consider the merits of bills on FISA reform that are moving through the House and the Senate right now. However, the national security risks associated with allowing this authorization to lapse entirely in a manner of weeks with no replacement are too grave. It is important that we allow more time for Congress to understand the sensitive details surrounding this program, continue constructive debate, and find a compromise solution that finds a prudent balance that respects individual liberty and protects national security.

I am strongly supportive of this NDAA's ironclad commitment to our allies and partners at a time when geopolitical events increasingly test America's resolve and unity. This legislation includes robust resourcing toward the European and Pacific Deterrence Initiatives, an extension of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, and a provision that places limits on the President's ability to withdraw the U.S. from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization pursuant to Congressional approval. These are all important parts of maintaining America's security commitments to our fellow democracies in Europe and in Asia. Of particular significance to our Pacific deterrence efforts, this legislation elevates our commitment to

AUKUS, our tri-lateral Pacific partnership with Australia and the U.K. Provisions that empower our Defense and State Departments to streamline resource and information sharing between these critical allies and measures that strengthen our collective defense industrial capacity all embrace the recognition that we are stronger together in these endeavors than alone.

Also notable is how this bill takes care of our service members and their families. This NDAA continues our commitment to invest in our most important resource in our nation's defense arsenal—our people. The compromise supports the administration's proposed 5.2% pay raise for service members, strengthens the civilian workforce, and supports military spouses and families with additional authorized investments in housing, childcare, career opportunities, health care, and other quality of life needs.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not perfect and there are provisions in it that I disagree with. But no compromise is perfect. This legislation is significantly improved from the Republican bill that passed this body in July, which would have been a disaster for our national security and our troops if it had been enacted.

I will support the conference agreement.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, this NDAA conference report contains several important provisions that I support. These include the authorization of \$300 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, \$300 million for construction of new military childcare centers, excluding the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) from the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), and providing a 5.2 percent pay raise for servicemembers. The conference agreement also strikes many of the most problematic provisions from the House-passed NDAA, including provisions preventing female servicemembers from accessing reproductive care, preventing gender-affirming care for transgender servicemembers, and multiple provisions that would worsen our climate crisis. I'm relieved these harmful provisions will not become law.

I also strongly support a provision of the bill that is especially important to my Congressional District: the authorization of \$40 million for the Fort Hunter Liggett Network Enterprise Center. Fort Hunter Liggett is the U.S. Army Reserve's largest training installation, but many of its facilities, including the Network Enterprise Center, are badly in need of repair or replacement. This funding will allow for the construction of a new Network Enterprise Center to enable the installation to continue to meet its mission.

However, the NDAA conference report regrettably also contains a very controversial extension of current warrantless surveillance authorities by intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Airdropped into the NDAA conference report is a seemingly-innocuous 'short-term' reauthorization of Section 702 of FISA until April 19, 2024. However, this 'short-term' reauthorization masks a de facto 16-month extension for surveillance programs that law enforcement and intelligence agencies admit bypass the Fourth Amendment. This extension greenlights continued use of Section 702 despite its well-documented history of abuse and allows the government's unchecked access to Americans' personal data without a warrant. I absolutely cannot vote to

extend FISA's Section 702, even temporarily, and therefore will cast a NAY vote on the NDAA conference report.

Instead of embracing the surveillance status quo, Congress needs to reform Section 702 to protect Americans' civil liberties. Congressional leadership must bring the Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act to the floor for a vote. The Judiciary Committee recently passed this pivotal surveillance reform bill, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote, that is largely inspired by the bicameral, bipartisan Government Surveillance Reform Act that I introduced with Rep. WARREN DAVIDSON.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this year's NDAA.

I am pleased that we were able to work in a bipartisan fashion to finalize the Senate's State Department Authorization bill for inclusion in this year's NDAA. In late 2021, during my chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee, we shepherded—through the House, into a conference NDAA, and ultimately onto the President's desk—the first comprehensive State Department Authorization bill to become law in nearly 20 years. The passage of this year's bill will make three in a row.

The bill includes many important provisions—including to: stand up a fellowship program in honor of our late colleague John Lewis and a transatlantic leadership institute; authorize support and economic diplomacy to public diplomacy and beyond.

The NDAA also includes important provisions related to the implementation of the AUKUS trilateral security partnership. By leveraging the shared capabilities of the U.S., Australia, and the U.K., the United States and its allies can shape a free and open Indo-Pacific for years to come.

The Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee painstakingly and carefully negotiated the AUKUS compromise text included in this NDAA. The compromise text includes support for the families of Americans wrongfully detained around the globe, and ensures that State Department personnel have the flexibilities and authorities they need to succeed in their work—from cyber helps advance this critical agreement and includes both Pillar 1 legislation to support the transfer of Virginia-class submarines to Australia, and shared financial and training efforts. It also includes bipartisan legislation supporting Pillar 2 of AUKUS, which provides a sound way forward for ensuring cutting-edge defense technology cooperation can advance while maintaining critical safeguards and regulations.

This year's NDAA was not perfect. I am disappointed outbound investment regulations were not included, and I support moving the MCCAUL-MEEKS bipartisan bill to the floor immediately to address this crucial issue.

Nonetheless, the NDAA is once again the product of a serious bipartisan work accomplished during conference, so I support the legislation and urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today in favor of the Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 24 NDAA. This conference report is the result of bipartisan efforts to strengthen our national defense while supporting our military members, families, and communities. I would like to thank Senator REED, Senator WICKER, Chairman ROGERS, and Ranking Member SMITH for their leader-

ship throughout the entire process to produce this bipartisan bill.

I would also like to thank Chairman WALTZ of the Readiness Subcommittee for his partnership, Jeanine Womble the readiness PSM, my MLA Rob Hurd, and my Defense Fellow Taylor Brunstad. I am proud of the work we have done to protect the Readiness of our Armed forces. This bill continues our work, along with our Senate colleagues, to support military families by providing more childcare centers, protect basic healthcare rights for women service member, support energy resiliency on our bases, increase base pay to retain and recruit top talent, and demand DoD accountability and transparency on spending to prevent wasteful use of taxpayer dollars.

It is of vital importance to me to support our servicemembers and their families at bases like Travis Air force Base and ensure they have the housing, training, equipment, and quality of life they need and deserve. I am proud to continue my work to serve the men and women in my district, and to serve the brave men and women volunteering to protect our freedom. While this bill is a strong bipartisan effort to support the military, there is still more to be done and I look forward to building on these efforts in the years ahead.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

Congress has the solemn duty to ensure that those who wear the uniform of the United States—and those civilians who provide logistical and operational support—have the equipment, training, and resources needed to carry out and complete their mission.

And we must never forget that a grateful nation has a sacred obligation, in the words of President Lincoln, "to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member SMITH, and the committee staff for their diligent work that resulted in this bipartisan, bicameral report, which includes my legislation, the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act.

I was pleased to work with Senator WHITEHOUSE to help negotiate the inclusion of this legislation, which will be the most significant international criminal anti-corruption legislation since 1977.

The Foreign Extortion Prevention Act will finally enable U.S. law enforcement to indict foreign kleptocrats for extorting U.S. businesses and Americans.

The harms caused by foreign bribe demands are innumerable and include foreign officials who demand bribes and extort individuals in furtherance of trafficking of children and drugs into and out of the United States. These crimes largely go unpunished.

With the passage of FEPA (through the NDAA), however, those who violate the provisions of FEPA could face a criminal fine of up to \$250,000 and a prison sentence of up to 15 years.

As reported by Transparency International U.S. in May 2023, a recent survey by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development found that foreign officials who demand or receive bribes are only criminally punished by their home governments some 20 percent of the time.

As many of you are aware, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) prohibits U.S. companies from bribing foreign officials.

But it does not protect U.S. companies from predatory foreign officials who solicit bribes—and then partner with the Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that are more than willing and able to pay them.

China does not appear to have ever enforced its own version of the FCPA, despite the Communist Party's continued crackdowns on companies it perceives to be corrupt or disloyal.

FEPA, by making it a crime for a foreign official to demand a bribe from a U.S. company, would therefore not only help to level the playing field for U.S. companies—but it will also deter and hold accountable corrupt officials who, by betraying their oaths for Beijing's bribes, become complicit in the Communist Party's global campaign to subvert rule of law and upend the security order.

By joining with the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and other democratic allies who have already enacted similar legislation to protect their own businesses, the United States can set an alternative example to China's use of corruption as a tool of foreign policy—one that, in promoting honest competition and rule of law, will ultimately benefit our national security.

In order to restore competitiveness, the United States must double-down on the rule of law.

The kleptocrats that extort U.S. companies also cheat their own people out of economic development and prosperity.

The United States must stand with these victims of kleptocracy.

This means combating the demand side of bribery—we must make kleptocrats think twice before they demand a bribe.

Already, the U.S. Department of Justice is attempting to deter the demand side of bribery with the tools that it has.

However, without a specific authority to prosecute foreign extortion, we are leaving the DOJ without the key tool that it needs to achieve this goal.

It is long overdue that we expand our foreign bribery laws to capture the malfeasance of foreign kleptocrats—in this age of globalization, we can wait no longer.

Please join me in passing the FY2024 National Defense Authorization act, which includes my legislation, the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act, which protects rule-abiding companies, and stands up for the victims of kleptocracy around the world.

It is time that we expand our foreign bribery laws to capture the malfeasance of foreign kleptocrats—in this age of globalization, we can wait no longer.

This legislation will protect rule-abiding companies and stand up for the victims of kleptocracy around the world.

So, I look forward to the NDAA being signed by the President of the United States and becoming law.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 23, nays 307, not voting 103, as follows:

[Roll No. 722]

YEAS—23

Biggs	Good (VA)	Ogles
Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Perry
Burchett	Greene (GA)	Posey
Burlison	Griffith	Rosendale
Cloud	Hageman	Roy
Clyde	Luna	Self
Crane	Mills	Spartz
Fry	Norman	

NAYS—307

Adams	Curtis	Hudson
Aderholt	D'Esposito	Huffman
Aguilar	Davis (IL)	Issa
Alford	De La Cruz	Jackson (IL)
Allen	Dean (PA)	Jackson (NC)
Amo	DeGette	Jackson Lee
Amodei	DelBene	Jacobs
Armstrong	Deluzio	James
Arrington	DeSaulnier	Jayapal
Bacon	DesJarlais	Jeffries
Baird	Dingell	Johnson (OH)
Balderson	Doggett	Johnson (SD)
Balint	Dunn (FL)	Jordan
Barragan	Edwards	Kamlager-Dove
Bean (FL)	Ellzey	Kaptur
Beatty	Emmer	Keating
Bentz	Escobar	Kelly (IL)
Bera	Españillat	Kelly (MS)
Bergman	Estes	Kelly (PA)
Bice	Evans	Khanna
Bishop (GA)	Ezell	Kiggans (VA)
Blumenauer	Fallon	Kildee
Blunt Rochester	Ferguson	Kilmer
Boebert	Finstad	Kim (NJ)
Bost	Fischbach	Krishnamoorthi
Bowman	Fitzgerald	Kuster
Boyle (PA)	Fitzpatrick	Kustoff
Brownley	Fleischmann	LaHood
Buchanan	Fletcher	LaLota
Bucshon	Foster	LaMalfa
Budzinski	Foushee	Lamborn
Burgess	Frankel, Lois	Landsman
Bush	Frost	Latta
Calvert	Gaetz	LaTurner
Caraveo	Gallagher	Lee (CA)
Carbajal	Garamendi	Lee (FL)
Carey	Garbarino	Lee (NV)
Carl	Garcia (IL)	Lee (PA)
Carson	Garcia (TX)	Letlow
Carter (GA)	Garcia, Robert	Levin
Carter (LA)	Gimenez	Lieu
Carter (TX)	Golden (ME)	Lofgren
Cartwright	Goldman (NY)	Lucas
Casar	Gomez	Luetkemeyer
Case	Gonzales, Tony	Luttrell
Casten	Gonzalez,	Lynch
Castor (FL)	Vicente	Mace
Castro (TX)	Gooden (TX)	Magaziner
Chavez-DeRemer	Gottheimer	Maloy
Cherfilus-	Granger	Mann
McCormick	Graves (MO)	Manning
Chu	Green (TN)	Matsui
Ciscomani	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	McCarthy
Clarke (NY)	Grothman	McCaul
Cole	Guthrie	McClellan
Collins	Harder (CA)	McClintock
Comer	Hayes	McCollum
Connolly	Hern	McCormick
Correa	Higgins (NY)	McGovern
Costa	Himes	McHenry
Courtney	Hinson	Meeks
Craig	Houchin	Meng
Crawford	Houlihan	Meuser
Cuellar	Hoyle (OR)	Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)	Salinas	Thompson (MS)
Molinaro	Sánchez	Thompson (PA)
Moolenaar	Sarbanes	Tiffany
Moore (AL)	Scanlon	Timmons
Morelle	Schakowsky	Tlaib
Moskowitz	Schiff	Tokuda
Nadler	Scholten	Tonko
Napolitano	Schweikert	Torres (CA)
Neguse	Scott (VA)	Trahan
Nehls	Scott, Austin	Turner
Norcross	Scott, David	Underwood
Nunn (IA)	Sessions	Valadao
Omar	Sewell	Van Drew
Owens	Sherman	Van Dуйne
Pallone	Sherrill	Van Orden
Pappas	Simpson	Vargas
Pascrell	Slotkin	Vasquez
Payne	Smith (MO)	Veasey
Peltola	Smith (NE)	Velázquez
Pence	Smith (NJ)	Wagner
Perez	Smith (WA)	Walberg
Pfleger	Soto	Wasserman
Phillips	Spanberger	Schultz
Pingree	Stansbury	Waters
Pocan	Stanton	Watson Coleman
Porter	Staubert	Weber (TX)
Pressley	Steel	Webster (FL)
Quigley	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Raskin	Steil	Wexton
Reschenthaler	Steube	Wild
Rogers (AL)	Stevens	Williams (GA)
Rogers (KY)	Strickland	Williams (NY)
Rose	Strong	Williams (TX)
Ross	Swalwell	Wittman
Rouzer	Sykes	Womack
Ruppersberger	Takano	Yakym
Rutherford	Tenney	Zinke
Ryan	Thanedar	
Salazar	Thompson (CA)	

Thompson (MS)	Mooney
Thompson (PA)	Moore (UT)
Tiffany	Moore (WI)
Timmons	Moran
Tlaib	Moulton
Tokuda	Mrwan
Tonko	Mullin
Torres (CA)	Murphy
Trahan	Neal
Turner	Newhouse
Underwood	Nickel
Valadao	Obernolte
Van Drew	Ocasio-Cortez
Van Dуйne	Palmer
Van Orden	Panetta
Vargas	Pelosi
Vasquez	Peters
Veasey	Pettersen
Velázquez	Ramirez
Wagner	Rodgers (WA)
Walberg	Ruiz
Wasserman	Scalise
Schultz	Schneider
Waters	Schrier
Watson Coleman	Smucker
Weber (TX)	Sorensen
Webster (FL)	Titus
Wenstrup	Torres (NY)
Wexton	Trone
Wild	Waltz
Williams (GA)	Westerman
Williams (NY)	Wilson (FL)
Williams (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Wittman	
Womack	
Yakym	
Zinke	

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 722, On Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "nay."

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 722.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully unable to vote on rollcall No. 722. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 722.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the vote on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 722, Motion to Adjourn.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 722, Republican Motion to Adjourn.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the adoption of the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on H.R. 2670 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2365.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 310, nays 118, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 723]

YEAS—310

Adams	Budzinski	Craig
Aderholt	Burgess	Crawford
Aguilar	Calvert	Crenshaw
Alford	Caraveo	Crockett
Allen	Carbajal	Crow
Allred	Cárdenas	Cuellar
Amo	Carey	D'Esposito
Amodei	Carl	Davids (KS)
Armstrong	Carson	Davis (IL)
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Davis (NC)
Bacon	Carter (LA)	De La Cruz
Balderson	Cartwright	Dean (PA)
Banks	Case	DeLauro
Barr	Casten	DelBene
Beatty	Castor (FL)	Deluzio
Bentz	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Bera	Chavez-DeRemer	Diaz-Balart
Bergman	Cherfilus-	Dingell
Beyer	McCormick	Duarte
Bice	Ciscomani	Dunn (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Edwards
Blunt Rochester	Clyburn	Ellzey
Boebert	Cole	Emmer
Boyle (PA)	Comer	Escobar
Brown	Connolly	Evans
Brownley	Correa	Ezell
Buchanan	Costa	Fallon
Bucshon	Courtney	Feenstra

□ 1028

Messrs. EZELL, LUTTRELL, WEBSTER of Florida, MOLINARO, and Ms. TOKUDA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. LUNA changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed the vote on rollcall No. 722. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 722.

Ferguson
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy

Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luttrell
Scott, David
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peterson
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Quigley
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz

Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Swailwell
Sykes
Tennet
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tokuda
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Hunt
Jackson (IL)
Jayapal
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Khanna
LaMalfa
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Lesko
Lofgren
Luna
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
McGovern
Meng
Miller (IL)

Mills
Moore (AL)
Nadler
Nehls
Norman
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Payne
Perry
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Rose
Rosendale
Roy

Schakowsky
Schweikert
Self
Smith (NJ)
Spartz
Steube
Takano
Tiffany
Timmons
Tlaib
Tonko
Van Drew
Velázquez
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)

Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Españat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxy

Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Posey
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy

Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarty
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peterson
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scholten
Loudermilk
Schrier
Schweikert
Luetkemeyer
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill

NOT VOTING—6

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-

□ 1040

Mr. COHEN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. MCGARVEY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DR. EMMANUEL BILIRAKIS AND HONORABLE JENNIFER WEXTON NATIONAL PLAN TO END PARKINSON'S ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2365) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 9, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 724]

YEAS—407

Auchincloss
Babin
Baird
Balint
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Burlison
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Cammack
Carter (TX)
Casar
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
García, Mike
García, Robert
Gomez
Good (VA)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Hageman
Harris
Españat
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Finstad
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Frost
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Gaetz
García (IL)
García, Mike
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Higgins (LA)
Hoyle (OR)

Adams
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Arrington
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Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson

Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
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Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
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Blunt Rochester
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Carey
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Carson
Carter (GA)
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Carter (TX)
Cartwright
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Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
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Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Españat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
García (TX)
García, Mike
García, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez,
Vicente

Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
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Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
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Grothman
Guest
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Hageman
Harder (CA)
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Hill
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Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
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Kean (NJ)
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Kelly (IL)
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Kim (CA)
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Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
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LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
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Leger Fernandez
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Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
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Mann
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Massie
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McBath
McCarty
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
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Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
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Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
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Mullin
Murphy
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Napolitano
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Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
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Ogles
Omar
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Pascarell
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Peterson
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scholten
Loudermilk
Schrier
Schweikert
Luetkemeyer
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill

Simpson	Thanedar	Wagner
Slotkin	Thompson (CA)	Walberg
Smith (MO)	Thompson (MS)	Waltz
Smith (NE)	Thompson (PA)	Wasserman
Smith (WA)	Timmons	Schultz
Smucker	Titus	Waters
Sorensen	Tlaib	Watson Coleman
Soto	Tokuda	Weber (TX)
Spanberger	Tonko	Webster (FL)
Stansbury	Torres (CA)	Wenstrup
Stanton	Torres (NY)	Westerman
Staubert	Trane	Wexton
Steel	Turner	Wild
Stefanik	Underwood	Williams (GA)
Steil	Valadao	Williams (NY)
Steube	Van Drew	Williams (TX)
Stevens	Van Duyen	Wilson (FL)
Strickland	Van Orden	Wilson (SC)
Strong	Vargas	Wittman
Swalwell	Vasquez	Womack
Sykes	Veasey	Yakym
Takano	Velázquez	Zinke
Tenney		

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 14, 2023.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, December 14, 2023, through Monday, January 8, 2024, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

INFLATION AFFECTS THE HOLIDAYS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, many parents in Washington's Fourth Congressional District and across the Nation will struggle to afford a special holiday meal for their family or buy presents for their children.

The hard truth is that under the President's self-proclaimed Bidenomics agenda, we have seen trillions spent, causing inflation to skyrocket to a 40-year high.

Americans today are still struggling to afford everyday expenses because families are spending over \$11,000 more this year than last to purchase the same basic goods.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress, we have been working to rein in the out-of-control spending that this administration promotes and pursues. Over the summer, House Republicans successfully passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act to restore sanity, limit inflationary spending, and lift Americans out of poverty, but there is more work to be done.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud of our efforts in mitigating the damage done by Big Government spending and reintroducing a commonsense, conservative approach to the way we use taxpayer dollars. We must continue to foster an economy that works for the American people rather than against them.

On that note, I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

WORKING TO SUPPORT AMERICA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise President Biden and my Democratic colleagues for our work to support the American people this year.

We are building bridges and paving new roads across this country. We broke ground on the new Hudson River tunnel to boost travel and the economy.

We are lowering prices on insulin and other lifesaving medications.

We are improving education. We are protecting voting rights. We are fighting for reproductive rights for all women.

We are creating jobs and investing in new semiconductor chip technology to protect American innovations.

The American people told us that this is what they want done. We are doing them.

Republicans threw out the House Speaker for the first time in U.S. history and worked for their reckless political agenda instead of the American people.

Democrats work for America. Republicans work for themselves.

RECOGNIZING SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to the city of Savannah, Georgia, as it was named among the best places to retire by Southern Living.

This travel publication considered numerous factors such as cost of living, home values, hospitality, accessibility, and others. Savannah was even nicknamed the "Hostess City of the South."

The city was highlighted for its arts and culture, as well as its historic charm. Being an important asset to the city, the Savannah College of Art and Design fills nearly 70 buildings downtown and hosts an annual sidewalk arts festival named "Chalk of the Town."

However, there is much more beyond this incredible culture. The city dates back all the way to 1733, which shines through the carefully preserved historic buildings, roads, and homes.

Savannah offers trolley rides through picturesque squares, as well as dozens of historic cemeteries. The city holds the key to the most excellent quality of life.

The city is my home. It is where I have lived all my life, and I am so very proud of the city of Savannah.

□ 1100

HONORING THE LIFE OF ADY BARKAN

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life of my friend, Ady Barkan, who passed away earlier this year due to complications of ALS.

Ady is fondly remembered by many as a brilliant strategist, communicator, and activist. He was an activist who brought our Nation closer to making healthcare in America a basic human right.

Beyond being one of the most powerful activists in America, Ady Barkan

NAYS—9

Biggs	Burlison	Harris
Brecheen	Clyde	Rosendale
Buck	Davidson	Roy

NOT VOTING—18

Boebert	McHenry	Norman
Buchanan	Miller-Meeeks	Rogers (AL)
Cleaver	Mooney	Schneider
D'Esposito	Moore (WI)	Smith (NJ)
Eshoo	Moskowitz	Spartz
Gimenez	Nickel	Tiffany

□ 1048

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 724.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 2365. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 724.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVE SCALISE, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2023.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation authorizing statute (20 U.S.C. §4703), I am pleased to recommend the following appointment to the Board of Trustees:

The Honorable Glenn Grothman of Wisconsin

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

STEVE SCALISE,
Republican Leader.

was also a loving husband and a dedicated father. My condolences to Rachael, his partner of 18 years, and their two children.

My heart goes out to your family, Rachael, during this difficult time. While I can't imagine a world without Ady, I know that through Be A Hero, his work and legacy will live on. That is why I am so proud to partner with Be A Hero and work towards introducing the Ady Barkan Memorial Resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution when introduced.

Thank you, Ady, for advocating for a better tomorrow.

CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN 2023 CAMELLIA BOWL

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team for their well-deserved selection to participate in the 2023 Camellia Bowl, where they will face Northern Illinois University.

Reflecting on the 2023 football season, there is every indication that the Red Wolves are poised for success in their upcoming clash with NIU.

Quarterback Jaylen Raynor has been a true leader on the field, helping deliver exhilarating victories that have ignited the enthusiasm of Arkansas State's devoted fans.

As an alum of Arkansas State, I eagerly await the moment when Coach Butch Jones and the entire wolf pack take the field on December 23 to proudly represent Natural State on a national stage.

Wolves up.

WORKING FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan NDAA, H.R. 2670, because there are men and women on the front lines across the world who are doing the work of this Nation: The civilians and men and women in the United States military that are providing logistical and operational support with equipment, training and resources needed to carry on.

Yes, and we have reaffirmed diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as the personal rights of our soldiers to have reproductive care.

In addition, my bill, the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act, was included, which stops Americans from being extorted overseas. It will finally enable U.S. law enforcement to indict foreign kleptocrats for extorting U.S. businesses and Americans individually that

basically stops the prosperous work that we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, as well I stand here supporting the Biden-Harris administration, because inflation is going down and retail purchases are going up. We are spreading broadband across America, and, yes, we are standing together to fight against denying women their reproductive rights.

Biden and Harris are going forward with this Democratic Congress, and we are standing here working for America. We will never leave you alone. We will always stand with you.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the story of the birth of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of Luke:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord.

POLITICALLY CONVENIENT CONDEMNATION

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my Republican colleagues voted to condemn college presidents.

I wish they were condemning anti-Semitism, but don't let the title of that resolution fool you. This was never about that.

We know that because they did not condemn anti-Semitism when the Unite the Right rally chanted: "Jews will not replace us."

They didn't condemn anti-Semitism when their former Speaker shared a cartoon suggesting that Jewish bankers controlled the world.

They didn't condemn anti-Semitism when Donald Trump said that he only wanted Jews to count his money.

In every case, they have stood by in silent cowardice and defended hate

speech as free speech. Yet, they have the gall to ask college presidents to resign for emulating their cowardice.

Donald Trump's rhetoric led to a spike in hate crimes, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes. Both spiked again after October 6.

If you are only calling it out when it is politically convenient, you are not helping, you are a part of the problem.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRE CHIEF RALPH STEGBAUER AND CAPTAIN JEFF SKAGGS

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of two brave firefighters in my district who recently perished in a tragic accident.

Fire Chief Ralph Stegbauer and Captain Jeff Skaggs were longtime members of the Concord-Green Township Fire Department and proud sons of Fayette County.

Each man put their lives on the line daily for their community, whether it was responding to house fires at 3 a.m. or serving as first responders to roadway accidents, Chief Stegbauer and Captain Skaggs served selflessly.

Chief Stegbauer, a retired health department worker and teacher, left his mark on all those he encountered. A loving husband and proud father of two children, Chief Stegbauer always sought to build up those who were around him.

Captain Skaggs also had a long history of not only serving Fayette County, but the country as a whole. He served in the United States military as a Ranger, and later was given the rank of E5 sergeant.

Friends and family remember him as the first person to offer help to anyone who was in need. His community regarded him in the same way: never too busy to lend a helping hand.

These two men exemplified what it meant to be an Ohioan. They worked hard to support their families, but still found time to give back to their communities.

They put their lives on the line as volunteer firefighters and first responders, never asking for anything in return. Their tragic passing has left a hole in our community, and they will be missed dearly.

Their selfless public service also inspires all of us to work harder to make our communities just a little better. At Christmastime, please keep their families in your prayers.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AMOS E. PIERCE, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Amos E. Pierce, Jr., a World War

II hero and father of my dear friend and acclaimed actor, Wendell Pierce. His life, spanning 98 years, was a testament to resilience, courage, and the pursuit of justice.

Amos served as an Army corporal with the 24th Infantry Regiment during the battle of Saipan in 1944. Though he faced racial discrimination, his commitment to country and values remained unwavering. Despite losing his home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amos and his family triumphed over diversity.

Wendell Pierce's dedication and courage to rebuilding Pontchartrain Park and founding Pontchartrain Park Community Development Corporation was a testament to the leadership he learned at an early age from his father and reflects the family commitment to legacy and community.

Amos' enduring spirit, active involvement in church, and unwavering support for his son's artistic pursuit, define a life rich in love and a profound sense of purpose.

As a World War II veteran, father, and community pillar, Amos leaves behind an enduring legacy.

To my friends, Wendell and Ron, your father was an inspiration to me and so many others.

Our prayers are with you and your entire family. May he rest in peace. God bless you all.

RESOLVING THE MILITARY RECRUITING CRISIS

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

I am proud to report that this conference report includes language that I authored to both rein in government-sponsored censorship and help resolve the military recruiting crisis.

The 2024 NDAA will require advertising agencies placing military recruitment commercials to certify that they have not placed advertisements in news sources based on personal or institutional political preferences or biases or determinations of misinformation.

This language is intended to prevent the Department of Defense from contracting with advertising agencies that utilize blacklists provided by organizations like Global Disinformation Index and NewsGuard, which have been found to be biased against conservative viewpoints.

Mr. Speaker, of the five Defense Department service branches, only two, the Marine Corps and Space Force, met their Active-Duty enlisted recruiting goals for fiscal year 2023. Last year, the Army missed its recruiting goals by 25 percent.

In the midst of this recruiting crisis, it makes zero sense to artificially limit the reach of our military recruitment

advertisements. It is especially foolish when those limitations target the sites frequented by the people most likely to volunteer to serve.

I am grateful to Chairman ROGERS, Speaker JOHNSON, and Ranking Member WICKER for fighting to include this important revision.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JESS ROPER

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Jess Roper, who has served as my Department of Defense fellow this past year.

Jess has served in the Air Force for 18 years, primarily as a Korean linguist, and has been stationed across the country and around the world, from California to South Korea, from Hawaii to Iraq.

Jess' contributions to my office are countless. She staffed me through my work on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, she has overseen the introduction of legislation on cybersecurity and mental health, and she has delivered on priorities for the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus, as well.

Jess' dedication to public service is something we should all aspire to, but she is also so much more than that.

To date, she has completed 72 marathons, including one in Antarctica. She holds two master's degrees and is also recently a first-time homeowner. She is an amazing woman.

While my team and I are very sad to see her go, we are so thrilled that she was assigned to us, and she will always be ours.

I wish her nothing but the absolute best as she moves forward in her career.

Jess, aim high, and God speed.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF K9 BEK

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a distinguished member of the Myrtle Beach Police Department, K9 Bek. I am proud to congratulate this canine and the rest of the Myrtle Beach police force for their crucial role in the department's drug detection and weapons recovery programs.

With well over 300 deployments, Bek was able to track and seize an array of illicit drugs, including 44 kilograms of marijuana, several ounces of heroin, cocaine, and meth. He was responsible for multiple firearm retrievals and numerous building searches. These efforts led to over 50 criminal apprehensions.

Thank you, K9 Bek, the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all law

enforcement agents across our country for the work that you do to keep us and our countrymen safe.

South Carolina is indeed safer because of the men, women, and dogs in uniform.

□ 1115

I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BE JEWISH

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

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, as the youngest Jewish Member of Congress, I know personally how hard it feels to be Jewish because I live it every day.

I was in the House Chamber on January 6 when insurrectionists stormed the Capitol wearing T-shirts saying six million was not enough.

I have experienced anti-Semitism my whole life: Jokes about my big nose, my fuzzy hair, being called a kike while waiting to get a drink at a bar.

Anti-Semitism was on the rise before October 7, and now it is running rampant. In San Diego, we know how hateful and deadly it can be. Four years ago, we mourned a beloved community member who was killed in the Chabad of Poway, and it seems like every other week we are washing swastikas off our buildings or sidewalks.

I am so grateful to President Biden for his leadership, for not politicizing our pain, and for bringing together Jewish Members to discuss a whole-of-society approach to countering anti-Semitism.

We need to fully fund and implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism to ensure that Jewish people are safe and respected everywhere.

I am committed to this work, not just for a news cycle but for life, and I hope my colleagues will join me in that effort.

A CRUCIAL MOMENT

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, at this crucial moment, the United States must support our democratic ally Ukraine. Stopping the Russian invasion is critically important, because right now democracy worldwide is under attack.

Helping Ukraine defeat Putin will make clear that the United States, our allies, and democracies everywhere will not tolerate the invasion of sovereign nations by bad actors.

We must also recognize the common thread between what is happening in Ukraine and what is happening in Israel. Iran is supporting dictators and terrorists who seek the destruction of democracy around the globe.

Iran funds and trains Hamas terrorists and sends weapons to Russian

forces as they inflict horrors upon civilians.

Let's be clear: If we allow Russia to win this war, the attacks on democratic nations will not stop there. The United States will undoubtedly be pulled into future global conflicts.

Now, more than ever, we must support our democratic allies in their fight against evil. Congress must recognize the urgency of this issue and send aid to our democratic allies immediately.

CONGRESS' FAILURE TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR ALLIES

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Congress' failure to show support for our allies abroad before leaving town for the holidays and ask that this body return to vote as soon as possible to secure the additional national security funding President Biden is requesting.

This week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a trip to the United States to lobby directly for the aid his nation needs as they continue to fight on the front lines of the free world.

While addressing U.S. officers at the National Defense University, President Zelenskyy said: You can count on Ukraine, and we hope just as much to be able to count on you. Putin must lose.

He is right. Putin must lose. The world is not only watching how we respond to Ukraine right now but whether or not we will stand with our ally Israel, the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, and whether or not we are prepared to buttress Taiwan as they face increased hostility from the Chinese Communist Party.

As our allies are looking to us for support, our adversaries are waiting with bated breath to see if we will fail to meet this moment in history. This week, the Speaker wasted the House's time on a baseless impeachment inquiry, but he still can't put a bill on the floor to fund our democratic allies.

We cannot hand a Christmas present to Putin, Hamas, or Xi Jinping. We must press President Biden's request for supplemental foreign aid. If that means coming back from the holidays early to vote on it, so be it.

HONORING WENDY LEWIS

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a superb Air Force defense fellow for her tireless commitment to the U.S. Air Force, Congress, and to the constituents of Nevada's Fourth District.

Wendy Lewis' relentless commitment to the Air Force proved invaluable in

providing support to the House of Representatives and our constituents. This Nation is grateful for her commitment and the personal sacrifices that she has made during her time in the Defense Fellowship program and the United States Air Force.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States of America, I commend Wendy and her family for their dedicated support to our Air Force and to this Nation.

Nevada's official State motto is "all for our country," representing the patriotic spirit of the people of Nevada.

Wendy, who has served at Creech and Nellis Air Force Bases in Nevada, embodies this motto and is dedicated to public service. She has proven this through her service as an officer and now as a public servant.

Wendy is the personification of giving back and has given her all to honor my State's motto. She is an example of the true spirit of Nevada, and her commitment to service inspires others.

I congratulate her on an extremely successful career, her dedication to service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

May God bless her, our troops, and may God bless the United States of America.

TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I have two issues to address in a minute.

One, is to bring attention to an excellent editorial which appeared yesterday in *The Wall Street Journal* titled: "Biden and Ukraine Need a Senate Deal."

The author, William A. Galston, states: "Though Speaker MIKE JOHNSON has reiterated his support for Ukraine aid, anti-Ukraine Republicans will likely pressure him to adjourn for the year without taking up the Senate bill."

In fact, that has happened in real-time today.

The editorial goes on to say: ". . . Mr. Biden should make clear that he is prepared to use his constitutional authority to call the House back into session."

We take an oath to protect America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Putin's Russia is a real enemy to liberty. We do not want to be drawn into a greater war in Europe. We need to do our duty and pass assistance for Ukraine and strengthen our NATO allies.

The second reason I rise today is to talk about the introduction of the bipartisan Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023, which encourages volunteer USDA programs to apply to watersheds that are trying to bear the load of toxic algal blooms largely caused by dissolved reactive phosphorus and other pollutants.

Mr. Speaker, water is life. Please sponsor the bipartisan Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, fresh water is life. Today, I introduce the bipartisan "Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act of 2023." This Bill encourages voluntary USDA programs to strategically apply resources to maximize watershed health with existing dollars.

Increasingly harmful algal bloom (HAB) compromise water quality in all 50 states. These toxic blooms adversely impact human health, sink property values, damp tourism, waterfront business, and regional economies. Impacted areas are estimated to have spent over \$1 Billion since 2010 to address and prevent HABs, this creeping green invasion.

A major cause of the harmful bloom is the loading of excessive levels of dissolved reactive phosphorus into lakes, rivers, and bays maliciously from megafarms and animal feeding operations and other pollution.

Despite federal agencies spending Billions to help farmers adopt management practices to improve water quality, the problem persists across America. Significant bodies of water like the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay are weighted down with this creeping green invasion.

A new strategy is needed to make current federal investments more efficient, and more effective. The Healthy Farms Healthy Watersheds Act focuses on troubled watersheds by directing Natural Resources Conservation Service resources toward the exact substances and sources that are contributing most to HABs.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important, budget-neutral, bipartisan, common-sense legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today, as we solemnly mark the 11th anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School and remember the 26 beautiful lives murdered in a senseless act of preventable violence, I ask my colleagues in this body to remember your commitment to the people we serve.

I ask that we work together to make our schools and our communities safe to ensure tragedies like Sandy Hook Elementary School are a thing of the past.

I am committed to honoring the memory of my constituents with action. Today, I remain committed to working toward an assault weapons ban. I remain committed to working toward universal background checks. I remain committed to working toward legislation like Ethan's Law, which will provide for safe storage of firearms.

I remain committed to implementing the provisions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. I ask my colleagues to join with me so that no child, no family, and no community ever has to endure this again.

I also ask that you pray for my community on this 11th anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook, for the families, for the people who live there, for the town of Newtown, who will forever be bound by their grief.

RECOGNIZING THE WALSH JESUIT GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Walsh Jesuit High School girls soccer team as Ohio 13's Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Last month, the Walsh Jesuit Warriors girls soccer team won their first Ohio High School Athletic Association Division I State championship since 2016.

After a hard-fought game, the Warriors overcame Olentangy Liberty 2-1. This win cements Walsh Jesuit's status as a soccer powerhouse with their 11th State title win since the year 2000.

The program holds the record for the most girls soccer State titles in Ohio, and their win is just more proof as to why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the birthplace of champions.

This victory is not only a major accomplishment for these hardworking student athletes but also for their coaches, parents, and entire community that supported them along the way.

Congratulations again to the incredible Walsh Jesuit girls soccer team. I can't wait to see how you dominate on and off the pitch.

REMEMBERING THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I met with families of Israeli hostages because it was important to hear their stories. While listening, there was deep pain and even moments of tears. These families continue carrying burdens no one should have to bear.

It has been over 2 months. These families are missing their loved ones and expressed a strong desire that we continue prioritizing their return. There are significant concerns about the rapidly deteriorating conditions of those who are still held captive. While life seems to continue for so many right now, empty seats remain at their tables.

Personally, I take this moment to thank those working around the clock for their safe return. Your tireless work provides unwavering hope.

The resilience of the families is a testament to the human spirit.

FAREWELL TO SPEAKER EMERITUS KEVIN MCCARTHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FINSTAD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

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

As the Dean of California's Republican delegation, it is my honor and privilege to come to the floor of the people's House to recognize someone from the Golden State who has made a historic impact on this institution.

KEVIN MCCARTHY is not from one of California's world-famous cities. He hails from the blue-collar city of Bakersfield. KEVIN is not the son of politicians or corporate titans. He is the son of a firefighter.

His story is an American story. He is the grandson of an Italian immigrant. From staffer to Speaker, he has devoted the better part of his life to the House of Representatives.

In politics, nothing is handed to you. That certainly holds true in this town and in this building. KEVIN's success is the result of hard work and determination. KEVIN is a fighter. Time and time again, he fought for his constituents, his State, his conference, and his country.

The first sign of KEVIN's go-get-em attitude was when, at the age of 19, he started his own small business selling sandwiches. While attending college at Cal State Bakersfield, KEVIN got interested in politics, took a job working for our former colleague, former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Bill Thomas. For the next 15 years, he worked as a congressional aid and ultimately served as a district director for Congressman Thomas.

In 2000, KEVIN stepped forward as a candidate for the first time and was elected as a Kern Community College District trustee. Just a couple years later, in 2002, he was elected to the California State Assembly. After just one term in the Assembly, he was chosen to serve as the minority leader.

Upon retirement of Mr. Thomas, KEVIN was elected, in 2006, to follow in the footsteps of his former boss here in the House. As a freshman, KEVIN was appointed to serve on the Republican Steering Committee.

From those early days in the House until today, KEVIN has been a strong and effective advocate on a number of important issues.

Water is the lifeline of the Central Valley in California. In California, we

have a saying: "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting." KEVIN approached the issue of water with his characteristic optimism that brought anyone together who wanted to find real solutions.

□ 1130

California has a proud history of being at the forefront of aeronautics and space exploration, including the region KEVIN has represented. He has been a champion for recognizing that past and investing in the future.

Our State is a leader in innovation, and KEVIN has always been a vocal promoter of industries that will shape our economy and America's competitive edge in the years ahead.

Here in the House, we have seen KEVIN answer the call to lead time and time again—as chief deputy whip, majority whip, majority leader, minority leader, and then, ultimately, Speaker. KEVIN has consistently led the charge for our Conference and conservative priorities. During some difficult times, KEVIN was always the calm in the storm, levelheaded and positive.

Republicans would not be in the majority here today without KEVIN's tireless work and leadership. To say he will be missed is an understatement. Our loss is his wife Judy's gain. I wish his family, including his son, Connor, and his daughter, Meghan, the very best as we head into the holidays and the next chapter of his life.

As I mentioned earlier, KEVIN is from Bakersfield. He is probably the second most famous person to hail from Bakersfield. Country music legend Merle Haggard has had him beat for that top spot. A few years back, KEVIN introduced and passed a bill renaming the Bakersfield post office in honor of Merle Haggard.

As we join here today to celebrate another son of Bakersfield whose journey in the House is coming to an end, it seems fitting that Merle had a song titled "If We Make It Through December." In that song, Merle sings:

If we make it through December
Got plans to be in a warmer town come summertime
Maybe even California
If we make it through December, we'll be fine.

KEVIN, I have no doubt that warmer days await. I am grateful for your service, your friendship, and your leadership. You will continue to make your mark, and I look forward to the many great things to come.

Until then, farewell, my friend. God bless, and I know I will see you soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, this is a bittersweet moment.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to stand on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, an institution shaped by years of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY's faithful leadership. I thank and honor him for his service to the people of our State and to our

country. I am also sad to be saying farewell.

I have known Speaker MCCARTHY as a staffer, State legislator, Congressman, whip, majority leader, and Speaker of the House. Like many of us, he supported me and built me up to where I am today. I am most proud to know him as a mentor and friend.

One of his greatest strengths is that he listens. He gets to know his Members and plays to each of their individual strengths to create a winning team. His work for our home State and for our country has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful beyond words to have been a member of his majority and to have fought with him to better the lives of Californians and all of our fellow Americans.

You will always be my friend. Thank you for everything you have done for me and for the country.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the ancient Greeks would have appreciated the irony of this story. KEVIN MCCARTHY spent his life preparing for the job that he held for just 269 days. For decades, he devoted all his energies and skills to building one of the most formidable political organizations of our time that ultimately took back the House last year.

In those 269 days as Speaker, despite the most slender of majorities, and with Democrats controlling the Senate and White House, he cut \$2 trillion of spending over the next decade. He forestalled the hiring of an army of IRS agents. He curtailed the woke policies plaguing our Armed Forces. He averted a government shutdown in a dangerous world.

He reopened the Capitol to the American people. He launched historical investigations into government corruption. He produced the strongest border security measure in a century and landmark legislation to restore American energy independence.

On his 269th day as Speaker, he enjoyed the overwhelming support and confidence of his Republican colleagues. He was completing the process of adopting the most conservative appropriations bills in decades. He had put House Republicans in a commanding position to sweep the 2024 election. National polls recorded that he had become the most popular elected official in America.

His speakership ended on that day. It did not end because of the Republican Conference. It ended because of eight sad and pathetic mediocrities nursing petty personal grudges. As Shakespeare said: "This house is turned upside down since Robin Ostler died."

This is not the end of the tale. History commands, and we must obey. Soon, KEVIN MCCARTHY will be called back to the national stage to play a vital and leading role in a command performance by history to save our beloved country.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. CALVERT, for leading this appropriate time here today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come forward to be part of this. It is also with optimism because I have known KEVIN for 21 years, and he was always and is always the optimistic one in the room. He always sees what we can do.

He always sees the vision for each of us as elected Representatives and, more importantly, the country. He always thinks of the country. He always thinks how we are going to better the institution, whether it was in the California State Assembly as we were cutting our teeth in politics there or here on this national and international stage.

Mr. Speaker, I am somber right now because what has happened really is a waste, as my good friend and colleague, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, mentioned. There were only 269 days of what could have been a really great thing.

KEVIN will be part of everything we do in a different form and in a different venue because he still loves and cares about this country. He still is a great friend to his colleagues, even though he exits this area for a time.

I am grateful to him for his friendship. Anything I have ever asked, he has always helped in his leadership role for me as a Member in either one of the bodies, the State Assembly or here. He is always optimistic and has a smile. He has a lot of funny stories to go with it that I can't tell here.

He has always reached out to our families, making sure they are included. He always thinks of everybody. He is an amazing talent and will go far in leading his next enterprise, which is going to be based on our values and making our country stronger yet again. We will get there.

I am proud to call him a friend. I hope I can always have his friendship, his guidance, and his playing a major role as we go forward in saving and strengthening our great country.

KEVIN MCCARTHY, I thank you for everything you have ever done for me, and for all of us, as a friend. I am blessed to know you.

To Judy, Connor, and Meghan, the sacrifice has been big, but we are always very grateful. My family understands that, as well. God bless you.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to be here to thank my friend and former Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, for his service to this country and to our Conference.

I had the experience of getting to know KEVIN when I first decided to run for Congress. I got a call from my predecessor alerting me that he would announce the next day that he was not running for reelection. I had to quite

suddenly make the decision about whether or not I wanted to run for Congress.

I got a call from KEVIN, and KEVIN said: Jay, I believe in you. You can do it. I will help you. And he did.

Once I was elected and sworn in as a Member of the House of Representatives, I was shocked to discover that I was 1 of over 100 Members of this Chamber who could say that of KEVIN. There were over 100 Members who KEVIN had given the confidence to step up and serve their country. KEVIN and I subsequently became good friends.

What I discovered about his leadership style is that it is a leadership style that I think I honor the most, that of servant leader. Every decision that KEVIN makes and has made as leader was not for his own self-aggrandizement or his own betterment. The decisions that he made served the interests of the people who he led, the Conference, his constituents, and the Members of this Chamber.

He also exhibited a quality that I think is unfortunately pretty rare in public servants, that of humility. KEVIN is an amazingly humble man. If you met him on the street, you would never guess that he was third in line to the Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, I will share a story, and KEVIN probably doesn't even remember that this happened. Earlier this year, I was giving a constituent and their family a tour of the Capitol. They were here in D.C. They had a couple of children with them. I was showing them the rotunda when KEVIN came bustling out of his office, surrounded by a whole group of people. You could tell he was on his way somewhere important.

He saw me and stopped. All of his people were saying: KEVIN, we have to go. We have to go. He stopped, walked over, and asked to be introduced to my constituents. He insisted on taking a picture with them in the rotunda. I will tell you, that made not just their day but their entire trip. They still talk to me about it. KEVIN would do that for any Member of this Chamber.

It has been an incredible honor to serve under his leadership. I have no doubt that the future is bright for my friend, KEVIN MCCARTHY, and that we can expect even more great things in the future.

KEVIN, I thank you for your leadership. I am excited to learn about what the future holds for you.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER), the Republican whip.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, no one has worked harder to help House Republicans win back the majority and deliver on our conservative, common-sense agenda than KEVIN MCCARTHY.

As the son of a firefighter, KEVIN learned the values of grit, determination, and courage early in life. Throughout his years here in Washington as a Congressman, whip, majority leader, and our 55th Speaker of the House, it was those values that made

him one of the most fierce fighters for Republican priorities ever.

I had the privilege of serving on KEVIN's leadership team this Congress. I have seen him work tirelessly to ensure House Republicans delivered on our promises to the American people. I have seen him listen to and work with Members across every sector of our Conference to bring forward viable solutions. I have seen him do the right thing, no matter the cost. He truly believes in the greatness of this country and this institution.

□ 1145

I will be brutally honest. I usually am. It was hard to watch as things played out the way they did. KEVIN MCCARTHY did not deserve any of that treatment, but no matter what, he has always risen above the fold, handled every situation with grace, and put whatever is in the best interests of America first.

I thank KEVIN for his leadership. It has been an honor to serve alongside him. Jacquie and I are rooting for him always, and we wish him nothing but the best in whatever comes next.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CALVERT for his leadership and for yielding.

I rise to honor and thank Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY who is a selfless and amazing leader and who is always optimistic about his service in Congress which has left a lasting impact on his community, our States, our party, and our country.

KEVIN has had my back since I first decided to run for Congress, and he has encouraged me every single step of the way. He has worked tirelessly to make our party look more like America, and the gains we have made in the past 5 years are a testament to that.

KEVIN has been committed to ensuring people like me and each of us in our conference have what it takes to be effective Members for our districts. He is the reason we have a House majority today.

I always say the GOP is the grand opportunity party, and that is because of Members like KEVIN, who are committed to promoting commonsense policies to get our country back on track, make life more affordable, keep our communities safe, and protect the American Dream.

I thank KEVIN. I wish him the best in the next chapter. I know he is just getting started because I know he never gives up.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California (Mr. CALVERT) for hosting this Special Order for a special friend.

KEVIN MCCARTHY's relentless perseverance, keen insights, and unmatched knowledge of the personalities of the

House were amazing to witness firsthand.

While the public saw the 15 rounds of votes in January and the historic spending cuts of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, privately, what I got to see was the legislative equivalent of an elite power athlete expertly working people, process, and policy to get the best outcome in this Chamber. It was truly an expertise that he had honed over his service in the California State Assembly and here in Congress to make this place work.

It takes a legislative craftsman to make an institution like this work. It takes history, it takes training, it takes focused energy, and it takes will, perseverance and grit. I got to see all those things in KEVIN.

Now, everybody else got to see the sunny optimism, the personalities that he loved embracing, and his spirit of friendship with people he had just met. That was wonderful to see. However, to see him behind the scenes being able to put all these disparate talents and gifts that he has to work for public policy was awesome. It was a special thing to work with KEVIN.

In the wildest moments this Chamber has seen in decades, he was a great leader for House Republicans, for this institution, and for America. He had coolness, calm, and a sense of charity for folks, even if they were not going to reciprocate. As a public leader, he truly lived his values, and the way he treated us is the way that he expected others to treat everyone else.

He was a great Speaker. Success after success after success took place this whole year when Republicans in Washington are outnumbered by a Democrat Senate and a Democrat in the White House. With a very narrow majority we got big things done. It is a tough thing.

He had an innate sense of optimism. He always found an opportunity to see the bright side of any moment. Even in the darkest of days, he saw something there that would give us a sense of hope and optimism. Those qualities are what has got him through an incredible career and a really incredible life.

He is a political mastermind as well. It wasn't just policy in here that he understood how to engineer. It was the architecture of campaigns, elections, and all the stuff that goes into modern campaigns that he was an expert in. There was no one better for Republicans and no one better in America who had his capacity to put things together and to win elections.

The American people and this institution are worse off for not having KEVIN MCCARTHY here. Nevertheless, I know he will be just fine. He will be just fine. I look forward to seeing what he has in store for himself, his family, and for this country. I look forward to his new way of contributing to make this place better and to make the country better.

I love working with KEVIN on technology issues. His engagement there

was the most spirited and the most interesting for both of us. His innovation initiative from a couple Congresses ago and his deep, keen interest in public policy as it relates to technology and the use of technology will have a lasting impact here, as well. I hope KEVIN will continue to contribute in that arena.

For us, this institution is worse off for not having KEVIN MCCARTHY here. It is worse off.

It is with a bit of sadness that I have to say farewell to my dear friend here on the House floor, but not farewell forever because he is a dear friend and will always be one of my dear friends.

KEVIN, we will miss you, and we love you.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CALVERT for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank, admire, and pay respect to my good friend, Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

For many years I supported candidates, many of the men I admire here and many of the ladies. I did fundraisers, and they came to my house. KEVIN was one of them.

When this race came up where I decided to run for Congress, I looked to the example of KEVIN MCCARTHY, and I said: America is about to turn socialist. If I don't step up and work alongside KEVIN MCCARTHY to win this seat, to win this critical majority today, then I may grow old in a socialist country for lack of my own efforts and for lack of seeing the inspiration and responding to the tireless work of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY, who is a dear friend of mine and a dear friend of many.

I know in the years to come when—however far forward it is—when I talk about my time in Congress, the conversation will quickly go to an American hero, KEVIN MCCARTHY, who tirelessly and successfully worked to stop socialism in America by winning this critical majority here in Congress.

I thank KEVIN for our freedom, his leadership, and I thank him for his friendship. I wish the best to him in the future. I will be here in Congress while he does his thing, and I am happy to see it.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, this is not a speech I ever wanted to give. I have had the honor of serving in office now for a number of years, and even during my time in the State legislature my district has always bordered KEVIN MCCARTHY's. He was in Congress, and I was in State. When I had the honor of being elected to this body, I served alongside him for a number of years now.

To say that he hasn't played a role in my ability to be here or my success here, yes, I wouldn't be here without

him. The policies we have been championing for a number of years would never have existed and would have never come to fruition if it wasn't for KEVIN MCCARTHY. We wouldn't have been able to change some of the things in the Valley that have been so positive for us if it wasn't for KEVIN MCCARTHY.

It is a sad day for us as an institution and a sad day for us in the Valley when we have all these different issues we are dealing with across the country, across this body, and across even the Central Valley in my home, we have got so much we need to still do, and the reality that he is not going to be there is a huge hole for us in the Valley.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at his time in service, understanding the policies that affect us, if it was something like water, we wouldn't have the WIIN Act if it wasn't for KEVIN MCCARTHY. We are seeing some of the results of that as we speak today.

The expansion or the repairs in the Friant-Kern Canal, being able to move water south through the delta so that our farmers and our communities can survive, projects that are being funded as we speak to expand and add water infrastructure for the Valley would not be in existence if it wasn't for KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at valley fever, a thing that we are dealing with that we are fighting, we still don't have enough research at the Valley Fever Institute, or the ability to have those policies in place or at least the research started so we can create some real solutions for a thing that we are dealing with across the country now.

Energy, as we all know, Kern County is a huge hub for energy production and to have a champion like we did—or we do today not much longer—in Congress like KEVIN MCCARTHY for energy production to make sure we continue to provide energy for our country to succeed, we are losing that voice.

As far as fire and forestry, I served in Congress under different Speakers. There are not a lot of times I have been in a situation where I am on a codel serving with my colleagues with a bipartisan group or at a press conference here on the Hill with a bipartisan group of Members talking about the same issues with a Speaker of the House. I honestly can't think of one situation where I have seen that happen, other than when it was KEVIN MCCARTHY and our Save Our Sequoias Act. I remember standing there looking around thinking: I don't think I have ever seen any other person and I still can't remember—but that is something that affects votes.

Mr. Speaker, when you think about the air quality and the impact it has on the Central Valley and the burning that has destroyed our mountain ranges, to have a piece of legislation championed by a Speaker and being able to get bipartisan support, that was something that I was very proud to be a part of.

The fun part was talking trash while playing basketball when I outscored him on the basketball court in the charity game. I think I made one basket, and he might have made zero. I am not sure. As far as shooting, I know I kicked his butt. I saw the picture of the scorecard at some of our charity events that we do in the Valley.

There are a lot of opportunities for us to do good things and have some fun together. Some of the most memorable moments are going to be this past year sitting in ELC and watching him across the table, his understanding of the policy itself, the dynamics of the votes, what is going to be able to pass the Senate, how to get the President engaged, and all those different things, we were able to have some real successes this year, to actually have a plan in place to solve real problems that now people who voted to take him out seem to acknowledge that that plan was probably our best option.

We are on the verge of losing that. It is something we are going to miss out on. To fill those shoes, to have that person who understands enough of this place and who understands how to make a change, how to implement those changes, and how to execute a plan is something that we are going to struggle with to fill.

I wish this day wasn't here. I wish he would stick around. Nevertheless, obviously, I know he is off to bigger and better things. I know we will still have plenty of opportunities for me to talk trash and make fun of him and maybe outscore him on the basketball court again if he is not too out of shape, but he is getting close to that point.

I just want to say thank you to KEVIN and to his family. Judy has been a huge asset to my family. His children have been a huge inspiration for my kids as they go through some of the same headaches that all of our children of people in this position have to deal with.

I thank KEVIN for everything he has done and will continue to do. Hopefully, we will have opportunities to work together soon in some situations.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we spend a lot of time in this House focusing on that which we disagree on. I think if we spent more time focusing on what we have been able to do together and agree on, we would be a better House.

So I rise not to talk about the disagreements that the Speaker and I had, we had many differences, we are of different parties, and we had different perspectives, but I rise and thank Speaker MCCARTHY for that on which we could agree, because when we could agree, he took that opportunity to act upon that agreement.

It was good for the House, it was good for the country, and it was good for me.

So I thank KEVIN for what we agreed upon and what we were able to do together here and abroad to try to bring us together, try to lift us up, and try to make sure that when we could work together we did work together.

□ 1200

It is an example that we ought to follow because it was a positive example.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CALVERT for giving me the opportunity to come to this floor as a former majority leader, as a partisan Democrat, to say and recognize the work that Speaker MCCARTHY did to try to, when we could, move forward in agreement in a positive, constructive way. Good luck and Godspeed.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member, I haven't had as much time to work with Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY as some of my colleagues have, but I am grateful for this year, working with him as part of the California delegation. Just observing his leadership of the Conference and of the House has really been something to behold.

I think it is clear to everyone that he is a once-in-a-generation political talent. The millions of things that you have to do, large and small, to build a majority, to manage the Conference, to run the House, to exercise leadership on the national and international stage, he made it look effortless and was always cheerful in the way he went about it.

I think that everyone in this House and across the country, whatever their politics, recognize that he is someone who is a leader in a way that transcends whatever position he holds, even a position as high as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

When I think about what he has meant to this institution, I think about the famous essay by Max Weber, "Politics is a Vocation," where he talks about the need to both have principles, but also to have a sense of responsibility when you are in the political arena; that this isn't just a philosophy class.

I think Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY really embodies that sense of political leadership, of being firmly grounded in your principles, but also having an appreciation for the consequences of our actions and the unique responsibilities that we have when it comes to exercising political power.

It was also a great benefit to have a Californian leading this House. I know that KEVIN understands, as well as anyone, the challenges we face in California. I know that he and our delegation will continue to be a check there. I know he will continue to be in the fight to turn around California and this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY for his service, which will be felt by this institution for a very long time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, for me it is a sad day to come to this House floor. When I think of all the battles on this House floor over the better part of a decade that I have been a part of and witnessing the leadership of KEVIN MCCARTHY, I have to flip Shakespeare on his head today.

Mr. MCCARTHY loves the House of Commons and he loves this House of Representatives, and so we are two nations, of course, separated by a common language. It seems like it would be good to quote The Bard. I come to this House floor to praise MCCARTHY, not bury him, because Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY has many years of leadership, decades of leadership ahead, not only at home, not only here in America, but around the world because of his leadership exhibited in this House.

As Shakespeare talked about, he, too, has suffered the slings and arrows that life brings in the public world, in politics, in this Capitol, in this House, but he has handled those every single day with grace, with humor, with leadership, exhibiting his commitment to being that happy warrior that we all know and love; that happy warrior that worked to advance every Member of the House's objectives more than his own, because that is how he is wired, Mr. Speaker. That is in his DNA in recruiting candidates—minorities, vets, women, making the Republican Party the party of the United States that reflects our entire society that believes in those fundamental tenets of America.

He nurtured that in each of those Members once they were in this House on their legislative priorities because he believes in his favorite book's mantra that we want to go from good to great, and he wanted every Member to go from good to great. KEVIN MCCARTHY delivered on that in his leadership responsibility in this House. He put the right people in the right seat every time.

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, in this tribute to my dear friend from California, our Speaker Emeritus, I go back to Shakespeare, and like Mr. MCHENRY from North Carolina, it is not farewell; it is adieu.

Let me tell you something, Mr. MCCARTHY, as they said in Henry V, when you tackle the next agenda: "Once more unto the breach, dear friends," we are at your side. We are charging forward.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless him, God bless his family, and God bless this House.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN).

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY for his dedication and service in Congress and for leading the Republican Party courageously.

We saw this year how he prioritized doing the right thing and maintaining his integrity above all else, regardless of the consequences. His unwavering support for my district, the island of Guam, and his tireless efforts in fighting for the island's interests will never be forgotten.

His legacy will continue to inspire future leaders and his impact will be felt for years to come in my district and in the Halls of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as Speaker MCCARTHY embarks on new endeavors, I know that he will be greatly missed. May God bless and guide him in all his future endeavors.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Speaker Emeritus, for any remarks he may want to make.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean, Mr. CALVERT, and my colleagues from California for their kind words. I am so very proud and appreciative of my friends for coming.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the constituents for giving me this opportunity to serve them. To America, I loved every single day.

Less than 13,000 people have ever been given the privilege or the honor to serve in this body.

To those colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I thank them for the work they have done. We may disagree at times—I disagreed with the vote on this one, too, but one thing I think we must quite understand and the advice I can give is, do not be fearful if you believe your philosophy brings people more freedom. Do not be fearful that you could lose your job over it.

I knew the day we decided to make sure to choose to pay our troops, while war was breaking out, instead of shutting down, was the right decision. I also knew a few would make a motion because somehow they disagreed with that decision. Do it anyway. I would do it all again.

However, there is so much we were able to accomplish in a short amount of time. I watched a short clip the other day of a quote of mine: "I had the privilege of being leader for 5 years and I think about did I leave this place better than I received it?"

I remember sitting where Congressman CALVERT was and it was the state of the Union. The Democrats had won the majority. I was elected minority leader while another colleague from my State, NANCY PELOSI, was elected Speaker.

I watched the Democrats stand up and they were very diverse. They looked like America. I watched us stand up. We had lost the majority. I say we looked like one of the most restricted country clubs in America. I thought at that moment I could be the leader of a declining party, or I could focus on what I know brought me to this party: Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we are all equal.

I would take that message to places people didn't think they would vote for

a Republican. The California delegation at that time was pretty small, and, yes, it was competitive having the Speaker from California. She would put out that she was going to win a lot more seats in California. However, I am proud to say in those election cycles, we picked up five more seats in California. That is larger than our overall majority. We picked up five more in New York, Oregon, and Arizona. And in that same timeframe, the party I loved lost in the Senate, both cycles, lost the Presidency, but we won. What is the secret? It is the quality of the candidate.

I looked at YOUNG KIM, MICHELLE STEEL, JOHN DUARTE, and DAVID VALADAO. These are unbelievable seats that that idea wins in. I look at our party today and it doesn't look like it did 5 years ago. We were winning in places you haven't seen before. When I look to the future, I think it is much brighter. Why? Because the ideas are different.

When you look at the time I served as Speaker, we didn't ignore the border. We actually secured our border with the smallest majority here to govern. Even when we had a large one, we could not do it, and that came from the subcommittee of the Chairman TOM MCCLINTOCK. We brought people from all sides of the aisle together.

When I watch the gas prices just skyrocket under the Biden administration, we didn't sit back. We made it our number one priority and passed energy independence.

The public sits above, but for those 4 years, they didn't get to. We opened this place back up because it is the people's House. We created the select committee on China to make sure America can be competitive. We put our accountability on the weaponization so the American citizen would be protected.

We made the largest cut in American history, and this body voted for it, welfare reform to get people back to work, and the largest recessions in American history, where money was appropriated, not used. Only in Washington would you let it still be there.

As we watched crime rise across the country and D.C. want to go the same way, first time in 30 years, this body stood up; 170 on the other side of the aisle thought you should decriminalize carjacking, and others. The President threatened to veto it, but we did it anyway. We stopped him; and it became law.

We believe in building things in America, but we watched many times the laws we thought that were passed before to protect us only slowed us and weakened us. For the first time in 40 years, we reformed NEPA.

We did all this with a slim majority, but what I am most proud of is what the future holds. The legacy will be about the ones I see who serve here now, and I know the potential of what they will do. I know the potential of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to serve. I will

be departing, but that doesn't mean I will stop serving. Those across this Nation should join together to become those citizen legislators. We cannot let this body fail to do the jobs that are the most basic that we should do every day. We should never allow this body to stop doing what is right.

□ 1215

If you come across that question of whether you should do what is right out of fear of losing your job, do it anyway because it is the right thing to do, and this is what the Nation requires. I think putting people before politics is always the right answer.

I thank my friends for their kind words. I thank them for their friendship that will not end, and I thank this Nation for creating a body that is represented by the people. I think we should rise to the occasion one more time. Thank you.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to lead this Special Order for the last hour to say good-bye to our friend from the floor but not from our lives. He will be around.

Finally, I will requote our friend from Bakersfield, California, Merle Haggard, once again:

If we make it through December

Got plans to be in a warmer town come summertime

Maybe even California

If we make it through December, we'll be fine.

Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and I yield back the balance of my time.

EXPRESSING MY GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Still I rise, Mr. Speaker, always proud to have this preeminent privilege of standing here in the House of Representatives, honored to have the opportunity to serve the people of the Ninth Congressional District who elected me, but also the people of this country, this entire country, because when they elected me, they elected me to become a United States Representative. As such, when I vote, I am voting for them, but I am also voting for the country.

Today I rise to be grateful and to express my gratitude and my appreciation to the people of the Ninth Congressional District for allowing me this opportunity, this singular opportunity of serving in the Congress of the United States of America. I have been blessed.

I thank the people who happen to live in Brazoria County for allowing me to serve them. It has been an honor, and it continues to be my honor. I, in no way, am indicating that I am about to leave the Congress. I think that this is an opportunity to express my gratitude. I plan to be here next year and

until the people of the Ninth Congressional District decide otherwise.

I thank the people who live in Brazoria County. I thank the people who live in Fort Bend County—these counties adjoin each other—and Harris County.

I didn't get here because I was so smart. I am here because there were people who thought that I might make a difference in their lives, and I have tried my best to do so, so I thank them for affording me this opportunity.

I thank my staff. Members of Congress get things done only when they have a good staff. I have an excellent staff, and I thank them for what they do to make it possible for me to do things that I ordinarily would not be able to do.

I had a friend, Mickey Leland, who served in this Congress, and he reminded me on many occasions that a great person will always rise to the occasion, but the greater people make the occasion, so I thank these occasion makers, the people who make it possible for me to come here and stand and speak in the House of Representatives in this Capitol Building.

I thank my chief of staff here in Washington, D.C., who does an outstanding job. I won't go through his credentials in the entirety, but he is a lawyer, Scott Bell. I thank Scott for the fine job he has done to lead the D.C. team.

That team consists of Aaron, who is my legislative director; Raphael, who is a senior in the office; Jalaina, who is a legislative assistant in the office; Madison, who is my office administrator; and then there are other persons who are coming on board. I believe that Izzah will be on board with me. I have extended an offer to her. We will see if she accepts.

My D.C. team has done an outstanding job. I am very proud of the job that all of the members of this team have afforded the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas.

However, I do want to mention one standout, and that is Claudia. Claudia and I happened to bump into each other when she was working in another capacity here on the Hill. I take great pride in selecting people who don't apply for the job, people that I just happen to bump into along life's way. Such was the case with Claudia. I just bumped into her. We had some casual conversation, and something said to me, this is the person who can represent you when people first enter your office. I thank Claudia very much for the job that she does.

Jalaina and I met when I was at a speaking engagement. She didn't apply for the job. I spoke to her for some small length of time, found out that she was looking for a job on the Hill. She applied, and Jalaina now works in the office. I mentioned her earlier. She is a legislative assistant in the office.

I am proud of this D.C. team, but in Houston I have a team that has been with me for a very long time, and I am

proud of them, as well. I am proud of Rachael Rodriguez, who came to me from labor. She is a labor-oriented person, as am I. I am a dues-checkoff member of a local labor union, 1550 AFSCME. As such, I am proud to say that Rachael Rodriguez has done an outstanding job leading the Houston team. She is more than capable, competent, and qualified. She has a great personality. She is the kind of person who respects others with her smiles. Rachael Rodriguez.

Then, of course, there is Crystal Webster. Crystal is the deputy district director, and she does a little bit of everything. In that office we all take pride in getting the job done. Everybody will pitch in to do whatever has to be done. Crystal Webster has done an outstanding job. I am grateful that she has been with me for many years.

The persons that I have just spoken of, Crystal and Rachael, have both been with me for more than a decade.

Of course, I am honored to have in that office Clarence Holliday. We call him Doc. He has done outstanding work in the outreach area, also as a caseworker. He is just a fine man, former NAACP president out in Fort Bend County. He does outstanding work. I am proud to have him.

I am also proud to have Catherine. Catherine is polyglot. She speaks four different languages; quite well, I might add. She connects me to communities that but for her I wouldn't connect with. These people are making a difference in the lives of the people in the Ninth Congressional District.

I also am honored to have with me Sam, Sam Merchant. Sam Merchant is a person of Indian heritage; not Native American, Indian heritage. He has been with me for a number of years as an outreach person. I regret to say to you that Sam will be leaving the office. He has served us well. He is moving on to a sunset of retirement. I greatly appreciate the work that Sam has done for the people of the Ninth Congressional District.

Of course, we have Robertine, Robertine Jefferson. Her father was my pastor. He passed away some time ago. I never intended to hire Robertine. I just happened to be at an event and found out that she was interested in work, and she came on board with me. She helps us with our events. She is an event coordinator; par excellence, I might add. She does an outstanding job. I could not but for her do the many different things that we do in the district.

Of course, there is Teque'lia. Teque'lia is the coms director in the office. She came on board not so very long ago and has been very talented. She picks up on things very quickly, and she produces a great work product, so I am proud to claim Teque'lia as a member of the team in Houston, Texas.

There are other persons who are not on the team by virtue of working in the office. I want to make sure that I acknowledge them as well because they

are in and out of the office, so thank you. Of course, there is Colbe who works in the office. Colbe is a receptionist out front. She drives when necessary, does a little bit of everything, as well. I am proud to have this team of workers in the Houston office, all of whom serve us well.

Today, I will do two additional things, and I will depart. The first thing I would like to do is to thank the people that I work with here, people that I disagree with, people that I agree with. I think this is a time to put aside differences, as I heard Mr. HOYER so eloquently express earlier in a presentation; put aside differences and just be grateful, just be grateful that you have the opportunity to serve and be grateful for the people that you serve with regardless of their political persuasions. Just be grateful. So I am grateful to all of the people that I serve with here, and I thank them for the work that we do together.

In closing with this work, I am going to say a prayer for all of us, if I may, after which I will present someone else who will take the microphone and continue for the rest of the time that remains.

Today, this is my prayer that I have written. I say this prayer before I consume any food. It is accidental if I consume food and I don't say this prayer because I am grateful to have the gift of life.

I tell people that I am better than I deserve because I have been blessed to have the most unique gift in all of the universe, the gift of life. I don't know why I have it. I didn't earn it, so I have to be grateful for it. I try to use it in the most efficacious and the most beneficial way possible. I make mistakes. I am not a perfect person. I am a sinner, but I do try my best to treat people right. I ask for forgiveness; and I do ask for forgiveness more often than I probably should, but I do ask.

This is my prayer, and I don't ask anybody to join me in my prayer, you do whatever you would ordinarily do. This is my prayer for my country and for the people that I serve with:

Most gracious Creator, we know You by many names, but we also know that by any name, You are the Creator of all that was, is, and ever shall be; and I, as one of Your creations, want to take the time to now thank You, and I do so on behalf of the many others who may believe as I do.

I thank You for Your love, Your grace, and the gift of life. I thank You for Your mercy and Your forgiveness throughout life. I thank You for Your angels to protect life. I thank You for Your creation to sustain life: Your air, the breath of life; Your water, the elixir of life; Your star that we know as Sun, the light and warmth of life; Your terra firma that we call Earth, the foundation and home of life.

I today ask that You would recognize our weaknesses, our strengths, and give us the opportunity to serve You and Your creation so that it may continue as You would will it.

I ask all of these things in the name of the Creator of all of creation, and I thank You.

□ 1230

At this time, I am honored to introduce someone I have the utmost respect for. Elected from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, he is one of Maryland's finest and a Georgetown University lawyer. He served as majority leader twice, from 2007 to 2011 and then again from 2019 to 2023. He is a person who has made a difference in my life and, in so doing, has made a difference in the lives of the people of the Ninth Congressional District, which I represent.

I am so honored to have this opportunity to yield to the honorable gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), a lawyer, a former State senator, and still a Member of Congress. I respect and love my dear brother.

God bless you. Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. He is one of the great gentlemen of this institution, a man of faith, a man of great intellect, a man whose heart and conscience form his stances on issues. I am so blessed to be his friend.

Mr. Speaker, save for the gentleman from Texas, these seats are empty. The House of Representatives has adjourned for the year. We have adjourned to go home.

Mr. Speaker, I say we have adjourned. We won't adjourn technically until we finish special orders and perhaps 1 minutes. We have no more business, but we have an unfinished agenda, an unfinished agenda to confront the enemies of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, when President Zelenskyy came to our Nation's Capital back in September, he visited the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution in the National Archives. Standing before our Nation's founding documents, he said, and I quote President Zelenskyy: "It is not the evil empire but the lack of unity that can bring freedom to its knees."

He reiterated that message this week as our Members prepare and are currently returning home for the holidays. We get to return home and celebrate with our families in comfort and warmth. Mr. Speaker, the Ukrainians huddled amid snow and mud on the front lines of freedom will not have that luxury. The tens of thousands of Ukrainian children abducted by Putin's regime do not get that privilege. Neither do their families.

Zelenskyy is right, Mr. Speaker. We do face another evil empire today, a new axis of evil: Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Kim Jong-un, and the autocrats in Iran and in other parts of the world and its many proxies, including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthi rebels, and others who all stand as threats to democracy and freedom.

As these dictators and despots continue their assault on democracy, free-

dom, and international law, they watch whether the free world, of which we should be and for all intents and purposes are the leader of, waiting for that free world to stand together to oppose them. We will not have that opportunity until 25 days from now.

These past few months, Congress had an opportunity to send them that message of unity and strength. We have not done that.

Over 300 Members of the House, Mr. Speaker, voted to provide Ukraine additional aid all seven times it came to this floor. We are not united on this issue. We simply have not brought it to the floor to express that unity and message to all the world.

An overwhelming majority of Members also wanted to provide aid to Israel, including myself. Mr. Speaker, Speaker JOHNSON acknowledged the need to aid our allies, saying in Florida the other day: "Ukraine is another priority. Of course, we can't allow Vladimir Putin to march through Europe, and we understand the necessity of assisting there."

Mr. Speaker, we have all gone home without undertaking that responsibility. Sadly, we apparently don't understand the urgency of that assistance.

Instead of giving us a clean vote to act on that consensus, Speaker JOHNSON needlessly complicated the issue by tying it to his Conference's partisan proposal to overhaul our border policy.

That decision, Mr. Speaker, was inconsistent with his cosponsorship of H.R. 395 back in 2017, which said the purpose of that bill was "to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill . . . enacted by Congress."

Mr. Speaker, the reason we have not acted on Israel, the reason we have not acted on Ukraine, the reason we have not come to the defense of democracy and freedom in Ukraine and to oppose terrorism in Israel, the reason is contrary to that one-purpose bill that Speaker JOHNSON was the sponsor of. He wants to put multiple issues in that, including border security, which we have been working on for 15 years but haven't been able to come to consensus.

We should be and we are in consensus on Ukraine, but we did not act. Evidently, they think that ethical principles only apply when it is politically convenient.

I agree that we need to fix the broken immigration system and address the situation at the border, but this is not the way to do it, not at the expense of the defense of freedom and democracy.

House Republican leadership spent the last week advancing a sham impeachment inquiry, a bill about whole milk, and legislation about duck stamps while Ukraine twisted in the wind. Our House should have had only one priority this week—ensuring democracy's survival.

By failing to provide this aid, our Congress signaled to our friends and

foes alike that America chooses reluctance over resolve, doubt over determination, and division over decisiveness. That posture of uncertainty puts our national security at risk.

The America First contingent of the Republican Party sends an even more damaging message. Time and time again, leaders of the American far right praise Putin, demonize Ukraine, and spread misinformation about the war.

Tucker Carlson, once one of the most-watched people on American TV, has become one of the most-watched people on Russian state television, where propagandists often play clips of his segments.

President Trump continues to play into Putin's hands, as well. Trump recently said that if reelected in 2024, he would end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours. There is only one way to do that—give up, retreat, turn tail on the defense of democracy and Putin.

In response—and this is instructive—Putin said, “We cannot help but feel happy about it,” meaning Trump's claim that he would end the war in 24 hours. Giving up is the only way to do that.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this kowtowing just recently on Capitol Hill. This week, Congresswoman MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE tweeted: “Zelenskyy is here in D.C. today begging for your money, and warmongering Washington wants to give him limitless American dollars.”

That, of course, is not true, but it warms the heart of Vladimir Putin. She went on to say: “How much money will Washington spend to slaughter an entire generation of young Ukrainian men as Washington fights its proxy war with Russia?”

I can remember, because I have been here a long time, when Republican friends accused the Democratic side of the aisle of too often blaming America first. Of course, that is what MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE said.

It is disgusting to say that we are slaughtering Ukrainians when Putin's forces are doing just that every day.

We are doing everything possible to keep Ukrainians alive. Ukrainians courageously give their lives, as so many of our American forebearers have done, in defense of their country, in defense of their sovereignty, and in defense of their people's lives. Ukrainians courageously give their lives to defend their democracy, their country, and their families.

They will continue to do so with or without our support. Our aid, however, may well determine whether their sacrifice leads to victory or defeat. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the chairs are empty.

In another tweet, Congresswoman GREENE asked: “Why doesn't anyone in Washington talk about a peace treaty with Russia, a deal with Putin promising he will not continue any further invasions?” Putin's promises have no credibility.

“Washington wants war,” she said, “not peace.”

That is a lie. Washington wants peace, but it is not prepared to pay for peace with being dominated by a dictator.

Believe me, we want peace, but we want a peace that lasts. A promise of peace from Putin is worthless. He is a former KGB officer turned dictator who has built his career one lie, one deception, and one betrayal at a time.

He already broke one peace agreement, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, in which Putin, on behalf of Russia, agreed to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and borders in exchange for Ukraine's nuclear arsenal.

□ 1245

He has the nuclear arsenal. Ukraine was either the third or fourth largest holder of nuclear weapons in the world, and they gave them up in return for Putin's promise that their borders would be secured and unviolated.

Then it went into Crimea, and the West's response was weak. He is in Crimea today, notwithstanding the fact that that is under Ukrainian sovereignty.

Putin went back on that pledge when he took Crimea. He didn't stop with Crimea, however. He went into eastern Ukraine, and there is no reason to expect that he will stop with Ukraine.

Winston Churchill once said, an appeaser is one who hopes that if he feeds the crocodile enough, the crocodile will eat him last, but surely the crocodile will eat him.

John F. Kennedy shared the same wisdom in his book, “Why England Slept.” He wrote, “Any person will awaken when the house is burning down. What we need is an armed guard that will wake up when the fire first starts or, better yet, one that will not permit a fire to start at all.”

The seats in this House are empty today while the fire threatens democracy and freedom in Ukraine, which is the front line of democracy and freedom today.

Mr. Speaker, the fire rages. Our inaction only stokes the flames. If you don't believe me, listen to what Russian State TV is saying. Allow me to quote from the transcript of a broadcast earlier this week: What is happening in the U.S. is beneficial for us. That is a quote from Russian TV, controlled by Putin.

The seats are empty, and Putin is happy.

They went on to say: “Ukraine is losing. Russia is winning. This is it. Their funding and weapons came to an end.”

They were relying on the United States of America, that shining city on the hill that stands for freedom, individual rights, democracy, religious freedom. That beacon on the hill is less bright today because these seats are empty.

Putin said: As of now, well done, Republicans—his words, not mine—well done, Republicans, for standing firm. That is good for us.

“Us” is Russia. “Us” is the dictator. “Us” is the aggressor. “Us” is the

international lawbreaker, criminal, and murderer.

Just a few hours ago, at an end-of-the-year press conference, Vladimir Putin said of Ukraine: “Everything is coming from the West, but the free things will run out some day, and it seems it is already happening.”

In other words, Putin is saying the West is retreating from the defense of freedom, and the seats in this body are empty.

There is nothing that Putin and the rest of the axis of evil likes to see more than our Congress divided, our country divided, and our coalition divided. We must not give them that satisfaction.

If we neglect to send these resources without condition and without delay, we fail not only the people of Ukraine, but the people of Israel and the people in Palestine, to whom we want to give relief and humanitarian aid.

We fail the America envisioned by our Founding Fathers, a Nation with the courage to stand up to forces of empire and despotism. We fall short of the principles they enshrined in our founding documents, the very same documents that President Zelenskyy made his pilgrimage to a few months ago.

Mr. Speaker, when we return to the Capitol on January 9, each Member of this Congress will face a choice. Will we, as Zelenskyy said, allow freedom to be brought to its knees or, Mr. Speaker, will we be standing strong, standing united against the evil empire.

Regrettably, the seats are empty today.

Every week, every day, every hour we fail to act, we risk allowing the enemies of freedom to make that decision for us. We must not let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the former majority leader for the outstanding presentation. I think it is an appropriate way to bring this to closure today. May God continue to bless him and keep him.

Mr. Speaker, as I shake Mr. HOYER's hand as he passes me by, I am blessed to know that sometimes fortuitous circumstances can benefit you.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss not to mention the newest staff member on my team, Eric Goodwine.

Eric does an outstanding job for us in Houston. He not only assists me in the office, but he also is the principal person that gets me from point A to point B. Eric does an outstanding job of ensuring that things are arranged when I arrive at various venues, and I am proud to have him on the team.

Eric, thank you again. Please forgive me for not mentioning you initially. All of this was from memory so charge it to being 25 three times and now working on my fourth 25th birthday, but there is a God that rules above and a fortuitous circumstance has made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless this House, and may God bless the United States of America.

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

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CISCOMANI. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address something that I keep hearing from my constituents, and quite frankly, is the top issue on people's minds all across the entire country: The situation at the border.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have several Members join me for this Special Order hour to speak about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, whatever angle you look at this, this is something that is considered a crisis.

Whether you are looking at the national security implications; whether you are looking at the lack of order at the actual border; whether you are looking at what our agents in our offices are going through; whether you look at the disrespect for the rule of law and the abuse in the asylum system; whether you look also at the humanitarian crisis and what women and children are going through as they are getting trafficked—as we all know, the report of missing children within the care of the State, over 85,000—there is no upside to this crisis. There doesn't seem to be a turnaround of this situation either.

Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing my colleagues in the House today quite extensively about this issue because it is, again, something that has been top of mind for us.

It is not a new subject. It is not a new issue. It is something that we have seen continue to get worse and worse as the months and the weeks, and actually the years, have gone by. This administration has lost complete control, if at any point they had any, of the border.

This wasn't the case just 2½, 3 years ago. So when we talk about the policies that can actually work, we are not talking about in theory. We are not imagining that this could work. We actually can point to successes that we had as a country in controlling the situation at the border.

Now, I will be talking about this in a little bit as well, but I am an immigrant myself. I have gone through the process, and I will be digging a little deeper on that. I can tell you, having gone through this process, I understand

how broke the system is and how much improvement it needs in a lot of areas.

However, abusing the system the way it has been abused is not good for anyone. It is not good for our country, not good for the order of our country, and not good for the migrants themselves either.

It is also not good for those that have been waiting in line to have their turn at this shot of the American Dream that I have enjoyed. I want many others to do so as well, as they follow the system that we have put in place that—I will repeat—needs fixing and improving.

However, the numbers that we are seeing at the border, the data on the crime and the crossings, are unprecedented, as the chief of the Tucson sector, which is now the busiest sector in terms of encounters in the entire country, described it not too long ago.

He said: Before I called it unprecedented. Now I don't have an adjective to describe what the situation is now.

Mr. Speaker, just about 10 days ago when the week closed, it was reported that 17,500 encounters had happened in the Tucson sector alone. Before a couple thousand a week was an alarming number, and even borderline crisis, now we are looking at 3,000 or so a day on some days.

These are unsustainable numbers, and it is not trending in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have some of my colleagues join me in addressing this topic on today's Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a former sheriff that has experience in battling crime and fighting for law and order.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Arizona for yielding.

As very well stated, Mr. Speaker, a little over 2½ years ago, the Republicans in this body were talking about a crisis at the southern border. The illegal immigrants that were pouring into this country had created a crisis.

Finally now, 3 years later almost, the Democrats across the aisle finally want to admit that there is a crisis, but they blame it on funding. We need more funding.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell you, it is not a funding issue, it is a policy issue. We need to change our policy.

In May, House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. In 2023, we passed that bill. This robust border bill will require the Biden administration to complete the Trump-era border wall, increase the number of Border Patrol agents, reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, and remove all the incentives that are encouraging people to cross our border illegally.

Senator SCHUMER must bring H.R. 2 to the Senate floor for a vote. We need them to do their job over in the Senate. We need relief from this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 7½ months, that bill has been sitting, languishing in the Senate, with Democrats refusing to even negotiate the issues.

It is very clear now, 7 months after House Republicans passed that bill, that now the Democrats own the border crisis and the Democrats own the national disasters that will flow from this crisis.

In 7 months' time, over 1 million illegal immigrants have been encountered at our southern border. Make no mistake, the United States has been and will continue to be a nation of immigrants that welcomes people from around this world who love this land.

I have seen firsthand the death, destruction, disorder, and diseases that have been brought into our communities by the unvetted migration coming over our porous southern border.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, a 24-year-old man, who HHS left unidentified, posed as a minor, was flown to my district, where he killed one of my constituents.

The Democrats own that. He was not the first criminal to enter as a criminal, and he won't be the last.

□ 1300

Even the leaders in New York, California, and other blue States are calling out for support as they deal with the influx of migrants into their cities. The Democrats own that.

Among the 2.4 million people that CBP encountered in FY 2023, 15,000 of them had criminal records, and 169 of them were on the terrorist watch list. Again, these are just the ones that we know about. The Democrats own that.

This humanitarian national crisis has stretched our immigration system to a breaking point. A nation without borders is not a nation.

Every day that President Biden and Senator SCHUMER ignore this crisis, our country becomes less safe. While the Senate has refused to negotiate and accept the major tenets of H.R. 2, CBP has intercepted 8,400 pounds of fentanyl at the southwest border.

The fentanyl pouring in over this border is killing our neighbors, friends, and families at an alarming rate. In just 2022, over 70,000 people died of fentanyl poisoning. The Democrats own that, too.

If we can't prove who is coming across the border, the default policy, according to Secretary Mayorkas, is to let them in. Don't know who they are, but come on in. That has to stop. The Democrats own that, too.

I implore Senator SCHUMER to bring H.R. 2 to the floor for a vote. The Democrats own this border crisis and the death and destruction it has and will cause in our country. The Democrats own that, too.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend being here and speaking so passionately and also from experience on this, both personally and professionally, as we just heard.

This is exactly what the issue here is. It is the need for partnership and bipartisanship on this issue. This is not a

partisan issue. I think that we can all see that. Some have tried to make it a partisan issue, and it is really not.

What Mr. RUTHERFORD just explained is exactly the nature of the problem. Both sides should be equally concerned about this issue, both sides of the aisle.

I know that is for sure the case at home. At home, you don't see partisan division around this issue. I hear from mayors that are Democrats and mayors that are Republicans. I hear from county supervisors that are Republicans and county supervisors that are Democrats. They are both equally concerned with the situation because we are dealing with it on the ground.

That is exactly why, in my district in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, we get it. We know what the solutions are. That is an enforcement of the current laws, and as was described, the measures in H.R. 2 that need to be adopted.

These are the kind of policy changes that we need. It is not just all about resources. Resources are definitely a part of the solution, but resources without the proper policy changes and the proper policy enforcement will be an incomplete solution to the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

What we are seeing at our southern border is a humanitarian and national security crisis. Earlier this year, I was at the border with my colleague from Arizona to see the situation on the ground firsthand.

Our Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed by the surge of migrants from around the world, and we need to give them more support.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has sent a clear message that our southern border is open for business for drug smuggling and human trafficking. The flow of illegal drugs, guns, and human traffickers has a direct impact on the people from the Central Valley.

I just held a teletownhall this week, and one of the issues that came up the most was the situation at our border and concerns with fentanyl.

We must take action to combat the loss of life from illegal drugs, like fentanyl, which are flowing across our open border at an alarming rate. The House has passed legislation this year to increase the number of Border Patrol agents, deploy new drone and surveillance technologies, and restore construction of the border wall. These are commonsense measures that would go a long way to ensure our Border Patrol agents have the tools they need to deal with the crisis.

For too long, extremes on both sides of the aisle have discouraged real and meaningful discussion regarding border security and immigration reform. We need to secure the border and make reforms to our broken immigration system. We won't be able to make these reforms or find compromise with the

current humanitarian and national security crisis we have at the border today.

I will continue working with my colleagues to find common ground for reforming our broken immigration system and to secure our border.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative VALADAO for his words.

Obviously, California is a border State as well, but we heard from Florida and Arizona. This is a top issue. As I was mentioning at the beginning of my remarks, this is the number one issue of our constituents and it should be. This is something that is impacting us every day, and it is something that has been getting worse and worse.

It is not just in my district. My district, the Sixth Congressional District, is a border district, and we know that is obviously impacted. There are other border areas, even outside of my district, where migrants are being released on a daily basis, up in the hundreds. This is something that alarms the community and is something that needs to be fixed.

Let's understand something. Arizona, like Texas and California, have clearly experienced living and breathing and existing and collaborating and prospering with our neighbors to the south. This is something that is part of our culture, part of who we are.

Although the border has never been perfect, and no one is claiming that it has been, it has never been as open as it is today and has never been described as a crisis at the level that it is now.

That is why it is concerning to all of us living there, because we have seen it deteriorate and get worse by the day. In the last 2 years, we have seen examples of records broken that we never thought would be broken in terms of apprehensions and also the amount of drugs coming in, specifically through our ports of entry.

When the Biden administration has gotten involved, like they did about 10 days ago, it was to close a port of entry. Well, the results of closing that port of entry have been nonpositive ones, given that the legal traffic has stopped while the illegal traffic continues to not only happen but increase while people are no longer able to cross for legal purposes. That is a problem, and that is another sign of the administration missing the mark on this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my colleague and neighbor up north, someone who has been fighting for these issues longer than most, even in Arizona, in public office.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate him holding this Special Order to discuss this most existential of issues.

Talk about nihilism for a second. Nihilism is where you actually are fostering programs and activities to ensure your demise. I can tell you, what is happening on the border is unbelievable.

When my colleague, Mr. CISCOMANI, starts talking about Lukeville, he is talking about the Lukeville port of entry. Thirty-five people live in Lukeville. This is a port of entry people from Phoenix and southern Arizona use to transport down to Rocky Point on the Sea of Cortez and vice versa and our friends from Mexico come up and go shopping in Arizona. It is a very synergistic type of relationship.

What happened, more than 10 days ago, that resulted in the closure 10 days ago of that port of entry, is that there were so many illegal aliens coming there and entering our country that the Border Patrol couldn't process them. We couldn't keep enough people there to process legal traffic and deal with the influx of over 1,000 a day. Wow. Now, we have that port of entry closed, and you still have 1,000 to 1,600 people a day coming there from all over the world.

That is one of the distinctions from my friends in Texas. Eagle Pass, which is also being inundated right now in the Del Rio sector, most of those folks coming across there speak Spanish, because they are coming from Central American and South American states.

What happens is, when you have these people coming in from Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, West Africa, Somalia, Syria, or the Middle Eastern countries that are coming through Lukeville, we don't even have translators for them. Our port agents down there can't even communicate with these folks.

That is just one port of entry. I am going to give you one more example. Yuma is a town of about 80,000, 85,000 people, sits right on the border across from San Luis, Mexico. They have got one hospital in Yuma.

By the way, what is Yuma? You need to understand what it is. Almost every piece of lettuce that you eat, or other green leafy vegetable, in the winter-time, for about 6 months out of the year, comes from Yuma, Arizona. It is an agricultural community. They work well together. During planting and harvesting, 7,000 to 10,000, sometimes 12,000, people a day come across legally to help the farmers in Yuma.

What happens now? What happens now is if you are a lady and you are going to give birth to a baby, many times you can't even get into the maternity ward at the Yuma Regional hospital. Why is that? Because of the influx of people from across the border, who are in the country illegally, and the women are going to have babies right there at Yuma Regional. Every maternity bed is taken up with someone who doesn't live in this country. Where do they go? They drive 3 to 3½ hours up to Phoenix or 3 to 3½ hours over to San Diego.

We have known people who have had heart attacks and other really serious emergencies who could not even get into the emergency room in Yuma. They had to be transported by helicopter, Air Evac, up to Phoenix.

Why is that? Because we are inundated at the southern border. This is a crisis of our own making. Not ours, but this administration's making.

People say to me: Why do they do this? It is inexplicable. It is not incompetence. Surely, if you are incompetent, at some point you would say: Hey, almost 10 million illegal aliens in the country in 3 years, we have got a problem; we probably ought to change our policies.

They don't want to change their policies. They do not want to enforce the law. There are laws on the books that would help slow this down immediately, if they would enforce them. You know what the first one would be? You actually take the 1.5 million people who are in this country illegally, who have received due process and have removal orders to leave the country but who refuse to leave the country, you would actually find those people and remove them.

You know what happens when you are removing people? Then folks say it is probably not worth spending every dime that I have, every dime my family has, getting in debt to the cartels, and going across all of that hardship to get into the country. That is what they would say. How do we know that works? Because when President Trump said we are going to start removing people by their orders, it slowed it down.

By the way, let's go back to Yuma for a second, Yuma, Arizona, where I was talking about the hospital. During President Trump's last year, the entire year, 8,600 people who were illegally entering the country were apprehended in the Yuma sector. It is like 120 miles long. They do that in a week now. That is about a week's worth of illegal aliens crossing. Trump had that for an entire year. You couldn't do that by accident or incompetence. It almost has to be by design.

How do you stop it? You start enforcing the law. How do you get this administration to enforce the law? You tell them we are going to fund only certain aspects of the government, like the military, like the border patrol, like ICE, like air traffic controllers, and like the TSA. Let's make sure the country is safe, but we are not going to give Mr. Biden any more money than that.

For all of the bureaucracy and the crazy programs that he has out there—by the way, they churn out 40,000 pages of laws on a regular basis from those bureaucracies—we are going to slow that down until they do something with measurable metrics that shows us that they are actually bringing down the number of illegal border crossings and bring it under control. That is how you settle this.

□ 1315

We have to settle this. It is going to change this country.

We can talk more about fentanyl. When my colleagues across the aisle

say that 95 percent of fentanyl is seized at the ports of entry, why do you suppose that is? It is because, at the ports of entry, you actually have people waiting there, investigating and inspecting vehicles and individuals crossing. There are machines where they can look into a truck and see what is in there. They can see if there is something disorderly in there and then inspect it.

Between the ports of entry is where we know that 1.75 million people have come across during the Biden administration. They are wearing camo and carpet shoes so they won't be detected. Our BuckEye cameras and field cameras pick them up, but we just can't get to them.

Where Mr. CISCOMANI and I live in the Tucson sector, the terrain is so rough and rugged that we might see somebody there, but it will take you 2½ to 3 hours to get your vehicle there, get out of your vehicle, and hike to where they are.

They will then pop up south of Phoenix. They will go through the Tohono O'odham Reservation. They will pop up through Pinal County. When they come out, they are 40 miles, as the crow flies, from Phoenix, which is a major hub for transporting illegal drugs and human trafficking. That is what is going on between the ports of entry.

Every hearing that we have held in the last 3 years where this has been brought up, the Democrats have said we interdict 95 percent of that at the ports of entry. No. You interdict 95 percent of the overall interdiction at the ports of entry, but you don't know what you are not interdicting.

What we do know is that 1.97 million people carrying backpacks come into our country. What is in those backpacks? It used to be bales of marijuana. It isn't bales of marijuana now. It is small backpacks to bring in fentanyl pills. That is what is going on.

I beg this administration to wake up. I beg my colleagues to join us. Let's entice this administration to do what is right and enforce our border laws.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for having this Special Order today. Let's join hands and defeat this wide-open border that is forever going to adjust our country.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BIGGS for his words and his work on this.

As we close today's session, I will re-emphasize something that I said at the beginning. This crisis, as much as we talk about this, and it is absolutely true on the national security side, on the risk, and all the issues that I mentioned, I absolutely believe that the Biden administration has utterly failed. We square up the responsibility for failing at the border on the President and his team, for sure.

This is also something that is a humanitarian crisis. We have children who are being trafficked. In a lot of cases, as described, they are recycled through when they cross. They get sent

back and then keep getting recycled through.

They are abusing the laws that protect adults and treat them differently when they are carrying with them children, minors, specifically tender age children, which would be 12 and under.

These issues are real. The New York Times published a story where they reported that there were over 85,000 minors missing in our country who had been smuggled into the United States. There was no way to track them. The Federal Government had lost track of them.

Mr. Speaker, I am a dad of six. I am an immigrant myself. When I look at that, it angers me. As a father, it angers me. As an immigrant, it angers me. There is no reason that our government should have lost track of these children. This crisis affects kids and women and everyone being trafficked, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity to thank our Border Patrol agents who have continually put their lives on the line—the different organizations and, obviously, the rank and file, those men and women who are on the front line, the officers and everyone involved in this job. It is a thankless job.

They are seeing the worst impact ever with the least support that they have ever had. We need to make sure that we have their backs. I want them to know that we have their backs.

One of the last things that I want to say is that this is not going to be a complaining session. This is not a session where we highlight and add light to the failures of the administration and complain about that. That is something that we need to be stronger on and to voice.

I have been offering solutions. We have been offering solutions. We have been writing letters to the Secretary, demanding answers for the closure of the port of entry, working on a bipartisan basis, and calling the National Guard to the border so they can be activated by this administration. We have also offered different bills that would address the criminal aspect of what is happening at the border.

I believe we need to secure our border now. The time is now to do that. I also agree that immigration reform is needed. Asylum process updating is needed, as well. All this can be done and should be done. This should be the number one priority that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to making that happen in my time here in Congress. In my first year, this continues to be my issue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for listening. I thank my colleagues for participating. I thank my colleagues for a partnership to protect the border, protect our communities, and make sure that everyone has a shot at the American Dream, the way that our system has been created for people to do so.

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

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

TACKLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are going to follow up on the last series of speeches and point out to the American public that over the next month—we are now going to leave for about 2½ weeks. But over the next month, all eyes should be on the Republicans of the House of Representatives as we finally dig in and try to tackle the biggest problem that America faces today. That problem is the illegal immigration across the southern border.

I want to give some statistics because I have talked to a lot of people, and some people are still confused. They think we will be mean if we try to cut off the illegal immigration, or xenophobic, or something.

I point out to the American people one more time that the number of people coming across our southern border each month is historically wildly high. It is even high by the standards of the Biden administration.

The most recent figures we have are still for October 2023. Almost 300,000 people came across our southern border in October. That is up from about 180,000 a year ago. It went from 180,000 to 290,000. If you go back 2 years, you are down under 100,000. If you go back 3 years, it was under 20,000.

We are going up even higher than I thought. We are going up to about 14 times as many people crossing the border today as were crossing the border 3 years ago. It is a disaster for the United States.

Of that amount, depending on the month, we are up to having 6,000 to 9,000 unaccompanied minors crossing the southern border. There was a time when Americans' heartstrings were pulled a little bit if a family was separated. If a 16-year-old comes across the border without either of their parents there, isn't that a broken family? For all we know, they may never see their parents again. They may be human trafficked. They might wind up working illegally on a third-shift job.

The New York Times reported it, and the Biden administration objects to it, but I think anybody would agree that we have lost track of tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors in America.

Why aren't more people upset by this? There are people who say some of them are okay. Are we making any effort to find out if they are okay?

Some other statistics that should be tackled here, as we permanently change America, is that we not only look at the number of people coming here illegally, but we should be looking at the number of people who are coming here who are being deported after they do bad things.

Let me say that one more time. We find dramatic reductions in the number of people who are coming to our country who are being deported from our country after they do bad things.

In the most recent year available, 72,000 people were deported, primarily for breaking the law. You have COVID in the middle there. If you go back 2 years, that 72,000 was 185,000. Before COVID hit at all, we were deporting about 250,000 people a year for breaking the law. We have now dropped that to about one-quarter as many.

We not only have a problem with the current administration that has an open border, with the number of people crossing the border up by 14 times what it was 3 years ago, but the number of people deported compared to—and I don't like to make this a Trump thing—under Trump has dropped about one-quarter as many.

It is hard to believe right now, but at the time of the Trump administration, people were critical because people were doing horrible things and not being deported. I think President Trump should have been deporting more. Nevertheless, almost a quarter as many people are being deported as were 4 years ago.

We are both letting far more people in the country and kicking out fewer people who I think everybody should agree are a problem.

Mr. Speaker, there is going to be a strong effort made when Congress returns from our Christmas break to do something to aid Ukraine. The Republicans feel, and rightfully so, that this is such a crisis of what is going on at our southern border that we should not be addressing any other crises around the world until this situation is solved.

There are other statistics that the public should be aware of. Every year in this country, over a million people are allowed in the country with green cards. It is not impossible to come here. Right now, almost a million people are sworn in every year to become new citizens.

This is the highest number that we have had since 2006, so don't let anybody say it is impossible to come here. Don't let anyone say that America is xenophobic and turning its back on the world. Just shy of a million people every year are being sworn in legally. A million people a year are also being let in on visas. As a result, nobody should say that America is afraid of people from other parts of the world.

The only question is: Should we have people coming here who have not been appropriately vetted? How much of a quick change in the makeup of America's population can we stand?

Mr. Speaker, I have statistics available for last year, when 970,000 new people were sworn in as Americans. I was at a ceremony in Milwaukee County where 270 people were sworn in in 1 month by itself.

Last year, despite this huge illegal immigration, we had just short of a million people naturalized. That is the most since 2008.

□ 1330

There were only 2 years, from what I can tell, in the last 50 years when more people were legally sworn in as new citizens than who were sworn in last year. I am led to believe, at least by my local officials, that that number is going to go up again when we collect the final numbers from 2023.

I strongly encourage my Republican colleagues to hold the line. We have passed legislation out of the House—and we don't even really need legislation, but we have passed legislation out of the House to change the immigration laws the degree to which we will go back to where we were a couple years ago and only a small number of people will come here who are not legal, and we will stop the current trend of having such a wholesale change in the make-up of our immigrants coming to America.

John Adams said that the Constitution is built for a moral and religious population and totally unfit for any other.

We therefore have to make sure that just as we do a good job of raising our children who are expected to live in a country under our wonderful Constitution which anticipates a limited government which is necessary for a free people, we have to make sure that the people who come here are a moral group of people who are prepared to live in a country based upon less government and leaving people alone. If the House Republicans do not get what they want in January or February, then it is scary for the future of our country.

This is a fight the Republicans, of course, do not want.

Who wants to fight?

Nevertheless, it is something that is necessary to change our country. If we lose that fight, then we are going to go back to the days, or continue the days, of 180 or 300,000 people per month crossing the southern border.

I hope the press pays careful attention to what is going on here, and I hope the American people pay close attention to what is going on here.

The next topic I am going to address, and we have addressed it before, is that we are right now working through the 12 bills which we call appropriation bills and which the people back home would call budget bills.

In virtually every bill, there will be a disagreement as to whether America ought to be spending more money identifying people based on racial make-up, trying to use the racial make-up of where your parents were born 2 or 3 or 10 generations ago when determining who gets a job, who gets a promotion, and who gets a government contract.

This has been a big part of American life since 1965, but under the Biden administration it has become a much bigger, I won't say problem, but a bigger part of American life because we ask people what their racial background is.

Maybe I should explain why it is something of concern to me.

I personally became aware of this when a local human resources professional contracted out to someone. This business had over 50 employees, and it is something that every business with at least 50 employees has to worry about. They were going to hire a new engineer, and they were told by a firm they had hired to monitor this sort of thing that if they currently had four men who were engineers, then they had to make sure the fifth person was a woman.

In other words, despite the fact that the guy owned this company privately, the government was going to sit in a room and say: We don't care if the best person for the job is a guy, it has to be a woman.

Later on, they were going to hire a member of management. Before this time they had four members of management who happened to be White folks. They were told that the next person should be a person of color.

Again, this person who called me was a human resources professional, a woman herself, but she just felt that something was wrong with this. It is our company. If we find somebody we think we ought to hire, then we ought to hire that person.

The Biden administration and virtually every agency wants more attention paid to where people come from. I think there are two justifications for that, and I wish we were debating it more openly.

The first justification is diversity. I question whether that is really the motivation or is it just to divide Americans. The reason I say that is because when you identify people by their ethnic background, it has nothing to do with their life experiences or their opinions on any individual issues.

Some of the rules make no sense whatsoever. When identifying somebody, a person self-identifies. You could be one-quarter a protected class or one-eighth a protected class, and the government will say that because you are say, one-eighth Peruvian, that therefore you bring a diverse viewpoint and it is important we bring you into a company. That makes no sense. Nevertheless, that is the current justification.

Or the justification may be that we have to make up for past sins. Again, people getting preferences are ever-increasing. These are people who were not even in this country 20 years ago.

Why would we have to put our thumb on the scale or order a company to hire somebody who thought the United States was so wonderful that they would immigrate here?

Last night, I was reading about a woman who came here who had one parent from Jamaica and one parent was, I think, from the Bahamas. In any event, this person's ancestors were not suffering in any way in the United States. Nevertheless, they used the excuse that in order to make up for past injustice, we have to give preferences. This makes no sense.

The diversity argument is also strange. We can have somebody who came here from Vietnam three generations ago. Maybe they are right now one-quarter Vietnamese. Maybe they don't know how to talk Vietnamese and have never set foot in Vietnam. Nonetheless, according to the diversity bureaucracy, it is important they are given preference because they will bring a diverse viewpoint to the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, does it make any sense to say that you are going to bring a diverse viewpoint if you know nothing at all about the country or culture which you supposedly represent?

In any event, there are programs along this line being pushed throughout the Federal Government.

I think, largely, the Republican Party will try to decrease them and just say that we are going to view people as individuals while the Democratic Party wants to forever label people by where their grandfather or great-grandfather or great-great-grandfather lived.

I think that is a recipe for divisiveness. I hope the Republicans prevail, and I hope the American public objects to this increasingly divisive program.

I want to focus on one area in particular. Recently the Biden administration has decided to add to the groups of people whom I think will be given preference in the government contracts.

By the way, I recently toured a company owned by and run by a guy from Asia. His parents had founded the company and were very, very successful, but despite the fact that, from what I could tell, he was going to inherit a company worth tens of millions of dollars and had lived a very lavish, let's say a spoiled life to this point, he was taking advantage of, or was being given an advantage for government contracting because he was perceived to be a protected person or a person who needed assistance.

This is a person who is going to inherit tens of millions of dollars and who is living in an upscale Wisconsin suburb, but under current law, he had to be given preferences over maybe somebody who had lived in America for generations, who was brought up in a difficult background, and who founded his own company working it from the ground up. Nevertheless, because of this divisive affirmative action sort of stuff, the American, the guy whose great-great-grandparents were here, was going to be given a disadvantage in getting a government contract because he was not the son of Asian multimillionaires.

We ought to have a discussion about this. This is the sort of thing that should matter.

Nevertheless, the Biden administration, in addition to trying to hire all different people in our agencies, wants a new group that would be considered persons of color and given preference, and that is Middle Eastern or North Africans.

Now, I will make a couple of comments about that. Right now, Mr. Speaker, if you look at a map from Morocco all the way over to Iran, these people are considered just like any other American. They are not given preferences.

Why they would get preferences, I don't know.

I think most people from this part of the world immigrated here only very recently, so I wouldn't even say their parents or grandparents or great-great-grandparents were treated poorly in this country.

Insofar as I know people from this part of the world, I believe they think like every average American. I don't see what sort of diverse viewpoint they are bringing to the workplace. Moreover, I should point out, that right now people from Middle Eastern or North African background are making, if money can be described as a success, considerably more than the average American citizen, including the average American White citizen.

Nevertheless, the Biden administration wants to say to this group from Morocco, from Lebanon, from Syria, and from Iran that if you found a company here, then you get preferences if you are dealing with the Federal Government.

I have yet to find one person back home who knows the Biden administration is trying to do this, but it is something that ought to be more publicized in the mainstream media, and it ought to be subject to debate.

One of the topics that should be brought up is the question: Is this a way to destroy America and divide Americans, or when people vote they create a situation in which people say: What are you going to give me because I am from Peru?

What are you going to give me because I am from Vietnam?

What are you going to give me because I am from Iraq?

What are you going to give me because I am from Angola?

I think that is where we are headed, and the time is now to nip it in the bud.

By the way, I mentioned that people from North Africa make more than the average American. That is also true for the wealthiest immigrant group in this country, people from India. People from China make more than the average American. People from the Philippines make more than the average American. People from Cuba make more than the average American.

From what I can see, it might take one or two generations, but then people from Africa or Southeast Asia make more than the average American. So we should not be afraid to put an end to this.

We have a labor shortage. These DEI specialists should be swept aside, and we should go back to the days in which companies could hire and promote people based on who is the best for the job.

I hope this is discussed over the next 3 weeks back home so that when Congress reconvenes and works on our appropriations bills we try to do what we can to get rid of these DEI specialists.

The final topic of the day is with regard to two different groups who are being treated very differently, and it is time we got rid of the differences.

Beginning in the 1960s, the Federal Government began to institute widespread use of income-based benefits. Some of them were low-income housing benefits, some of them were at the time what we called AFDC benefits, some of them were food benefits, and some of them were healthcare benefits. Nonetheless, they all gave more benefits to people who were considered to be in poverty.

Frequently, being in poverty meant that you couldn't get married because if you have a couple together and one of them has a job, then they usually are not considered to be in poverty, so they don't get free housing, free food, and free checks. There is a flawed program called the earned income tax credit in which people also get more money.

All these programs have two things in common: They largely penalize people who get married to someone with an income, and they largely discourage people from working. In my experience talking with people on a lower level of the income scale, they all know when they should stop working to get the maximum benefits.

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There is a sweet spot if you are a single parent, around \$16,000 to \$18,000, and you get your earned income tax credit. You get your rent-free apartment or almost rent-free apartment. You get your food share. You get your medical care. You may be getting some separate individual checks. As a result, we are discouraging two things: We are discouraging marriage, particularly marrying somebody who has got an income, and we discourage work.

There is a bill working its way through Congress right now, which is adding a new class of Pell grants. Pell grants are what amount to college scholarships for people who are perceived to be low income.

What happens with Pell grants—and the same thing should be said about food stamps, the same thing should be said about low-income housing—if one couple gets married and raises a child on their own, under most cases they are not eligible for free government scholarship.

If they decide not to get married and maybe you have one parent with a small income, their children get what amounts to a college scholarship. I had a woman approach me saying that her and her husband got married and their daughter was \$35,000 in debt when she graduated from college. She thought that was unfair because her sister didn't get married and her daughter was getting what amounted to almost

free tuition for 4 years because of the martial status of her parents.

The child from a married couple is \$35,000 in debt, compared to very little debt of the child of the unmarried couple.

In America, we are supposed to be treating people equally. Obviously, we are not treating people equally here. It is like it is the policy of the Federal Government to discourage marriage and particularly discourage marriage if you have children. This is not something that has been talked about lately. It hasn't been talked about in depth here, as far as I can tell, since the 1990s, but since equity or "equality" or something is the catch word that you hear a lot of around here, I think we ought to look at these programs and stop penalizing people who get married and have children.

It is a shame, but a lot of people feel they can't afford to have kids anymore, maybe they have no kids, maybe one child, and you hear it is because they don't have enough money; meanwhile, we have no problem taxing them to make sure people with a different lifestyle have a variety of things.

It is not going to change in January or February, but I hope the people in this institution begin to think about that. Was it right to set up programs and the only way you can get them is if you don't get married when you have children?

I will recount a little anecdote with regard to the Pell grants. I used to speak on this back in Wisconsin before I was a Congressman, and I would go through all the different programs which you lose if you get married and have a job. I talked to a young gal who was in the room at the time—because sometimes I think I have to know more how young people think—and when talking about the grants that went out to people of supposed lower income—of course, this also encourages working off the books. All these things do—the gal said, me and my husband got married before we had a child, but none of my friends are getting married. They get free college. I think people in this institution have to stop and think, is that right? Should we be teaching the young people that you get free college if you don't get married when you have a kid?

That is what we are teaching them right now. That is what we taught that young gal in Green Bay if she is listening. I have heard what she said, and I hope it is something that is talked about a little bit more in this institution.

The three topics for the American public to chew on over the next 3 weeks: The record number of people coming across our border and permanently changing America and bankrupting America. The obsession over identifying people where their great-great-grandparents came from as if their view of the world is the same of somebody who was born in Mexico or China or somewhere else in the 1890s.

Lastly, our rather strange policy of trying to discourage people from getting married before they have children. I hope the American people chew on that.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague has been covering a lot of very important subjects here. I know he is frequently in the area of immigration and the invasion of our border, so I appreciate Mr. GROTHMAN's strong efforts on highlighting that so the American people understand.

It really boils down to when we are looking at the border invasion that we have quite a battle. I do not understand why the Biden White House is simply sitting by watching it happen, even having personnel propping the gates open to allow this to happen.

We do not understand fully who is coming in. It is not just people from Mexico or even Central America. There is a lot of very dangerous people coming across the border. They apprehend many people on the known terrorist or mayhem list, at the very least, and I wonder whose side are they on. Whose side is the administration on when they allow this to happen? Whether it is the drugs coming across, the fentanyl, the people who are setting up and going to be the potential terrorist cells that are going to hit this country at some point, and we see all these protests going on over Palestine.

Mr. Speaker, they are just waiting for the green light on this. It is completely irresponsible and antithetical to the constitutional vows we take what is going on with the Biden administration and their nonenforcement of the border. Much work needs to be done.

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

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 115), as amended by section 1601 of Pub L. 111-68, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

Mr. BACON, Nebraska

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ADAMS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2406(b)(3) of Public Law 116-9, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Adams Memorial Commission:

Mr. GRIFFITH, Virginia

Mr. MOOLENAAR, Michigan
Mr. LYNCH, Massachusetts
Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Mr. BUCSHON, Indiana
Ms. MCCOLLUM, Minnesota

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF
THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY AS-
SEMBLY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. NORCROSS, New Jersey

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE
CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOP-
MENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4412, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development:

Mr. COLE, Oklahoma
Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, New Mexico

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2670. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON
THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024,
SUBMITTED BY MR. TURNER,
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE PER-
MANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE**

The following is the Explanatory Statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 ("the Act"),

which has been included as Division G of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, "the Committees"). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as "the Agreement"—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and that describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President's budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 7102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (S. Rept. 118-59) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (H. Rept. 118-162). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorization.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

**INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF DISSEMINATION
BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RICH-
MOND, VIRGINIA, FIELD OFFICE OF CERTAIN
DOCUMENT**

The Committees are committed to ensuring full transparency in the FBI's actions implicating the rights of the American people to the free exercise of religion and speech. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct and submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a review of the actions and events that served as a basis for the January 23, 2023, dissemination by the field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located in Richmond, Virginia, of a document titled "Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities." The review shall cover any orders or direction regarding the document from any official in any field office concerning purported proximate links between any religion, any political affiliation, or the intent of this report.

The Committees further direct that, not later than 10 days after the date of the enact-

ment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit to the same committees identified above the unredacted August 22, 2023, Inspection Division report associated with the Richmond Domain Perspective.

**FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO
UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA**

Section 7343 of the Act provides for funding limitations relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena because of perceptions of insufficient transparency in this area. Section 7343 is also intended to avoid technology and security stovepipes and expand awareness regarding any historical exotic technology antecedents previously provided by the Federal Government for research and development purposes if they are shown to exist.

Section 7343 further provides a limitation regarding independent research and development funding to ensure that certain indirect expenses are prohibited. That provision is intended to be interpreted consistent with Department of Defense Instruction Number 3204.01 (dated August 20, 2014, incorporating change 2, dated July 9, 2020; relating to Department policy for oversight of independent research and development), or any successor instruction.

**SCREENING AND VETTING OF VISITORS OR AS-
SIGNEES FROM SENSITIVE COUNTRIES AT THE
NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

The Committees are concerned that the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy (DOE-IN) does not require the comprehensive screening and vetting of foreign visitors or assignees from the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba who work or otherwise collaborate with scientists in our National Laboratories. United States Government-funded research carried out at National Laboratories is incredibly important and sensitive. Whether a laboratory supports a science mission or is oriented toward supporting national security, it is critical that all foreign visitors and assignees from countries of concern receive appropriate vetting in order to mitigate counterintelligence risks. In fiscal year 2023, more than 7,000 nationals from the PRC visited 16 National Laboratories. Russian visitors numbered more than 3,700. The Committees understand that international cooperation on matters of basic, fundamental science helps maintain the United States' technological edge. At the same time, we need to protect both the classified research as well as unclassified research that result in technologies with dual-use applications, and which can be adapted for military or economic gain, from getting into our adversaries' hands.

The Committees therefore direct that DOE-IN require a robust effort to screen and vet visitors or assignees to our National Laboratories from the PRC, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba. The Committees also direct DOE-IN to ensure appropriate oversight over such screening and vetting to ensure that counterintelligence threat information related to potential assignees or visitors is appropriately identified and tracked. The Committees further direct that, not fewer than twice per year, the Director of DOE-IN shall submit to the Committees a report noting each instance in which a visitor or assignee from the PRC, Russia, Iran, North Korea, or Cuba, identified as a significant counterintelligence risk was permitted access to a National Laboratory.

**BRIEFING RELATING TO CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE
AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF
THE COAST GUARD**

Section 416 of H.R. 3932 provided the Commandant of the Coast Guard with enhanced

authority to obligate and expend amounts made available under the National Intelligence Program for intelligence and counterintelligence activities if the object of the activity is of a confidential, extraordinary, or emergency nature.

Therefore, the Committees direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard, no later than March 31, 2024, to brief the congressional intelligence committees, the congressional defense committees, the congressional appropriations committees, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology on why this authority is necessary and appropriate.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS BEFORE ESTABLISHING NEW NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER OR ASSIGNING SIGNIFICANT NEW FUNCTION TO EXISTING CENTER

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to provide reasonable notice to the congressional intelligence committees before the Director establishes a new national intelligence center or assigns a significant new function to an existing national intelligence center.

BRIEFING RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL HUMAN SOURCE PROGRAM OF FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Committees direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than March 31, 2024, to brief the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional judiciary committees on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's management of confidential human sources, specifically pertaining to the current notification requirements and program review processes in the event that an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has reasonable grounds to believe that a confidential human source, or any immediate family member of such a source, has engaged in unauthorized criminal activity, including any misdemeanor or felony crime.

ENHANCED PERSONNEL SECURITY REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committees are of the view that—

(1) A trusted national security and Intelligence Community workforce is paramount to the protection of our nation's security and to reduce the risk of unauthorized disclosures of classified and other sensitive information;

(2) the increased global availability and use of social media accounts, including by members of the national security workforce of the United States, increase the risk of unauthorized disclosures of classified national security information, which can endanger the United States and its partners and allies, and empower foreign adversaries;

(3) to maintain trust in and the protection of the national security and Intelligence Community workforce of the United States, the Intelligence Community must fully and continuously use available vetting resources and all authorities prescribed by law, while guaranteeing all constitutional protections of such workforce;

(4) the Intelligence Community must maintain high-quality vetting processes and ensure appropriate and necessary measures are taken to thoroughly and in a timely manner investigate and adjudicate prospective applicants for sensitive national security positions within the Intelligence Community; and,

(5) the Intelligence Community should use existing authorities to ensure robust continuous vetting for continued eligibility for access to classified information and carefully manage the speed and accuracy of the security clearance adjudication process at both

the initial investigation process and throughout the career of personnel serving in positions within the Intelligence Community.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO UNITED STATES ECONOMIC AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION WITH UNITED STATES ADVERSARIES

The Committees support the National Intelligence Strategy of 2023 goal of leveraging emerging technologies and their adoption at scale. Sections 7502 through 7506 of the Act further advance this objective, and the Committees expect the Intelligence Community to implement these provisions faithfully and expeditiously.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OFFICE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Section 7318 establishes a counterintelligence office located within the Department of Agriculture. Accordingly, the Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit the report required in section 7318(f)(2) to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House, at the same time that the Director submits the report to the congressional intelligence and appropriations committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 15, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-2544. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major rule — Fiscal Year 2024 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Funding received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2545. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major rule — Fiscal Year 2024 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Funding received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2546. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major rule — Fiscal Year 2024 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Funding received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2547. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of General Counsel, Treasury, Financial Stability Oversight Council, transmitting the Council's Major final interpretive guidance — Guidance on Nonbank Financial Company Determinations received December 6, 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-2548. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, RPMS, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Direct-to-Consumer Prescription Drug Advertisements: Presentation of the Major Statement in a Clear, Conspicuous, and Neutral Manner in Advertisements in Television and Radio Format [Docket No.: FDA-2009-N-0582] (RIN: 0910-AG27) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2549. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May, 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2550. A letter from the President, transmitting notice that the continuation of the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021, must continue in effect beyond December 15, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118—89); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-2551. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two (2) notices of a designation of acting officer and a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2552. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Jacksonville Beach, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0735] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2553. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary interim rule and request for comments — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Jersey City, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0794] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2554. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Cheboygan River at Cheboygan, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0113] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2555. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0702] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2556. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Lake Havasu, Lake Havasu City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0593] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2557. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Mission Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0761] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2558. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Cumberland River, Nashville, TN [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0797] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2559. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Markers 2.5-3, Brunot Island, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0850] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2560. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Key West, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0135] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2561. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Vessel Launch, San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0818] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 3229. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to apply the prohibition against contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with elections to contributions or donations in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda; with amendments (Rept. 118-318). 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. CURTIS:

H.R. 6779. A bill to end unemployment payments to jobless millionaires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6780. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Program to test a payment and service delivery model under part A of Medicare to improve clinical health outcomes and reduce the rate of readmissions of certain individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 6781. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to reauthorize the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. MASSIE (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. ROY):

H.R. 6782. A bill to reduce, from 21 years of age to 18 years of age, the minimum age at which a person may obtain a handgun from a Federal firearms licensee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 6783. A bill to protect the investment choices of investors in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. BENTZ):

H.R. 6784. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide for protective regulations when a species is listed as an endangered species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 6785. A bill to reform rural housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 6786. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to make grants to eligible entities to assist certain individuals in reentering a secondary school or a high school equivalency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 6787. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to modify the authorization of appropriations for the Las Vegas Wash program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FULCHER (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 6788. A bill to improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 6789. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify standards for UDAAP enforcement actions brought by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 6790. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to preventing end-stage kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 6791. A bill to amend the Digital Equity Act of 2021 to facilitate artificial intelligence literacy opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 6792. A bill to amend the public service loan forgiveness program under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require an on-line portal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 6793. A bill to prohibit further action on the proposed rule entitled "Energy Conservation Standards for Ceiling Fans"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 6794. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. BURLISON (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 6795. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6796. A bill to extend the provisions of the Foreign Service Families Act to the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 6797. A bill to provide for enhanced United States leadership at international organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6798. A bill to provide internet at residences owned or leased by the United States Government in foreign countries for the use of Department of State personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 6799. A bill to reform joint duty requirements in the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 6800. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK (for herself, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 6801. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that remote physiologic monitoring services are not subject to cost sharing under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 6802. A bill to improve supply chain resiliency for critical drug products with vulnerable supply chains and ensure that reserves of critical drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients are maintained to prevent supply disruptions in the event of drug shortages or public health emergencies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6803. A bill to provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caregiver relatives; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6804. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mrs. FLETCHER):

H.R. 6805. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 6806. A bill to provide for the establishment of a program to certify artificial intelligence software used in connection with producing agricultural products; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 6807. A bill to increase funding for cancer research by the National Cancer Institute to be more in proportion to the mor-

tality rates of cancer; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. FLETCHER:

H.R. 6808. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a risk-communication strategy to inform the public about the hazards or potential hazards of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6809. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain Federal student loans to be transferred from a parent to a child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 6810. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 6811. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide for high-priority research and extension grants for natural climate solutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 6812. A bill to authorize the Pines Foundation to establish the Fire Island AIDS Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HUNT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 6813. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule related to revisions to the air emissions reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 6814. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to assess certain offshore oil and gas platforms and pipelines for potential use as artificial reefs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 6815. A bill to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revise its regulations to protect patients from unintended exposure to radiation during nuclear medicine

procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. OGLES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 6816. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 6817. A bill to impose a fee on certain remittance transfers to fund border security; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6818. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide employers a credit against employment and income taxes for certain employee training expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6819. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Energy to submit a report to Congress on occupations and career paths affected by changes in energy production and critical manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 6820. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to remove the exclusion of certain small business concerns from the disadvantaged business enterprise program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 6821. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a pilot program that focuses Department of Agriculture conservation funding on reducing the most problematic nutrients in the highest-impact areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 6822. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LATURNER (for himself, Mr. ESTES, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 6823. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require providers of a

covered service to provide location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user of such service to an investigative or law enforcement officer or an employee or other agent of a public safety answering point in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical harm or in order to respond to the user's call for emergency services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 6824. A bill to require the Attorney General to submit to the Congress a report that includes the demographic data of persons determined to be ineligible to purchase a firearm based on a background check performed by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEUSER (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 6825. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to raise the offering amount threshold for when issuers using the crowdfunding exemption are required to file financial statements reviewed by a public accountant who is independent of the issuer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. IVEY):

H.R. 6826. A bill to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 6827. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to increase commodity assistance under the summer food service program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. BUSH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BROWN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. FROST, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MFUME, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. IVEY, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. PORTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms.

SÁNCHEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 6828. A bill to establish within the Department of Justice an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 6829. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MFUME, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 6830. A bill to require certain libraries to maintain a diverse collection of books, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 6831. A bill to reauthorize the Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development Act of 2019, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 6832. A bill to require the priority and consideration of using native plants in Federal projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6833. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 6834. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a final rule adding as a class all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(b)), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Mr. STEIL, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 6835. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a grant program for multigenerational activities for long-term care facilities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6836. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 6837. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 6838. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to disclose information about career and technical education and funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and require FAFSA applications to include a career and technical education acknowledgment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H. Res. 935. A resolution calling for the safe, timely, and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GRJALVA, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. LIEU, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. BERA):

H. Res. 936. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BACON, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 937. A resolution raising awareness for the sarcoma cancer chordoma; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H. Res. 938. A resolution expressing support for a comprehensive political reform plan; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. KUSTOFF:

H. Res. 939. A resolution supporting the designation of December 16, 2023, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. CURTIS:

H.R. 6779.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit unemployment payments to jobless millionaires.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 6780.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

healthcare

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6781.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Ocean conservation

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 6782.

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

Article 1, Section 8 and Second Amend-

ment

The single subject of this legislation is:

Firearms and interstate commerce

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 6783.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce

Clause)

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect the investment choices of investors by restoring stability to traditional financial vehicles.

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 6784.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

The purpose of this bill is to make reforms to the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 6785.

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:

to reform rural housing programs, and for other purposes

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 6786.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will create a grant program with the Department of Labor in consultation with the Department of Education to conduct in-person or virtual programs to help high school dropouts earn their GED and enter the workforce.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 6787.

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" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to modify the authorization of appropriations for the Las Vegas Wash program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 6788.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any of Congress' enumerated powers, including Congress's powers over appropriations.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 6789.

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:

To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify standards for UDAAP enforcement actions brought by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 6790.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify standards for UDAAP enforcement actions brought by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 6791.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support AI literacy, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6792.

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

Spending Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Cl. 1 and the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article I, Section 8, Cl. 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill revises provisions related to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 6793.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that the proposed rule by the Department of Energy titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Ceiling Fans" (88 Fed. Reg. 40932) shall have no force or effect.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 6794.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To extend the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 6795.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill expands 529 accounts and helps provide options for families. The bill also takes away certain federal subsidies from states that are hostile to school choice policies and encourages adoption of school choice laws.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6796.

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

Congressman Joaquin Castro

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is: provide certain benefits to members of intelligence community and their families

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6797.

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

Congressman Joaquin Castro

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is: To improve US leadership at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6798.

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

Congressman Joaquin Castro

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is: To provide for Internet access to diplomats at hardship posts

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6799.

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

Congressman Joaquin Castro

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is: the intelligence community

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 6800.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 6801.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: Medicare.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6802.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Securing America's pharmaceutical supply chain

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6803.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 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: child welfare

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6804.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: helping to prevent suicide.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6805.

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

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: Environment

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 6806.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides for the establishment of a program to certify artificial intelligence software used in connection with producing agricultural products.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6807.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Increases cancer funding by 25% to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for FY24-FY28 and asks for a study and report to Congress on the cancer drug shortage.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 6808.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: Environment

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6809.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is: education

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 6810.

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

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building".

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 6811.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would allow for grants to be made available for natural climate solutions that are based on traditional ecological knowledge, promote biodiversity and climate change resilience, and reduce runoff as part of high-priority research and extension initiatives as authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Specifically, this legislation makes natural climate solutions a USDA high-priority research and extension initiative administered by the

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 6812.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill authorizes the Pines Foundation to build and maintain a small memorial at the Fire Island National Seashore.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 6813.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing a proposed rulemaking.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 6814.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Preserve marine ecosystems and increases fishing access for anglers by improving long-standing artificial reefing programs for decommissioned energy infrastructure.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 6815.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revise its regulations to protect patients from unintended exposure to radiation during nuclear medicine procedures

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 6816.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 6817.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Homeland Security

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6818.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Allows an employer that maintains a qualified training program for their employees in a taxable year to be eligible for a tax

credit equal to 30 percent of the direct costs incurred by the employer.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6819.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Secretaries of Labor and Energy to annually submit to Congress a joint economic analysis of occupations and career paths impacted by changes in the energy and manufacturing industries.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6820.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6821.

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

Article 1, Section VIII, to regulate commerce

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commerce

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 6822.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Archives

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 6823.

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

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require a mobile or internet service provider to disclose the location information of a device pursuant to certain requests.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 6824.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Firearms and reporting of criminal statistics.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 6825.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

ACCESS Act of 2023

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 6826.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Park Service

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 6827.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Child nutrition

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 6828.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6829.

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

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Health

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 6830.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure public libraries have diverse collections of books

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6831.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Venezuela Sanctions

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 6832.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 14.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the priority and consideration of using native plants in Federal projects, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 6833.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 6834.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
PFAS

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 6835.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Care Across Generations Act would establish a grant program for long-term care facilities to operate or contract with a child care program and facilitate multi-generational activities. The bill would also require the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Community Living to issue a report to the House Ed&Labor and Senate HELP committees with findings and policy

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 6836.

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:

amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 6837.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Makes it illegal to knowingly circumvent a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service to maintain the integrity of posted online purchasing order rules for products or services, including toys, and would make it illegal to sell or offer to sell any product or service obtained in this manner.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 6838.

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:

Requires the Department of Education to publish information on the Office of Federal Student Aid website regarding Career and Technical Education information. In addition, the FAFSA application must include a one-page summary about CTE programs and require applicants to sign an acknowledgment box before starting the FAFSA application.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 7: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 11: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 14: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 41: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 51: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 82: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 211: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 261: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 325: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 531: Mr. STRONG and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 536: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 574: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 619: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 620: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 698: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 770: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 795: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 807: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 808: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 856: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 865: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 866: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 871: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 898: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 926: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. AMO.
H.R. 933: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 953: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 987: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 1045: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1083: Mr. LIEU, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1088: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1097: Mr. GAETZ, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1118: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1135: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1173: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1235: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1247: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1342: Ms. ROSS and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1491: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 1680: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1831: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 1833: Mr. PALLONE and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2447: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2584: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 2666: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 2673: Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 2706: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2715: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2891: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 2923: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2949: Ms. PEREZ and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2966: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2992: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3005: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3018: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3204: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 3216: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 3350: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 3374: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3375: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3381: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 3433: Ms. WATERS, Mr. IVEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3475: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 3519: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3541: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 3605: Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 3611: Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 3690: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3698: Mr. TRONE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 3702: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3713: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 3725: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3782: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 3847: Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 3850: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 3970: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3998: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4016: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 4103: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4195: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 4286: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 4326: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas and Ms. DELAURIO.
H.R. 4519: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEEMER, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4541: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4550: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4572: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4579: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4663: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 4748: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 4757: Mr. STEUBE and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4800: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4844: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4850: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 4886: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4896: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 4903: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4993: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5007: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 5041: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. AMO, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 5160: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5251: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 5324: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5344: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5399: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 5402: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5414: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5474: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5563: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 5576: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5601: Mr. MFUMEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5647: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5686: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 5757: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 5827: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5844: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5847: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5856: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 5937: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5950: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 6031: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6049: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 6083: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 6105: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6110: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 6191: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 6244: Mr. CASAR and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 6267: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6319: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 6407: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 6415: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 6433: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 6439: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 6446: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 6485: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 6492: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6504: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 6527: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6538: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 6593: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 6594: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 6629: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 6662: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6663: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6672: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 6683: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 6690: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 6696: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6706: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6720: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6721: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 6736: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 6745: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 6747: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 6753: Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 6754: Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 6761: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. AMO.
H.J. Res. 98: Mrs. KIM of California and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. BANKS.
H. Res. 33: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H. Res. 616: Ms. CRAIG.
H. Res. 634: Mr. KHANNA.
H. Res. 850: Mr. FRY.
H. Res. 872: Mr. MOLINARO.
H. Res. 874: Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 886: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 895: Mr. SWALWELL.
H. Res. 901: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SELF, and Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 905: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 907: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H. Res. 915: Mr. MORELLE.
H. Res. 920: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H. Res. 929: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H. Res. 934: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

No. 206

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain, the Reverend RADM Gregory Todd, Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Navy, will offer the opening prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer.

The Lord be with you.
Let us pray.

Eternal Father, ruler of wind and wave, You establish the heavens and order all of creation. Behold Your humble people, seeking only to serve and not to be served. Grant all who labor on behalf of the United States a heart of humble service.

Lord, in Your wisdom, You led the predecessor of this Congress, the Continental Congress of 1775, out of concern for the souls of sailors, to mandate that divine services be held on all Navy ships, thus giving rise 248 years ago to the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Inspired by the insight of our forebears, we seek Your divine hand to raise up more religious ministry professionals to serve as U.S. Navy chaplains. In our day, Lord, grant us an increase of Navy chaplains to care for the souls of sailors, marines, coastguardsmen, and their families as they navigate the daily challenges of military service.

We give You thanks for raising up righteous leaders who foster justice and promote the good. Grant Your wisdom to the newly confirmed and soon-to-be-confirmed flag and general officers, that they may bless Your people.

Grant Your favor to our Nation this holiday season; that though we are a people of many faiths or even no faith, we live united as a nation without hate or rancor. It is into Your divine hands we commit our prayer, trusting in Your divine mercy. 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the special occasion of having our Navy chaplain, Rear Admiral Todd, appear to give the invocation, and I do so noticing a ministerial hat trick in our Presider and our Senate Chaplain and our Navy chaplain all being on the floor as we open the session on this wonderful Thursday.

The Navy Chaplain Corps was created on November 29, 1775, with an order by the Continental Congress that there would be divine services on the ships of the U.S. Navy, and that was 248 years ago.

And often in the Senate, around the anniversary of the establishment of the

Navy chaplaincy, the Navy chaplain is invited to come and open a Senate session. We are a little bit after November 29, but it is a very nice occasion to welcome Admiral Todd here.

Admiral Todd is a special individual. All chiefs of Navy chaplains are special, as we know from our own Senate Chaplain Reverend Black, but—get this—here is a little bit about Admiral Todd's career: He is a native of Seattle. He joined the Navy Reserves in 1986 and then was a reservist at the same time as he was pastoring churches. He superseded to Active Duty in 1994 and has been in the Navy chaplaincy business since then—a distinguished career.

But here is a mark that he holds that I am not sure anyone has or ever will hold. He has been the chief chaplain not only of the Navy but the 10th chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard and the 20th chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming the 28th chaplain of the U.S. Navy—truly a servant whose service has spread far and wide to incorporate not only those who are in our military but also our civilians—and especially their families.

So this is a special occasion and a good one that we should do annually to allow the Navy chaplain to open the Senate session in memory of this 248-year tradition. But in particular, I want to express my gratitude to Admiral Todd for the great service that he has provided to thousands and thousands of our sailors, of our marines, of our coasties, and their families.

I yield the floor.

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.

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



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S5969

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, negotiators from the White House, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans will continue negotiations on a national security supplemental package. Yesterday, we had another round of productive conversations, and there was more progress. But of course, there is more work to do, and we are going to keep at it and keep at it.

Last night, I filed cloture on a couple of nominations to the Federal bench and the Department of Justice, with possible votes on these nominees as soon as tomorrow.

To my Republican colleagues who have said action on the border is urgent: Let's keep working to find a solution instead of rushing for the exits. If Republicans are serious about getting something done, they should not be so eager to go home. This may be our last best chance to get this legislation done.

After weeks of deadlock, we have seen significant progress over the past few days, and we should take advantage of the opportunity because we may not get one for quite a while. It is not easy to reach an agreement on something this complicated. But so much hangs on our success, so we need to try with everything we have.

The world is watching what Congress does right now. Our friends are watching. Our adversaries are watching even more closely. And most of all, Vladimir Putin is watching closely. He is eager to see us abandon Ukraine and thinks he is getting that done, working, in part, through Donald Trump.

Here is what Putin said a few hours ago about American aid to the Ukraine:

[T]he free stuff is going to run out someday, and it seems it already is.

That, Mr. President, is Vladimir Putin taunting the Senate, taunting America. While Congress is mired in gridlock, Putin is on the other side of the world mocking our resolve.

In generations past, this would have been a no-brainer. Democrats and Republicans would have bent Heaven and Earth to stand up to Russian dictators. We spent half a century, spent billions and billions and billions of dollars, lost

lives to safeguard the free world against the malicious spread of communism, against tyranny, and against those who undermine our values. Now we find ourselves at another moment in history when democracy is under siege.

We heard directly from President Zelenskyy 2 days ago about what is at stake if we fail. So fail we must not. There is too much on the line for Ukraine, for America, for Western democracy to throw in the towel right now. We must keep talking. We must keep working.

Our Republican friends must be reasonable. They must show they are serious about getting something done, and we have had serious discussions in the last few days. Democrats are willing to keep trying. I urge my Republican colleagues to do just the same.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. President, now, on NDAA, last night, for the 62nd year running, the Senate passed our annual Defense Authorization Act with a strong bipartisan vote, 87 to 13. The Senate's bipartisan package of the Defense bill stands in glaring contrast with the partisan race to the bottom we are seeing in the House.

Just look at the difference between these two bodies. While the Senate is strengthening America's national security, House Republicans are wasting time on a clown-car impeachment inquiry that will get nowhere. The House Republican impeachment inquiry is the definition of "unserious."

The House should be looking at the Senate right now for an example of how both sides can work together in a meaningful way to pass serious legislation to improve the lives of the American people.

Now, as I have said repeatedly, we began the month of December with three major goals here in the Senate before the end of the year. First, we had to end the blockade of hundreds of military nominees. We have done that. Second, we needed to pass the NDAA. We did that last night. And finally and, of course, hardest of all, we must reach an agreement on a national security supplemental.

Democrats are still trying to reach an agreement. We have had productive talks with Republicans today, but of course we have a lot of work left to do. We are going to keep working. This is too important not to.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been nearly 8 weeks since President Biden submitted his supplemental funding request and identified four key national security priorities. For 8 weeks, Senate Republicans have been working hard to produce legislation that takes appropriate action on all

four fronts: helping Ukraine defeat Putin in Europe, helping Israel fight Iranian terror in the Middle East, helping Asian partners deter Chinese aggression, and helping the men and women of Border Patrol get the crisis at our southern border under control.

At the same time, we have had to spend several weeks now trying to convince some of our Democratic colleagues not to tank the entire effort just because they wish a Democratic President had not put border security in his request.

A number of Senate Republicans have been working in good faith to make sure that supplemental legislation makes substantive policy changes at the border, instead of just throwing money at the problem.

Meanwhile, we have had to explain to Members of President Biden's own party why the border security issue he included in his proposal was not extraneous to America's national security.

So here we are. Some very important conversations are ongoing. And here is the bottom line: The Senate cannot claim to address major national security challenges without a solution to the one we are facing on the southern border. We can't pretend to be serious about threats facing America and our allies without fixing the broken system that lets 10,000 illegal aliens cross our border in a single day.

I am serious. Senate Republicans are serious, and I hope our colleagues are as well.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. President, on another matter, the events of the past 2 months have underscored that something is rotten in the state of America's most elite universities, and there aren't many more glaring examples than Harvard.

Last week, of course, Harvard's president refused to say whether calls for Jewish genocide would constitute harassment on her campus. Two months ago, in the immediate aftermath of the October 7 terrorist attack, she declined to condemn the Harvard student groups who openly declared that the murder of innocent Jews that day was Israel's own fault.

Under her leadership, radical "Students for Justice in Palestine" have organized to spin terrorist propaganda and mostly succeeded in getting Harvard graduates blackballed by major corporations and Federal judges.

One Jewish student at Harvard Business School was even assaulted on his way to study.

And yet despite her abysmal record on combating anti-Semitism and mounting allegations of plagiarism in her own scholarship, the cadre of left-wing financiers and university administrators who make up the governing Harvard Corporation has affirmed their "confidence that President Gay is the right leader to help our community heal."

Well, when you look at Harvard's history, this embarrassing lack of moral clarity is hardly a surprise. A century

ago, Harvard President Abbott Lowell proposed a numerical quota on Jewish students. His reasoning?

The anti-Semitic feeling among the students is increasing, and it grows in proportion to the increase in the number of Jews.

So one Harvard president says that the presence of Jews causes anti-Semitism. A hundred years later, another says that calls for Jewish genocide really depend on the context in which they are made. Frankly, you would be forgiven for wondering whether anti-Semitism isn't just business as usual at Harvard.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, now on one final matter, this week, the United Nations wrapped up its latest conference on climate change. World leaders took private jets to Dubai, and the Biden administration's Special Climate Envoy, John Kerry, returned triumphant with a joint statement condemning the evils of coal power.

Elite liberals sure are obsessed with killing jobs in places like Kentucky. But that is only the half of it.

Yet again, the maximum hardships the Biden administration is happy to heap on American workers and consumers are producing no meaningful benefits on the world stage. The past 3 years have been an endless parade of canceled permits and new regulations that make it harder than ever to produce affordable and reliable American energy.

By canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline on day one, President Biden also canceled as many as 59,000 jobs that were needed to build it. And, now, the President's envoy has returned with another meaningless pledge that doesn't even compel the world's biggest emitters of carbon.

Just look at the numbers. U.S. emissions are projected to fall by 4 percent this year. Meanwhile, China's are projected to increase by twice as much. Last year, Beijing green-lit four times as much new coal power as they did the year before, but the Biden administration apparently wants us to believe it is American producers and job creators and workers who aren't pulling their weight.

So the U.N. climate conference is a good reminder that the elite leftwing obsession with self-inflicted climate penance is not just an American problem.

Canada's Liberal government, for its part, has a bold new plan: paying farmers to make sure their cattle don't burp so much. Apparently, Canada's plan is to build around a carbon credit—the nebulous commodity that supposedly negates carbon emissions from activities like flying private jets, except, in this case, the subjects aren't elites looking to ease their conscience on the way to a conference in Dubai. They are the workers who put food on the table.

Canada's so-called "Reducing Enteric Emissions from Beef Cattle" proposal would grant carbon credits to farmers

who feed their cows special diets to reduce burping.

Well, it sounds an awful lot like the way Washington bureaucrats like to tell middle-class Americans what kind of car to drive and what kind of stove to use. It also sounds entirely ridiculous.

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. MORAN. Mr. 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.

The Senator from Kansas.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the list of things that we can do but haven't done is extensive. It is long.

We need to chip away at that list and get our work done as 2023 comes to a close. Today, I want to highlight the urgent need to pass a long-term—a long-term—not a continuation of little, short extensions but a long-term FAA reauthorization legislation.

The current FAA reauthorization expired on September 30, in which a subsequent extension was passed until the end of this year—that is not many days away.

Congress is now progressing toward another short-term extension until mid-March 2024.

I serve as the lead Republican and ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and I stated at the very beginning of my tenure in that position the importance of passing a long-term reauthorization. And I am here today to continue to beat that drum.

Continuous short-term extensions are detrimental to the Agency, the industry, and the flying public. This is about public safety. We have been genuinely and rightfully concerned about the flying public, and reauthorization of the FAA bill, as we have developed it, is an important component of making people safer as they fly.

Multiple-year reauthorization is necessary for long-term planning and growth of the civil aviation industry.

I come from the air capital of the world, Kansas, and we know the importance of this piece of legislation in our ability to compete globally and to defend our Nation in this time of national security needs.

Multiple-year reauthorization allows for planning and growth, including the maintenance and modernization of aviation infrastructure and technologies. If the United States is to remain a leader in the aerospace domain, it is critical that we provide the FAA the resources and the tools they require.

We spent months working on the legislation. It is designed to and will improve the capabilities of the Federal

Aviation Administration. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed an FAA reauthorization, and they did so last July. Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to move a bill out of the committee.

In November, the Aviation Subcommittee convened once again to address the close calls and near misses that have recently plagued our Nation's air space—incidents that indicate, now more than ever, that our aviation system needs certainty and stability provided, in part, by long-term authorization by Congress.

While I was pleased to see my colleagues come together this past October in a vote of 98 to 0—98 to nothing—in the Senate to confirm Mr. Mike Whitaker as the FAA Administrator, I implore—I request—my colleagues to once again find that collaborative spirit, that way forward, to address FAA reauthorization.

Our colleague in the House, the House Transportation chairman, SAM GRAVES, recently held a hearing on the consequences of a failure to pass a long-term FAA reauthorization bill. While the hearing touched on a myriad of issues that continued FAA extensions would present, the witnesses particularly highlighted these items: airport programs and project delivery impacts due to uncertainty in planning; the inability of the FAA to adjust to emerging technologies; and workforce issues for the entire aviation system, particularly air traffic control staffing, which has led to continued delays and cancellations for the flying public.

Mr. Rich Santa, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, summarized it this way—and I am quoting him:

The single most important action Congress can take for the safety of the national airspace system would be to pass a long-term, comprehensive FAA Reauthorization bill [and put it] into law before the end of the year.

Our aviation system cannot make needed advancements and improvements if we continue to allow the status quo, which has near-term and long-term implications.

So, once again, I stand ready to work with my colleagues, the chairman and the ranking Member of the full committee; my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH from Illinois, my chairman of the subcommittee that I am the ranking member of. I stand here ready to not only encourage my colleagues but to put my work where my mouth is and make sure that we take every step possible to find that sweet spot, that needle—which I don't think is that small of a needle hole—to get us FAA reauthorized long term. Our aviation system depends upon it and, most importantly, my Kansas constituents and all Americans depend upon, for their safety, this piece of legislation.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on two issues, but, first, I would

like to ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article entitled “We Are No Strangers to Human Suffering, but We’ve Seen Nothing Like the Siege of Gaza” be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Dec. 11, 2023]

WE ARE NO STRANGERS TO HUMAN SUFFERING,
BUT WE’VE SEEN NOTHING LIKE THE SIEGE
OF GAZA

(By Michelle Nunn, Tjada D’Oyen McKenna,
Jan Egeland, Abby Maxman, Jeremy
Konyndyk and Janti Soeripto)

We are no strangers to human suffering—to conflict, to natural disasters, to some of the world’s largest and gravest catastrophes. We were there when fighting erupted in Khartoum, Sudan. As bombs rained down on Ukraine. When earthquakes leveled southern Turkey and northern Syria. As the Horn of Africa faced its worst drought in years. The list goes on.

But as the leaders of some of the world’s largest global humanitarian organizations, we have seen nothing like the siege of Gaza. In the more than two months since the horrifying attack on Israel that killed more than 1,200 people and resulted in some 240 abductions, about 18,000 Gazans—including more than 7,500 children—have been killed, according to the Gazan health ministry. More children have been reported killed in this conflict than in all major global conflicts combined last year.

The atrocities committed by Hamas on Oct. 7 were unconscionable and depraved, and the taking and holding of hostages is abhorrent. The calls for their release are urgent and justified. But the right to self-defense does not and cannot require unleashing this humanitarian nightmare on millions of civilians. It is not a path to accountability, healing or peace. In no other war we can think of in this century have civilians been so trapped, without any avenue or option to escape to save themselves and their children.

Most of our organizations have been operating in Gaza for decades. But we can do nothing remotely adequate to address the level of suffering there without an immediate and complete cease-fire and an end to the siege. The aerial bombardments have rendered our jobs impossible. The withholding of water, fuel, food and other basic goods has created an enormous scale of need that aid alone cannot offset.

Global leaders—and especially the United States government—must understand that we cannot save lives under these conditions. A significant change in approach from the U.S. government is needed today to pull Gaza back from this abyss.

For a start, the Biden administration must stop its diplomatic interference at the United Nations, blocking calls for a cease-fire.

Since the pause in fighting ended, we are again witnessing an exceptionally high level of bombardment, and at increasing ferocity. The few areas left in Gaza that are untouched by bombardment are shrinking by the hour, forcing more and more civilians to seek safety that does not exist. Over 80 percent of 2.3 million Gazans are now displaced. The newest Israeli offensive is now forcing them to cluster on a tiny sliver of land.

The bombardment is not the only thing brutally cutting lives short. The siege of—and blockades surrounding—Gaza have led to a critical food scarcity, cutoffs of medical supplies and electricity, and a lack of clean water. There is barely any medical care to be found in the enclave and few medications. Surgeons are working by the light of their

mobile phones, without anesthetics. They are using dishcloths as bandages. The risk of waves of waterborne and infectious disease will only grow in the increasingly overcrowded living conditions of the displaced.

One of our colleagues in Gaza recently described their struggle to feed an orphaned infant who had been rescued from the rubble of an airstrike. The baby had not eaten for days after her mother’s death. Colleagues could only scrounge up powdered milk—not formula, not breast milk, and not a nutritionally suitable infant food—to help stave off her starvation.

Before the war, hundreds of truckloads of aid were needed each day to support Gazans’ daily existence. Only a trickle of that required aid has made it into Gaza in the two months since the war began. But even if more were allowed in, our work in Gaza is dependent on ensuring our teams can move safely to set up warehouses, shelters, health clinics, schools, and water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.

Today our staff members are not safe. They tell us they’re making the daily choice of staying with their families in one place so that they can die together or go out to seek water and food.

Among leaders in Washington, there is constant talk about preparing for the “day after.” But if this relentless bombardment and siege continue, there will be no “day after” for Gaza. It will be too late. Hundreds of thousands of lives hang in the balance today.

So far, American diplomacy in this war has not delivered on the goals President Biden has conveyed: protection of innocent civilians, adherence to humanitarian law, more aid delivery. To stop Gaza’s apocalyptic free fall, the Biden administration must take tangible measures, as it does in other conflicts, to up the ante with all parties to the conflict and bordering countries.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken once said of the war in Ukraine that the targeting of heat, water and electricity was a “brutalization of Ukraine’s people” and “barbaric.” The Biden administration should acknowledge that the same holds true in Gaza. While it has announced measures to deter violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, Mr. Blinken and his colleagues should apply similar pressure to stop violence against civilians in Gaza, too.

The harrowing events unfolding before us are shaping a global narrative that, if unchanged, will reveal a legacy of indifference in the face of unspeakable suffering, bias in the application of the laws of conflict and impunity for actors that violate international humanitarian law.

The U.S. government must act now—and end fight for humanity.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this article is authored by some remarkable people: Michelle Nunn, president and chief executive of CARE; Tjada McKenna, chief executive of Mercy Corps; Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council; Abby Maxman, president and chief executive of Oxfam; Jeremy Konyndyk, president of Refugees International; and Janti Soeripto, president and chief executive of Save the Children U.S.

I would like to take a minute to read two paragraphs from this essay, which I have just entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It reads as follows:

As leaders of some of the world’s largest global humanitarian organizations, we have seen nothing like the siege of Gaza. In the

more than two months since the horrifying attack on Israel that killed more than 1,200 people and resulted in 240 abductions, about 18,000 Gazans—including more than 7,500 children—have been killed, according to the Gazan health ministry. More children have been reported killed in this conflict than in all major global conflicts combined last year.

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I think this essay is worthy of all my colleagues and for the public to read it. I hope they saw it initially in the New York Times and will read it now.

Now I ask consent to go to a separate, unrelated topic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). Without objection.

FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 5 years ago, Congress came together to pass the First Step Act, the most important criminal justice reform legislation in a generation. I am happy to come to the floor today with my colleague and friend Senator BOOKER of New Jersey and celebrate this momentous anniversary.

The First Step Act passed the House and Senate by overwhelming bipartisan majorities and was supported by a broad coalition from across the political spectrum, including former President Donald Trump, who signed it into law. I was proud to champion this landmark legislation with the help of Senators BOOKER, GRASSLEY, and LEE. It took months of bipartisan negotiation and painful compromise, but the net result was a historic victory that significantly improved our system of justice.

I am thankful for the tireless efforts of many dedicated advocates who never gave up hope that this law could be passed. It was a dramatic change to finally acknowledge that just being tough on the so-called war on drugs was not enough.

I often think back to my early days in the House of Representatives, during the 1980s, when the crack epidemic was devastating America. I vividly remember, in 1986, when the Nation reeled from the news that a Maryland basketball player named Len Bias had died from a heart attack induced by cocaine. All of the evidence points to it having been powder cocaine. Somehow, his death, nevertheless, became a public symbol of the crack epidemic.

Members of Congress were desperate to do something to stop the despair caused by drugs in our communities and to punish the dealers who were trafficking this new, highly addictive product. So we passed legislation, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, that established mandatory minimum sentences for distribution of specific quantities of

drugs. We thought we would clearly deter people from selling drugs by imposing tougher—tougher—sentences for larger quantities.

The law imposed much tougher sentences for crack cocaine offenses than for powder cocaine offenses. An individual would receive a minimum—minimum—5-year Federal prison sentence for selling just 5 grams of crack, the same sentence provided for selling 500 grams of powder cocaine. At the time, we believed this 100-to-1 hit between sentences for crack and powder cocaine was the right thing to do. We were so frightened by the impact that crack was having in America.

But it became clear over the next 30 years that we were terribly, terribly wrong. Instead of the price of crack going up, after the law was passed because of reduced supply, the opposite occurred. The price went down. Even though we were locking up more people than ever for drug offenses, primarily African Americans, the amount of drugs on our streets and the number of addicts was increasing.

Years after the law passed, I met a young African American from Alton, IL, who told me the story of his sister Eugenia Jennings, also from Alton. As a child, she was abandoned and seriously abused. At the age of 15, she started using crack to dull the pain of her life. At the age of 23, Eugenia was convicted for trading a small amount of crack cocaine for clothing for her small children. She was sentenced to 22 years in a Federal prison—22 years.

She was a model prisoner while serving her sentence. While in prison, she developed leukemia. I went to visit her in Greenville, IL, at the Federal correctional center. I will never forget the moment when I walked into the room and she was seated at the table. Then, she had been in prison for over 10 years.

She talked about how nice it was that she was in Greenville, close enough to Alton, IL, and that her children could visit. But she was afraid because her cancer was taking her to a prison hospital in Texas, and she wouldn't be able to see her children.

She said to me something I will never forget. She said:

"I don't know how much longer I am going to live, Senator. But I promise you this: If you can find some way to get me out of prison to be with my girls, I'll never do anything wrong again in my life."

So I wrote a personal note, handwritten, to President Barack Obama, asking him to commute Eugenia's sentence. He did, just in time for her to see her eldest daughter graduate from high school. It was the thrill of her life.

Sadly, Eugenia died less than 2 years later.

Her story was tragic in so many ways, but it inspired me to keep working to pass legislation to help other individuals who had been unjustly sentenced by our overly punitive laws. It became my personal mission to correct these errors and fix a policy that was doing far more harm than good.

We took a big step in that direction in 2010, when President Obama signed into law a bill I authored, the Fair Sentencing Act. We reduced the 100-to-1 crack-to-powder-cocaine disparity to 18 to 1, but the Fair Sentencing Act was not retroactive, meaning that people were still serving long, disparate sentences on crack cases after the law was passed.

The First Step Act finally brought them relief, allowing them to be resentenced under the 18-to-1 ratio. The First Step Act also created an entirely new system programming in Federal prisons, designed to prevent incarcerated people from reoffending, with a chance for them to earn extra time in community confinement or supervised release at the end of their sentence, a strong incentive for them to do the right thing while in prison.

Last week, Senator BOOKER and I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of individuals from an organization called Families Against Mandatory Minimums. It was a great meeting. Many of the folks we met had been incarcerated under the harsh 1980s drug law. I spoke with them, including some from my own home State of Illinois.

One lady looked me in the eye, and she said: I was sentenced to life without parole, and without your bill, I would still be there.

Several of them noted they would still be in prison today, and now they were back with their families. They are back in their communities. They are spending time and contributing to our society.

The reforms in the First Step Act have been tremendously successful. I want to put these numbers on the record because they are so important. Of the 29,944 incarcerated people released under the First Step Act reforms through January 2023, only 12.4 percent have been arrested for new crimes. By comparison, the overall recidivism rate in the Bureau of Prisons currently stands at nearly 43 percent—12 percent versus 43 percent. The success of the overwhelming majority of individuals released under the First Step Act demonstrates that reducing the population in our overcrowded prisons can be done safely and effectively, and it is the right thing to do.

It is however, as its name, just the first step. To keep making our justice system fairer and our communities safer, we must continue reforming our outdated sentencing laws and provide opportunities for those incarcerated to successfully return. I hope Congress will take many more steps in this direction toward more just criminal sentences.

There is a natural impulse—Mr. President, you know it; you have heard it; you have seen it—when we talk about narcotics and drug crime, to say: If we can just get tough, if we get the message out there that we are going to impose tough sentences, then they will stop using.

We tried it. It was a disastrous failure when it came to crack cocaine.

Let's not just get tough. Let's get smart when it comes to sentencing people. Let's realize an addiction is more than just a curse in the person's life. It is a medical situation that can be resolved many times, and we can do it if we work conscientiously to make America safer.

I hope that Congress takes steps in that direction for more just criminal sentences and wiser responses to the crisis of substance abuse in America.

And now I am going to turn the floor over to a man who has become a close friend and an ally in this effort.

When he first came to Congress, CORY BOOKER may have been new to the Federal level of this issue, but he certainly had ample experience when it came to State and local enforcement of drug laws because of the fact that he was the mayor of the city of Newark, NJ, of which he reminds us frequently—as he should.

He has led on this issue personally in his home and in his community. He has seen the devastation it can cause. He has the same hope that I do—that rather than just say no, these individuals are given a chance to find a new way in life to overcome their addiction and become contributing members across America.

I yield the floor to Senator BOOKER.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am pretty excited. In fact, let's just say this is the season of joy, and I feel such joy today.

The gentleman who just spoke, the Senator from Illinois, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is a man of heroic action. What we are marking today, this anniversary, is so much due to his work and steadfast leadership on these issues years before I came here. We are celebrating this moment of joy and a moment of deep, profound gratitude, and I want to give Senator DURBIN my deep thanks.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I want to thank CHUCK GRASSLEY. I want to thank MIKE LEE. I want to thank all of their staffs who worked so hard for this moment. This was truly a bipartisan effort and one of the best experiences I have had as a U.S. Senator.

In addition to that, we worked with the President's staff and his team to get to that bill and that moment. We had activists across the political spectrum, people like Mark Holden, who worked for Koch Industries, all the way to folks like Jessica Jackson and Dan Jones. We had not only activists but people who were directly impacted—advocating organizations, nonprofits—trying to bring justice to the justice system.

This bill was a product of compromise and shows what is possible in this institution when both sides come together on common ground. It was a recognition that had been growing that the criminal justice system needed reform and was devastating our Nation's

highest ideals and principles. We are a nation of liberty and justice for all.

Think about the backdrop to this. Think about all of the facts that were happening leading to this incredible accomplishment 5 years ago.

Our Federal prison system since 1980 had grown—exploded—by 800 percent. The United States of America, which professes freedom as its fundamental ideal, had more people incarcerated than any other nation on the planet Earth. One in four incarcerated people on our planet in the world was here in the United States of America. We had a system that was not based on justice or restorative justice but based on retribution and, in many ways, cruelty. We became captive of impulses of fear rather than the wisdom for healing and growth and security.

I was stunned when I first saw that data point that about a third of the adult Americans in our country—adults—had a criminal record. Think about the criminalization. Think about that. Over 5 million children in our country had a parent who was actually in jail or prison during their childhood.

This overreaction to the War on Drugs that did not—it was not a war on drugs but a war on people and disproportionately impacted certain people and not others. The African-American community is a great example. Because of this overincarceration, there were more Black folks in our country under criminal supervision—more Black men under criminal supervision than were enslaved in 1850. This is an affront to our ideals of liberty and justice.

We malign other countries for imprisoning journalists, for imprisoning politicians, imprisoning people who dare to protest the state, but in our country, whom do we imprison? The poor. The mentally ill. The addicted. Survivors of abuse and sexual assault. Black and Brown folks are way over-indexed in our prisons and jails. Any visit to an American jail will show in so many ways the failings of our system.

Instead of offering people help with substance abuse or mental illness, we were wasting billions of dollars, tearing families apart, destroying communities, and ultimately making communities less safe; investing billions of dollars in warehousing people—not in roads, not in bridges, but incarcerating human beings. In fact, between 1990 and 2005, a new prisoner jail opened in our country every 10 days. Think about that for a second. Our national treasure was being used not for education, not for research, not for roads, bridges, technology, but to warehouse human beings.

The perversity of the system was that it was making us less safe. People who were being released had recidivism rates that were so high because they weren't getting the help they needed. People incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses were coming out and facing over 40,000 collateral consequences

that stopped them from getting a job, from buying a home, from providing for their family.

Our system is supposed to be about justice, and what was happening in the early 2000s is that red States and blue States were starting to make an effort to reform their criminal justice systems. We saw States, from Georgia to New Jersey, lower their prison populations and lower crime at the same time, understanding that if you affirm people's dignity and give them pathways to health and well-being, you not only lower your prison population but you make communities safer and you make families more intact.

After decades of these failed policies, a group of bipartisan Senators, working with a Republican White House and House Members, crafted this legislation that has affected thousands of people's lives.

Senator DURBIN said it: The population that was liberated from unjust incarceration as a result of this bill has a lower recidivism rate than people who have served out full terms and come home, because the fullness of this bill wasn't just about liberating people from unjust incarceration but creating programs that could empower people in prison to pathways to better lives when they are coming out. It was logical, it was common sense, and that is why the rightwing think tanks and the leftwing tanks and all in between were supporting and advocating and pushing for this commonsense bill.

Five years after the passage of the First Step Act, we now have evidence that not only demonstrates its success but shatters the myth that criminal justice reform and public safety don't go hand in hand. As the Senator said, almost 30,000 individuals were released, and almost 9 in 10 have avoided re-arrest or reincarceration, compared to the 45-percent recidivism rate Senator DURBIN talked about.

Oh, but God, these are data. This is just statistics. What is powerful for me is meeting the human beings and their families, meeting the children who had their parents come home. Do you want to talk about joy? When this passed 5 years ago, I will never forget, right out those doors, as soon as it passed, as an impulse, I hugged CHUCK GRASSLEY because it was what I knew was going to happen. The holidays were really going to be about the American values, that the most sacrosanct thing we can have is liberty. The most severe thing the government can do is to take someone's liberty. We literally have slogans in our country—"Give me liberty or give me death."

To see people come up to you and saying: All hope was gone. I was sitting in the depths of incarceration, like Joseph thrown into the well, thrown into prison—no hope—but yet I found deliverance because of Republicans and Democrats who worked together for common sense.

I visited with those families. I have seen the impact on children. I have

seen the stories of grades improving in school. I have seen the stories of people who have come out of prison as we met, Senator, who have gone to work making their communities safer, doing violence intervention, helping other people not go the same way.

This is what happens when we affirm human dignity. This is what happens when we understand how powerful and urgent families are in America. This is what happens when we live the values we swear an oath to with our hand over our heart—liberty and justice for all.

So yes, today, again, I wish Senator GRASSLEY were here. I might try to hug him one more time in honor of the anniversary. But this is a time when we should be celebrating this incredible step toward justice.

But I will tell Senator DURBIN, we called this the First Step Act. I remember the press conferences we had, Republicans and Democrats standing together and saying: This is the first step, but we still have work to do because we are still a nation where the majority of women incarcerated are survivors of sexual violence. We are still a nation where people struggling with addiction more easily find jail than treatment. We are still a nation where our prisons and jails are filled with people who are mentally ill and need medical care that they do not receive. We are still a nation where you get better justice if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent.

So let us celebrate progress. Let us celebrate success. But let us double down again on making our Nation real for everyone because if you want to judge a nation, don't just look at the size of their military, the height of their towers. Go to the dark places. Go to the shadows on this holiday season, celebrating a man who focused on the least of these, as it says in Matthew 25. Did you visit me in prison? If you go there, you see the unfinished business.

If you celebrate this season, remember those who are in solitary confinement, remember those who are suffering unjustly, and remember those most in need of our empathy, our grace, our love.

The First Step Act was the height of my experiences as a Senator, but the United States of America and this greatest deliberative body—we can go higher.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague. He is outstanding as a Senator and extraordinary as a public speaker. I thank him very much for really driving the message home.

I am sure he would join me in adding our congratulations and thanks to dutiful staff members who worked without any kind of reluctance for months and years to get this project done.

I want to name two of them, and there are others—Joe Zogby, who is my

chief of staff on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Dan Swanson, who is no longer serving with me. Those two did an exceptional job on this issue and showed the kind of patience that was absolutely essential for success. So I want to add those to the list of those I have thanked.

Mr. BOOKER. Senator, I have four words: Joe Zogby for President.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to a particular problem in America's higher education system, a problem borne of unfairness and of mass subsidy from the American taxpayer. It has now metastasized into one of the most corrupt and one of the most politically active and politically hostile organizations in the United States of America, and that is elite colleges.

A lot of us have watched not just since the October 7 attacks on Israel but for over a decade as America's colleges seem less and less interested in education and more and more interested in teaching things like racial hatred and various forms of far-left ideology.

A lot of us ask ourselves: How is this possible? How is it that universities that should be responsive to the public will, responsive to their donors and alumnae, and responsive to their students—how is it that they can go so far, so fast, without any pushback?

The answer, my fellow Americans, is university endowments, which have grown incredibly large on the backs of subsidies from the taxpayers, and they have made these universities completely independent of any political, financial, or other pressure. That is why the university system in this country has gone so insane.

At just three universities—Harvard, MIT, and Penn—the endowments are approaching \$100 billion. That is as large as some of the largest hedge funds in America. In fact, Harvard, Penn, Yale—many of our Ivy League institutions and others beyond that—are little more than hedge funds with universities attached to them as pretend.

This must stop. It must stop because it has enabled political insanity. It must stop because it has burdened an entire generation of Americans with over \$1 trillion of student debt—student debt relief that many of my friends on the other side would like plumbers in Ohio to pay for. But I think, if the universities have caused the problem, they ought to pay for it, and if they paid for it, if they didn't have these massive endowments subsidized by taxpayers, then maybe they would be a little bit more responsive to the public will in the process.

I have advanced legislation that would do something very simple: take the hundreds of billions of dollars in large university endowments—not even all university endowments, just the

largest university endowments—and apply a tax to them. Right now, they pay a tax that is less than 2 percent on their net income—far lower than many of the working-class members of my own family and far lower than most Americans pay in taxes.

Why is it that we allow these massive hedge funds pretending to be universities to enjoy lower tax rates than most of our citizens—people who are struggling to put food on the table and buy Christmas presents this season? Yet they enjoy a far higher tax rate than these university endowments. It is insane, it is unfair, and I think we ought to fix it in this Chamber.

My friends on the other side will often talk about how the wealthy don't pay their fair share in taxes. If the wealthy don't pay their fair share in taxes, there is no institution in this country that is a bigger offender than these massive endowments that pay almost nothing.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3514, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, we hear often about this matter of taxing college endowments, that somehow this is going to address college affordability and make the Tax Code, you know, more fair.

I am the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and I gather that my colleague has just introduced this legislation—maybe as recently as today. I think it is appropriate that before we start making tax policy on the floor of the U.S. Senate, we have a chance to actually have the Senate look at some of the details.

For example, if we are going to talk about tax fairness, I will just say to the Senator from Ohio that I welcome that. I am the author of the bill to say that billionaires, who now, under the current Tax Code, can go for years and years paying little or no taxes—I am the author of the proposal that would change it. All you have to do is change three words: buy, borrow, and die. That is how they do it—buy, borrow, die, and pay little or nothing for years on end.

So what we ought to do is take the Senator's ideas and anybody else's, you know, ideas and bring them to the Senate Finance Committee. I will tell you I have not seen any evidence in the past about how, somehow, the kind of tax my colleague wants to levy is going to somehow make things better for students, which is what I want to do.

This tax legislation has not been considered by the Senate Finance Committee. That is the correct place to hold a robust discussion about fairness

and affordability. For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

11TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, a few days ago, I was with one of the parents from Sandy Hook Elementary School who lost her son 11 years ago today. She talked about this being the time of the year where she starts to spiral.

Today is a day when we are thinking about all of those parents, about all of those brothers and sisters who, this morning, had to relive the morning that they went through 11 years ago, December 14, 2012, when 20 sets of parents kissed their first graders goodbye as they dropped them off for school and never ever saw them again.

It is a fate that none of us would ever wish on another human being. For those of us who have never experienced the death of a child, there is no way for us to understand what those parents and what those families are going through.

One mother of a child who was lost in Sandy Hook had a tactic that she would use in those early days. She would pretend that her son was just at a friend's house on a playdate to convince herself, as best she could, that he wasn't dead, that he was just visiting a friend around the corner. It was the only way that she could clean up the house, get through her daily work. But then, all of a sudden, it would come flooding back to her that he wasn't at a friend's house; he wasn't around the corner; he was never, ever coming home. The things you have to do on a daily basis to try to process the loss of a child, they are unfathomable to most of us.

I have kind of run out of things to say about these amazing kids and these amazing adults—the adults who protected them that day, the children who would be turning 18 this year.

In Connecticut, we wear our hearts really heavy, but we also get to celebrate all of the things that have happened because so many of these families took their grief and they turned it into action and they turned it into change. So many of these families have started not-for-profit organizations and started charities to try to change other people's lives. Many of these families have been deeply engaged in the work of trying to make sure that mass shootings never happen again.

There has been a lot of joy and many miracles that have resulted from this awful tragedy. It does not square the moral order of the universe, but it is important to pay tribute to the way in which so many members of the Sandy Hook and Newtown community, as well as so many families who are directly affected by this shooting, have been able to manage through the grief and perform miracles at the same time.

We just need to make a decision as a country as to whether we want to live

in a world in which this carnage continues.

This isn't an accident. It isn't bad luck. It is just a choice. It is just a choice we have made to put our kids in jeopardy every single day that they go to school—for kids who live in my neighborhood, in the south end of Hartford, put them in jeopardy every day when they walk to and from school. It is a choice that we make, and we could make a different choice.

So today is a day for me that I think about all of my friends in Sandy Hook, that I think back on that day, being there at the firehouse that was serving as the emergency response hub, being outside the room as parents were told that their children were lying dead on the floor of their elementary school.

But it is also a day in which I remember that we are not helpless. This is also a day in which I recommit myself to the notion that I, as a Member of the U.S. Senate, have something to contribute to the work necessary to make sure that kids never ever, ever face this fate again.

Today, on the 11th anniversary, I have a little bit more hope than I had on the 10th or the 9th or the 8th or the 7th or the 6th or the 5th or the 4th or the 2nd or the 1st anniversary.

Why? Because last year, Republicans and Democrats came together in this Senate in the wake of another mass school shooting, tragically reminiscent of Sandy Hook—the shooting in Uvalde, TX—and we acted. We put aside our political differences. We passed the first serious gun safety measure in 30 years. Even though forces outside of this building opposed it, we decided to come together because we thought we had an obligation to make this country safer, to try to make it a little bit less likely that a parent has to wake up on a morning of the anniversary of their child's death and try to figure out how to survive it. And why, this year, I feel more hopeful and more confident is because we now have data, we now have results in the wake of the passage of last year's legislation.

Right now, as we speak, we are tracking for there to be a 12-percent reduction in gun murders in this country from 2022 to 2023. That would be the biggest ever one-year reduction in gun murders in our lifetime.

What does that mean? It means that 8 or 10 fewer people are dying every day from gun violence. What does that mean? It means that 110, rather than 120, people are dying of gun violence. That is not an acceptable result, but it is proof of concept that when we change the laws to honor the death of so many innocents, we prevent the death of innocents in the future.

So today is a day when I relive that moment 11 years ago today. It is a day when I reach out to my friends in Sandy Hook to tell them how much of my heart is with them. But this year, on the 11th anniversary, it is a day in which I have confidence that if we con-

tinue to do the hard work of changing our gun laws to make it harder for dangerous people to have weapons and harder for anybody to have the most dangerous weapons—the kind of weapons that were used to kill these kids and teachers—that we can save lives.

In 1 year, we have seen the biggest drop in gun murders in our lifetime. It is a result of legislation that we passed, and it is a signal to us of what we can achieve in the future.

I thank my colleagues for what we did last year. I thank my colleagues for making it possible to show the families in Newtown and the victims of gun violence all across this country what is possible. And on the 11-year mark of that tragedy in Sandy Hook, I compel my friends in the Senate to do more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that we begin the noon scheduled vote immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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. 304, Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, John W. Hickenlooper, Mark Kelly, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 344 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rooney
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Capito	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cornyn	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Fischer	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Schmitt
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Britt	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Budd	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Menendez	Vance
Cruz	Mullin	
Daines	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Blumenthal	Hagerty	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE

CALENDAR

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask the Senate to confirm Ron Keohane to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

In this role, Mr. Keohane will be the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense on all matters relating to the civilian and military personnel policies. He is extremely well-qualified for this role, previously serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

We need someone with Mr. Keohane's sense of experience to oversee and develop policies to support our servicemembers and their families, as well as to oversee our DOD schools. Strong leadership is also essential to address our military recruiting crisis.

I recently held a hearing in my subcommittee, which the Senator from North Carolina attended, that identified a long list of areas where our military services can continue to step up to inspire more young people to serve. They need someone like Mr. Keohane to make sure that the services actually follow through.

No one is disputing Mr. Keohane's qualifications. The Senate Armed Services Committee voted unanimously to advance his nomination. The only reason that Mr. Keohane's nomination has not already been approved is because

the Senator from North Carolina is willing to play politics with our national defense.

As we all know by now, the Senator from North Carolina disagrees with the Department of Defense's policy to help members of the military and their families access healthcare, specifically reproductive healthcare. Republican Senators claim they wanted a vote on DOD's policy on abortion; but just this week, they lost a vote to move forward toward overturning that policy. So if they can't get it on a straight-up vote, they are now blocking Mr. Keohane out of spite.

Last week, after months of undermining our national security, the Senator from Alabama backed down with nothing to show for his nearly yearlong blockade of promotions for hundreds of senior military officials—nothing to show, that is, except for the long-term damage he inflicted on our military personnel, on their families, and on our military readiness.

So now the Senator from North Carolina is stopping well-qualified nominees. He has no specific objection to this nominee. In fact, the Senator serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee that unanimously advanced Mr. Keohane's nomination. But the Senator from North Carolina now blocks the confirmation of Mr. Keohane.

We need leaders at the Department of Defense. Blocking these confirmations is corrosive to our national security.

Our Nation cannot continue to hold key national security officials hostage. We must put the safety and well-being of our servicemembers first. Our greatest strength as a nation is our people, and we need a confirmed leader like Mr. Keohane to make sure that our servicemembers have everything they need to succeed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 109, Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. President, Mr. Keohane has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, which is the senior leadership role in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. This is the very office responsible for the Department of Defense's abortion travel policy.

I have been very clear with the Pentagon since the day that I placed a hold on Mr. Keohane that I would be happy to release it if Secretary Austin would rescind this abhorrent policy.

This policy has been politicized. It has politicized the military. It has harmed the institutional norms of our country.

Beyond the clear violation of basic morality, Congress never authorized the Department to use taxpayer funds to facilitate elective abortions. Now for the Biden administration to begin such a policy and use taxpayer resources to aid in the taking of unborn life, it defies the will of Congress. And it violates the spirit—if not the letter—of the law. Now taxpayers—many of whom have deeply held religious and moral objections to abortions—they are on the hook to facilitate the very abortions that they fundamentally oppose.

Worse yet, the Pentagon's stated reason for issuing the policy was that the Supreme Court Dobbs decision had "readiness, recruiting, and retention implications." This is total nonsense. The Pentagon was, and is still able, to provide any data or evidence to support their claim. For the administration to cling to this policy is just wrong.

At the end of the day, whether it was the hundreds of holds from my colleague from Alabama or my hold on Mr. Keohane, the reason to resolve and the power to resolve this situation, it begins and ends with the power of one man, and that is Secretary Lloyd Austin. With the stroke of a pen, Secretary Austin can fix this situation and end the impasse. It is time for him to do the right thing and to rescind the policy now.

I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I think what the Senator from North Carolina has just said is he doesn't like the abortion policy that the Department of Defense has adopted.

He is right. It is a new policy. It is a policy that was made necessary because an extremist Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade* with the Dobbs opinion and forced the military to have to decide how to deal with access to healthcare, access to abortions for people who were now involuntarily stationed in States where that care was no longer available.

The Senator, and all of the Republicans, were offered a vote on the Department of Defense's policy. And we voted just this week on a measure that would move toward that vote. And it failed. In other words, the Republicans who oppose this policy simply don't have the votes.

So instead of yielding to the will of the majority and letting this policy go through without a problem, instead, they play politics with the people who are trying to serve our Nation.

That Mr. Keohane gets caught in this—someone who is willing to serve our Nation and, most importantly, right now, to help our servicemembers live their best opportunities in the

military at a time when we are having recruiting challenges, is just putting politics ahead of the defense of the United States; it is putting politics ahead of our servicemembers and putting politics ahead of our servicemembers' families.

I think this is fundamentally wrong. They had a vote; they lost; they don't like it; and they are holding Mr. Keohane just out of spite.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3533

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk a few minutes about seafood.

In many respects, at least in terms of our physical health, we are what we eat, and Americans have been eating a lot more seafood, which is good for you.

A lot of people don't know this. I didn't until I researched. Ninety-four percent of the seafood sold in the United States is imported—94 percent. That is a pretty extraordinary figure. Of the various types of seafood, shrimp represents the highest volume of imports of total edible fishery products.

Given that this seafood is imported, we have to be careful. For that reason, Congress created what we call the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. I am going to call it SIMP, S-I-M-P. So if I say "SIMP," you will know what I am talking about. SIMP's job is to make sure that these foreign imports are safe—safe to eat for the American people.

SIMP has jurisdiction over 13 different species groups and about—well, over 1,100 unique species. As I said, that includes shrimp and red snapper but almost all forms of seafood that are grown overseas, are produced overseas and imported—or exported, I should say, to the United States.

Now, this sounds simple, but it is not. SIMP's job is to ask questions. SIMP wants to know how the seafood was caught. SIMP wants to know the conditions under which the seafood was farmed, if it is a domestic product. If the seafood has been processed, SIMP wants to know how it was processed, what the final form was supposed to look like and what it actually does look like.

SIMP is supposed to keep us safe. Part of the way that SIMP keeps us safe is to inspect the product—not just look at the reporting requirements that the foreign producers give to SIMP but actually look at the product, whether it is the raw seafood or whether it is processed. SIMP inspects it.

In fiscal year 2020, SIMP—once again, the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, SIMP—and its auditing team

completed 1,131 investigations. That is the good news. The bad news is, that was only 1 percent—1 percent—of all of the imports.

Of the audits or investigations—the inspections, if you will—that SIMP did, about 40 percent of those were on shrimp. Of the 40 percent that SIMP did on shrimp, 35 percent were found to be not in compliance with the rules. Thirty-five percent was unsafe.

This is serious business. Unlike most of our domestic producers, a lot of the producers in foreign countries try to produce their shrimp or their seafood on the cheap. They raise the product in filthy water. They don't have rigorous standards for processing the product if they take the raw product and turn it into a final product. Oftentimes, many of these foreign producers shoot the shrimp and other forms of seafood, like red snapper, with antibiotics, which, of course, if you eat enough of them, makes you resistant to those antibiotics if you get sick in another way that the antibiotics could cure.

I mean, let me just be blunt. Some of this product is unsafe. It will make you grow an extra ear. And that is why we have SIMP, is to say: Wait a minute. You can't sell this in the United States.

Once again, of the 1,100-and-change inspections that SIMP did in fiscal year 2020, 40 percent were shrimp, and SIMP found that 35 percent of that 40 percent failed the test.

SIMP is able to inspect, as I said, 1 percent of this exported—for us, imported—seafood. One percent. It needs to be doing 10 percent. It needs to be doing 10 percent, and my bill would help them do 10 percent. My bill would provide additional funding for additional seafood inspections on imported seafood, and we would be asking SIMP to go from 1 percent inspections of all imported seafood to 10 percent.

Now, there is no free lunch, Mr. President, and you don't get one now. My bill costs money. It will cost \$36 million. In the grand scheme of our spending, that is not much, but \$36 million is a lot of money. And I didn't want to come up here and just offer a bill that was a money suck; I wanted to come up here and say: Look, we have a problem. It will cost \$36 million to solve it, and here is where the money is going to come from.

The money, the \$36 million, will come from the money that has been appropriated—the extra billions of dollars that have been appropriated—to the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS, believe me, will never miss the \$36 million. The IRS wastes that much money between bites of oatmeal at breakfast.

If we do this bill, people can enjoy their seafood, and they can appreciate the fact that it is safe.

So for that reason, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3533, which is at the desk—and S. 3533, as I just indicated, is the Seafood Import Monitoring Pro-

gram Audits bill—and I further ask that the bill 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. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I just heard about this legislative idea a few minutes ago. So I really have very little information about it.

But what I can tell you is, we already know what the bottom line is. The amendment offered by the Senator from Louisiana will hurt honest taxpayers and will help wealthy tax cheats. That is the bottom line.

Now, I am all for seafood inspections. We have got loads of seafood in our part of the world. But I want to take just a minute to talk about the reasons that Members of this body ought to oppose the legislation.

First—and the Congressional Budget Office has made this point—this amendment uses the fake offset of cutting IRS funding. The cut in IRS funding included in this amendment doesn't pay for an increase in seafood inspections; it increases the deficit. And the reason I say that is because that is what the Congressional Budget Office says about these ideas.

The Congressional Budget Office are the folks that we put in place to give us objective, nonpolitical analyses of various important ideas. The Congressional Budget Office are the people that we use on the Finance Committee regularly, and the Congressional Budget Office has said that every dollar cut from the IRS budget reduces revenue by \$2. And that increases the deficit.

Second, this has given a big pass to wealthy tax cheats. People need to know that the reason there is a focus on IRS enforcement is because the wealthy tax cheats have the lawyers and accountants, and they have all kinds of ways to get around the rules. The working families that we represent—the folks in Michigan, the automobile workers—pay taxes with every single paycheck. We know what kind of financing they have because they pay with every check. It is the wealthy tax cheats that we have to deal with.

And I just say to my friend, the kind of person that he has given a pass to is—we recently found almost a thousand millionaires who didn't even file a tax return. Not one of the scams—they didn't even file a tax return, almost a thousand millionaires. The Federal Government lost more than \$30 billion just on that.

So the Senate ought to be focusing on making sure that we have tough IRS enforcement, that we have the funding to improve services for all taxpayers—all of them—and, particularly, ending the free ride, once and for all, for wealthy tax cheats.

And the service has gone up. We have seen reduction in waiting times for calls from 28 minutes to 3 minutes.

I wish I had time to have a more extended exchange with my colleague. We are, right now, in our caucus meeting having debates on important issues.

But I would just say, in the future, if my colleague could even give us 15- or 20-minutes' notice, we could maybe have a more extended discussion.

The people who get help here are wealthy tax cheats. The people who are hurt here are honest taxpayers. And for that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, look, I understand Senator WYDEN's point of view. I don't think he meant this, but I don't want to leave anyone with the impression that he didn't know about this bill and that all of my colleagues didn't know about this bill.

We have something called a hotline. And when we have a bill and we want to try to move it on the floor, we, through this hotline, notify well in advance every Senator: Hey, KENNEDY is coming to the floor at this time, on this day, with his bill. If you object to it, you can come down and object.

That hotline was sent to Senator WYDEN. It was sent to all the other 98 of my colleagues. It was sent to every single Senator, and we do hotlines every day.

So if he was surprised, I am sorry. But that is between him and his staff.

Point two, I appreciate Senator WYDEN's point of view. He is a smart gentleman. He is smart enough to know this has nothing to do with wealthy tax cheats. This has to do with safe seafood for the American people.

The bill would have cost \$36 million. It would come from the IRS. No Republican Senator voted for it. My Democratic colleagues gave the IRS \$80 billion extra—\$80 billion extra—to go out and audit the American people. This will take \$36 million of it to make sure that they are still alive when the IRS audits them because they may not be eating dangerous shrimp full of antibiotics.

Does the IRS need all \$80 billion? Of course not. How do I know that? Don't take KENNEDY's word for it. Take the word of the gentleman who asked us to pass the bill: President Biden. He has already told us the IRS doesn't need the full \$80 billion. He offered up \$20 billion to us for this year's budget to spend on other things.

So the idea that the world is going to spin off its axis—and wealthy tax cheats and all of this other foolishness—is just not accurate. I say that with all respect to my colleague, Senator WYDEN.

I will be back. For \$36 million, we can protect the American people. I can promise you that the seafood board will spend that money better than the Internal Revenue Service. That is faint praise, but I can promise you that will happen.

My final point, I appreciate the opportunity to present this bill. Be careful what you eat, particularly if it is imported seafood. I am not kidding you. If you are eating seafood, given the statistics, you are probably eating foreign seafood, and this stuff can be dangerous. I mean it. Some of this product has enough antibiotics in it that you will grow an extra ear. And you don't want that.

The best way to be safe is to eat domestic seafood—good old American seafood. But if you don't, if you are going to eat foreign seafood, be very, very careful.

I will be back with a very common-sense approach to try to solve that problem, and I am sorry we couldn't do it today.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your time, and I thank Senator WYDEN. And I wish both of you a Merry, Merry Christmas.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection was heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6503

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, over the next 2 weeks, more than 7.5 million Americans will fly to see loved ones and to celebrate the holidays—a record number.

This is no easy feat. A seamless travel experience depends on airlines, on air traffic controllers, on airport managers, on TSA screeners all working together for the aviation system to run efficiently during times of extreme strain like the holiday season.

At the center of this effort is the Federal Aviation Administration, but there is one problem: The FAA's authorities are set to expire at the end of the year.

Without the FAA extension, air travel and air cargo for those counting on quick shipping during Christmas and New Year's will be severely impacted. At the moment, we face a potential challenge of not extending the FAA's authorities because of the objections of a Senate Democrat.

This is irresponsible and, frankly, bad for the safety Agency's ability to operate effectively. For the past year, Senator CANTWELL, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and myself have worked to pass a long-term FAA authorization. The authorization we drafted on a bipartisan basis addresses airport infrastructure, workforce challenges, ATC staffing, protections for passengers, the safety framework, manufacturing. I could go on.

It is an important bill that makes progress toward solving some of the challenges facing aviation, but we need to make sure we get it right. We now find ourselves having to pass a second short-term FAA authorization in less than 6 months, without even having gotten the bill through committee.

This situation was entirely avoidable, but special interests, in particular the pilots' unions like ALPA, have decided that if they can't get

their way, then the American people should pay the price.

There have been several times throughout this process where we thought we had a deal, but, inevitably, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, often spurred on by the union, have tanked these agreements.

Each month, it seems, there is a new issue we are told cannot be in the FAA bill because the unelected special interests are opposed to it. First, it was a modest reform to update pilot training. Then it was raising the retirement age for pilots. Imagine telling a perfectly healthy 66-year-old pilot who wants to fly, no, you can't fly anymore because your union has decided that younger pilots—with a lifetime of union dues still to pay—are more important than you are.

What next will unelected, unaccountable, special interests tell Senate Democrats that we are not allowed to have in the FAA bill?

Let me be clear. Short-term extensions are not good for the FAA. This extension until March should be the last extension. I am not satisfied with kicking the can down the road. I don't presume to speak on behalf of my partner in this effort, Senator CANTWELL, but I am certain that she doesn't want to continue kicking the can down the road either.

I would prefer that we pass a serious, multiyear authorization, such as the bill Senator CANTWELL and I agreed to in June, but, unfortunately, in the months since that stalled markup, we have not made substantial progress, and we still have numerous outstanding provisions.

I am very concerned that given the time we have, the limited progress we have made, and the constant moving goalposts in bill negotiations, that we are getting to the point that we will be forced to extend the FAA's authority until 2025.

I don't want to do that. I don't think Chair CANTWELL wants to do that either. We need to get this bill done, and I am still committed to trying to do so if it is a bill that is actually bipartisan and not a special interest wish list that ignores very real problems like the pilot shortage.

In a moment, I will ask unanimous consent for the Senate to pass the FAA extension, which will last until March 8. The House earlier this week voted 376 to 15 to pass this legislation. The Senate cannot leave for the holidays without passing an extension.

Without an extension, here is what would happen: No. 1, all airport construction projects using FAA grants would immediately stop. No. 2, the FAA would lose the ability to make new expenditures from the aviation trust fund, causing many employees in airports, facilities and equipment, and R&D offices to be immediately furloughed. No. 3, special authorizations for drone operations would expire. No. 4, airlines would have no authority to

collect ticket taxes that fund the aviation trust fund.

In 2011, the last time the FAA's authorization lapsed, more than 4,000 FAA employees were furloughed, and the FAA lost more than \$400 million. The 2-week lapse halted billions of dollars' worth of construction projects and impacted more than 70,000 construction jobs.

Leaving town without giving the FAA the certainty to operate would be a mistake. I remain committed to working with Senator CANTWELL to negotiate a truly bipartisan FAA bill that the Agency, the industry, and the flying public deserve.

And with that, I yield the floor to the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Texas Senator CRUZ, and I appreciate his leadership. He is here to make the effort to see that we reauthorize, on a temporary basis, the FAA. He is absolutely right; it has to be done before the end of the year. We are creating more uncertainty every day, every hour that we fail to do so. It is regrettable that the Senator from Texas is here to do that. It is almost a question in my mind, When do we have an agreement that is not an agreement?

We have been down this path several times now in which we believe we are ready to markup, only to find that something else stands in the way.

I was here earlier today to talk about the importance of a long-term reauthorization. And while I am here to support the short-term extension, only to get us to the point of a long-term reauthorization, it is significant that we do what we need to do today, and that means it is then an opportunity for us to complete our work in the early year—the few first weeks of January 2024.

We came together to confirm an FAA Administrator. We can do this. We did it 98 to zero. I implore my colleagues to allow this opportunity to have this short-term extension take place, and, most importantly, I implore my colleagues that we find this path forward for the safety of those Kansans and the safety of Americans who utilize our airways.

Our country's economic interests, our public's safety interests all come together. It is a mistake for us to have short-term extension after short-term extension. One last time, let's do it today and complete our work.

We should be able to do this, and I ask that we extend the FAA today and complete our work in January. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his efforts to accomplish that goal.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, at this point, I yield to the Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, in the past year, we have witnessed one aviation

failure after another from the Biden administration. They began the year by nominating someone to head the Federal Aviation Administration who didn't seem to know the first thing about aviation.

The administration's Secretary of Transportation has presided over a series of, shall we say, transportation challenges. From near-miss incidents to the first nationwide ground stop since 9/11, the Department doesn't seem to have a handle on its basic function, and that is looking out for the safety of the traveling public.

Now Senate Democrats are blocking the FAA from being reauthorized right before the holidays. And the consequences of this lack of action, it could be really severe. The FAA would lose the ability to collect revenue and spend money from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. That would be disastrous, as the aviation trust fund is one of the few funds in Washington that actually runs a surplus each year.

The Airport and Airway Trust Fund finances important safety improvements for airports across the country, and any lapse in authorization threatens to halt new and existing construction projects.

The FAA would also lose the ability to hire new air traffic controllers at a time when key facilities are experiencing staffing shortages.

Finally, a lapse in authorization could mean 10 percent of FAA's workforce will be furloughed on January 1. Simply put, families who are trying to visit their friends and loved ones for the holidays, they shouldn't have to endure more hoops, hurdles, and delays.

America, we have the best aviation system in the world, and we can't let politics get in the way of that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6503, which was received from the House; further, that the bill 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, it is good to be here on the floor with my colleagues. I actually was going to talk about the FAA, but I came out here, and I got accused by the Senator from Texas of being irresponsible. And my friend Phil Washington, who is up for the FAA, was attacked for not knowing anything about airports.

So I just want to address those two things before I go into my remarks. One, to the gentleman from North Carolina, Phil Washington knows a considerable amount about transportation and aviation in this country.

That was ignored by the Senator from Texas. It is being ignored this afternoon by the Senator from North Carolina.

He runs Denver International Airport. That is one of the largest airports in the United States of America. It is an airport that has been built more recently than any other airport in the United States of America. It has the third largest traffic in the world. It now has the United hub there. I was just talking to the President of United yesterday, CEO. They have more traffic coming through there than they do in Chicago.

So, for the record, let me just say, Phil Washington knows a lot about this, and I am sorry that his nomination didn't go forward. That is not why we are here today.

Let me also say, since he called me irresponsible, that it is nice to hear the Senator from Texas come out here and plead for some regular order, in terms of how our government should work, to worry about the fact that people could be furloughed or laid off; that they are uncertain of the future because the bill is not permanent.

These were all concerns he did not have the last time we were on the floor together when he had shut the government down while Colorado was literally underwater because of floods, when we were out here having that crocodile tears speech the last time, and I am glad that he has reconsidered all of that and that he wants the FAA to run in a proper fashion.

But I don't think it is irresponsible for me to be here today to object, and I will object to this request because I think it is critically important for us to use this moment to fulfill our obligations in the world, to the United States' national security, and to our commitment to democracy both here and throughout the Western world.

The Ukrainian people were invaded 2 years ago by Vladimir Putin. They didn't ask for that. By a tyrant. They did not ask for that.

The intelligence agencies told us that Kyiv would be taken in 72 hours. That is what they said it would take. My colleague from the Intelligence Committee is here on the floor, and he knows that. They were told that Putin would be able to install a puppet government in Ukraine and be able to dictate the future of the Ukrainian people, be able to keep Ukraine from being part of the West.

Well, as sometimes happens in human history, they were completely wrong. They were completely wrong. The Ukrainian people, much to the surprise of the entire world, because of their courage, because of their bravery, because of our support—both our intelligence support and the armaments that we have been able to ship them, which, by the way, have allowed us to restart our own national security efforts because we are building those weapons systems here in 38 States—the Ukrainian people have taken back half

the territory that Putin took from them. Nobody would have ever believed that.

The Ukrainian people and their military have pushed Putin's navy out of the Black Sea without even having a navy. They have no navy, and those guys are so unbelievable that they have taken the tools that they have created and that we have given them to push Putin out of the Black Sea and to reopen those incredibly important grain shipments to the rest of the world to keep the rest of the world in this war. They have won battle after battle after battle.

I hear people around here—it is so tiresome—say that the stalemate on the frontlines between Zelenskyy and Putin, between Ukraine and the Russian troops, is somehow a failure for Ukraine on their part. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is a miracle—actually, it is not a miracle because they did it through their blood, sweat, and tears. It is a testament to the sacrifice that the Ukrainian people have gone through, to what their troops have gone through, to the number of Russian troops and Russian artillery that they have taken off the battlefield, that they have created a stalemate in this war. That is not an admission of failure; that is an admission of success.

What we are trying to figure out today, when we go into this long winter, when Putin is on television today saying that the Ukrainians are out of bullets, that the United States is going to stop funding the Ukrainian people, telling the Western world, the free world, which has been so inspired by what the Ukrainian people have done, so inspired by their courage and their bravery that they have come together, with the leadership of the United States, to strengthen NATO in ways nobody could have imagined, and to have free citizens all over the world say to people like the Senator from Texas and me: Do more. Do more. Do more.

That is what they are doing during this Christmas season. They are fighting for their lives. They are fighting for democracy. They don't get to say "OK, it is time to go home" 11 days before Christmas has happened. Their fight is our fight. Their fight is our fight.

(Ms. BUTLER assumes the Chair.)

Madam President, I held up the budget bill a few months—by the way, it is very nice to see the Senator from California in the Chair. I have never seen you up there. Good to see you.

I held the budget bill several months ago on this floor because it had no funding for Ukraine, even though we said that we would fund Ukraine, because there was no plan to get it funded. On the single most important thing we have in front of the world, not just the Senate of the United States, we had no plan to fund Ukraine, and I thought that was a lousy message to send, and it was a lousy message to

send. We left here without funding it. Actually, it turned out we left here without a Speaker of the House.

We left here with bright lights flashing on the institutional incompetence of our own democracy, which, by the way, that is not a great look for the United States of America. And what happened? We left, and a death cult called Hamas killed 1,400 Israelis while we were gone, and now we have a war going on in the Middle East. The world is an unpredictable place.

I am encouraged because a few days ago, it looked to me like this deal was dead. A few days ago, I was facing the prospect of calling up my mom, who was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1938, who is still alive—the worst moment probably in human history to be born Jewish and the worst place on the planet to be born when she was born—who can't believe she has lived long enough, and thank God she has lived long enough—but she would say: I can't believe I have lived long enough to see another land war break out in Europe. But she has, and it happened.

I thought I was going to have to be in a position of saying to my mother: We haven't learned anything from history. We haven't learned anything about the 16 million people who were killed in the years after she was born just in Poland and just in Ukraine, just in those two countries, by Hitler and by Stalin. We haven't learned anything. We are too tired. We are too busy. We are too distracted by the other stuff that is going on in the United States of America to actually do our work—which, by the way, no other country in the world can do. There is no other country in the world that can turn on the leadership that we can provide. There is no other country in the world that can provide the munitions we are providing.

I want to say again to the American people that virtually 90 percent of the armaments that we are sending to Ukraine are being made here in the United States of America, 38 States—Colorado is not one of them—putting people to work all over the United States, driving incomes up but also, more important than that, making us ready in a world where Hamas has attacked Israel, where Putin has invaded Ukraine, where Xi is watching every single day to see whether we are going to turn our backs on our allies in the free world who have done everything that anybody here could have asked for. In fact, nobody would have ever asked for it because nobody here would have believed it was possible. No one would have believed it was possible. And for what, by the way? Zelenskyy told us in the first Zoom call we had with President Zelenskyy: Just so we can live our lives the way you live your lives.

He said the other day, in front of the Democrats and Republicans who came to see him when he was here, that he thought he could win if we continued to supply him but that he would lose if we didn't continue to supply him.

He said: Either way, we are going to fight to the death—either way, with your help or without your help. One way, we will be successful. The other way, we are going to lose.

He said: The reason why we are going to do that is because the Ukrainian people love freedom, because the Ukrainian people want to live their lives the way you live your lives.

I mentioned the Middle East. Every day—and I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say every single day Iran is now attacking our troops in Iraq. The Houthis are sending their missiles to attack shipping around Israel and around the Middle East.

There are flashing red lights going on all over the Middle East, and the Israelis have to worry about another front opening up there.

Finally, of course, China is watching what we are doing as well.

I would never have attached these border issues to the Ukraine bill. I would never have attached these immigration issues to the Ukraine bill. But some Republican colleagues have done it because they have said: This is an important bill. We are going to use this to leverage our concerns about immigration or the border.

I have a lot of concerns about a lot of things. I think our education system doesn't work well for poor kids in this country at all. I think our healthcare system doesn't work well for the American people. But I am not attaching those to this piece of business.

But I have heard Republicans who support Ukraine who have said they need to do this in order for us to have a bipartisan bill. I have heard the President of the United States say our immigration system is broken. I have heard the Homeland Security adviser, the Secretary of Homeland Security, say the same thing.

I will tell you, I think the American people do not want an immigration system that is run by transnational smuggling rings, transnational gangs that are sending people to the border of the United States at record numbers. I don't think the American people want that.

So if there is a way for us to have a negotiation here that can get us to a good result for the American people on immigration and on the border, and that is the price people have said they are going to insist on, I have been willing to have that discussion, and I will be willing to have that discussion. It is one of the other reasons why I think we shouldn't leave.

But as I said a few days ago, we were making no progress. Now, finally, we are making some progress, and the world is watching what we do here, and we can't fail. Given how screwed up American politics can be, it can make you wonder whether we ought to take an extra day or a day after that or an extra few days or whether we ought to just stay here and do the work or whether we ought to move on to other things, like the FAA bill, before we are done.

I know I have tested your patience, and I have tested the patience of the Senator from Texas, I am sure, this afternoon, and I am going to stop. But I want to finish by saying, at least speaking for myself, I don't think there is anything that anybody who is here will ever do in this Senate that is going to be more important than the vote we are going to take on additional funding for Ukraine.

I think we are going to either establish or reestablish America's very special place in this world and our leadership of free countries and democracies around the world or we are going to squander that in the face of what Putin is already telling us he is going to do, in the face of what the Iranians are already doing to our soldiers who are in the Middle East, and in the face of what Xi Jinping is thinking about with respect to Taiwan.

The authoritarian leaders in this world think they have a better way of running human affairs than democracy. I think they are wrong.

When the Ukrainian people have fought as hard as they have for the last 2 years and eclipsed any expectation that anybody could have had for them, the least we can do is continue our support.

Finally, let me say, as I close, that it is going to be really important for us to get back to a place where we can have a bipartisan discussion about how to create a functional immigration system in America.

Now, I am not just talking about the border. Immigration has been a fundamentally important part of our country's history, and it will be a fundamentally important part of our country's future. It is a massive advantage that the United States has over other countries around the world when it is working well. And there are people all over the world who want to be here. No one is crossing the Gobi Desert to get into Beijing, and we should be happy about that. They want to come here.

One of the highlights of my life has been in 2013, when I was part of the Gang of 8 here that negotiated an immigration bill that had a pathway to citizenship for 11 million people that were undocumented. It had the most progressive Dream Act that had ever been written. It had all the visa stuff for farmers and ranchers and for business people. It had \$40 billion in border security to strengthen our southern border and be able to say to the American people that we are taking that seriously. Unfortunately, it didn't pass.

And times have changed since then. You know, these transnational gangs have made it their business to make billions of dollars sending people to the southern border every single day, and we have to take notice of that. We are going to have to adjust. But I hope that doesn't mean there won't be a day that comes back where we have a chance to do it in a bipartisan way.

In the meantime, we have to get our work done in Ukraine. In the meantime, we shouldn't leave. In the meantime, I don't think we should move on to other pieces of legislation. For all those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, early in his remarks, the Senator from Colorado said the last time he and I were on this floor debating was when I had shut down the government and he was stepping forward to save those who had been shut down. Now, that would be entirely accurate if my name were CHUCK SCHUMER; but since it is not, what the Senator from Colorado said is blatantly, objectively false.

The last time he and I were doing this, the date was January 24, 2019. We were in the midst of the Schumer shutdown. CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrats had forced a shutdown. The Government was shut down, and there was a particularly unfair aspect of that shutdown, which is that Congress had voted to fund the military—the Army, the Navy, the Marines, and the Air Force—but the Coast Guards had been left out because the Coast Guards are not in DOD, they had been left out. On January 24, 2019, Senator SULLIVAN and I came down to this floor to seek equity for the Coast Guard, to simply say: Pay our Coast Guardsmen the same as our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and the Senator from Colorado stood up and objected. So understand, what he just said is exactly opposite of what happened.

Our Coast Guardsmen went weeks in 2019 without being paid during that shutdown because the Senator from Colorado objected to their getting a paycheck. And during his remarks on that day, he jumped up and down and screamed at me and insulted me to great fanfare. And I think he was proud of his performance, because he then put it in his launch email for his Presidential campaign that “I screamed at Cruz.”

Now, I suppose I should feel mildly offended that that was not a persuasive argument in the Democratic primary and he got maybe a percent.

That was the last contest: shutting down the Coast Guard where the Senator from Colorado was responsible for tens of thousands of Coast Guardsmen not getting their paychecks.

Understand where we are today. Today, the question is, does the FAA stay open or not? And once again, the Senator from Colorado is the shutdown Senator. The FAA extension would pass had he not said those two words “I object.”

Now, we heard from the Senator from Colorado a long discourse on Ukraine. You know, remarkably missing from that discourse was acknowledgment that responsibility for the war in Ukraine falls very directly on the Biden White House, on Senate Democrats, and on the Senator from Colo-

rado in particular who played a direct role in causing the war in Ukraine.

Now, how is that?

Putin did not wake up yesterday wanting to invade Ukraine. He has wanted to invade Ukraine for years. He did so in the year 2014. He invaded Crimea in the southern portion of Ukraine. But he stopped. He did not go into the full country.

Why? Because Russia's major source of revenue is selling oil and gas, and the natural gas pipelines run right through the middle of Ukraine. He could not risk damaging or destroying those pipelines.

So in 2015, Vladimir Putin began what is known as Nord Stream II, an undersea pipeline from Russia to Germany, the entire purpose of which was to circumvent Ukraine so once it was built and operational, he could invade Ukraine.

In 2019, I authored sanctions legislation to shut down the Nord Stream II pipeline. That sanctions legislation got overwhelming bipartisan support, including from the Senator from Colorado. It passed, and Putin shut down building the Nord Stream II pipeline literally the day President Trump signed my sanctions legislation into law.

In December of 2020, I again authored bipartisan legislation putting more sanctions on Nord Stream II. Once again, the Senator from Colorado and every Democrat supported it. It passed and was signed into law.

Joe Biden became President January 20, 2021. Four days later, on January 24, Putin resumed deep sea construction of the Nord Stream II pipeline. Four days later. Why? Because Biden had telegraphed weakness. He had told Putin: I am going to go soft on the Nord Stream II pipeline.

And what he telegraphed was accurate, because several months later, Biden formally waived sanctions on Nord Stream II. He gave a multibillion dollar gift to Putin and allowed him to complete the pipeline.

Now, in January of 2022, I forced another vote on the Senate floor—a vote to reimpose sanctions on the Nord Stream II pipeline. The Senator from Colorado just invoked President Zelenskyy. Oddly enough, he didn't seem to care what President Zelenskyy thought in January of 2022, because President Zelenskyy in January of 2022 begged the U.S. Senate: Please pass Cruz's sanctions legislation. It is the last best hope to stop Russia from invading Ukraine. The Government of Poland put out a formal statement saying: Please pass Cruz's sanctions. If you do not, Putin will invade Ukraine.

On the day of the vote, Joe Biden came to Capitol Hill. He came to meet with the Senate Democrats. It was the first time in his presidency he had done that. And he asked them as a personal favor: Will you stand with the Biden White House? Will you stand with Russia? Will you stand with Putin—will you vote to give billions of dollars to

Putin? And, I am sorry to say, 44 Democrats flipped their votes.

On the day of the vote I stood here on the floor and said: If you vote no, we will see Russian tanks in the streets of Kyiv. But 44 Democrats flipped their votes and decided partisan loyalty to the White House mattered more than Ukraine, mattered more than stopping Russia, and just 4 weeks later, the Russian tanks rolled in. And the Senator from Colorado was one of those 44 votes who voted for Russia and Putin on the eve of the war. And if you don't believe me, go look at what Zelenskyy said in January of 2022: If you vote no, Russia will invade.

Now, I don't doubt that the Senator from Colorado today has genuine and good faith concern for the people of Ukraine. That is admirable. But understand what he is doing here. He is not doing anything related to Ukraine. He is holding the American flying public hostage. He is saying—because he is mad about what is happening on Ukraine funding—he wants to shut the FAA down. He wants to shut jobs down in the Denver airport.

And I would just urge the Senator from Colorado to listen to a very, very wise Senator from this body. And I will read a quote:

Politics. Holding up FAA extension. Costing Colorado jobs. Hashtag “FAA shutdown.”

Now the author of that tweet, that would be Senator MICHAEL BENNET. He sent that on August 4, 2011—the last time we had an FAA shutdown. And I would say that Senator BENNET, I suspect, might not recognize the Senator today, but I would urge listening to the 2011 Senator who understood shutting the FAA down is bad for Colorado; it is bad for the country. And so I would urge the Senator from Colorado, if you are unhappy about Ukraine funding, don't hold the flying public hostage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. I thank the Senator from Texas. Actually, it is fun to remember all this, and I am sorry I don't have a phone on my desk. Nobody can send me my prior quotes or his prior quotes. I wish I had thought to do that. But I have a pretty good memory, and the facts are on the floor. The facts are the facts.

When we were out here in 2019—and, by the way, I would never confuse the Senator from Texas with Senator SCHUMER. So let's establish that at the outset. I know you are two different people. You are very different people.

When we were out here in 2019, though, what I was talking about was, I was reminding people of the shutdown you led in 2013 while Colorado was underwater, while there were cities and towns all over our State who had been crushed by the floodwaters that had started in these unexpected storms and come rushing through these mountain valleys and ended up destroying towns and villages. It looked like bombs had gone off. The people in Colorado were digging themselves out.

There were people—local elected officials, Democrats and Republicans—who were doing the work they needed to do. And the Federal Government was shut down because of Senator CRUZ from Texas. That is what happened. Those people are owed an apology for what the Senator of Texas did.

And then he came out here in 2019 pretending that he cared about trying to resolve—by the way, it wasn't CHUCK SCHUMER's shutdown. It was Donald Trump's shutdown. He was the President. It was the longest shutdown in American history. And I don't have my phone to tell me this, but if you look it up—please do—you will find it was the Trump shutdown, not the Schumer shutdown. And it went on forever—not forever, but it was the longest shutdown ever. And Senator CRUZ was coming out here with these Potemkin pieces of legislation to sort of trick Democrats or to force Democrats into taking a bad vote on the funding of the Coast Guard while the whole rest of the Government was shut down.

He might have believed that the most important thing to do at that moment, I suppose, was to fund the Coast Guard and to leave everything else shut down. I suppose that is possible.

I suspect the likelier reason was that he was trying to create a vote that said the Democrats are for shutting the government down—or shutting the Coast Guard down, not shutting the government down. Donald Trump had shut the government down, President Trump. And that is what we were out here discussing.

So you give me the opportunity to remind everyone of the 2013 events. And I won't withdraw what I said in 2019.

I will say that I want to thank the Senator from Texas for remembering that I even had a Presidential campaign at all. It is not a well-remembered event in the history of our democracy. I am grateful that he could have played a role in trying to get me off the ground. We will have to see. But that was not the great—as I have said to people—well, I won't go on.

I will say to the Senator from Texas that when I got in, even my mom said: Do we need one more Democrat in this race, MICHAEL? So that was how I started that race.

Then, I will say, finally, that the FAA doesn't end up expiring until the 31st of this month. We have time in front of us to do the work that needs to be done.

I want to congratulate the Senator from Texas for the work that he did on the Nord Stream Pipeline. I think that was meaningful work.

I remember you standing out here at a time when a lot of other people didn't even know what you were talking about and having you stand here and make that case. So I give you that, for sure.

I would say, also, that I am sure you feel passionately that the position that you took before Putin invaded Ukraine

might have had some effect on what he did. We have a disagreement about that, but that is OK. Neither of us can change what has happened in the past. But what we can do is make sure that we recognize that this tyrant has invaded Ukraine; that this tyrant has done something that is in contravention of the civil order since World War II, since my mom was born in Poland in 1938; that the world has come together to support the free people of Ukraine in their battle; that Putin's only allies in this battle today are North Korea and Iran and sort of China, which are kind of watching how this all unfolds.

So the question before us now is not, I don't think, did we have some vote in the Senate that went one way or another—and I am sorry to the Senator from Wyoming, I will stop—went some way or another or that Democrats or that Joe Biden are somehow responsible for Vladimir Putin invading Ukraine.

First of all, that is certainly not true, even if we have disagreements about what was going on here. But what is certainly true is that Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine. He decided to invade Ukraine. The Ukrainian people have exposed the weakness of Putin's army. They have exposed the weakness of his leadership. They have exposed the weakness of his strategy. They have exposed the strength of NATO. They have exposed the importance of American leadership. They have given us the chance to rearm the American people. They have pushed back Xi Jinping. That is not bad for 2 years of work.

And we should not go home. We should stay here and do the work we need to do to support Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1042

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, we heard a lot about Russia here. We heard a lot about enabling and empowering Vladimir Putin, empowering him financially.

I am here today to offer and support legislation that will defund Vladimir Putin; that will take a billion dollars of U.S. money out of his pocket. I am here today and rise in support of H.R. 1042. It prohibits Russian uranium imports.

For years, Russia's state-owned nuclear monopoly has dumped artificially cheap uranium into our American market. And as a result of all of this, Russia and Putin have gained a commanding share of the whole world's nuclear fuel supply chain.

Russia has driven America's nuclear fuel suppliers out of business—completely out of business—and Russia has put Americans out of work. That is what I am bringing here today because we are sending, roughly, a billion dollars a year to Russia for uranium. We need to stop that. We need to block it.

We are now at a point where the United States cannot even fuel our own

next generation of advanced nuclear reactors. If Congress doesn't step in, these advanced reactors will have no other choice than to be dependent on Russian uranium.

To make matters worse, we now know that Vladimir Putin is using Russia's nuclear monopoly—to use that money to fund this brutal invasion of Ukraine that we have just been discussing here on the Senate floor. Russia's nuclear monopoly has also helped Putin evade sanctions and provide equipment and materials to Russia's military in Ukraine.

None of this should surprise us. That is who Vladimir Putin is. He has created—created—Russia's nuclear monopoly. We shouldn't be shocked that he has turned it into his piggy bank and his toolkit for his regime.

It is time the American people in this country stop funding Russia's nuclear monopoly. We can do this, and we could do it right here today, by ending Russian imports of uranium into the United States.

Ending Russian imports would provide certainty to America's nuclear fuel suppliers—those suppliers that Russia cannot undermine again. We cannot allow that to happen. It would also ensure that we are not financing and continuing to finance Putin's war in Ukraine.

On Monday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1042 with unanimous support. This bill would end imports of Russian uranium within 90 days and, therefore, end this billion dollars a year of American money going to fuel Russia's war machine.

H.R. 1042 is a companion to a bipartisan bill that I have introduced along with my bipartisan cosponsor, Senator MANCHIN, as well as Senator RISCH—both of whom are on the floor right now.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously passed out our bill in May. It is a bill that we developed in collaboration with America's nuclear industry and the Department of Energy and other Agencies.

As I get ready to offer a unanimous consent request, I would yield to Senator RISCH for a brief statement.

Mr. RISCH. Thank you, Senator.

I want to join my good friend from Wyoming in this really important issue.

We are talking here today about enriched uranium, a commodity that is absolutely critical to America. Not only is it an energy security issue, it is a national security imperative.

Right now, we get about one-fifth of our enriched uranium out of Russia. What is that doing? It is doing a number of things. No. 1, it gives Russia control over the supply, but just as importantly, at the same time, it is helping finance Russia's war against Ukraine.

It is past time that we end this dependence on or even use of any kind of Russian-enriched uranium.

Congress took a tremendous step by passing the Nuclear Fuel Security Act,

which Senator BARRASSO, Senator MANCHIN, and I introduced to enhance domestic uranium conversion and enrichment capacity, which is desperately needed. Now we have to provide a pathway to enhance domestic nuclear fuel production.

We need to provide certainty both here at home and to the world that a reliance on Russian fuel is over, once and for all. This is our opportunity to do it here.

Russia is going to suffer consequences from its attack on Ukraine for generations to come. I don't think they have fully figured that out yet. But this is just a tip of the iceberg as to what is coming for them. We need to cut it off.

I strongly urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1042, which, as the Senator from Wyoming mentioned, was unanimously passed out of the House of Representatives earlier this week. It will be a companion to the bill that we passed earlier this year.

This is a really, really good step forward and an incredibly good step forward.

With that, I will yield to Senator MANCHIN.

Mr. MANCHIN. I yield back to Senator BARRASSO.

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you, Senators.

Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1042, which was received from the House; further, that the bill 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. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I agree with my colleagues Senator MANCHIN, Senator BARRASSO, and Senator RISCH. We need energy independence, whether it is West Virginia natural gas, Wyoming coal, Ohio solar, or whatever you do in Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Uranium.

Mr. BROWN. OK. It means stopping Russian uranium imports into the United States. It means expanding our domestic enrichment capabilities. We need to do both. It is a matter of national security. It is a matter of economic security.

There are Ohioans doing important work with companies like Centrus and Oklo in Piketon in Southern Ohio. In an industry like this, they need the support to get off the ground and be successful—not far from Senator MANCHIN's home State.

If we do this right, it will mean good jobs in the energy industry in Appalachia, where union workers have powered our economy for generations.

To do that, we have to pair these policies together: stopping Russian im-

ports and—and—investing in the domestic enrichment industry and all the jobs and opportunities that come with it.

My question is—and I will then drop my objection, of course—to ensure the action we take today is successful, Senator BARRASSO and Senator MANCHIN, do I have your commitment to work together to pass real resources to strengthen our domestic supply chain?

Mr. BARRASSO. You do.

Mr. MANCHIN. Absolutely.

Mr. BROWN. Thank you.

With your leadership, we took an important step forward in the National Defense Authorization Act we passed last night. I thank Senator RISCH for his work on that. We need to finish this job.

I want to see American companies—in Ohio—enriching uranium in the United States, creating jobs, supporting communities like Piketon, Waverly, Pike County, making our energy supply more secure.

I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I also rise to join my friend from Wyoming Senator BARRASSO and my friend from Ohio. And I know that my friend from Texas has some concerns, but it is something different.

The only thing I would say about this is, as troubled as our House colleagues are—435—they passed this unanimously, unanimous consent. They can't agree on anything. They passed this because of the need for what we are trying to do here.

What we are trying to do is build initiatives I worked to include in the Energy Act of 1020. What we are doing is operating nuclear powerplants that are dependent on Russian enrichment. We are operating our nuclear fleet based on Russian enrichment and conversion capacity, which represents half of the global capacity. We let them capture the market.

Russia is currently the world's only—I will repeat. They are the only commercial source of high-assay low-enriched uranium—or, as we refer to it, HALEU—which is the fuel needed for advanced reactors, such as the SMRs and the micros that were coming in, the new technology.

It is shameful and dangerous to our country, which led the world in developing nuclear energy—we led the world—and once was capable of producing all the fuel that we could ever need, and it has become reliant on one of the most notorious adversaries we have ever had, Russia.

Uranium production in the United States peaked in 1980. And since 1992, the majority of uranium purchased by the U.S. nuclear powerplant operators was imported mostly from Russia.

Russia has used its state-owned nuclear monopoly to help fund Putin's unlawful war against Ukraine that has completely upended energy supply

chains and harmed European and American energy security.

For years—for years now—Russia has unfairly flooded the market. We have seen that happen so many times with China in different products and Russia also with cheap uranium to undercut U.S. and other Western producers. Being the capitalist country that we are, we just basically allowed our entrepreneurial businesspersons to go buy wherever they needed. We cannot continue to reward Putin for bad behavior.

The United States cut off imports of Russian oil and gas and coal in March of 2022. We cut off all of our needed, basically, supplies that we were using and supplementing with imports of Russian oil, gas, and coal. And it is long past time to finally cut Russian uranium out of the U.S. market as well.

Senator BARRASSO, myself, Senator RISCH, all the Senators who come from the areas that are involved in this but have been producing it—Senator BROWN from Ohio, basically, has a plant that I have visited that has produced all of the uranium that we ever needed during the war efforts and has been forced out of the market. They are coming back, but they are going to need our help to get back into the market also.

We have supported a two-part strategy to fix this, pairing an increase in domestic production with a ban on Russian fuel. To accomplish the first part, we included our Nuclear Fuel Security Act in the Defense bill that we passed last night.

That law will create the programs that we need to reshore our domestic nuclear supply chains and establish a new revolving fund at the Department of Energy to be used for uranium procurement. I am proud that lawmakers in both Chambers recognized that this issue is so important to our security, and it has been included in the NDAA. And when we get back in January, Senator BARRASSO and I are going to work together to ensure that the new DOE program is appropriately funded and paid for.

So today, again, I am asking my dear friend: We have got to take the second step—banning Russian uranium imports—to provide a clear signal to our domestic market so they will basically get back into the game and start increasing the fuel they walked away from because of unfair trade practices.

This uranium ban has had strong bipartisan support, as you know, in the House and over here. Then, today, we have the opportunity to send this commonsense legislation to the President's desk and move closer to realizing our energy independence from Russia by passing this ban.

I, again, ask all of you to consider this. I ask my good friend from Texas, Senator CRUZ, if he would consider maybe other ways that we might be able to help. I am committing to you that I will help you, and I think I know what your concerns are. I am certain it

doesn't have anything to do with this, but I know what it can be, and I know where I can help you. I am offering that assistance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I appreciate everything that my friend from Wyoming, my friend from Idaho, and my friend from West Virginia said, and I agree with what they said. I agree with the policy goals of this bill, and I am strongly committed to curtailing Russia's ability to use nuclear energy as a geopolitical tool.

Indeed, I have repeatedly introduced sanctions targeting Rosatom activities, and I am currently working on legislation that would go even further. We should absolutely end our dependence on Russian uranium, and the United States should not be dependent on any nation for our energy—nuclear or otherwise.

I know that my friend from Wyoming shares my conviction on American energy independence, and as the ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he understands better than most anyone how the zealots in this administration have shackled our domestic energy producers.

And let me just say, I understand and appreciate how important this bill is to you, and I commit to work with you on this bill to get it passed into law.

But this bill is also important to the House. That was made clear by just how quickly they took it up and passed it on suspension with only a voice vote last week—even as, at the same time, the House stripped out and disregarded a number of the priorities of this Chamber which had been included in the Senate NDAA. One provision, which I worked very hard on with Senator KELLY, was to streamline permitting requirements for new semiconductor plants, and which 120 Senators and House Members—a little over a sixth of the entire Congress—had signed a letter supporting. That was one of the casualties of their casual disregard.

The House even stripped out of the bill my bill with Senator CANTWELL—the Senate version of the Informing Consumers About Smart Devices Act—despite the House having already passed their version of the bill earlier this year by a vote of 406 to 12.

Neither of these were partisan measures, and they are not wild policy changes. Instead, they are broadly bipartisan, widely supported priorities of Members of the Senate, and they have enormous impact. Unfortunately, our House colleagues—in particular, the leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee—decided that they did not matter, and they insisted they be stripped from the bill.

Now we have come up with an important priority that they care about—and, to be clear, a policy with which I agree—asking for the blessing of the Senate.

The consequences of their stripping that legislation from the NDAA is they hurt thousands of jobs across this country. They have benefited communist China at our expense, and they have hurt our national security by making us more vulnerable to China, and they undermined the privacy of Americans across this country.

I hope and believe the House and Senate should work together cooperatively. I am eager to do so. I have extended an olive branch to the House for us to work cooperatively, but it is a two-way street. Until the House begins to take seriously the priorities of the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and until they change course on the Senate priorities they disregarded arbitrarily, this bill and potentially others from the chairman of this House committee will not be moving in the Senate by unanimous consent.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, just briefly, I want to correct one thing that was said.

Because of the 117th Congress, when we all worked together, today we are producing more energy than ever in the history of the United States. We are producing 4.6 billion barrels of oil this year, 37 trillion cubic feet of gas, 13.5 billion cubic feet a day of LNG. In 2016, we didn't do anything.

So what we have done with all of the bills—the bipartisan infrastructure bill; the IRA bill, or the Inflation Reduction Act—is forced this administration to start taking seriously U.S. energy independence and security. They cannot just move them in one direction. It is a balanced approach, and it is working.

This is the part, now, that we need to shut down. We should not be relying on foreign supply chains, unreliable foreign countries of concern. You have China, you have Russia, you have North Korea, and you have Iran—four of the most notorious. To depend on anything that comes from those four countries that we need for our building blocks is a sin.

That is the only thing I am saying on the hold you have here. There are going to be other things that we can work together on to make sure that we all—I think you have them on this. I don't know if that is a No. 1 priority. They just didn't have any objection because they knew it was something that should be done. We are all for it.

You are using it because you need something else, and we are committing to help you on something else. This is desperately needed for our country. It really is. We have to center the market because, if not, they won't get invested. They just won't move. If they think Russians can dump enriched uranium, HALEU, on us, they will continue to do it, and it basically stymies the market for anyone that is invest-

ing the amount of money that needs to be invested to get our enrichment program up and running. That is really what the concerns are.

And we already have an NDAA. We would like for it—as far as the money, we are prepared to make sure that we have the necessary resources. But we can't do it unless we ban that because, if we don't ban it, people will, in this marketplace, buy wherever they can, the cheapest they possibly can. And, I guarantee, Russia needs the money for their war machine, and they will keep dumping and dumping on us.

So I would hope you would reconsider, sir. That is all I can ask. But I am committed to helping you. But this is the wrong one, I believe, to use.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, over the last few days, negotiations on a path forward to getting a national security supplemental done have made good progress. As I have said, if we believe something is important and urgent, we should stay and get the job done. That is certainly the case with the supplemental. It is important. It is urgent.

I spoke with Leader MCCONNELL this morning about the plan for next week and making sure the Senate continues to do our work.

So, for the information of all Senators, after we finish today, the Senate will return on Monday. That will give negotiators from the White House, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans time to work through the weekend in an effort to reach a framework agreement. It will then take some time to turn that framework into text.

To prevent unnecessary delays, I intend to move to reconsider the shell for the supplemental, as a vehicle, to move an agreement forward. The plan is for the Senate to act as soon as we are ready to move forward on the supplemental.

Members need to be here next week. We have to get this done. Our Republican colleagues who have said action on the border is so urgent should have no problem with continuing to work next week. We hope to come to an agreement. But no matter what, Members should be aware that we will vote on a supplemental proposal next week.

Mr. President, it is not easy to reach an agreement on something this complicated. This might be one of the most difficult things we have ever had to work through. But we all know that so much—so much—hangs on our success. We know the world is watching. We know autocrats like Putin and Xi are

hoping for us to fail. So we need to try, with everything we have, to get the job done.

I will update Senators when more information about schedule becomes available.

NOMINATION OF JERRY EDWARDS, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jerry Edwards, Jr., to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

Born in Shreveport, LA, Mr. Edwards received his B.A. from Georgia State University and his J.D. from Vermont Law and Graduate School before clerking for Judge Scott J. Crichton and Judge Jeanette G. Garrett on the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana. He then entered private practice in Shreveport, where he maintained a diverse litigation practice. In 2019, Mr. Edwards joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana as an assistant U.S. attorney. He defended Federal Agencies in civil cases and also handled affirmative work on behalf of Federal Agencies. In 2022, he was appointed first assistant U.S. attorney. In that role, he oversees civil litigation and the prosecution of various Federal crimes.

Mr. Edwards has significant experience in both State and Federal court, and he has tried nine cases to verdict, including two jury trials. Mr. Edwards has also been involved in a variety of legal activities outside of his legal practice. He is a member of the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions, and he previously served on the Louisiana Judiciary Commission.

Mr. Edwards enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators—Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. KENNEDY—as well as the Louisiana legal community. The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Edwards as “well qualified” to serve on the Western District of Louisiana. If confirmed, he will be the first person of color to ever sit on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

During Mr. Edwards's confirmation hearing, Senator CASSIDY noted that “Mr. Edwards's commitment to his community and bar is a personal credit to the character required to be a successful judge.” I am confident that Mr. Edwards' character, strong ties to the Western District of Louisiana, and extensive legal experience ensure that he will be a successful judge on the Federal bench. I strongly support his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON EDWARDS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 345 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Butler	Kaine	Rubio
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Capito	Kennedy	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Lujan	Sinema
Cassidy	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Cooms	McConnell	Tester
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—24

Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Braun	Johnson	Schmitt
Britt	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Marshall	Sullivan
Crapo	Mullin	Thune
Cruz	Paul	Vance

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Fischer	Tuberville
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Welch
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	
Daines	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority whip.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume consideration of the Long nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

NOMINATION OF BRANDON S. LONG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Bran-

don S. Long to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Born in Metairie, LA, Mr. Long received his B.B.A. and B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999 and his J.D. from Duke Law School in 2005. From 2005 to 2010, Mr. Long worked in the Washington, DC, office of King & Spalding, LLP, as an associate in the special matters and government investigations practice group. While in private practice, he focused on Federal criminal matters, internal investigations, corporate compliance, and civil matters involving securities law.

Mr. Long then served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia from 2010 to 2014. There, he tried approximately 27 criminal cases to verdict, of which 15 were jury trials and 12 were bench trials. Since 2014, Mr. Long has served as an AUSA in the Eastern District of Louisiana. From 2017 to 2018, he served as deputy chief of the narcotics unit. Mr. Long also served as the office's opioid coordinator from 2017 to 2020. For a brief stint from 2020 to 2021, Mr. Long served on detail as deputy chief of staff and acting chief of staff to FBI Director Christopher Wray. In 2021, he returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, where he serves as a member of the financial crimes unit.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Long as “well qualified,” and his nomination is strongly supported by his home state Senators, Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. CASSIDY.

Mr. Long will serve the Eastern District of Louisiana with distinction.

I am proud to support his nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the Long nomination be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motion was withdrawn.

VOTE ON LONG NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Long nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the

Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAP-ITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 346 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Rubio
Butler	Kennedy	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cassidy	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McConnell	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Mullin	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	Reed
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—22

Blackburn	Ernst	Schmitt
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Britt	Lankford	Sullivan
Budd	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	Paul	
Cruz	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—14

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Sanders
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Tuberville
Cramer	Johnson	Welch
Daines	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1147

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I rise to ask unanimous consent that the Senate pass H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

But before I start talking, I just want to take a quick drink of this superdelicious milk.

Here is to the dairy farmers of Kansas and across the entire country.

Now, a fun fact: Besides water, milk is the only beverage allowed here on the Senate floor. And, as you all know, milk is the most delicious, most nutritious wholesome drink known to humankind. There is nothing that has ever been made anything like it.

Now, milk is pretty special to me, and you might ask why. And it is pretty simple.

My dad grew up on a dairy, where they milked Holstein cows every morn-

ing, every day of the year, 365 days a year. And I remember, all the way through high school, my grandma still milking cows.

When your grandma milks cows, you get to have milk for breakfast, for lunch, for supper. Even in school, we got to have milk and a little snack at 10 a.m., and I was one of the lucky kids who got two cartons of milk every lunch.

And I just learned—I didn't know this. I just assumed that this is what everyone was doing—that if you didn't leave whole milk out for Santa Claus, then he wouldn't leave you presents.

Now, whole milk helps to keep growing kids and adults healthy and strong because it has 13 essential nutrients packed into one drink. And because of the fat content, specifically in whole milk, it promotes the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K.

Now, as an obstetrician, I can't stress enough the importance of drinking whole milk during pregnancy. It helps you have healthy babies. It helps with breastfeeding. It helps us all to grow strong bones.

Now, science has also shown that milk consumption provides additional positive health outcomes. It lowers blood pressure. It reduces risk of cardiovascular disease and reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes.

As medical costs skyrocket and the obesity epidemic worsens, I rise today to set the record straight: Milk is part of the solution; it is not part of the problem.

Now, many fingers have been pointed at the dairy industry, and millions of lobbying dollars have been invested in making lawmakers believe that milk is the enemy. Anti-dairy policies have resulted in decreased milk consumption and, ironically, in an increase in negative health outcomes.

In fact, the most recent "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" cites calcium, potassium, and vitamin D as three of the top four underconsumed nutrients that Americans are deficient in. Well, guess what is rich in those same nutrients? Well, of course, it is milk. All of those deficiencies can be resolved with an increase in milk consumption, and that is why I recommend at least a glass of whole milk every day.

No other food or drink has the ability to pack that kind of nutritional punch—none. But, sadly, over a decade ago, this misinformed Chamber voted to remove whole milk from our Nation's schools, and now we are facing the consequences. Because we are not encouraging our children to drink milk, we have a generation of young men and women who are going to have osteopenia and osteoporosis 10 to 15 years earlier than their predecessors.

Now, let me reiterate: Preventable diseases will occur more frequently as a consequence of a Federal Government overreaction that is based on obsolete research—research which corrects modern nutritional science and discourages healthy eating habits for children.

Today, we can right this wrong and bring back nutritious whole milk to our children's lunchtime. Let's bring back this tasty and nutritious option.

Whole milk has a litany of health benefits to offer our children. And did I mention that it tastes great? The benefits of whole milk can't be overlooked and certainly not substituted with skim milk or 1 percent, and certainly not by artificially flavored milk that is loaded with empty calories.

Bringing more healthy options back to school cafeterias is a slam dunk for American families, and delivering this to the President's desk before Christmas would help promote the consumption of healthy fats that help kids grow physically and cognitively. It supports American farmers and ranchers and promotes a brighter, stronger future for us all.

Milk—it is what is for lunch.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1147, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Ms. STABENOW. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first of all, my friend and colleague, esteemed member of our Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee is making me hungry. I am thinking about growing up with cookies and milk.

I grew up with dairy farmers in my family. So I am certainly a supporter of milk and the dairy industry, certainly in Michigan as well. And this is a really important conversation today to have and to continue to have.

I fully support healthy options for students. Dairy is a very important part of a balanced meal. But one thing is clear, and that is that school meal standards, currently based on dietary science, should continue to be based on dietary science, not based on which individual food products we support or are in our States.

USDA is in the process, right now, of updating school meal standards. It is important that the administration rely on the latest dietary science to make decisions about what is best for our children to eat and to drink. Intervening in that process creates, I think, a very unfortunate precedent and will lead to other ideas and options that may be coming forward about individual products.

So I encourage groups to be reaching out to the USDA and to engage in the process of updating meal standards. But, at this point in time, I do not believe it is in the best interest to be able to move forward on this bill. So I object to this UC request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection has been heard.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ZACH MCCUE

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today for a moment of reflection about an extraordinary person, and I would like permission to give Zach McCue permission to sit next to me while I give these remarks that will most certainly embarrass him tremendously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you very, very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much for the fist pump, Mr. President. I know that you have a lot of appreciation and love for New Jersey, so this is really a New Jersey moment. So thank you, sir.

I rise today with an extraordinary amount of joy but sadness, an extraordinary amount of pride but a sense of loss because today I get a chance to say a few words about my very embarrassed, longtime friend, member of my staff, Zach McCue.

Now, Zach has been a member of my staff my entire time in the U.S. Senate. In fact, he predated me in this office because Zach worked for my predecessor, Senator Frank Lautenberg. So he has served in this institution and has served the people of New Jersey for 12 years.

But now he is moving out to new gardens within the Garden State. Zach has a title in my office. He is the deputy State director, but the truth of the matter is, that title does little justice to the grand import and enormous impact of this incredible young man.

Zach, I believe, is one of those people who is an unsung hero, who makes Congressional work and, in so many ways, has made indelible contributions to New Jersey. If the highest calling of our country is service to it, then Zach is someone who embodies that ideal of public service and patriotism.

He has worked tirelessly. He has worked indefatigably. He has worked relentlessly in service of our State. I know he works around the clock because occasionally I disturb him at some late hours.

But the truth of the matter is, as hard as he works, he works away from the limelight, not capturing headlines, not sucking oxygen out of rooms but, in so many ways, making the difference that New Jerseyans feel.

I have seen him and how he deals with people. In a time when so many people don't feel like they are seen or appreciated, he is somebody who embodies empathy and has an extraordinary ability to connect with others,

to allow them to feel like they matter, to feel heard, and to so often have their issues addressed.

And more than just being someone who is extraordinary with people, he has a pretty incredible mind to grasp complicated policy. He is a bit of a wonk. He has a flash of the nerdiness in him. But that knowledge, that acumen, that policy expertise, he has put to work on behalf of New Jerseyans.

Now, I know that infrastructure is not the sexiest issue in America, but for New Jerseyans, it is vital. Over 700,000 people commute just to New York, and that doesn't include those who commute into Philly as well. And infrastructure in our State is critical, and this has been one of Zach's primary areas of focus. He has had extraordinary drive and focus that has helped to advance so much critical infrastructure work in our State.

And more than this, his mastery of knowledge of other issues of import to New Jerseyans, from environmental justice to social justice, has made him such a powerful force in our State and, indeed, he has made me a better U.S. Senator.

Zach is a Jersey boy. I think if there were a Mount Rushmore of New Jersey, he might be eligible to stand up upon that pantheon of some of the great Jerseyans like Bruce and Bon Jovi. He is a rock star, at least in our office, and a guy that grew up in Jersey. He grew up in Rumson, and he has raised his family with his incredibly indulgent wife Meg in Cranford.

Zach joined Lautenberg's office early, right after graduating from Penn State, which is sort of a Western Jersey college. And after 2 years with Senator Lautenberg, including a stint actually as his driver—and I hear that he was OK as a driver—Zach joined an environmental nonprofit in New Jersey focusing on environmental issues, where he worked on the issues that he still holds dear, things like protecting our coastal and marine resources and leaving behind a cleaner and healthier New Jersey environment for generations.

And then, in 2014, he joined my office and, as a new Senator, as a junior Senator, he grew with my office and helped to lead our office to being the success we are today.

He continues to lead on our team on issues he knows so well, from environmental issues so that we can make sure that we deal with the threat of climate change head-on; transportation and infrastructure, moving critical programs that, but for him, would not be seeing the kind of success we see today, like the Gateway project moving forward; and overall improvements to consumer safety and to reliability and so much more.

During the earliest and darkest days of the COVID pandemic, when our team was working overtime to help constituents in need and doing Zoom call after Zoom call, working early in the morning to late at night, I got to see Zach's

leadership in this dark time shine like a North Star.

No. 1, he helped to hold our office together amongst the strain and the challenges that were on each and every one of us. He helped us to stay focused on our purpose. He brought humor and groundedness to the work. And every day, he rose with that heroic compassion and empathy for the challenges that New Jerseyans were facing.

Look, this is an extraordinary institution, and very famous people have sat in the seats here since 1859. But the truth of this institution that doesn't get told often enough is that, for every great Senator, there are usually greater staff people who empower them in the mission.

I have served in this institution for a decade, and I say, with no false modesty but just the truth, that I have been the Senator I am today because of the leadership that Zach has brought to my team each and every day.

We have a calling here as Senators in this deliberative body, and that is to be of service, that is to rise to challenges, and that is to give dignity to the office and to be there for people.

This office has been successful over these 10 years because of Zach. I am grateful to him. I am grateful to his family who raised him. I am grateful for his spouse and his children who have supported and loved him through his service. And most of all, I know that even though New Jerseyans don't know his name up and down our State, I know that our State is profoundly grateful.

As Zach prepares to leave our office, the good news is, he may be leaving the employ of the U.S. Senate, but he is not leaving the service of our State. He is going on to another public service job.

I and my team wish him the best of luck. Once you are a part of the Booker team, you are always part of the Booker team.

But what excites me most is that Zach is a young guy with a heart full of love and a soul driven by commitment to country and to people. And so as great as his service was to us, I suspect that he still has some extraordinary great days ahead of him.

And so it is with a lot of sadness but a lot of gratitude, it is with a lot of pride but a lot of just missing him already, I say from the Senate floor into the Senate RECORD, a hearty, hearty thank-you to my friend, to my team leader, and to a great American, Zach McCue. Thank you.

No applause from the Gallery, please. That is against Senate regulation. Thank you very much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY PERSONNEL CONFIRMATION RESTORATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, just in time for the holidays, the Senate is giving our military, our military families, a present: the justice and backpay they so richly earned and deserved. Finally, we are able to right the wrong of Senator TUBERVILLE's illogical, hurtful, and dangerous holds and the massive impacts the holds had on military families.

These men and women have worked so hard for our country for so long. And just because of Senator TUBERVILLE, in a really nasty—and whimsical, almost—holding back of their promotions, they weren't getting paid.

Well, tonight, at long last, we are giving these military families—families that have already sacrificed so much—the justice they deserve: their backpay. And it is a good night for them, and it is a good night for America. America is keeping its promise and saying to these men and women: You served us well. You don't deserve to be penalized in any way at all.

And so, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3553, introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3553) to provide a retroactive effective date for the promotions of senior officers of the Armed Forces whose military promotions were delayed as a result of the suspension of Senate confirmation of such promotions.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times 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 bill (S. 3553) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3553

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 "Military Personnel Confirmation Restoration Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress holds the men and women who defend the United States in the highest esteem.

SEC. 3. RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTIONS OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF ARMED FORCES THAT WERE DELAYED AS A RESULT OF SUSPENSION OF SENATE CONFIRMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual confirmed, during the period beginning on December 5, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023, to a grade or rank in the Armed Forces associated with pay grade O-7 or higher and whose confirmation was delayed as a result of the suspension of the provision of advice and consent by the Senate to appointments to such grades and ranks that began in February 2023—

(1) the Secretary of Defense shall provide the individual, retroactive to the date described in subsection (b)—

(A) pay and allowances at the rates or in the amounts payable for the pay grade associated with the appointment of the individual; and

(B) the benefits to which an individual in the grade or rank associated with the appointment is entitled; and

(2) the date described in subsection (b) shall be the date used for determining the seniority of the individual in the grade or rank associated with the appointment.

(b) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subsection is, with respect to an individual described in subsection (a), the date that is the later of—

(1) the date that is 30 days after the date on which the nomination of the individual was placed on the Executive Calendar of the Senate; or

(2) the date on which the individual would have been appointed but for the suspension of the provision of advice and consent described in subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary concerned (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 214, 431, and 432; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Lisa A. Johnson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic; Todd Gloria, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023; and Todd Gloria, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2029, (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO JILL BOUDREAU

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mayor Jill Boudreau on her retirement after 12 years of service as mayor of Mount Vernon, WA. During that time, she has been an inspiring and impactful public servant—leading a municipal government that has been a model of efficiency, adaptability, dignity, and inclusivity. Her leadership has been a guiding light through some of the city's most difficult times, and her advocacy has helped Mount Vernon prosper over the past decade-plus.

Mayor Boudreau was sworn into office in January of 2012 and quickly launched ambitious initiatives to bolster economic development, make the city's government more open and accessible to residents, and improve public transportation. Over her three terms, she has been an indispensable voice for the region—serving on countless boards and commissions and championing voting rights, public art installations, and civic engagement. Most recently, Mayor Boudreau has been the driving force behind the Mount Vernon Library Commons, a transformative project that will be one of the largest capital investments in Skagit County history. When completed, the Commons will be one of Washington State's most energy-efficient municipal buildings and will bring a library, community center, commercial kitchen, transit center, and one of our nation's largest electric vehicle charging stations all into one facility. The Commons is the product of Mayor Boudreau's bold vision and tireless efforts. Her extraordinary leadership on the Commons and other projects has been recognized by the Association for Washington Cities, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Ambassador to Uruguay.

I had the opportunity to work most closely with Mayor Boudreau on flood protection projects along the Skagit River, and throughout those discussions, it was clear to everyone just how deeply she cared about her community. Her dedication and compassion are also evident in Mayor Boudreau's leadership during challenging and stressful times, whether it was the Skagit River Bridge collapse, the Cascade Mall shooting, or the COVID-19 pandemic. I know the citizens of Mount Vernon are as grateful as I am for her strength and hard work during these difficult moments.

One of the things I admire most about Mayor Boudreau is her weekly commitment to meeting with residents for "Coffee Hours." She has held more than 350 of these meetings during her administration, something I have heard about from her constituents during our shared time in public office.

This type of openness and accessibility to her community—and her willingness to listen and really engage with her constituents—is part of what makes Mayor Boudreau such an inspiring public servant. It has been a real privilege to work with her over the last 12 years, and I am tremendously thankful for her service to the people of Mount Vernon. I wish her the very best in future endeavors.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the explanatory statement for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 be printed into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The following is the Explanatory Statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (“the Act”), which has been included as Division G of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, “the Committees”). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as “the Agreement”—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and that describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees’ actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President’s budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 7102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (S. Rept. 118-

59) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (H. Rept. 118-162). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorization.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF DISSEMINATION BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, FIELD OFFICE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENT

The Committees are committed to ensuring full transparency in the FBI’s actions implicating the rights of the American people to the free exercise of religion and speech. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct and submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a review of the actions and events that served as a basis for the January 23, 2023, dissemination by the field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located in Richmond, Virginia, of a document titled “Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities.” The review shall cover any orders or direction regarding the document from any official in any field office concerning purported proximate links between any religion, any political affiliation, or the intent of this report.

The Committees further direct that, not later than 10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit to the same committees identified above the unredacted August 22, 2023, Inspection Division report associated with the Richmond Domain Perspective.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

Section 7343 of the Act provides for funding limitations relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena because of perceptions of insufficient transparency in this area. Section 7343 is also intended to avoid technology and security stovepipes and expand awareness regarding any historical exotic technology antecedents previously provided by the Federal Government for research and development purposes if they are shown to exist.

Section 7343 further provides a limitation regarding independent research and development funding to ensure that certain indirect expenses are prohibited. That provision is intended to be interpreted consistent with Department of Defense Instruction Number 3204.01 (dated August 20, 2014, incorporating change 2, dated July 9, 2020; relating to Department policy for oversight of independent research and development), or any successor instruction.

SCREENING AND VETTING OF VISITORS OR ASSIGNEES FROM SENSITIVE COUNTRIES AT THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Committees are concerned that the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy (DOE-IN) does not require the comprehensive screening and vetting of foreign visitors or assignees from the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba who work or otherwise collaborate with scientists in

our National Laboratories. United States Government-funded research carried out at National Laboratories is incredibly important and sensitive. Whether a laboratory supports a science mission or is oriented toward supporting national security, it is critical that all foreign visitors and assignees from countries of concern receive appropriate vetting in order to mitigate counterintelligence risks. In fiscal year 2023, more than 7,000 nationals from the PRC visited 16 National Laboratories. Russian visitors numbered more than 3,700. The Committees understand that international cooperation on matters of basic, fundamental science helps maintain the United States’ technological edge. At the same time, we need to protect both the classified research as well as unclassified research that result in technologies with dual-use applications, and which can be adapted for military or economic gain, from getting into our adversaries’ hands.

The Committees therefore direct that DOE-IN require a robust effort to screen and vet visitors or assignees to our National Laboratories from the PRC, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba. The Committees also direct DOE-IN to ensure appropriate oversight over such screening and vetting to ensure that counterintelligence threat information related to potential assignees or visitors is appropriately identified and tracked. The Committees further direct that, not fewer than twice per year, the Director of DOE-IN shall submit to the Committees a report noting each instance in which a visitor or assignee from the PRC, Russia, Iran, North Korea, or Cuba, identified as a significant counterintelligence risk was permitted access to a National Laboratory.

BRIEFING RELATING TO CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE COAST GUARD

Section 416 of H.R. 3932 provided the Commandant of the Coast Guard with enhanced authority to obligate and expend amounts made available under the National Intelligence Program for intelligence and counterintelligence activities if the object of the activity is of a confidential, extraordinary, or emergency nature.

Therefore, the Committees direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard, no later than March 31, 2024, to brief the congressional intelligence committees, the congressional defense committees, the congressional appropriations committees, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology on why this authority is necessary and appropriate.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS BEFORE ESTABLISHING NEW NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER OR ASSIGNING SIGNIFICANT NEW FUNCTION TO EXISTING CENTER

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to provide reasonable notice to the congressional intelligence committees before the Director establishes a new national intelligence center or assigns a significant new function to an existing national intelligence center.

BRIEFING RELATING TO CONFIDENTIAL HUMAN SOURCE PROGRAM OF FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Committees direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than March 31, 2024, to brief the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional judiciary committees on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s management of confidential human sources, specifically pertaining to the current notification requirements and program review processes in

the event that an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has reasonable grounds to believe that a confidential human source, or any immediate family member of such a source, has engaged in unauthorized criminal activity, including any misdemeanor or felony crime.

ENHANCED PERSONNEL SECURITY REVIEW WITH
RESPECT TO SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committees are of the view that—

(1) A trusted national security and Intelligence Community workforce is paramount to the protection of our nation's security and to reduce the risk of unauthorized disclosures of classified and other sensitive information;

(2) the increased global availability and use of social media accounts, including by members of the national security workforce of the United States, increase the risk of unauthorized disclosures of classified national security information, which can endanger the United States and its partners and allies, and empower foreign adversaries;

(3) to maintain trust in and the protection of the national security and Intelligence Community workforce of the United States, the Intelligence Community must fully and continuously use available vetting resources and all authorities prescribed by law, while guaranteeing all constitutional protections of such workforce;

(4) the Intelligence Community must maintain high-quality vetting processes and ensure appropriate and necessary measures are taken to thoroughly and in a timely manner investigate and adjudicate prospective applicants for sensitive national security positions within the Intelligence Community; and,

(5) the Intelligence Community should use existing authorities to ensure robust continuous vetting for continued eligibility for access to classified information and carefully manage the speed and accuracy of the security clearance adjudication process at both the initial investigation process and throughout the career of personnel serving in positions within the Intelligence Community.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO UNITED STATES ECONOMIC AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION WITH UNITED STATES ADVERSARIES

The Committees support the National Intelligence Strategy of 2023 goal of leveraging emerging technologies and their adoption at scale. Sections 7502 through 7506 of the Act further advance this objective, and the Committees expect the Intelligence Community to implement these provisions faithfully and expeditiously.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OFFICE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Section 7318 establishes a counterintelligence office located within the Department of Agriculture. Accordingly, the Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit the report required in section 7318(f)(2) to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House, at the same time that the Director submits the report to the congressional intelligence and appropriations committees.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale

may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-86, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$255 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-86

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$255 million.
Total \$255 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Communications equipment, including AN/PRC-117G, AN/PRC-152A, AN/PRC-158, AN/PRC-160, AN/PRC-163, and AN/PRC-167 radios; Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers enabled by Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code; support equipment; spare parts; technical manuals and publications; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-B-UAZ, PL-B-UBM, PL-B-UBN, PL-B-UBZ, PL-B-UCA, PL-B-UCF, PL-B-UCI, PL-B-UCN, PL-B-UCR, PL-B-UCT, PL-8-UCV, PL-B-UDA, PL-B-UDC, PL-B-UDG, PL-B-UDH, PL-B-UDI, PL-B-UDK, PL-B-UDM, PL-B-UDO.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 13, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—Communications Equipment

The Government of Poland has requested to buy communications equipment, including AN/PRC-117G, AN/PRC-152A, AN/PRC-158, AN/PRC-160, AN/PRC-163, and AN/PRC-167 radios; Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers enabled by Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code; support equipment; spare parts; technical manuals and publications; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$255 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's communications capability and contribute to its military goal of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will L3Harris Technologies, Inc., Melbourne, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require temporary duty travel of up to five (5) U.S. Government and/or contractor representatives to travel to Poland for a short period to conduct training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-86

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/PRC-117G delivers breakthrough wideband data speed and legacy narrowband performance. Equipped with MUOS-ready hardware, this manpack is 30% smaller and 35% lighter than any other currently available. The AN/PRC-117G is also the industry's first and only tactical radio with NINE Suite B encryption, allowing for secure interoperability with the United States, NATO, and regional tactical partners.

2. The Falcon III AN/PRC-152A delivers simultaneous voice and high-speed data, seamlessly connecting dismount and upper-echelon networks. Even in challenging environments, the AN/PRC-152A provides voice, data, imagery, and video, giving warfighters critical mission intelligence for enhanced decision-making.

3. The Falcon IV AN/PRC-158 delivers dual-channel connectivity across the full 30-2500 MHz frequency range. Compact and lightweight, the MCMP provides forward-deployed warfighters with an unrivaled level of tactical communications flexibility. Equipped with a Software Communications Architecture (SCA) and a broad portfolio of narrowband and wideband waveforms, the AN/PRC-158 ensures advanced interoperability and fast in-field updates for new capabilities. The manpack's two channels and superior routing and crossbanding technologies support communications redundancy and sharing critical voice and data intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) with a variety of nets and sub nets.

4. The Falcon III AN/PRC-160(V) is the smallest, lightest, and fastest Type I-certified high frequency (HF) manpack available today. Engineered for advanced security

and performance, the Wideband HF/VHF Tactical Radio System features industry-leading encryption and breakthrough data performance and interoperability.

5. The AN/PRC-163 Multi-channel Handheld Radio is a versatile, secure solution that leverages crossbanding to provide simultaneous data & voice across SATCOM, Line-of-Sight, and Mobile Ad-hoc Networking (MANET) modes. As mission needs evolve, this software-defined handheld supports fast, in-field updates to new capabilities. An external mission module hardware interface allows warfighters to quickly add options including ISR video and SATCOM.

6. The AN/PRC-167 harnesses the power of multiple tactical devices converged into a single manpack. The radio provides superior communications range extension, delivering real-time situational awareness updates up and down levels of command. Engineered to meet multi-domain challenges of any combination of ground, vehicular, and airborne missions, the manpack simultaneously and independently runs the full frequency range of a broad portfolio of waveforms on each of two channels. As mission needs evolve, this software-defined man-pack supports fast, in-field capability updates.

7. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

8. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

9. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

10. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Poland.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I submit to the Senate a budget scorekeeping report. The report, which covers fiscal year 2024, was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. This information enables the Senate Budget Committee to determine if budgetary

points of order lie against pending legislation.

CBO's report shows the effect on spending and revenues of congressional action through December 10, 2023, as compared to the levels that I filed on June 21 as authorized by section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, or FRA. Since then, Congress has passed six pieces of legislation with small effects on direct spending. These include two continuing resolutions that were eligible for adjustments to enforceable levels as permitted under the FRA.

Tables 1 and 2 show that current budgetary levels are above allowable amounts for budget authority and within allowable amounts for outlays. The government is currently operating under a bipartisan short-term continuing resolution that extends the previous year's discretionary funding levels through early 2024. The budget authority level shown in the tables is artificially high because it reflects CBO's estimate of the continuing resolution, which for technical reasons is higher than the statutory limits. Enactment of full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2024 consistent with budget agreement surrounding the FRA would bring total budget authority in line with the allowable limits. These tables also reflect that there has been no change to Social Security.

Table 3 shows the Senate's pay-as-you-go scorecard, which reflects \$44 million of net deficit reduction over 10 years.

The Democratic staff of the Budget Committee prepared an addendum table to supplement CBO's report, which compares the mandatory spending of each authorizing committee against the enforceable allocations under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act. It shows that 15 of the 16 authorizing committees are complying with their allocations, either because no legislation with significant budgetary costs was enacted, the legislation was deficit-neutral and qualified for an allocation adjustment that was subsequently filed, or the legislation reduced spending.

I ask unanimous consent that CBO's letter, accompanying tables, and the addendum be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, Washington, DC, December 13, 2023.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2024 budget and is current through December 10, 2023. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2023, pursuant to section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, Public Law 118-5).

Since the enactment of the FRA, the Congress has cleared the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority, outlays, or revenues in fiscal year 2024:

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 118-15);

Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-22); and

A 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)" (S.J. Res 32).

This is the first current level letter for fiscal year 2024.

Sincerely, PHILLIP L. SWAGEL, Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

Table with 4 columns: Budget Resolution, Current Level, Current Level Over/Under (-) Resolution, and values in billions of dollars.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

Table with 4 columns: Description, Budget Authority, Outlays, and Revenues, showing detailed spending and revenue data.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023—

Continued
[In millions of dollars]

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Total Current Level, Total Senate Resolution, Current Level Over Senate Resolution, and Memorandum: Revenues, 2024–2033.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.
For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (P.L. 93–344) in the Senate, the aggregate spending and revenue levels for 2024 published in the Congressional Record on June 21, 2023, by the Chair-

man of the Senate Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 121 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA, P.L. 118–5) do not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, amounts in this current-level report do not include those items.

In keeping with the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114–255), certain funding for the Department of Health and Human Services is excluded from estimates for the purposes of both the Budget Act and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA P.L. 99–177), as amended. As a result, this report excludes \$457 million in budget authority and \$770 million in outlays. Similarly, in keeping with section 14003 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116–136, as modified by section 101 of division AA of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116260)), certain funding provided to the Army Corps of Engineers is excluded from estimates for the purposes of both the Budget Act and the Deficit Control Act. As a result, this report excludes \$2,374 million in budget authority and \$2,374 million in outlays.

a Current-level amounts and allocations include budgetary effects designated as an emergency requirement in keeping with section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. However, they exclude budgetary effects designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001 of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022. In consultation with the Senate Committee on the Budget and in keeping with section 103 of the FRA, current-level amounts and allocations also exclude amounts previously enacted and designated as an emergency requirement for 2024 for allocation enforcement under the Budget Act. Those amounts are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Authorizing Legislation: Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118–5) and Appropriation Legislation: Congressional non-BBEDCA Emergencies.

b Section 121 of the FRA requires the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2024; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on June 21, 2023. The Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget has the authority to revise the budgetary aggregates for the budgetary effects of certain revenue and spending measures pursuant to the Budget Act and the FRA:

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Original Aggregates Printed on June 21, 2023, Revisions: Published in the Congressional Record on September 12, 2023, October 24, 2023, and November 29, 2023, and Revised Senate Resolution.

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

[In millions of dollars]

Table with 4 columns: Category, 2024, 2024–2028, 2024–2033. Rows include Beginning Balance, Enacted Legislation, Impact on Deficit, and Total Change in Outlays/Revenues.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
P.L. = public law; * = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.
a On June 21, 2023 the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.
b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.
c Excludes off-budget amounts.
d Section 2401(b) requires the budgetary effects of that division to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 2401 of division B.
e Section 701(b) requires the budgetary effects of that division to be excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard; however, the revenue effects from the immigration extensions included in division A are included in the scorecard because division A does not fall within the exclusion in section 701 of division B.

ADDENDUM: SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS

Table with 4 columns: Category, 2024, 2024–2028, 2024–2033. Rows include Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works.

ADDENDUM: SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS—Continued

Table with 4 columns: Category, 2024, 2024–2028, 2024–2033. Rows include Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Intelligence.

ADDENDUM: SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS—Continued

Table with 4 columns: Category, 2024, 2024–2028, 2024–2033. Rows include Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Veterans' Affairs.

ADDENDUM: SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE SPENDING
COMPARED TO ALLOCATIONS—Continued

(\$ in millions; positive numbers represent spending above enforceable limits)

	2024	2024–2028	2024–2033
Outlays	0	1	-1
Memo—all committees, total over allocation:			
Budget Authority	-2	-20	-44
Outlays	-2	-20	-44

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR NICK OLTMAN

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Maj. Nick Oltman, U.S. Marine Corps, for his outstanding work on behalf of the people of Maine and the Nation as a 2023 Department of Defense legislative fellow serving in my Washington, DC, office. Over the past year, Nick has been integral in shaping my foreign policy and defense priorities. He helped secure several provisions in the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act—FY24 NDAA—that will make our country stronger and safer. Nick led my staff in orchestrating important appropriations for the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy. His contributions to office morale and our collective work product are emblematic of his good character, competence, and strong work ethic.

Throughout his tenure in my Office, Nick demonstrated a level of professionalism and hard work I have come to expect—but not take for granted—from Department of Defense legislative fellows. Indeed, he follows a long line of accomplished military officers who have made impactful contributions to my office and U.S. national security policy. Over the year, Nick prepared and advised me on wide-ranging and complex matters under consideration before the Senate Armed Services Committee. His attention to detail served me well; Nick managed over 400 individual authorization and appropriation requests, 455 markup amendments, and over 900 floor amendments. He brought his cybersecurity and budget expertise to assist me in the Strategic Forces Subcommittee briefings and deliberations, which resulted in important funding authorizations and legislation. He authored and shepherded a provision in the final act that establishes an artificial intelligence watermark competition across the private sector and Federal Government. Nick's outstanding leadership showed in his work with constituents and while securing legislation to address changes to basic allowance for housing and oversight of the transition assistance program.

Further, he authored sections of legislative text and report language, including one of my top concerns regarding hypersonic defense and securing important funding for advanced research impacting Maine from Aroostook to York County. In addition, he became my go-to lead for monitoring

the horrific wars in Ukraine and Israel, providing clear-headed and thoughtful analysis, and liaised with representatives from the White House, State Department, and Department of Defense to convey my positions and concerns. His candor and honest assessments provided critical insights during this fraught time in U.S. history, and our Nation is better because of it.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, I extend my deepest gratitude to Major Oltman for his unwavering dedication to my staff, the State of Maine, the U.S. Marine Corps, and our Nation. The greatness of the U.S. military is built on the service and sacrifice of servicemembers like Major Oltman. His commitment is not a solitary endeavor, and I want to acknowledge the support of his family: his wife Meghan and his son Sean. I wish them all the best as they embark on what I am certain is a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING HARVEY JAMES
MUNFORD

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the life of Harvey James Munford, an exemplary Nevadan that served his State as an educator and coach for 36 years and as an elected State assemblyman for over a decade. Mr. Munford peacefully passed away at the age of 83 on October 26, 2023, at his Las Vegas, NV, home.

Mr. Munford led a remarkable life with many professional and personal achievements. As the first African American to attend Montana State University Billings, Mr. Munford showed exceptional courage while paving the way for other African Americans to follow in his footsteps. Mr. Munford attended college on a basketball scholarship, but he never neglected his studies and earned a bachelor's degree in biology and physical education. He went on to earn a master's degree in political science and guidance and counseling, also at MSU Billings. In 1994, Mr. Munford was honored with an induction into the MSU Billings Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Munford's athletic talent extended far beyond college, as he played professional basketball for the Los Angeles Lakers and was drafted for professional football by the Los Angeles Rams. However, Mr. Munford's passion for education caused him to relocate to Las Vegas, where he served as an educator for the Clark County School District, College of Southern Nevada, and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During his decades-long career in the Clark County School District, Mr. Munford had the opportunity to accompany over 200 students to Washington, DC, to explore the Nation's Capital and experience firsthand how the Federal Government works.

After officially retiring as an educator, Mr. Munford became a public serv-

ant and was an elected State assemblyman for Clark County District 6, where he served from 2004 to 2016. During his time as a legislator, Mr. Munford was a passionate civil rights and education advocate. He helped pass numerous bills, including multicultural education and the passage of Juneteenth as an official holiday in the State of Nevada. It is evident Mr. Munford's work in the State assembly was guided by his desire to have a positive lasting impact on the lives of all Nevadans.

Beyond Mr. Munford's extensive professional achievements, he was a dedicated family man. Mr. Munford was married to his wife Viviana for 29 years and had five children and stepchildren, in addition to 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Munford was also a talented organist and equine trainer, and he enjoyed watching old Western movies, historical documentaries, and sports.

Mr. Munford was a husband, father, grandfather, educator, civil servant, civil rights activist, athlete, and Nevadan. Mr. Munford left a positive lasting impact on the lives of many Nevadans, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Munford for his significant impact in the State. I celebrate Mr. Munford's legacy, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. COOPER

• Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. JAMES M. Cooper to Indiana's State banking system and in recognition of his retirement from the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, or CSBS. Jim has been an essential member of the CSBS team for over 10 years, first leading the CSBS policy and supervision team and, for the past 18 months, serving as president and chief executive officer of CSBS, bringing direction, leadership, and compassion after the sudden death of former CSBS president and chief executive officer John W. Ryan.

During his tenure, Jim helped to advance the State system's strategy for strengthening and streamlining State regulation, known as Networked Supervision, and provided stability during a time of stress for the banking system. Jim brought innovation to State supervision and CSBS's core mission, particularly advancing data and analytics for the State system.

In Jim's 40-year career, he proved himself to be a dedicated public servant to the State of Indiana. After graduating from Hanover College in Hanover, IN, he had a distinguished 30-year career at the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions, where he served as deputy director from 1994 to 2013. In that role, he oversaw the supervision and examination of all State-chartered depository institutions in Indiana, including banks, credit unions, corporate fiduciaries, savings banks, and savings associations.

Throughout his career, Jim has worked diligently to ensure a safe and sound financial services environment, including during the most tumultuous times in our economy. During the great recession and the more recent 2023 bank closures, Jim showed his steadfast ability to manage a difficult situation and minimize the effects of disruption within the industry.

I know Jim will be missed by CSBS and the entire State banking system, and I wish him the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, 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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1147. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2670. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

At 4:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2365. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Mr. Bucshon of Indiana, and Ms. McCollum of Minnesota.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 2406(b)(3) of Public Law 116-9, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Adams Memorial Commission: Mr. Griffith of Virginia, Mr. Moolenaar of Michigan, Mr. Lynch of Massachusetts, and Mr. Connolly of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Public Law 111-68, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Mr. Bacon of Nebraska.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. Norcross of New Jersey.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4703(b) of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 4703), the Majority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. Glenn Grothman of Wisconsin.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4412, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Mr. Cole of Oklahoma and Ms. Leger Fernandez of New Mexico.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2365. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent, diagnose, treat,

and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1147. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 14, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. A 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)".

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. VANCE:

S. 3514. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on net investment income of certain private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3515. A bill to improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VANCE:

S. 3516. A bill to impose a fee on certain remittance transfers to fund border security; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3517. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3518. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to make grants to eligible entities to assist certain individuals in reentering a secondary school or a high school equivalency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3519. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3520. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3521. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a credit for the domestic production of rare earth magnets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3522. A bill to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3523. A bill to end unemployment payments to jobless millionaires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3524. A bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about student loan forgiveness programs, repayment programs, and repayment plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3525. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to maintain a peer-to-peer support line to provide emotional support, information, brief intervention, and mental health resources to youth who are experiencing stress or who are at risk of, or affected by, mental health disorders, and to establish a grant program for local educational agencies to employ school-based mental health coordinators; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3526. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3527. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from engaging in transactions involving the exchange of Special Drawing Rights issued by the International Monetary Fund that are held by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3528. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the position of Coordinator for Disabled Small Business Concerns within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3529. A bill to provide procedures for appealing certain Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rulings or determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3530. A bill to retain Federal employees who are spouses of a member of the Armed Forces or the Foreign Service when relocating due to an involuntary transfer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 3531. A bill to prohibit actions to carry out the Department of Commerce's pause in the issuance of new export licenses for certain exports under the Commerce Control List; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a Task Force on Youth Mental Health Data Integration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3533. A bill to appropriate, with an offset, \$36,000,000 for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to increase audits of imported shrimp and red snapper; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3534. A bill to authorize the Pines Foundation to establish the Fire Island AIDS Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3535. A bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 3536. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3537. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to disclose information about career and technical education and funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and require FAFSA applications to include a career and technical education acknowledgment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3538. A bill to address applications for deposit insurance submitted by industrial banks to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 3539. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to remove the exclusion of certain small business concerns from the disadvantaged business enterprise program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3540. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to increase grants to combat domestic violence for States that implement domestic violence prevention training in the cosmetologist and barber licensing process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3541. A bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3542. A bill to amend the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act to modify the boundary of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3543. A bill to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3544. A bill to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the "Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3545. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health data accessibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3546. A bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3547. A bill to require the United States Government to assist in the establishment of national security councils in specified countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3548. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3549. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3550. A bill to clarify training requirements for prescribers of controlled substances; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3551. A bill to modify the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to provide a limited accreditation option for performing certain adoption services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3552. A bill to amend the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 to allow qualified tax-exempt organizations to claim the employee retention credit for employers affected by qualified disasters against Medicare hospital insurance taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3553. A bill to provide a retroactive effective date for the promotions of senior officers of the Armed Forces whose military promotions were delayed as a result of the suspension of Senate confirmation of such promotions; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 503. A resolution congratulating the Florida State University Seminoles for winning the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference Football Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. Res. 504. A resolution requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 505. A resolution condemning the use of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war by the terrorist group Hamas against the people of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 506. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 507. A resolution designating September 25, 2023, as "National Ataxia Aware-

ness Day", and raising awareness of ataxia, ataxia research, and the search for a cure; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. Res. 508. A resolution recognizing Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2023; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 509. A resolution recognizing the first commemoration of the anti-LGBTQ+ attack that occurred on November 19-20, 2022, at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 510. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the scientific judgment of the Food and Drug Administration that mifepristone is safe and effective should be respected, and law and policy governing access to lifesaving, time-sensitive medication abortion care in the United States should be equitable and based on science; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to ensure that teachers are paid a livable and competitive salary throughout their career, and for other purposes.

S. 1031

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1031, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1113

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to establish a Federal grant program to combat the smuggling and trafficking of children and young women.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1474

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1474, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1560

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1560, a bill to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1944

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to exempt grants received under the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act from Federal taxation.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2227, a bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes.

S. 2327

At the request of Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2327, a bill to provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, adequate vetting for parolees from Afghanistan, adjustment of status for eligible individuals, and special immigrant status for at-risk Afghan allies and relatives of certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name 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. 2592

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2592, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require nationwide consumer reporting agencies, upon request, to use the current legal name of a consumer on consumer reports, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors 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. 2849

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2849, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes.

S. 3078

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3078, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize Anti-Semitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act.

S. 3109

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3109, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 3125

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms.

DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3125, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3187

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3187, a bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to publish various publications and reports regarding the number of aliens seeking entry along the southern border of the United States.

S. 3221

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3221, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a special limitation on pay for wildland fire responders, and for other purposes.

S. 3223

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3223, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent bulk sales of ammunition, promote recordkeeping and reporting about ammunition, end ammunition straw purchasing, and require a background check before the transfer of ammunition by certain Federal firearms licensees to non-licensees.

S. 3227

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3227, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

S. 3330

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3330, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study on the fiduciary duties of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3405, a bill to require reciprocity from certain countries with respect to the reporting of official meetings with State and local officials, and for other purposes.

S. 3449

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3449, a bill to provide low-income individuals with opportunities to enter and follow a career pathway in

the health professions, and for other purposes.

S. 3454

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3454, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to purchase at-home tests for SARS-CoV-2 from certain foreign entities.

S. 3466

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3466, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress reports regarding security and safety at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3491

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3491, a bill to prohibit United States contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Green Climate Fund.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 500

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 500, a resolution designating November 8, 2023, as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3544. A bill to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the "Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I am pleased to join Senator VAN HOLLEN in

introducing legislation to honor my friend and former colleague, the late Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, for his ceaseless efforts to preserve Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. Senator Sarbanes worked tirelessly to honor the site and elevate the history of the War of 1812 in the national consciousness throughout his career. This legislation acknowledges his long-term advocacy for the preservation of the site and the improvement of the visitor experience by designating the visitor and education center the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

I first got to know Senator Sarbanes when he first ran for public office in 1966. We both were elected to the Maryland General Assembly that year, and we became good friends. Delegate Sarbanes at that point made a name for himself on the House Judiciary Committee in the Maryland General Assembly and was a rising star from his first day in the Maryland General Assembly. He shortly thereafter ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms with a very distinguished record. His service in the House occurred during the Watergate scandal. Representative Sarbanes was on the Judiciary Committee and was given the responsibility of the first Article of Impeachment against President Nixon. That article dealt with obstruction of justice. It was the key article against President Nixon on impeachment, and it is very telling that a relatively young and junior Member of the House of Representatives was entrusted with pursuing and presenting it. It was because of his work ethic, his commitment to scholarship, and his understanding of legal issues that he was entrusted with such an awesome responsibility.

Paul Sarbanes then served five terms in the U.S. Senate, the longest term for any Senator in Maryland's history, which Senator Barbara Mikulski ties 10 years later. Paul Sarbanes was known as a Senator's Senator for his integrity and for his principled commitment to public service. He was a Rhodes Scholar who chose to serve the public rather than using his skills in the private sector for his own personal gain. His entire life was devoted to public service. What a legacy he has left us by his incredible public service. In 2002, the Enron scandal hit America, and Senator Sarbanes, then chairing the Banking Committee, teamed up with House Financial Services Committee Chair Michael Oxley ass the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. Then-President George W. Bush called the Sarbanes-Oxley bill "the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt." From Watergate to Enron and beyond, Paul Sarbanes stepped into the breach and he delivered on behalf of the American people. It is a fitting tribute to name the Visitor Center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine after a true American hero: Paul S. Sarbanes.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3549. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am reintroducing the Predatory Lending Elimination Act along with along with Senator MERKLEY, Senate Banking Committee Chairman BROWN, and many of my colleagues. This important legislation would extend the bipartisan Military Lending Act's, MLA, protections for Active-Duty servicemembers and their families to all Americans by imposing a nationwide 36-percent cap on the annual percentage rate APR for most extensions of consumer credit.

To The MLA was enacted on a bipartisan basis in 2006 to rein in payday and other unscrupulous lenders that targeted American troops with abusive and predatory loans. Unfortunately, the MLA does not protect veterans or Gold Star families from these exploitative practices. Our servicemembers and their families should not lose important consumer protections simply because they retire, separate from honorable service, or lose their loved ones. As such, our legislation would extend the MLA's protections to veterans and Gold Star families as well as ensure that all Americans are shielded from predatory loans.

Hundreds of millions of American consumers could benefit from a 36-percent APR cap. In States that do not have such a cap, predatory lenders are permitted to offer loans with triple-digit APRs that trap individuals in cycles of debt. For instance, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that 80 percent of payday loans are rolled over or renewed within 2 weeks. This practice can subject borrowers not just to high nominal interest rates but also to high fees that can quickly surpass the amount of money originally borrowed. These are hallmarks of predatory lending and poor underwriting.

According to a coalition of community organizations, payday lenders are known to target the most vulnerable, including seniors, veterans, and low-income borrowers. Many in these communities were already struggling to make ends meet before the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing to pay exorbitant APRs may cause them to fall deeper into economic insecurity. This is why it is important to extend strong protections against unscrupulous lenders to all Americans.

The MLA's successful track record demonstrates that providing reasonable, responsible limits on interest

rates does not cut off consumers' access to credit. According to a May 2021 report from the Department of Defense, "credit cards, auto loans, and personal loans are widely available at risk-based rates under the 36 percent [military] APR" and "[s]ervice members continue to have ample access to necessary credit."

Moreover, this legislation would follow the trend in many States towards greater protections against predatory loans. Nineteen States and the District of Columbia have enacted 36 percent APR caps or banned payday loans. Lenders in these States have incentives to offer more affordable loans that borrowers have an ability to repay. The same incentives should apply across the Nation.

I thank the 170 consumer advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, veteran service organizations, and trade associations that support this bill, including the Consumer Federation of America, the National Consumer Law Center on behalf of its low-income clients, the Center for Responsible Lending, Americans for Financial Reform, Amalgamated Bank, the Military Officers Association of America, and the National Military Family Association.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 503—CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SEMINOLES FOR WINNING THE 2023 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 503

Whereas, on December 2, 2023, the Florida State University Seminoles football team won the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Football Championship;

Whereas this marks a conference-leading 16th ACC Football Championship that the Seminoles have won since they joined the ACC in 1992;

Whereas the Seminoles defeated the nationally-ranked University of Louisville football team in the 19th ACC Football Championship game;

Whereas the Seminoles finished the regular season undefeated for the sixth time in program history;

Whereas the Seminoles were 1 of only 3 undefeated Power Five conference teams in America.

Whereas this marks the 109th ACC title for Florida State University Seminoles Athletics;

Whereas the Seminoles led all schools with 8 Seminoles players selected to the ACC All-Conference First Team;

Whereas the Seminoles led all schools with 17 ACC All-Conference selections on the first, second, and third teams;

Whereas Seminoles quarterback Jordan Travis—

(1) earned the 2023 ACC Football Player of the Year award; and

(2) earned the 2023 ACC Offensive Player of the Year award;

Whereas Seminoles Head Coach Michael Norvell—

(1) won his first ACC Football Championship in only his fourth season as head coach; and

(2) is only the fourth coach in program history to finish the regular season undefeated;

Whereas the Seminoles were the only undefeated Power Five Conference Champion to ever be left out of the playoffs;

Whereas the Seminoles were never ranked lower than fifth in any College Football Playoff rankings;

Whereas the Seminoles were jumped in the final College Football Playoff rankings by 2 teams with 1 loss despite the Seminoles having an undefeated record;

Whereas for the first time in the 10-year history of the College Football Playoffs system, 2 teams below the top 6 in the penultimate rankings each made an unprecedented jump of 4 spots to make the playoffs in the final rankings;

Whereas the 13-member College Football Playoff Selection Committee has continually operated under an opaque structure and decision-making process during its 10-year history, culminating in the unprecedented decision to leave out the undefeated Seminoles from the playoffs;

Whereas the College Football Playoff Selection Committee failed to adhere to its own College Football Playoff Selection Committee Protocols and Guiding Principles during the selection process;

Whereas the College Football Playoff Selection Committee did not follow its own precedent, such as when in 2014 the Committee admitted a 1-loss team into the playoffs, despite starting and winning its conference championship game with a third-string quarterback;

Whereas, despite facing substantial adversity throughout the entire season and the loss of numerous key players to injuries, the Seminoles finished the season undefeated and as the ACC Football Champions; and

Whereas the entire Seminoles roster, the coaches, and the support staff should be recognized for their outstanding season and contributions to an outstanding season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Florida State University football team, and the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and trustees of Florida State University, for winning the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference Football Championship and completing an undefeated season; and

(2) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Florida State University, Richard McCullough;

(B) the Athletic Director of Florida State University, Michael Alford; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Florida State University football team, Michael Norvell.

SENATE RESOLUTION 504—REQUESTING INFORMATION ON ISRAEL'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 502B(C) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

Mr. SANDERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 504

Whereas there have been 5 rounds of fighting between Israel and Hamas in the last 15 years;

Whereas the current round of conflict began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas, a terrorist organization, unleashed a brutal attack against Israel, killing some 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, and taking more than 200 hostages;

Whereas United States citizens were among those killed and abducted by Hamas;

Whereas the Senate has unanimously reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas terrorism and respond against the perpetrators of the October 7, 2023, attack;

Whereas Israel has conducted retaliatory military operations against targets in Gaza since October 7, 2023, relying heavily on the use of airstrikes and artillery bombardment;

Whereas, as of December 14, 2023, nearly 19,000 people have been killed and more than 50,000 wounded in the Israeli counteroffensive in Gaza since October 7, 2023;

Whereas 70 percent of those killed in Gaza are reported to be women and children;

Whereas the United Nations, World Health Organization, human rights monitors, outside academic studies, the Government of Israel, and United States officials find these figures to be broadly reliable;

Whereas the United Nations, United States officials, and outside experts believe the current death toll is likely higher, with thousands of bodies trapped beneath the rubble in Gaza;

Whereas 135 United Nations aid workers have been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023;

Whereas nearly 1,900,000 people, more than 85 percent of the population, have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023;

Whereas, on November 24, 2023, the United Nations reported that "across the Gaza Strip, over 234,000 housing units have been damaged and more than 46,000 homes have been completely destroyed, amounting to over 60 [percent] of the total housing stock";

Whereas 43 United Nations facilities have sustained direct hits, 60 United Nations installations have sustained collateral damage, and 11 bakeries have been destroyed in the bombardment;

Whereas academic analysis of satellite radar data confirms the United Nations assessment that some 60 percent of the buildings in northern Gaza have been severely damaged and, across the Gaza Strip, "between 82,600 and 105,300 buildings have been left in ruins, according to the estimate, which counts buildings where at least half the structure was damaged";

Whereas Robert Pape, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, said that "over the space of two years, between 1943 and 1945, the Allied bombing of 61 major German cities razed an estimated 50 percent of their urban areas," and that the Allied bombing of Dresden severely damaged 56 percent of that city's non-industrial buildings and half of its homes, a threshold the bombing in Gaza has matched in 2 months;

Whereas the Israeli military has made extensive use of Mark 84 2,000-pound bombs, Mark 83 1,000-pound bombs, Mark 82 500-pound bombs, and 155mm artillery in densely populated urban areas with a large civilian presence;

Whereas these munitions are manufactured in the United States and supplied to Israel by the United States;

Whereas the Washington Post reports that, in the first 6 weeks after October 7, 2023, the Government of Israel dropped more than 22,000 guided and unguided bombs on Gaza that were supplied by the United States;

Whereas CNN reports, based on United States intelligence assessments, that 40 to 45 percent of the 29,000 air-to-ground munitions

that Israel has used in Gaza since October 7, 2023 have been unguided “dumb bombs”;

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reports that the United States has provided at least 15,000 bombs and 57,000 155mm artillery shells to Israel since October 7, 2023, including more than 5,000 Mark 82 unguided 500-pound bombs, more than 5,400 Mark 84 2,000-pound bombs, and thousands of smaller munitions and targeting kits;

Whereas these munitions were delivered with the knowledge that they would likely be used in Gaza, a densely populated urban area with a large civilian presence;

Whereas the entire Gaza Strip is the physical size of Las Vegas but has more than 3 times the population, and Gaza City is more densely populated than New York City;

Whereas, on December 1, 2023, United States officials told the Wall Street Journal that “Israel used an American-provided bomb with a large payload in one of the deadliest strikes of the entire war, an attack that leveled an apartment block in Gaza’s Jabalia refugee camp, killing more than 100 people” in its effort to eliminate a Hamas leader, also reported killed in the strike; and

Whereas Amnesty International has found, based on photographic and satellite evidence, as well as on-the-ground investigation and analysis of bomb fragments, that United States-made Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) were used in 2 deadly Israeli airstrikes on homes in Gaza in which 43 civilians were killed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ISRAEL’S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

(a) STATEMENT REQUESTED.—The Senate requests that the Secretary of State, not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), a statement regarding Israel’s human rights practices that has been prepared in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under subsection (a) should include—

(1) all available credible information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of Israel, including—

(A) the denial of the right to life in the context of the armed conflict in Gaza and the West Bank caused by indiscriminate or disproportionate operations; and

(B) the denial of the right to life and the security of the person by the blanket denial of basic humanitarian needs, including food, water, medical care, fuel, and shelter;

(2) a description of the steps that the United States Government has taken to—

(A) promote respect for and observance of human rights as part of the Government of Israel’s activities, including in the context of the armed conflict in Gaza and the West Bank;

(B) limit the risk to civilian life and civilian infrastructure caused by Israeli military action in Gaza and the West Bank;

(C) discourage any practices that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(D) publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any security assistance provided for the Government of Israel from any practices described in subparagraph (C);

(3) an assessment, notwithstanding any practices described in paragraph (2)(B), of whether extraordinary circumstances exist

that necessitate a continuation of security assistance for the Government of Israel, and if so, a description of the circumstances and the extent to which security assistance should be continued (subject to such conditions as Congress may impose under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304));

(4) a certification that no unit of the Israeli security forces receiving United States assistance since January 1, 2018, has—

(A) committed any gross violations of human rights; or

(B) continued to receive United States assistance in violation of section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) or section 362 of title 10, United States Code;

(5) a description of the manner and extent to which the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense has determined, for purposes of compliance with the vetting requirements of section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, that any information relating to the commission of human rights violations by units of Israeli security forces is credible; and

(6) other information, including—

(A) a summary and list of United States weapons and munitions provided to Israel since October 7, 2023;

(B) an assessment from the Secretary of State of the likelihood that United States security assistance (as defined in section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d))) will be used in support of Israeli activities related to the armed conflict in Gaza and the West Bank;

(C) a detailed assessment of the compliance of the Government of Israel with international human rights and humanitarian law during its operations in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7, 2023; and

(D) a description and assessment of the actions that the United States Government is taking to ensure end use monitoring protocols for all weapons sold or transferred to the Government of Israel for use in Gaza and the West Bank.

(c) GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “gross violations of human rights” has the meaning given the term “gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304).

SENATE RESOLUTION 505—CONDEMNING THE USE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR BY THE TERRORIST GROUP HAMAS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 505

Whereas on October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas—

(1) attacked communities, military installations, and a music festival in southern Israel;

(2) killed approximately 1,200 people; and

(3) seized more than 200 hostages;

Whereas evidence that emerged in the first days after such attacks indicates that Hamas fighters deliberately used sexual violence against women and children;

Whereas Israeli police have gathered evidence from more than 1,500 women and men in Israel—

(1) who reported being sexually assaulted during such attacks;

(2) who were witness to such sexual assaults; or

(3) whose sexual assaults have been medically documented;

Whereas while gender-based violence is prevalent in many conflict settings—

(1) such violence is almost always severely underreported during and after a conflict; and

(2) the United Nations estimates that, in conflict areas, for every rape that is reported, between 10 and 20 cases of sexual violence are not reported;

Whereas the Civil Commission on October 7 Crimes by Hamas Against Women And Children, which seeks to document the sexual and gender-based atrocities committed on October 7, 2023, reported that it is unable to accurately estimate the number of such victims in part because many of them were killed during the Hamas attacks;

Whereas the victims of the deliberate use of sexual violence as a weapon to wage war against Israel are men and women of all ages, including children, teenagers, and the elderly;

Whereas eyewitness testimony reports that women at the Tribe of Nova music festival were gang-raped, tortured, mutilated, and executed;

Whereas Israeli officials have documented extensive sexual abuse of corpses;

Whereas reports from released hostages held by Hamas for more than a month indicate that women and men were subjected to sexual violence while in captivity;

Whereas the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (commonly referred to as the “Fourth Geneva Convention”) recognizes rape in conflict settings as a war crime; and

Whereas sexual violence is used in many conflict settings as a tool to humiliate, control, oppress, and defeat women and the communities to which they belong: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memories of all the victims of the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas, including those who were victims of sexual violence, and stands with the survivors, their families, and the families of all the deceased;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms the deliberate use of gender-based violence against women and children in Israel during the terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023;

(3) calls upon the international community—

(A) to prioritize the elimination of gender-based violence in conflict settings;

(B) to respond to the testimonials of victims and recognize and condemn gender-based violence in conflict settings as soon as it is reported; and

(C) to take every possible step to end the widespread use of rape as a weapon of war;

(4) demands accountability for the perpetrators of rape as a weapon of war and justice for their victims; and

(5) stands with the women and girls of Israel, the victims of the heinous attacks of October 7, and all who have suffered rape as a weapon of war.

SENATE RESOLUTION 506—COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPEAL OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT OF 1882

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 506

Whereas many Chinese people came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life;

Whereas the contributions of Chinese Americans in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, canning, and other industries were critical to shaping the history of the United States and strengthening the United States in the present;

Whereas Chinese people faced racial ostracism and violent assaults in the United States from the middle of the 19th century through the early 20th century, and Chinese people continue to experience anti-Asian hate in the present;

Whereas, on October 19, 1868, the United States ratified the Burlingame Treaty, which permitted the free movement of Chinese people to, from, and within the United States, and made China a “most favored nation”;

Whereas, in 1878, Congress introduced a joint resolution requesting that President Rutherford B. Hayes renegotiate the Burlingame Treaty so Congress could limit Chinese immigration to the United States;

Whereas, on February 22, 1879, Congress passed the “Fifteen Passenger Bill”, which would have only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on board any ship traveling to the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the “Fifteen Passenger Bill” as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty;

Whereas, on May 9, 1881, the United States ratified the Angell Treaty, which—

(1) allowed the United States to suspend, but not to prohibit, the immigration of Chinese laborers;

(2) declared that “Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will”; and

(3) reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed “all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation”;

Whereas Congress passed legislation that adversely affected and limited the civil rights of Chinese people in the United States, including—

(1) on March 23, 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion Act, which would have excluded skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers for 20 years and expressly denied Chinese people the right to be naturalized as citizens of the United States, and which was vetoed by President Chester A. Arthur on April 4, 1882, as incompatible with the terms and the spirit of the Angell Treaty;

(2) on May 3, 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which—

(A) prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States for 10 years instead of 20;

(B) required certain Chinese laborers already legally present at that time in the United States who later wished to reenter the United States to obtain “certificates for return”;

(C) prohibited courts from naturalizing Chinese individuals;

(D) was signed into law by President Arthur on May 6, 1882; and

(E) was the first Federal law that excluded a single group of people in the United States on the basis of race;

(3) on July 3, 1884, an expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 (23 Stat. 115, chapter 220), which—

(A) applied the Act to all people of Chinese descent, “whether subjects of China or any other foreign power”; and

(B) was signed into law by President Arthur on July 5, 1884;

(4) on September 13, 1888, the Scott Act (25 Stat. 504, chapter 1064), which—

(A) prohibited legal Chinese laborers from reentering the United States, and cancelled all previously issued “certificates for return”;

(B) was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland on October 1, 1888; and

(C) was determined by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Chae Chan Ping v. United States*, 130 U.S. 581 (1889), to have abrogated the Angell Treaty; and

(5) on May 4, 1892, the Geary Act (27 Stat. 25, chapter 60), which—

(A) reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for another 10 years;

(B) denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail on application for a writ of habeas corpus;

(C) authorized the deportation of Chinese people who could not produce a certificate of residence unless they could establish residence through the testimony of “at least one credible white witness”, contrary to customary legal standards regarding the presumption of innocence; and

(D) was signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison on May 5, 1892;

Whereas, in 1894, the United States and China agreed to the Gresham-Yang Treaty, within which the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for readmission to the United States of Chinese people who were residents of the United States;

Whereas, in 1898, the United States—

(1) annexed Hawaii;

(2) took control of the Philippines; and

(3) excluded only the residents of Chinese ancestry of Hawaii and the Philippines from entering the mainland of the United States;

Whereas, on April 29, 1902, as the Geary Act was expiring, Congress indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence, to the extent consistent with Treaty commitments;

Whereas, on April 27, 1904, after the Chinese government withdrew from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended “without modification, limitation, or condition” the prohibition on Chinese naturalization and immigration in the United States;

Whereas these Federal statutes enshrined in law the exclusion of Chinese people in the United States from the democratic process and the promise of freedom;

Whereas, in an attempt to undermine the alliance between the United States and China during World War II, enemy forces used the Chinese exclusion legislation passed by Congress as evidence of anti-Chinese attitudes in the United States;

Whereas, on November 26, 1943, in furtherance of the war objectives of the United States and at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress passed the Magnuson Act (57 Stat. 600, chapter 344), which—

(1) repealed previously enacted Chinese exclusion legislation;

(2) permitted Chinese people to become naturalized citizens of the United States; and

(3) was signed into law by President Roosevelt on December 17, 1943;

Whereas, on October 6, 2011, the Senate unanimously agreed to a resolution sponsored by Senator Scott Brown which formally expressed regret for the passage of discriminatory laws against Chinese Americans, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882;

Whereas, on June 18, 2012, the House of Representatives unanimously agreed to a resolution sponsored by Representative Judy Chu which formally expressed regret for the passage of laws that adversely affected Chinese Americans, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882;

Whereas Chinese Americans continue to play a significant role in the success of the United States; and

Whereas the United States must continue to reject anti-Asian hate and to build a country that does not perpetuate racist or xenophobic rhetoric or policies that have long profiled Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 80th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126);

(2) celebrates Chinese American communities who have enriched the fabric of the United States;

(3) acknowledges that historic and current frameworks of anti-Chinese legislation, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, are incompatible with the basic founding principles recognized in the Declaration of Independence and with the spirit of the Constitution of the United States; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to preserving the same civil rights and constitutional protections for people of Chinese or other Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the United States accorded to all other people in the United States, regardless of race or ethnicity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 507—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY”, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF ATAXIA, ATAXIA RESEARCH, AND THE SEARCH FOR A CURE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 507

Whereas ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating degeneration or dysfunction of the brain that negatively affects the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of physical movements;

Whereas ataxia can strike individuals of all ages, including children;

Whereas the term “ataxia” is used to classify a group of rare, inherited neurodegenerative diseases including—

(1) ataxia telangiectasia;

(2) episodic ataxia;

(3) Friedreich’s ataxia; and

(4) spinocerebellar ataxia;

Whereas there are many known types of genetic ataxia, but the genetic basis for ataxia in some patients is still unknown;

Whereas all inherited ataxias affect fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States and, therefore, are recognized as rare diseases under the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas some genetic ataxias are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner while

others are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner;

Whereas ataxia symptoms can also be caused by noninherited health conditions and other factors, including stroke, tumor, cerebral palsy, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, alcohol addiction or misuse, and certain medications;

Whereas ataxia can present physical, psychological, and financial challenges for patients and their families;

Whereas symptoms and outcomes of ataxia progress at different rates and can include—

- (1) lack of coordination;
- (2) slurred speech;
- (3) cardiomyopathy;
- (4) scoliosis;
- (5) eye movement abnormalities;
- (6) difficulty walking;
- (7) tremors;
- (8) trouble eating and swallowing;
- (9) difficulties with other activities that require fine motor skills; and
- (10) death;

Whereas many patients with ataxia require the use of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to aid in their mobility, and many individuals may need physical and occupational therapy;

Whereas few treatments and no cures have been approved for ataxia; and

Whereas clinical research to develop safe and effective treatments for ataxia is ongoing; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need for greater public awareness of ataxia;

(2) designates September 25, 2023, as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”;

(3) supports the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day, which are—

(A) to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of ataxia among the general public and health care professionals;

(B) to improve diagnosis of ataxia and access to care for patients affected by ataxia; and

(C) to accelerate ataxia research, including on safe and effective treatment options and, ultimately, a cure;

(4) recognizes the individuals in the United States who face challenges due to having ataxia, and the families of those individuals; and

(5) encourages States, territories, and localities to support the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 508—RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS’ DAY ON DECEMBER 14, 2023

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

S. RES. 508

Whereas, each December, the Senate recognizes the positive contributions of interscholastic athletic administrators;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the position of interscholastic athletic administrator as an important contributor to the education of students in the United States that helps foster the development of students physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally;

Whereas, for students, interscholastic athletic participation is an integral part of the educational experience and enhances the learning and maturation process;

Whereas interscholastic athletic administrators serve as guardians of education-based athletics, which includes ensuring the safety and well-being of all student-athletes;

Whereas interscholastic athletic administrators have stewardship over more than

7,800,000 students in high schools across the United States;

Whereas the existence of well-trained and supported interscholastic athletic administrators is essential to the operation of the education system in the United States;

Whereas interscholastic athletic administrators are often among the first individuals to arrive at school each morning so that student-athletes have opportunities to use athletic facilities, stay later in the evening as various sports teams practice, and often work weekends during interscholastic competitions;

Whereas interscholastic athletic administrators are committed to developing and maintaining comprehensive education-based athletic programs that seek to achieve the highest development of all student-athletes;

Whereas State interscholastic athletic administrator associations report that the field is experiencing high turnover rates;

Whereas the retention of the interscholastic athletic administrator workforce in the United States is essential to protecting school-based athletics as part of a robust educational experience; and

Whereas the athletic programs run by interscholastic athletic administrators have impacts that extend well beyond playing fields, athletic venues, and even schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual recognition of Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Day on December 14, 2023;

(2) commends interscholastic athletic administrators for the commitment and leadership provided to student-athletes at the secondary school level; and

(3) commends the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the leading organization that prepares individuals who lead secondary school athletics throughout the United States, providing continuous learning, professional development, and resources to assist interscholastic athletic administrators.

SENATE RESOLUTION 509—RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTI-LGBTQ+ ATTACK THAT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 19–20, 2022, AT CLUB Q, AN LGBTQ+ BAR IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

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

S. RES. 509

Whereas, on November 19–20, 2022, a mass shooting took place at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas 5 innocent victims were killed, 17 community members were injured by gunshot wounds, and 32 other community members sustained injuries, including mental and emotional trauma from witnessing this violent event;

Whereas the 5 innocent victims killed in the shooting were—

- (1) Raymond Green Vance;
- (2) Ashley Paugh;
- (3) Daniel Aston;
- (4) Kelly Loving; and
- (5) Derrick Rump;

Whereas the State of Colorado came together for medical and funeral expenses for those affected by the shooting;

Whereas, at the time of the mass shooting, Club Q was a dedicated LGBTQ+ safe space in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas the shooting brought further trauma and a feeling of loss of safety and se-

curity to members of the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas the perpetrator of the attack had a history of homicidal behavior and hatefully targeted the individuals at Club Q because of their affiliation with the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2022, there were more than 48,000 firearm-related deaths in the United States, of which 40 percent were firearm homicides, according to provisional mortality data;

Whereas transgender people are over 4 times more likely than the broader public to experience violent victimization, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation compiled reports of 622 anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes in 2022;

Whereas violence against LGBTQ+ people of the United States remains an evil and destructive form of identity-based hate that destroys lives and runs contrary to the values of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the club patrons Richard M. Fierro, Drea Norman, and Petty Officer Thomas James, whose bravery in disarming the perpetrator undoubtedly saved countless lives;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the service of the Colorado Springs Police Department that responded to and investigated the shooting and the prosecution team from the District Attorney’s Office of Colorado’s Fourth Judicial District that worked to bring the perpetrator to justice;

Whereas Club Q plans to reopen at a new location, and local community organizations, the city of Colorado Springs, survivors, and victims’ families are working together to establish a plan for a public memorial; and

Whereas the LGBTQ+ community of Colorado Springs, local social service organizations, and clinical partners are collaborating to open a new resource center to provide long term support for those impacted by the attack on Club Q, and the greater LGBTQ+ community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 1 year remembrance of the anti-LGBTQ+ attack that occurred on November 19–20, 2022, at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

(2) expresses continued solidarity and support to the survivors of the Club Q shooting, the Colorado Springs LGBTQ+ community in the wake of this attack, and the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 510—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SCIENTIFIC JUDGEMENT OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT MIFEPRISTONE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SHOULD BE RESPECTED, AND LAW AND POLICY GOVERNING ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING, TIME-SENSITIVE MEDICATION ABORTION CARE IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE EQUITABLE AND BASED ON SCIENCE

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr.

BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 510

Whereas Congress, by enacting the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), authorized the Food and Drug Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “FDA”) to determine, based on the scientific expertise of the FDA, whether a drug is safe and effective for the intended use of the drug;

Whereas mifepristone is a medication that can be used to terminate a pregnancy;

Whereas mifepristone received approval from the FDA more than 20 years ago, and according to the FDA, the “efficacy and safety [of mifepristone] have become well-established by both research and experience, and serious complications have proven to be extremely rare”;

Whereas the FDA approved mifepristone following a rigorous 54-month review period that included the review of 3 complete phases of clinical trials that involved thousands of participants and whose data showed that mifepristone was safe and effective for termination of an early pregnancy;

Whereas, in January 2023, after extensive evidence-based review, the FDA approved a modification to the Mifepristone Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy that removed the in-person dispensing requirement and added a pharmacy certification requirement, allowing Mifeprex and its approved generic mifepristone, Mifepristone Tablets, 200mg, to be dispensed by certified pharmacies, both in-person and by mail, as well as by or under the supervision of certified prescribers;

Whereas the FDA relied on overwhelming evidence that medication abortion using mifepristone is a safe and effective method to end a pregnancy;

Whereas leading medical and scientific organizations, including the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Family Physicians, recognize that mifepristone is safe and effective and continue to recommend the availability of mifepristone for use in obstetric care;

Whereas the importance of medication abortion is recognized globally, and the World Health Organization has included mifepristone on its list of essential medicines since 2005;

Whereas the safety record of mifepristone is demonstrated by its availability in more than 90 countries, including countries without restrictions such as the FDA risk evaluation and mitigation strategy requirement;

Whereas medication abortion accounted for more than half of all abortions in the United States in 2021;

Whereas following the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022), to overturn decades of precedent in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), several States moved to further re-

strict access to abortion care, compounding an already complex landscape and exacerbating the existing abortion access crisis;

Whereas, as of December 13, 2023, 17 States have filed bills with antimedication abortion provisions, and multiple States, including Florida, North Carolina, and Wyoming, have enacted restrictions on medication abortion;

Whereas mere months after the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022), anti-abortion groups have filed baseless claims against the FDA over the approval of mifepristone, in an attempt to remove mifepristone from the market;

Whereas the impact to the health and well-being of patients across the country would be devastating if mifepristone were taken off the market;

Whereas abortion bans and restrictions force patients to travel greater distances for care and face longer wait times, and force some patients who are unable to access care to remain pregnant against their will;

Whereas, if mifepristone is taken off the market, providers may be prevented from treating pregnancy loss using mifepristone, and abortion providers and health care centers may be stretched impossibly thin and be unable to keep up with the demand of patients who need abortion care; and

Whereas, due to discrimination, unnecessary restrictions on abortion, including medication abortion, disproportionately push care out of reach for—

- (1) Black and Indigenous people;
- (2) people of color;
- (3) immigrants;
- (4) people with lower incomes;
- (5) people in rural communities;
- (6) LGBTQ+ people;
- (7) people living with disabilities; and

(8) other pregnant people who have been disproportionately harmed by systemic inequities in health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) policies governing access to medication abortion care in the United States should be grounded in science and based on scientific review by the Food and Drug Administration of available medical evidence;

(2) Congress has granted the Food and Drug Administration the authority to conduct pre-market approvals and post-market reviews of prescription drug medications and medical devices based on scientific determinations of their safety and efficacy, and without interference from other branches of government at the Federal, State, and local levels;

(3) the Food and Drug Administration has performed scientific reviews of mifepristone, and in the 2000 approval and subsequent regulatory actions in 2011, 2016, 2019, and 2023, the Food and Drug Administration found mifepristone to be safe and effective for women seeking abortions; and

(4) medication abortion is an important method to ensure equitable access to abortion for patients harmed by statutory, regulatory, financial, and circumstantial restrictions that have worsened reproductive health disparities for—

- (A) Black and Indigenous people;
- (B) people of color;
- (C) immigrants;
- (D) people with lower incomes;
- (E) people in rural communities;
- (F) LGBTQ+ people;
- (G) people living with disabilities; and
- (H) people in other marginalized communities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1377. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. OSSOFF)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 474, to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes.

SA 1378. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. HEINRICH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2228, to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1377. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. OSSOFF)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 474, to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act” or the “REPORT Act”.

SEC. 2. LIMITED LIABILITY MODERNIZATION.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258B of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**providers or domain name registrars**” and inserting “**the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or charge” after “a claim”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “this section.”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR NCMEC-CONTRACTED VENDORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)).

“(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the vendor—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct; or

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice;

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification; or

“(iii) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function—

“(I) set forth in paragraph (1); or

“(II) pursuant to sections 2258A, 2258C, 2702, or 2703.

“(3) **VENDOR CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.**—With respect to any visual depiction provided pursuant to the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)) that is stored or transferred by a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support such duties of NCMEC, a vendor shall—

“(A) secure such visual depiction in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor there- to;

“(B) minimize the number of employees that may be able to obtain access to such visual depiction;

“(C) employ end-to-end encryption for data storage and transfer functions, or an equivalent technological standard;

“(D) undergo an independent annual cybersecurity audit to determine whether such visual depiction is secured as required under subparagraph (A); and

“(E) promptly address all issues identified by an audit described in subparagraph (D).

“(e) **LIMITED LIABILITY FOR REPORTING APPARENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY BY AN INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS A MINOR, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against an individual depicted in child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, arising from a report to the NCMEC CyberTipline by the individual, or the representative of such individual, of information that relates to the child pornography in which the individual is depicted as a minor, including a copy of the child pornography.

“(2) **INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the individual, or the representative of such individual—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct;

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(iii) any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice; or

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification.

“(3) **MINIMIZING ACCESS.**—With respect to any child pornography reported to the NCMEC CyberTipline by an individual depicted in the child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, NCMEC shall minimize access to the child pornography and ensure the appropriate deletion of the child pornography, as set forth in section 2258D.

“(4) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘representative’, with respect to an individual depicted in child pornography—

“(A) means—

“(i) the parent or legal guardian of the individual, if the individual is under 18 years of age;

“(ii) the legal guardian or other person appointed by a court to represent the individual;

“(iii) a legal representative retained by the individual;

“(iv) a representative of the estate of the individual; or

“(v) a person who is a mandated reporter under section 226(a)(1) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341(a)(1)); and

“(B) does not include a person who engaged in any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251.”

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a civil claim or criminal charge that is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2258B and inserting the following:

“2258B. Limited liability for the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF REPORTS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

Section 2258A(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “90 days” and inserting “1 year”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **EXTENSION OF PRESERVATION.**—A provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) may voluntarily preserve the contents provided in the report (including any comingled content described in paragraph (2)) for longer than 1 year after the submission to the CyberTipline for the purpose of reducing the proliferation of online child sexual exploitation or preventing the online sexual exploitation of children.

“(6) **METHOD OF PRESERVATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, a provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) shall preserve materials under this subsection in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto.”

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING OF DUTY TO REPORT APPARENT VIOLATIONS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 2258A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “, of section 1591 (if the violation involves a minor), or of 2422(b)” after “child pornography”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$150,000” and inserting “\$850,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$600,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$300,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$850,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”.

(b) **GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children may issue guidelines, as appropriate, to providers required or permitted to take actions described in section 2258A(a)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, on the relevant identifiers for content that may indicate sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of that title, or enticement, as described in section 2422(b) of that title.

SA 1378. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. HEINRICH)) proposed

an amendment to the bill S. 2228, to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Building Chips in America Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. SEMICONDUCTOR PROGRAM.

Title XCIX of division H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 9902 (15 U.S.C. 4652)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) **AUTHORITY RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provision by the Secretary of Federal financial assistance for a project described in this section that satisfies the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall not be considered to be a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (referred to in this subsection as ‘NEPA’) or an undertaking for the purposes of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, if—

“(A) the activity described in the application for that project has commenced not later than December 31, 2024;

“(B) the Federal financial assistance provided is in the form of a loan or loan guarantee; or

“(C) the Federal financial assistance provided, excluding any loan or loan guarantee, comprises not more than 10 percent of the total estimated cost of the project.

“(2) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as altering whether an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) is considered to be a major Federal action under NEPA, or an undertaking under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, for a reason other than that the activity is eligible for Federal financial assistance provided under this section.”; and

(2) in section 9909 (15 U.S.C. 4659), by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘lead agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 111 of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

“(2) **OPTION TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY.**—With respect to a covered activity that is a major Federal action under NEPA, and with respect to which the Department of Commerce is authorized or required by law to issue an authorization or take action for or relating to that covered activity, the Department of Commerce shall have the first right to serve as the lead agency with respect to that covered activity under NEPA.

“(d) **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.**—Each of the following categorical exclusions is established for the National Institute of Standards and Technology with respect to a covered activity and, beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, is available for use by the Secretary with respect to a covered activity:

“(A) Categorical exclusion 17.04.d (relating to the acquisition of machinery and equipment) in the document entitled ‘EDA Program to Implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Other Federal Environmental Mandates As Required’ (Directive No. 17.02-2; effective date October 14, 1992).

“(B) Categorical exclusion A9 in Appendix A to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(C) Categorical exclusions B1.24, B1.31, B2.5, and B5.1 in Appendix B to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(D) The categorical exclusions described in paragraphs (4) and (13) of section 50.19(b) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(E) Categorical exclusion (c)(1) in Appendix B to part 651 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(F) Categorical exclusions A2.3.8 and A2.3.14 in Appendix B to part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(2) ADDITIONAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each of the following shall be treated as a category of action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments and environmental impact statements under section 1501.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation:

“(A) The provision by the Secretary of any Federal financial assistance for a project described in section 9902, if the facility that is the subject of the project is on or adjacent to a site—

“(i) that is owned or leased by the covered entity to which Federal financial assistance is provided for that project; and

“(ii) on which, as of the date on which the Secretary provides that Federal financial assistance, substantially similar construction, expansion, or modernization is being or has been carried out, such that the facility would not more than double existing developed acreage or on-site supporting infrastructure.

“(B) The provision by the Secretary of Defense of any Federal financial assistance relating to—

“(i) the creation, expansion, or modernization of one or more facilities described in the second sentence of section 9903(a)(1); or

“(ii) carrying out section 9903(b), as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) Any activity undertaken by the Secretary relating to carrying out section 9906, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF PRIOR PLANNING DECISIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘prior studies and decisions’ means baseline data, planning documents, studies, analyses, decisions, and documentation that a Federal agency has completed for a project (or that have been completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe), including for determining the reasonable range of alternatives for that project.

“(2) RELIANCE ON PRIOR STUDIES AND DECISIONS.—In completing an environmental review under NEPA for a covered activity, the Secretary may consider and, as appropriate, rely on or adopt prior studies and decisions, if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) those prior studies and decisions meet the standards for an adequate statement, assessment, or determination under applicable procedures of the Department of Commerce implementing the requirements of NEPA;

“(B) in the case of prior studies and decisions completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe, those laws and procedures are of equal or greater rigor than those of each applicable Federal law, including NEPA, implementing procedures of the Department of Commerce; or

“(C) if applicable, the prior studies and decisions are informed by other analysis or documentation that would have been prepared if the prior studies and decisions were prepared by the Secretary under NEPA.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered activity’ means any activity relating to the construction, expansion, or modernization of a facility, the investment in which is eligible for Federal financial assistance under section 9902 or 9906.

“(2) NEPA.—The term ‘NEPA’ means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 1 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1147

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1147) to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under

the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission: Honorable Randall Schriver of Virginia; and Aaron Friedberg of New Jersey.

REVISING EXISTING PROCEDURES ON REPORTING VIA TECHNOLOGY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 85, S. 474.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 474) to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act” or the “REPORT Act”.

SEC. 2. LIMITED LIABILITY MODERNIZATION.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258B of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**providers or domain name registrars**” and inserting “**the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or charge” after “a claim”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “this section.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR NCMEC-CONTRACTED VENDORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)).

“(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the vendor—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct; or

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice;

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification; or

“(iii) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function—

“(I) set forth in paragraph (1); or

“(II) pursuant to sections 2258A, 2258C, 2702, or 2703.

“(3) MINIMIZING ACCESS BY VENDOR.—With respect to any visual depiction provided pursuant to the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)) that is stored or transferred by a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support such duties of NCMEC, a vendor shall—

“(A) minimize the number of employees that may be able to obtain access to such visual depiction; and

“(B) employ end-to-end encryption for data storage and transfer functions, or an equivalent technological standard.

“(e) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR REPORTING APPARENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY BY AN INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS A MINOR, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against an individual depicted in child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, arising from a report to the NCMEC CyberTipline by the individual, or the representative of such individual, of information that relates to the child pornography in which the individual is depicted as a minor, including a copy of the child pornography.

“(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the individual, or the representative of such individual—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct;

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(iii) any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice; or

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification.

“(3) MINIMIZING ACCESS.—With respect to any child pornography reported to the NCMEC CyberTipline by an individual depicted in the child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, NCMEC shall minimize access to the child pornography and ensure the appropriate deletion of the child pornography, as set forth in section 2258D.

“(4) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘representative’, with respect to an individual depicted in child pornography—

“(A) means—

“(i) the parent or legal guardian of the individual, if the individual is under 18 years of age;

“(ii) the legal guardian or other person appointed by a court to represent the individual;

“(iii) a legal representative retained by the individual;

“(iv) a representative of the estate of the individual; or

“(v) a person who is a mandated reporter under section 226(a)(1) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341(a)(1)); and

“(B) does not include a person who engaged in any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a civil claim or criminal charge that is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18,

United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2258B and inserting the following:

“2258B. Limited liability for the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF REPORTS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

Section 2258A(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “90 days” and inserting “1 year”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) EXTENSION OF PRESERVATION.—A provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) may voluntarily preserve the contents provided in the report (including any co-mingled content described in paragraph (2)) for longer than 1 year after the submission to the CyberTipline for the purpose of reducing the proliferation of online child sexual exploitation or preventing the online sexual exploitation of children.

“(6) METHOD OF PRESERVATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, a provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) shall preserve materials under this subsection in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto.”

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING OF DUTY TO REPORT APPARENT VIOLATIONS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “, of section 1591 (if the violation involves a minor), or of 2422(b)” after “child pornography”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$150,000” and inserting “\$850,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$600,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$300,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”.

(b) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children may issue guidelines, as appropriate, to providers required or permitted to take actions described in section 2258A(a)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, on the relevant identifiers for content that may indicate sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of that title, or enticement, as described in section 2422(b) of that title.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I expect that the Senate will soon pass by unanimous consent the Blackburn-Ossoff REPORT Act. This bill will strengthen the Nation’s centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children, operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to better protect children from online sexual abuse and exploitation. Senators BLACKBURN and OSSOFF worked closely with me to make important changes to this bill to require that the upgraded CyberTipline be secured consistent with Federal cybersecurity best practices, so that hackers are not able to steal and then distribute the ex-

tremely sensitive images and videos documenting abuse that are stored in this system. I sincerely appreciate their partnership on this important issue.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Blackburn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that 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 committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1377) 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 “Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act” or the “REPORT Act”.

SEC. 2. LIMITED LIABILITY MODERNIZATION.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258B of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “providers or domain name registrars” and inserting “the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or charge” after “a claim”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “this section,”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR NCMEC-CONTRACTED VENDORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)).

“(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the vendor—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct; or

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice;

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification; or

“(iii) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function—

“(I) set forth in paragraph (1); or

“(II) pursuant to sections 2258A, 2258C, 2702, or 2703.

“(3) VENDOR CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to any visual depiction provided pursuant to the duties of NCMEC under section 404(b)(1)(K) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)) that is stored or transferred by a vendor contractually retained and designated by NCMEC to support such duties of NCMEC, a vendor shall—

“(A) secure such visual depiction in a manner that is consistent with the most recent

version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto;

“(B) minimize the number of employees that may be able to obtain access to such visual depiction;

“(C) employ end-to-end encryption for data storage and transfer functions, or an equivalent technological standard;

“(D) undergo an independent annual cybersecurity audit to determine whether such visual depiction is secured as required under subparagraph (A); and

“(E) promptly address all issues identified by an audit described in subparagraph (D).

“(e) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR REPORTING APPARENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY BY AN INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS A MINOR, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH INDIVIDUAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a civil claim or criminal charge may not be brought in any Federal or State court against an individual depicted in child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, arising from a report to the NCMEC CyberTipline by the individual, or the representative of such individual, of information that relates to the child pornography in which the individual is depicted as a minor, including a copy of the child pornography.

“(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a claim or charge if the individual, or the representative of such individual—

“(A) engaged in—

“(i) intentional misconduct;

“(ii) negligent conduct; or

“(iii) any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251; or

“(B) acted, or failed to act—

“(i) with actual malice; or

“(ii) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification.

“(3) MINIMIZING ACCESS.—With respect to any child pornography reported to the NCMEC CyberTipline by an individual depicted in the child pornography as a minor, or a representative of such individual, NCMEC shall minimize access to the child pornography and ensure the appropriate deletion of the child pornography, as set forth in section 2258D.

“(4) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘representative’, with respect to an individual depicted in child pornography—

“(A) means—

“(i) the parent or legal guardian of the individual, if the individual is under 18 years of age;

“(ii) the legal guardian or other person appointed by a court to represent the individual;

“(iii) a legal representative retained by the individual;

“(iv) a representative of the estate of the individual; or

“(v) a person who is a mandated reporter under section 226(a)(1) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341(a)(1)); and

“(B) does not include a person who engaged in any activity which constitutes a violation of section 2251.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a civil claim or criminal charge that is filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2258B and inserting the following:

“2258B. Limited liability for the reporting, storage, and handling of certain visual depictions of apparent child pornography to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF REPORTS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

Section 2258A(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “90 days” and inserting “1 year”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) EXTENSION OF PRESERVATION.—A provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) may voluntarily preserve the contents provided in the report (including any comingled content described in paragraph (2)) for longer than 1 year after the submission to the CyberTipline for the purpose of reducing the proliferation of online child sexual exploitation or preventing the online sexual exploitation of children.

“(6) METHOD OF PRESERVATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, a provider of a report to the CyberTipline under subsection (a)(1) shall preserve materials under this subsection in a manner that is consistent with the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor thereto.”.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING OF DUTY TO REPORT APPARENT VIOLATIONS TO CYBERTIPLINE RELATED TO ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2258A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “, of section 1591 (if the violation involves a minor), or of 2422(b)” after “child pornography”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$150,000” and inserting “\$850,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$600,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$300,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000 in the case of a provider with not less than 100,000,000 monthly active users or \$850,000 in the case of a provider with less than 100,000,000 monthly active users”.

(b) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children may issue guidelines, as appropriate, to providers required or permitted to take actions described in section 2258A(a)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, on the relevant identifiers for content that may indicate sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of that title, or enticement, as described in section 2422(b) of that title.

The bill (S. 474), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 272, S. 195.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 195) to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 195) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 195

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 “Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe residing on the L'Anse Indian Reservation in Baraga County in the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan;

(2) the Community is a successor in interest to the Treaty with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and Lake Superior, made and concluded at La Pointe of Lake Superior October 4, 1842 (7 Stat. 591) (referred to in this section as the “1842 Treaty”), which, among other things, guaranteed the usufructuary rights of the Community over a large area of land that was ceded to the United States, until such time that those usufructuary rights were properly and legally extinguished;

(3) the Community is also a successor in interest to the Treaty with the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi, made and concluded at La Pointe September 30, 1854 (10 Stat. 1109) (referred to in this section as the “1854 Treaty”);

(4) article 2, paragraph 1 of the 1854 Treaty created the L'Anse Indian Reservation as a permanent reservation;

(5) pursuant to article 13 of the 1854 Treaty, the 1854 Treaty became “obligatory on the contracting parties” when ratified by the President and the Senate on January 10, 1855;

(6) in 1850, Congress enacted the Act of September 28, 1850 (commonly known and referred to in this section as the “Swamp Land Act”) (9 Stat. 519, chapter 84), which authorized the State of Arkansas and other States, including the State of Michigan, to “construct the necessary levees and drains to reclaim” certain unsold “swamp and overflowed lands, made unfit thereby for cultivation” and stating that those lands “shall remain unsold at the passage of this act . . .”;

(7) following enactment of the Swamp Land Act, the State claimed thousands of acres of swamp land in the State pursuant to that Act;

(8) between 1893 and 1937, the General Land Office patented 2,743 acres of land to the State that were located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation (referred to in this section as “Reservation Swamp Lands”);

(9) the right of the Community to use and occupy the unsold land within the Reservation had not been extinguished when the

United States patented the Reservation Swamp Lands to the State;

(10) in 1852, Congress enacted the Act of August 26, 1852 (10 Stat. 35, chapter 92) (referred to in this section as the “Canal Land Act”), to facilitate the building of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal at the Falls of the St. Mary’s River, to connect Lake Superior to Lake Huron;

(11) pursuant to the Canal Land Act, the United States granted the State the right to select 750,000 acres of unsold public land within the State to defray the cost of construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal;

(12) the State identified and selected, among other land, a minimum of 1,333.25 and up to 2,720 acres within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation (referred to in this section as the “Reservation Canal Lands”);

(13) the Department of the Interior approved the land selections of the State, including the Reservation Canal Lands, after ratification of the 1854 Treaty;

(14) the Secretary noted that the approval described in paragraph (13) was “subject to any valid interfering rights”;

(15) the 1854 Treaty set apart from the public domain all unsold land within the Reservation to the Community as of September 30, 1854, which preceded the date on which the State established legally effective title to the Reservation Canal Lands;

(16) the Community made claims to the Department of the Interior with respect to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands, providing legal analysis and ethnohistorical support for those claims;

(17) in December 2021, the Department of the Interior stated that “We have carefully reviewed pertinent documents, including the Tribe’s expert reports, and have determined that the Tribe’s claims to the Swamp Lands and Canal Lands have merit”;

(18) the United States, through the actions of the General Land Office, deprived the Community of the exclusive use and occupancy of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands within the Reservation, without just compensation as required under the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(19) the loss of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands without just compensation has—

(A) impacted the exercise by the Community of cultural, religious, and subsistence rights on the land;

(B) caused a harmful disconnect between the Community and its land;

(C) impacted the ability of the Community to fully exercise its economy within the Reservation; and

(D) had a negative economic impact on the development of the economy of the Community;

(20) certain non-Indian individuals, entities, and local governments occupy land within the boundaries of the Reservation—

(A) acquired ownership interests in the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands in good faith; and

(B) have an interest in possessing clear title to that land;

(21) this Act allows the United States—

(A) to secure a fair and equitable settlement of past inequities suffered by the Community as a result of the actions of the United States that caused the taking of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands without just compensation; and

(B) to ensure protection of the ownership of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands by non-Indian occupants of the Reservation, through the settlement of the claims of the Community to

that land, and through that action, the relief of any clouds on title;

(22) a settlement will allow the Community to receive just compensation and the local landowners to obtain clear title to land, without long and protracted litigation that would be both costly and detrimental to all involved; and

(23) this Act achieves both justice for the Community and security for current landowners through a restorative and non-confrontational process.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to acknowledge the uncompensated taking by the Federal Government of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands;

(2) to provide compensation to the Community for the uncompensated taking of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands by the Federal Government;

(3) to extinguish all claims by the Community to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands and to confirm the ownership by the current landowners of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands, who obtained that land in good faith;

(4) to extinguish all potential claims by the Community against the United States, the State, and current landowners concerning title to, use of, or occupancy of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands; and

(5) to authorize the Secretary—

(A) to compensate the Community; and

(B) to take any other action necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMUNITY**.—The term “Community” means the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

(2) **COUNTY**.—The term “County” means Baraga County, Michigan.

(3) **RESERVATION**.—The term “Reservation” means the L’Anse Indian Reservation, located in—

(A) T. 51 N., R. 33 W.;

(B) T. 51 N., R. 32 W.;

(C) T. 50 N., R. 33 W., E½;

(D) T. 50 N., R. 32 W., W½; and

(E) that portion of T. 51 N., R. 31 W. lying west of Huron Bay.

(4) **RESERVATION CANAL LANDS**.—The term “Reservation Canal Lands” means the 1,333.25 to 2,720 acres of Community land located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation that the Federal Government conveyed to the State pursuant to the Act of August 26, 1852 (10 Stat. 35, chapter 92).

(5) **RESERVATION SWAMP LANDS**.—The term “Reservation Swamp Lands” means the 2,743 acres of land located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation that the Federal Government conveyed to the State between 1893 and 1937 pursuant to the Act of September 28, 1850 (commonly known as the “Swamp Land Act”) (sections 2479 through 2481 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 982 through 984)).

(6) **SECRETARY**.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **STATE**.—The term “State” means the State of Michigan.

SEC. 5. PAYMENTS.

(a) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS**.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (c) is made available to the Secretary, the Secretary shall transfer \$33,900,000 to the Community.

(b) **USE OF FUNDS**.—

(1) **IN GENERAL**.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Community may use the amount re-

ceived under subsection (a) for any lawful purpose, including—

(A) governmental services;

(B) economic development;

(C) natural resources protection; and

(D) land acquisition.

(2) **RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS**.—The community may not use the amount received under subsection (a) to acquire land for gaming purposes.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out subsection (a) \$33,900,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL**.—Effective on the date on which the Community receives the payment under section 5(a), all claims of the Community to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands owned by persons or entities other than the Community are extinguished.

(b) **CLEAR TITLE**.—Effective on the date on which the Community receives the payment under section 5(a), the title of all current owners to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands is cleared of all preexisting rights held by the Community and any of the members of the Community.

SEC. 7. EFFECT.

Nothing in this Act authorizes—

(1) the Secretary to take land into trust for the benefit of the Community for gaming purposes; or

(2) the Community to use land acquired using amounts received under this Act for gaming purposes.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3315, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3315) to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3315) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 2228 and the Senate

proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2228) to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Kelly-Cruz substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that 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. 1378) 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 “Building Chips in America Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. SEMICONDUCTOR PROGRAM.

Title XCIX of division H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 9902 (15 U.S.C. 4652)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) AUTHORITY RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provision by the Secretary of Federal financial assistance for a project described in this section that satisfies the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall not be considered to be a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (referred to in this subsection as ‘NEPA’) or an undertaking for the purposes of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, if—

“(A) the activity described in the application for that project has commenced not later than December 31, 2024;

“(B) the Federal financial assistance provided is in the form of a loan or loan guarantee; or

“(C) the Federal financial assistance provided, excluding any loan or loan guarantee, comprises not more than 10 percent of the total estimated cost of the project.

“(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as altering whether an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) is considered to be a major Federal action under NEPA, or an undertaking under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, for a reason other than that the activity is eligible for Federal financial assistance provided under this section.”; and

(2) in section 9909 (15 U.S.C. 4659), by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘lead agency’ has the meaning given

the term in section 111 of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

“(2) OPTION TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY.—With respect to a covered activity that is a major Federal action under NEPA, and with respect to which the Department of Commerce is authorized or required by law to issue an authorization or take action for or relating to that covered activity, the Department of Commerce shall have the first right to serve as the lead agency with respect to that covered activity under NEPA.

“(d) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Each of the following categorical exclusions is established for the National Institute of Standards and Technology with respect to a covered activity and, beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, is available for use by the Secretary with respect to a covered activity:

“(A) Categorical exclusion 17.04.d (relating to the acquisition of machinery and equipment) in the document entitled ‘EDA Program to Implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Other Federal Environmental Mandates As Required’ (Directive No. 17.02-2; effective date October 14, 1992).

“(B) Categorical exclusion A9 in Appendix A to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(C) Categorical exclusions B1.24, B1.31, B2.5, and B5.1 in Appendix B to subpart D of part 1021 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(D) The categorical exclusions described in paragraphs (4) and (13) of section 50.19(b) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(E) Categorical exclusion (c)(1) in Appendix B to part 651 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(F) Categorical exclusions A2.3.8 and A2.3.14 in Appendix B to part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(2) ADDITIONAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each of the following shall be treated as a category of action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments and environmental impact statements under section 1501.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation:

“(A) The provision by the Secretary of any Federal financial assistance for a project described in section 9902, if the facility that is the subject of the project is on or adjacent to a site—

“(i) that is owned or leased by the covered entity to which Federal financial assistance is provided for that project; and

“(ii) on which, as of the date on which the Secretary provides that Federal financial assistance, substantially similar construction, expansion, or modernization is being or has been carried out, such that the facility would not more than double existing developed acreage or on-site supporting infrastructure.

“(B) The provision by the Secretary of Defense of any Federal financial assistance relating to—

“(i) the creation, expansion, or modernization of one or more facilities described in the second sentence of section 9903(a)(1); or

“(ii) carrying out section 9903(b), as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) Any activity undertaken by the Secretary relating to carrying out section 9906, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF PRIOR PLANNING DECISIONS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘prior studies and decisions’ means baseline data, planning documents, studies, analyses, decisions, and documentation that a Federal agency has completed for a project (or that have been completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe), including for determining the reasonable range of alternatives for that project.

“(2) RELIANCE ON PRIOR STUDIES AND DECISIONS.—In completing an environmental review under NEPA for a covered activity, the Secretary may consider and, as appropriate, rely on or adopt prior studies and decisions, if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) those prior studies and decisions meet the standards for an adequate statement, assessment, or determination under applicable procedures of the Department of Commerce implementing the requirements of NEPA;

“(B) in the case of prior studies and decisions completed under the laws and procedures of a State or Indian Tribe, those laws and procedures are of equal or greater rigor than those of each applicable Federal law, including NEPA, implementing procedures of the Department of Commerce; or

“(C) if applicable, the prior studies and decisions are informed by other analysis or documentation that would have been prepared if the prior studies and decisions were prepared by the Secretary under NEPA.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered activity’ means any activity relating to the construction, expansion, or modernization of a facility, the investment in which is eligible for Federal financial assistance under section 9902 or 9906.

“(2) NEPA.—The term ‘NEPA’ means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).”

The bill (S. 2228), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL GOVAN AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTOINETTE BUSH AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ROGER W. FERGUSON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of the following joint resolutions and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration en bloc: H.J. Res. 62, H.J. Res. 63, H.J. Res. 64.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolutions be considered read a third time en bloc.

The joint resolutions were ordered to a third reading and were read the third time en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the joint resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolutions having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolutions pass en bloc?

The joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 62, H.J. Res. 63, and H.J. Res. 64) were passed en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

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

PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS LAND INTO TRUST CONFIRMATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 273, S. 382.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 382) to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 382) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:
S. 382

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 “Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF THE PUYALLUP RESERVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 17,264 acres of land owned in fee by the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation in Pierce County, Washington, and described in subsection (b) is hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) PARCEL 1.—Lots 1 to 4, inclusive, Block 85, Map of Tacoma Tidelands, as surveyed and platted by the Board of Appraisers of Tide and Shore Lands for Pierce County, according to Plat filed for record on September 14, 1895, in the Office of the County Auditor, in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.

(2) PARCEL 2.—Lots 5 to 9, inclusive, Block 85, Map of Tacoma Tidelands, as surveyed and platted by the Board of Appraisers of Tide and Shore Lands for Pierce County, according to Plat filed for record on September 14, 1895, in the Office of the County Auditor, in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.

(3) PARCEL 3.—Parcel A of City of Tacoma Boundary Line Adjustment MPD2011–

40000166230, recorded October 12, 2011, under Pierce County Auditor Recording No. 201110125009, as corrected by Affidavit of Minor Correction of Map Recorded September 25, 2012, under Pierce County Auditor Recording No. 201209250440.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the Reservation of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States shall not be liable for any environmental contamination that occurred on the land described in subsection (b) on or before the date on which that land is taken into trust under subsection (a).

(e) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS’ DAY ON DECEMBER 14, 2023

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COM- MEMORATION OF THE ANTI- LGBTQ+ ATTACK THAT OC- CURRED ON NOVEMBER 19–20, 2022, AT CLUB Q, AN LGBTQ+ BAR IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO- RADO

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 453, and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 507, S. Res. 508, S. Res. 509, and S. Res. 453.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 453) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 7, 2023, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolutions (S. Res. 507, S. Res. 508, S. Res. 509) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER
18, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, 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 consider Executive Calendar No. 415, Martin O’Malley to be Commissioner of Social Security, and that the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m.; further, that on disposition of the O’Malley nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Fonzone nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday’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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

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 6:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 18, 2023, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. ERICA R. AUSTIN

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

To be brigadier general

COL. KOREY E. AMUNDSON
COL. AMANDA S. BIRCH
COL. RANDALL W. CASON, JR.
COL. RICHARD A. ERREDGE
COL. ERIKA A. FOSTER
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. HOBBS
COL. ROBERT E. JACKSON, JR.
COL. FRANK R. KINCAID
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. LAY
COL. MICHAEL M. MODDING
COL. JOSHUA G. PADGETT
COL. BRETT R. PAOLA
COL. JANETTE L. THODE
COL. TIMOTHY M. WELTER
COL. NATHAN D. YATES
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. ZIDEK

IN THE ARMY

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICIA R. WALLACE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS K. CLARK

BRIG. GEN. SEAN N. DAY

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

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM T. WILBURN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS M. ARMAS
COL. DANIEL B. TAYLOR
COL. PATRICK F. TIERNAN

IN THE ARMY

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

THOMAS P. PARSHALL

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

REGAN C. REYNOLDS

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

RYAN L. VENEBERG

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 lieutenant colonel

HABIBATU A. MOJIDI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LISA A. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC.

THE JUDICIARY

JERRY EDWARDS, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

BRANDON S. LONG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

TODD GLORIA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2023.

TODD GLORIA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2029.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 14, 2023:

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DR. EMMANUEL BILIRAKIS AND
HONORABLE JENNIFER WEXTON
NATIONAL PLAN TO END PAR-
KINSON'S ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague Congresswoman JENNIFER WEXTON and to urge support for H.R. 2365, the Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson Act, which was introduced by my friend Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a comprehensive Parkinson's Disease research plan to address prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately, to find a cure for Parkinson's.

During her time in Congress, Congresswoman WEXTON has proven to be an effective representative for her constituents and a valued member of this institution. She has dedicated her professional life to serving the public in a variety of ways, including as a prosecutor, a judge, a state senator, and a Member of Congress representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District. She is a brave fighter and fierce advocate for Parkinson's Disease. She uses her platform to raise awareness of the disease and for resources to find a cure which is why supporting the Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act is just one way to honor her effort.

Congresswoman WEXTON serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on the Budget. She has accomplished many things during her tenure since coming into Congress in 2019 including the passage of her bill, the Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act.

I wish JENNIFER peace and comfort as she continues to fight this disease surrounded by loved ones and would like to thank her for her service and dedication to this body. She has inspired many with her bravery and courage, both as an advocate for and someone diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Again, thank you to Congresswoman WEXTON and Congressman BILIRAKIS. Their advocacy for Parkinson's Disease research is commendable, and with that, I strongly urge support for H.R. 2365, the Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act.

DR. EMMANUEL BILIRAKIS AND
HONORABLE JENNIFER WEXTON
NATIONAL PLAN TO END PAR-
KINSON'S ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2365, the Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act.

I am honored to rise in support today of this bipartisan legislation. Our work here today will allow people, of all backgrounds, who have experiences with Parkinson's to have hope for a future with more research, treatments, and cures.

This bipartisan legislation will bring diverse federal and non-federal stakeholders together along with patients and caregivers, to build a national strategy for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cures for different forms of Parkinson's Disease.

This bill is also a historic step in our federal government's work to research and share data on this disease, following the model of the National Alzheimer's Project Act which became law in 2011.

Parkinson's disease, affecting more than 1 million people in the United States and nearly 10 million people worldwide, is the second most common and fastest-growing neurological disease. Although typical diagnosis occurs around age 50, this is not an "older person" disease and does not look the same for every patient. When a large population of people have a disease like Parkinson's disease, it is a matter of life or death to have an accurate understanding of how many people have the disease, where they live and why they have it. Shining a light on research that looks not only at genetic factors but also environmental factors, will provide promise for all aspects of the disease and potential triggers.

I want to thank my colleagues, Chairwoman MCMORRIS ROGERS, Representative TONKO, Representative WEXTON, and Representative BILIRAKIS, for working with us to ensure we as a country take this historic step in combating Parkinson's disease on all fronts. It is a wonderful legacy to our champions to name the legislation after two tenacious fighters who will not and did not succumb to the disease without making a mark.

Although Rep. WEXTON believes that many of the benefits from this legislation may not come to fruition in her battle against the disease, I disagree. The fact that she is fighting every single day, with grace, strength, and humor, is the motivating benefit from today. We see her face and hear her clear voice in every aspect of this bill. Her sheer determination, with the thousands of advocates who have shared their stories, brought us all together today and will be honored in this work.

This bipartisan work before us is the backbone of our Committee, and I am pleased we once again embraced the same principles to ensure that all patients are included in a plan to end this deadly illness. It is my deep belief that this legislation will make significant strides to end Parkinson's and will provide our family members, caregivers, and friends with real hope.

CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM ON
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND
THE TESTIMONY OF UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS IN THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
THE WORKFORCE

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism on campuses. We must do all we can to put an end to this disturbing trend. Yet, Rep. STEFANIK's Resolution, H. Res. 927, which I voted against, does not do that.

The University presidents' responses at the House Education and the Workforce Committee hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, were wholly inadequate and failed to make clear that the genocidal statements they were asked about were unacceptable and must be unequivocally condemned. Despite that, Congress is not a hiring and firing authority for private educational institutions. The Resolution is a cynical political ploy by a Member of Congress who lacks the moral authority to take a stance on this issue for a myriad of reasons.

Rep. STEFANIK is a supporter of known White Supremacists and their disgusting political ideologies. She is an avid supporter and endorser of ex-President Trump, who publicly described White Supremacists chanting "Jews will not replace us" as "very fine people on both sides," who uses anti-Semitic tropes in campaign materials, and hosts holocaust revisionists at his home, including Nick Fuentes. Rep. STEFANIK herself has echoed the messages of the "Great Replacement Theory," a far-right, racist conspiracy theory that inspired the perpetrators of Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue massacre, among others.

Instead of taking concrete actions to stop the tragic rise of anti-Semitism on college campuses, this very serious issue is being politicized by the Majority. We all should vocally oppose anti-Semitism but this resolution is not genuine. I will not be a part of an over-reaching political ruse. I will, instead, support appropriate and actionable measures in Congress.

• 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.

AERYOUS THRESHER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aeryous Thresher for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aeryous has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Aeryous, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aeryous's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aeryous Thresher on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING NANCY QUIRK

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Mrs. Nancy Quirk and to celebrate her retirement from the Green Bay Water Utility in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Nancy began her career in civil engineering with her studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. A Wisconsin-certified Professional Engineer, she worked at the Madison Water Utility before accepting the position of Technical Engineering Service Manager at Waukesha Water Utility. For the past ten years, Nancy's career brought her to Green Bay as General Manager of Green Bay Water Utility, the third largest drinking water utility in the state.

Nancy's vision, commitment, and perseverance has elevated the Utility as an industry leader that prioritizes the health and welfare of its customers. Thanks to her leadership, Green Bay Water Utility became one of the first in the nation to voluntarily remove all known public and private lead service lines.

The removal of lead service lines was no small task. Nancy facilitated her team's efforts to research records from the 19th and early 20th centuries to find potential lead lines, locate current property owners, knock on 3,000 doors to check pipes, and use specialized cameras and vacuums to scan lines for lead. At the time, utilities were prohibited from replacing privately owned lines, but the Utility worked with Wisconsin legislators to allow the Utility to replace 247 privately owned lead lines at no cost to homeowners. Nancy pooled funding sources for the five-year, \$8 million lead pipe removal project and led her team to replace nearly 2,000 public and private lines in total.

Removing lead service lines was a remarkable example of how Nancy's work benefitted the citizens of Green Bay, but her vision for the future of safe water in Green Bay didn't stop there. In 2018, the utility took the forward-thinking step of proactively testing for

PFAS. This allowed the Utility's water quality team to continue to closely monitor any PFAS as research evolves. Additionally, Nancy oversaw the implementation of unidirectional flushing for the entire distribution system, scouring of raw water lines, combining pressure zones, and instituting the Utilis Satellite Leak Detection System. At half the cost of the previous system, the Utilis system found potential leaks in more than 10 percent of the City's water pipes in the first year alone. The repairs to those leaks saved the City an estimated 30 million gallons of water.

An astute manager, Nancy's list of improvements to internal operations is impressive. As General Manager, Nancy oversaw the business of wholesale service to customers, adding a neighboring town and three villages. Nancy restructured the Utility and streamlined employee operations through improved communications, staff additions, and cross training. She instituted employee benefits, appreciation programs, and events. She also sought upgrades for technologies, equipment, distribution lines and the facility itself.

Nancy's passion for providing safe drinking water extends beyond the borders of the Green Bay Water Utility and its service area. A member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) since 1987, Nancy chaired the Wisconsin Section of AWWA and is a past National Director representing Wisconsin. She served six years on the Water Utility Council for AWWA where she was the regulatory chairperson of the technical advisory groups. She was a trustee for Municipal Environmental Group-Water in Wisconsin and the Regulatory Committee for the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). Today, she concludes her term as one of 15 representatives appointed nationwide to EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

Nancy's achievements have not gone unnoticed. She was awarded as a Distinguished Alumni in Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She received the Leon Smith Award from the Wisconsin Section of the AWWA and was awarded the George Warren Fuller Award for Distinguished Service to the Water Supply Field by the American Water Works Association. Most recently, Nancy was named a NEW Watershed Champion for her work in improving area waters.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Nancy Quirk for her exceptional leadership and commitment in embracing the core values of the Green Bay Water Utility. She has made our communities a better and safer place. Upon her retirement, she leaves the legacy of providing safe drinking water for thousands of people in Northeast Wisconsin. We are grateful to her for granting us the security of knowing the water that flows from the Green Bay Water Utility to our tap is safe to drink.

HONORING CC AND REGINA YIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor CC and Regina Yin's 30 years of service to our community

through the Yin Ranch in Vacaville. The couple's continued support to civic engagement is further demonstrated through their founding of the Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs Association (APAPA) 22 years ago and co-founding of the Chinese American Association of Solano County (CAASC).

Both CC and Regina Yin are immigrants from China and Taiwan to the United States. CC Yin graduated from the University of Washington with a master's degree in civil engineering, whereas Regina also graduated from the University of Washington with a master's degree in social work.

CC and Regina Yin are the proud franchise owners of 30 McDonald's branches in Northern California, including 16 in our beloved Solano County. We are very grateful for the thousands of jobs the Yin family have created for the people in our community. Additionally, in May of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, CC and Regina Yin donated millions of pieces of personal protective equipment including surgical masks, gowns, and hand sanitizers to frontline workers in Vallejo, the surrounding Bay Area, and nationwide communities.

Over the past 30 years, the 40-acre Yin Ranch in Vacaville, California has been filled with cherished memories and wonderful moments in partnership with the community. Comprised of many scenic areas, including the lake, Olive Garden Courtyard, Vista Pointe Event Center, Main House with Cottages, and a new Asian Heritage Center (Cultural Pavilion), the Yin Ranch is a beautiful and unique property, which hosts weddings and community events for public benefit.

The Asian Heritage Center was rebuilt after the devastating 2020 LNU Lightning Complex fires which destroyed the original structure. CC, Regina, and their family then quickly rebuilt the structure into a new 18,000 square foot indoor location with an event hall, wine cellar, and outdoor deck space to allow the community to quickly regain access to the important resource.

For decades, the Yin family has been dedicated to giving back to our communities in Solano County and throughout the state of California. They have supported hundreds of non-profit organizations, including the one they founded, APAPA. CC and Regina Yin responded to an alarming lack of Asian Pacific Islander (API) representation at all levels of government. With grassroots support, APAPA set out to engage voters, partner with the community, and develop API leaders of tomorrow.

Today, APAPA has over 50 volunteer-driven chapters and hundreds of student-interns each year hosted by public officials. The Yin family is committed to furthering APAPA's mission to advance the Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPI) communities. Through leadership and civic engagement, CC and Regina Yin collaborate with diverse organizations, public officials, and community leaders to create awareness for AANAPI communities. They strive to fight hate crimes, address systemic racism, and provide opportunities for voices to be heard.

CC and Regina Yin have three daughters: Mary Yin Liu; Betty Lin; and Carol Yin. Their family believes in the American Dream and a legacy of community engagement.

Mr. Speaker, CC and Regina Yin have established a legacy befitting of their enduring

commitment and passion to serving our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor their work here today.

AMERICA GRANILLO ESTRADA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America Granillo Estrada for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

America has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like America, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to America's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate America Granillo Estrada on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 927, CON-DEMNING ANTISEMITISM ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 927.

Let me be clear—I condemn antisemitism on our university and college campuses in the strongest possible terms. If I thought this resolution was a good faith effort to combat antisemitism, I'd support it. Regrettably, that is not the case.

Like many of my colleagues, I was disappointed by the testimony provided by the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and UPenn. Calling for genocide is dangerous and intolerable, and the presidents should have used their time in front of the Education and Workforce Committee to explicitly condemn attacks against the Jewish community and affirm their commitment to protecting Jewish and Arab students experiencing hate. Those private institutions are now deciding how to proceed with their leadership and make amends for their offensive statements.

This resolution does nothing to address the problem of antisemitism on campuses. Instead, House Republicans are once again using Jewish pain to score political points. There are many ways that Congress can address the rise in hate—for example, implementing President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Or, instead of cutting \$35 million from the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights that protects Jewish students on campus, they could join Democrats in fully funding the office. This resolution fails to do either, and instead of funding these important initiatives, the House Republican majority is continuing to hide behind empty words—and actions speak louder than

words. I uphold and include in the RECORD the comments made by my colleague, The Honorable JAMIE RASKIN (MD-08) made on the House Floor on December 13, 2023.

For these reasons, I must oppose the resolution.

*Remarks by Rep. Jamie Raskin per the United States House of Representatives Congressional Record, Volume 169, Issue 205, December 13, 2023.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution which, to my knowledge, would mark the first time in American history that the House of Representatives would vote to tell private college and university presidents to resign. I want all of my colleagues to think very seriously about what this means for us today and in the future.

We are all profoundly disturbed by the resurgence of anti-Semitism and racism in campus towns, including death threats, serious death threats against Jewish students at Cornell, and actual shootings and attempted murder of three Palestinian-American students in Burlington, Vermont.

We all want to express our outrage in House resolutions, which we have done more than 20 times as a House of Representatives, and numerous times even since October 7. For example, on November 2, we passed H. Res. 798, which condemned all forms of anti-Semitism on college campuses, denounced any support for terrorist groups on campus, reaffirmed the free speech rights of Jewish students and faculty, and urged enforcement of Federal civil rights laws to protect Jewish students against anti-Semitism.

Why do we need this resolution? The only thing new about it is it would have the U.S. House of Representatives call specifically for the resignation of two college presidents, a call that has been slipped in at the bottom of page 2 of the resolution.

This extraordinary passage comes close to being what the Constitution calls a bill of attainder, which is the unconstitutional imposition by Congress on a specific citizen or citizens of a criminal punishment or stigma by the Congress itself. Although this resolution is not a criminal punishment or stigma against specific citizens, it is undoubtedly a civil punishment and stigma against specific American citizens.

How many of you would like the president of the college where you went or where your children go to be walking around with a congressional resolution telling them to resign?

Everyone knows that this will be an academic scarlet letter and a professional death sentence for anyone carrying it around. Does anyone think that UPenn President Liz Magill, who has already resigned in the face of Ms. STEFANIK's ceaseless campaign to force her out, will ever be able to find another college presidency? Give me a break.

Now, I hold no brief for the college presidents' overly legalistic, ethically tone-deaf answers awkwardly advanced in response to Ms. STEFANIK's rapidfire, yes-no questions. It should not be difficult for anybody to say in an age of rampant gun violence and lax Republican gun laws, which have put tens of millions of AR-15s in circulation in our society, anyone calling for genocide of the Jews, or anyone else, should be sent immediately a campus security detail to see if they pose the risk of harm to other people or if they need an immediate mental health exam. If there is not an imminent threat, surely the call for genocide of the Jews by definition constitutes a hostile learning environment and should occasion aggressive disciplinary action.

Where is the common sense on the part of the college presidents? Where is the common sense in the Congress of the United States of America?

Calling for the resignation of private individuals at private universities would be a dramatic and unprecedented departure for the U.S. Congress, which has never before voted to tell a college president to resign.

Before we affix this lifelong stigma, reproach, and dishonor on a private citizen, do you think perhaps we should offer them some kind of due process, the kind of due process that even George Santos got and that Donald Trump is getting all over America right now for his 91 Federal and State felony charges?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, should Harvard President Claudine Gay, who is the first Haitian American ever to serve in that position, and Sally Kornbluth, who is Jewish, get the chance to explain what they are actually doing to combat racism and anti-Semitism at their schools and what they have done in their lives and in their careers to oppose anti-Semitism and racism, which are the gateways to destruction of liberal democracy? Do we care about that, or is this just a bunch of drive-by talking points?

Is it relevant that the Harvard and MIT boards have made unanimous statements affirming the leadership of their two college presidents? Are we saying that their boards don't matter or they are indifferent to anti-Semitism and the leaders of the Freedom Caucus know better than the Jewish president of MIT what anti-Semitism is?

Now I know these two were the presidents testifying before Ms. STEFANIK, but are we sure that these two are even the worst in the country when it comes to bias and discrimination? Is this a one-shot deal, or, as Ms. STEFANIK promises, is this just the beginning? Are we going to go through all of the college and university presidents in America? What about the CEOs of the businesses? Maybe they are not performing to her satisfaction either.

Indeed, maybe there are college presidents who have looked the other way in not hypothetical cases of anti-Semitism and racism but real cases of anti-Semitism and racism. What about them? Are we going to let them go, or are we going to go after them? Maybe we should determine who the worst are before we start using the resources of the House of Representatives to call for people to resign.

Are there college presidents, by the way, who looked the other way when there was sexual abuse of college male wrestling team members, rape of students, or female gymnasts or female soccer players? Are we interested in that now that we are superintending higher education in America, now that we are the appellate review board for the colleges?

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, are we prepared to become the national academic appeals panel for college presidents, coaches, and professors, or is that perhaps best left to the universities themselves?

Maybe it is that we just don't have a positive legislative agenda of our own to lower drug prices in America, to get aid to our democratic allies in Ukraine against the fascist imperialist thug Vladimir Putin. Maybe we don't have anything real to do, so we decide instead to go around and start lecturing

the college presidents and the college boards all over America.

In the absence of a real program for America, the majority is filling our hours with censures, expulsions, motions to vacate the speakership, overthrow their own leaders, and, of course, impeachment of President Biden for what? For doing nothing wrong. That is all that they give us. This cannibalistic instinct they have unleashed now turns on private citizens, academic leaders who will wear the scarlet letter "A" so they can have some more press conferences.

Vote "no" on this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my absence from Roll Call Votes on Thursday, October 26, 2023, through Monday December 11, 2023. I was detained in my District-TX18. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

ROLL CALL NO. 558, On the Passage of Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 557, On the Motion to Recommit, Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 564, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the House of Representatives, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 563, On the Passage of Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL No. 562, On the Motion to Recommit, Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL 561, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended Hamas and Other Palestinian Terrorist Groups International Financing Prevention Act, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 560, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Declaring it is the policy of the United States that a nuclear Islamic Republic of Iran is not acceptable, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 559, On the Motion to Table, Censuring Representative RASHIDA TLAIB for antisemitic activity, sympathizing with terrorist organizations, and leading an insurrection at the United States Capitol Complex, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 578, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, Condemning the support of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations at institutions of higher education, which may lead to the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 577, On the Passage of Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 566, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4821) Dept. of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024; (H.R. 4820) Dept. of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024; and (H.R. 6126) Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024, I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 565, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4821) Dept. of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024; (H.R. 4820) Dept. of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024; and (H.R. 6126) Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 597, On the Passage of Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 596, On the Motion to Recommit, Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 622, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Censuring Representative RASHIDA TLAIB for promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and for calling for the destruction of the State of Israel, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 608, On the Motion to Table, Censuring Representative RASHIDA TLAIB for promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and for calling for the destruction of the State of Israel, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 602, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 601, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 645, On the Motion to Refer, Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 643, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Debbie Smith Act, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 658, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 647, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5894) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 646, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5894) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 660, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5893) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5961) No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 659, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5893) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5961) No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 677, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Reaffirming the State of Israel's right to exist, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 676, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during October 2023 attack on Israel, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 679, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of (H.R. 5283) Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act; (H.R. 5961) No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act; (S.J. Res. 32) providing for congressional disapproval, relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)", I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 678, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of (H.R. 5283) Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act; (H.R. 5961) No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act; (S.J. Res. 32) providing for congressional disapproval, relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)", I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 689, On the Passage of Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act, I would have voted NO.

ROLL CALL NO. 687, On the Passage of No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 691, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 690, On the Passage of, 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)", I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 697, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, I would have voted PRESENT.

ROLL CALL NO. 693, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of (H.R. 4468) Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act; (H.R. 5933) DETERRENT Act; and (H.J. Res. 88) congressional disapproval relating to

"Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program", I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 692, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of (H.R. 4468) Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act; (H.R. 5933) DETERRENT Act; and (H.J. Res. 88) congressional disapproval relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program", I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 706, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Censuring Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN, I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 705, On the Passage of 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", I would have voted NAY.

ROLL CALL NO. 709, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 708, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, I would have voted YEA.

ROLL CALL NO. 707, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act, I would have voted YEA.

ANGELO FIELD

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelo Field for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angelo has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angelo, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angelo's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angelo Field on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I did not vote on Monday, December 11, 2023 because I was invited to the White House Hanukkah Recognition event, which I felt was important to attend given the rise in antisemitism. Out of respect for the Jewish holiday and, particularly

for Jewish Members of Congress, I believe that votes should have been postponed, just as they were for the White House Holiday Ball last week. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

NAY on Roll Call No. 708, H.R. 5378;

YEA on Roll Call No. 707, H.R. 3224; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 709, H.R. 6503.

I also want to include in the RECORD the following letter to Speaker Johnson, which explains my decision in more detail:

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I write to urge you to postpone votes this evening given that President Biden and Dr. Biden are hosting a Hanukkah Reception at the White House at 6:00 p.m. On Monday, December 4, the White House hosted a Holiday Ball for Members of Congress at 6:00 p.m. I know several Members appreciated that December 4 votes were postponed as early as Friday, December 1, to allow Members the opportunity to attend the ball without missing votes. Given that the Hannukah Reception was planned within the same time parameters as the Holiday Ball and that there are votes planned today on December 11, I was hopeful that votes would also be postponed until December 12 to give Members an opportunity to celebrate Hannukah, especially given current events. While my office, in addition to several other Member offices, reached out to request that votes be postponed, I understand that your office plans to continue with votes tonight as scheduled. I find this incredibly disappointing. I would expect that the Jewish Members of our body be given the same consideration and deference as our other colleagues. With that in mind, I respectfully urge that votes be postponed. However, given the horrific October 7 massacre and our minds in the war continually in Gaza against Hamas is more important than any Hanukkah that we meet with our constituents and reassure them that we will stand with Israel as a priority, for its existence is in danger. I appreciate your prompt response to this urgent matter.

HONORING ANTHONY LAMBERT

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Lambert of the United States Air Force on the completion of his Legislative Fellowship with my personal office. Lieutenant Colonel Lambert has been assigned to my staff since January 2023 and has done an outstanding job as my trusted advisor for national security, foreign operations, space/technology, and veteran policy issues.

Currently a Deputy Material Leader for the Advanced Battle Management System, Lieutenant Colonel Lambert started his military service at United States Air Force Academy, graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics. Before his assignment with my office, Lieutenant Colonel Lambert served as the Program Element Monitor for the B-21 Raider Program, where he was the Air Staff lead for programming, planning, executing, scheduling, and budgeting of the classified \$80 billion program.

Lieutenant Colonel Lambert also served as the Deputy Program Manager for the Hard Target Void Sensing Fuze and the Milestone C IPT Lead for the Family of Advanced Be-

yond Line-of-Sight Terminals program. He also served as a Deputy Branch Chief, and Branch Chief prior to his assignment as Executive Officer for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office.

During his fellowship in my office, Lieutenant Colonel Lambert was instrumental in helping my staff and me develop the fiscal year 2024 House Defense Appropriations bill. His direct contributions will help provide our nation's uniformed men and women with the resources needed to defend our great nation. Texas' 12th district is home to numerous DOD priorities including the F-35 program, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, and thousands of Active Guard and Reserve service members. Lieutenant Colonel Lambert quickly built a relationship with these entities, mastered their issues, and was essential in helping me represent them. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Lambert coordinated dozens of engagements with senior administration officials, representatives of foreign nations, and industry leaders. Above all, he has been a tireless advocate for servicemembers and veterans.

Airmen like Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Lambert are the reason why our nation's defense forces are the best in the world. On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Anthony, his wife Leah, and his children, Sloane, and Jack, as they continue their military journey in service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT BRYON SCHAEFER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a distinguished educator and leader, Dr. Bryon Schaefer, who has dedicated 38 years of his life to educating our children in Kern County, California. Dr. Schaefer's journey from a math teacher in East Bakersfield to Superintendent of the Kern High School District is a testament to his unwavering commitment to learning, leadership, and community. It also represents the growth and optimism that comes to mind when one thinks of the Central Valley.

Dr. Schaefer embarked on his educational journey at the University of South Dakota, earning his Bachelor's degree in 1985. His passion for education led him to California, where he pursued and successfully obtained his Master's degree from California State University, Bakersfield in 1989. Even in the early stages of his career, Dr. Schaefer demonstrated a deep commitment to both his students' and his own professional development, simultaneously teaching high school math while earning his Master's degree. Not content to stop his academic advancement, Dr. Schaefer continued his pursuit of knowledge and earned his doctorate from the University of La Verne in 2002, specializing in organizational leadership.

Dr. Schaefer's ascent within the Kern High School District reflects the rapport he has held with the faculty and parents with whom he continues to hold mutual care and affection.

Beginning as a Math Teacher in 1985, he swiftly rose through the ranks, serving as Dean of Students at North High School in 1991. His leadership journey continued with roles as Assistant Principal and as Principal in 1998. In 2010, Dr. Schaefer assumed the role of Assistant Superintendent, and in 2014, he ultimately accepted the role of Superintendent, guiding the district with prudence and dedication. Beyond his contributions within the Kern High School District Dr. Schaefer extended his impact to higher education, serving as an adjunct faculty member for Point Loma Nazarene University—Bakersfield Regional Center for over two decades.

Though Dr. Schaefer has an impressive list of achievements in educational leadership throughout his 38 year career, his greatest legacy can be found in his diligent and ambitious mission for student education and personal growth. His commitment to providing quality education in Kern County has left an enduring impact on the community, shaping the future of countless students.

I know that Dr. Schaefer is looking forward to this next chapter of his life and spending mom time with his wife Beth, two children Shannon and Haley, and granddaughter Delilah. On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bryon Schaefer on a well-deserved retirement, a successful career in education, and for his many contributions to our community.

BAILEE TELL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bailee Tell for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Bailee has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Bailee, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Bailee's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Bailee Tell on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen rescheduling conflict, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Recommit and passage of H.R. 357 on December 12, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 716, and Yea on Roll Call No. 717.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 NORTHEAST WISCONSIN VETERAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN GILLESPIE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Northeast Wisconsin's 2023 Veteran of the Year, John Gillespie.

The Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee of veteran and civilian community members. It recognizes veterans in Northeast Wisconsin who continue to demonstrate service, excellence, and dedication in all they do.

John's service began in 1955 at the University of Wisconsin, where he first signed up as an ROTC student with the Army Corp of Engineers. His career of service would see him honorably discharged from the United States Army and rise to the rank of Captain in the United States Army Reserve. His service extended far beyond his time in uniform, however, as he was appointed to Gov. Tommy Thompson's Juvenile Justice Commission in 1991 and in 1992 to the National Child Labor Committee.

A longtime resident of Northeast Wisconsin, John's service to our country and community went far beyond his time in uniform. In 1965, John and his wife Jan began the Rawhide Boys Ranch with the fundraising help and support of a quarterback some may know, Bart Starr. This support allowed John and Jan to help turn around the lives of numerous at-risk youth throughout Wisconsin. The ranch was more than just housing and mentor assistance for these youth. It became an integral part of the community, establishing a firefighting service that served the nearby municipalities at no charge. Today, through their car donation program, residential services, and youth counseling programs, they serve over 750 at-risk youth across Wisconsin. They operate several family services centers, three equine therapy centers, and over 40 full-time therapists stationed at public high schools serving at-risk youth.

But John's commitment to our community went beyond the ranch. He dedicated much time and effort to projects like establishing Plamann Park, spent countless hours volunteering with American Legion Post 38 in Appleton, where he is a 30-year member, and also spent years advocating for a local veteran whom he kept in contact with after his two years at Rawhide as a youth, Jerry Monson. He worked tirelessly to ensure Jerry received the VA benefits he deserved and went so far as to compile donations from local builders to get Jerry back on his feet after he found himself homeless. John enlisted the help of 45 local builders and suppliers to build Jerry a home free of charge.

In every walk of his life, John and his family have led a life of selfless service and sacrifice. The lives he has changed through his work in our community can never be quantified. John continues to demonstrate the highest degree of service, dedication, and excellence in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate John Gillespie for his service to Northeast Wisconsin and the veteran's community and for being the 2023 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran

of the Year. Northeast Wisconsin can be proud of the many great veterans who call Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District home. I urge all colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding men and women.

GRACIELA MENENDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Graciela Menendez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Graciela has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Graciela, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Graciela's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Graciela Menendez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

BIDEN AND UKRAINE NEED A SENATE DEAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an Editorial: Biden and Ukraine Need a Senate Deal, by William Galston from the Wall Street Journal to underscore the need for a deal on supplemental aid funding before Congress leaves Washington.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 12, 2023]

BIDEN AND UKRAINE NEED A SENATE DEAL

(By William A. Galston)

The West's security and his presidency require a compromise on border policy.

If the continuing Senate negotiations on border security fail, U.S. economic and military aid to Ukraine will end. And if this happens, a pillar of President Biden's foreign policy will collapse, Ukraine's ability to resist Russian aggression will diminish, and Vladimir Putin will broaden his mission to reconstitute the Russian empire.

Mr. Biden must take charge. He should invite Senate negotiators, who are steeped in the issues, along with Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, to Camp David and keep them there until they reach agreement.

Mr. Biden's entire career—his 36 years in the Senate, his chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee, his role during the Obama administration as chief negotiator with Mr. McConnell—has prepared him for this moment. He will fail only if he flinches.

To be sure, this won't be an easy deal. Since winning the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, Mr. Biden has relentlessly pursued party unity, first as an electoral strategy, then as a governing philosophy. Giving ground on immigration would weaken his party's unity and provide more ammunition to the left-wing insurgency that has erupted over his support of Israel.

Nevertheless, he must try. Americans have long since decided that Mr. Biden's immigration policy is a failure, and their judgment has become harsher over time. In the most recent Economist/YouGov survey, only 33% of respondents approve of his handling of this issue, a figure that drops to 27% among suburbanites and 21% for independents. Cities across the country, many governed by Democrats, are struggling to cope with a record flow of immigrants who can't legally work. When the cost of feeding and housing them forces city leaders to cut vital services to their constituents, those leaders pay a political price. New York Mayor Eric Adams's approval rating has fallen to 28%.

A Senate agreement will be successful only if it can pass the House. This means it must have the support of a solid majority of Republican senators, including the leadership team, not only the bare minimum of Republicans needed to give the measure the 60 votes it needs to survive a possible filibuster. Only Mr. McConnell can give Mr. Biden the assurance that an agreement would have sufficient backing.

Time isn't on the president's side. If this matter isn't resolved before the House and Senate adjourn in January, the results of the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15 could convince Republican officials looking for an alternative to Donald Trump that no one is likely to defeat him for the party's nomination. Mr. Trump, who openly opposes linking border reform to Ukraine aid, would likely view Republican cooperation with Mr. Biden on this issue as a career-ending transgression.

This is why the president must begin negotiations immediately and insist that the Senate remain in session until it passes a package that contains border reforms and aid to our allies, including Ukraine. Once this happens, he should deliver a prime-time address from the Oval Office to explain why this package is in the national interest and call on the House to enact the Senate bill.

Though Speaker Mike Johnson has reiterated his support for Ukraine aid, anti-Ukraine Republicans will likely pressure him to adjourn for the year without taking up the Senate bill. To counter such a move, Mr. Biden should make clear that he is prepared to use his constitutional authority to call the House back into session. If the speaker fails to persuade a majority of the Republican caucus to back the measure, he would face by far the most consequential decision of his career—whether to bring the bill to the floor anyway, which would probably cost him the speakership, or let the bill die, along with Ukraine's hopes of prevailing against Russia.

It's a high-stakes gamble for the president, but the alternative is worse. If Mr. Biden can't secure the continuation of American aid to counter Russian aggression, the already dicey prospects for more European aid to Ukraine would darken.

The fate of Ukraine, the peace of Europe and the future of the Western alliance hang in the balance, as does Mr. Biden's presidency. After the fiasco of the Afghanistan withdrawal, defeat in Ukraine would undermine what is left of his reputation as an effective steward of American foreign policy. As public support for his re-election shrinks, the last thing he needs is another failure.

HONORING THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JARED HUFFMAN and Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution which is celebrating 50 years of work to honor the patriots of the American Revolution.

The Redwood Empire Chapter was chartered on September 29, 1973, and serves the communities in Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. The organization, its members, and its partners in the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the promotion of democratic values, to serving our nation's veterans, and to educating and inspiring future generations with the founding principles of the United States of America.

The Redwood Empire Chapter provides service and support to worthy causes in the North Bay and extended region. They are a community partner of the Department of Veterans Affairs San Francisco Health Care System participating in events to uplift the veteran community and increase their access to health care. In addition to working with youth serving organizations to provide speakers and presentations on American history, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps young people, including the descendants of patriots and Eagle Scouts, to apply for college scholarships through the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Preparations are underway for the United States' Semiquincentennial Anniversary in 2026, and the Redwood Empire Chapter is leading an important project to identify and recognize the patriots buried throughout California including those who served in the Spanish Frontier Militia. We are honored that our district is home to the final resting place of such patriots like Captain William Smith of the Virginia Navy at the Sonoma Mountain Cemetery. Each year, the Redwood Empire Chapter helps honor Captain Smith during Wreaths Across America Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Redwood Empire Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is greatly appreciated for their 50 years of service. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor their chapter here today.

WREN MCCORMICK

HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wren McCormick for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Wren has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Wren, who strive to make the most of their education, develop cru-

cial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Wren's hard work determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Wren McCormick on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LEAH CURRY

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, after 26 plus years of service with Toyota Motor North America, Leah Curry, plant president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc. (known to us in the Hoosier state as "TMMI Princeton"), is retiring. In her role as president, TMMI, Leah oversaw all production and administrative functions related to the assembly of the Toyota Highlander, Highlander Hybrid, and Sienna. In 2023, Leah and her team led the transformation for TMMI to assemble two all-new vehicles, the Toyota Grand Highlander and TMMI's first Lexus vehicle, the Lexus TX.

During her career, Leah has served in many leadership positions at TMMI and served as president, Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia from 2017 through 2019. In 2013, Leah received the Manufacturing Institute Step Ahead award, recognizing female leadership in manufacturing, twice named as one of the 100 leading women in NA Automotive by Automotive News. In 2022, she was inducted into the Women of Manufacturing Hall of Fame and was named one of the top 250 most influential business leaders in Indiana by IJB media.

Leah studied Industrial Electronics at the University of Evansville and Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, Ind. She holds a TPC Certification in Industrial Electronics. She has served on the National Board of Directors of the Manufacturing Institute and is a member of the Education Alliance, a private, non-profit organization that advocates for public school student achievement.

Leah Curry's outstanding leadership, personal initiative, and devotion to the greater community of Princeton, Indiana, reflect great credit upon herself, the Hoosier State, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL AMOS E. PIERCE, JR. A WORLD WAR II VETERAN, BUFFALO SOLDIER, ARMY 24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor the life of an exceptional New Orleans Serviceman, United States Marine Corporal Amos E. Pierce, Jr., who was

born on January 23, 1925, in New Orleans, LA, and peacefully passed away on November 29, 2023.

Amos E. Pierce, Jr., was a proud resident of Pontchartrain Park, now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, and a devoted member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church for over 70 years. Pierce was a distinguished member of the "Buffalo Soldiers" during World War II.

Known affectionately as "Pops" and "Uncle Amos," he married Althea on July 26, 1952, and they had three sons: Stacey Anthony (deceased), Ron Paul, and Wendell Edward. Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was a dedicated employee of the University of New Orleans for 30 years.

Survived by two of his sons, Ron and Wendell, his four grandchildren, Meghan, Logan, Janelle, and Natalie Pierce, daughter-in-law's Debra Pierce and Erica Young, along with his sister-in-law Maryann Edwards and numerous nieces and nephews, Amos E. Pierce, Jr. was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Althea Lee Edwards Pierce.

His story of bravery in the Battle of Saipan was shared in his son's memoir "The Wind in the Reeds," shedding light on the injustice his father faced upon discharge, where his heroic achievements were unjustly dismissed due to racial prejudice.

The Defense Department realized its mistake and offered Mr. Amos his medals, but he declined. Despite the mistreatment, he didn't teach his sons to harbor resentment against the country.

In 2009, Wendell discovered that his dad had been unjustly denied medals. Working with a local TV reporter and Senator Mary Landrieu's office, they successfully corrected the oversight. Amos Pierce, who had earned six medals, was finally honored in a special ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans in October 2009.

He received his medals, including an Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal with a Bronze Service Star and a World War II Victory medal, during a special Armed Forces Day ceremony at The National WWII Museum in 2009. One of the elder Pierce's last public appearances was at the museum's Patriot Awards Gala last month, where his son received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

"He was a man of great resilience, a little boy who grew up in Gert Town, born at a time when everyone and everything around him said his humanity meant nothing, showed that he was something."

Drafted at the outset of World War II, he graduated from Gaudet High School after returning from the war and studied at Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College before moving to New York City to study photography.

He is affectionately described as a man of great fortitude who switched gears and became a maintenance man. He changed his profession and found a way to work and support his family, he wasn't overwhelmed by the change. He just adjusted, as men of purpose do.

Southern University held an exhibit of Amos Pierce's photographs, which were lost in August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters destroyed the family's home in Pontchartrain Park, a Gentilly subdivision established in the mid-1950s when segregation was

still official policy, to give African Americans the opportunity of home ownership. The Pierces were among the first Pontchartrain Park residents.

The Pontchartrain Park Community Development Corp., started to buy back homes in the subdivision that had been sold to the government. In 2012, slightly more than five years after moving back into Pontchartrain Park, Amos Pierce's wife, Althea Pierce, died. Amos Pierce kept going.

He was a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, where he was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver. He was praised for giving "the most precious things ever: love and time."

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost an incredible gem. I am proud to have connected with him during my time as a Member of Congress, appreciating the guidance and support he provided. I'll always carry his direction as I serve the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. May he rest in peace forever.

JONATHAN OSORIO LOPEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jonathan Osorio Lopez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jonathan has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jonathan, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jonathan's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jonathan Osorio Lopez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR RHODE ISLAND MARK HAYWARD

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Rhode Islanders know that small businesses are the backbone of every city and town in our great state. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Small Business Administrator District Director for Rhode Island Mark Hayward for his long and important service to our state. Mark's service has benefited small businesses and the constituents of our First Congressional District in innumerable ways. I applaud his decades of commitment, and I express my gratitude on behalf of Rhode Islanders across every community for Mark's dedication.

I understand Mark's retirement has been planned since before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Mark opted to continue to

serve an additional few long years to help ensure that the Rhode Island small business community saw its way through the crisis.

Mark's decision to help his community get to the other side of such a major event is the mark of a true public servant—one who is willing to put others first no matter the circumstances.

The success of so many small businesses across our state is because of Mark's many decades of hard work and expertise. For so many small business leaders, Mark's steady leadership was a lifeline. Whether helping small businesses navigate the Paycheck Protection Program or helping new business owners access the technical resources they needed to be successful, Mark has been relentlessly focused on growing our economy through his public service during his long and effective entire career.

I wish Mark some very well-deserved rest and time off with his wife Nancy, his children, and grandchildren. I know Mark's commitment to our community is thread throughout every fiber of his being and that he will continue to serve his fellow Rhode Islanders for many years to come.

Happy retirement to Mark, and I thank him for all he has done for Rhode Island.

HONORING GUILLERMO A. AHUMADA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of Guillermo A. Ahumada, a distinguished journalist with a passion for giving back to his community.

Mr. Ahumada has demonstrated exceptional professionalism in journalism, lending his talents to various television stations, including Telemundo 52 and Univision 34, and different radio networks. His work on these stations is notable, and his commitment to representing and advocating for the issues of diverse populations shines through in his reporting. He continues to be a prominent voice on immigration, health, and workers' rights issues, and brings attention to stories of impact with his journalism and special reports.

Mr. Ahumada currently serves as the Director of Noticias de Vision, a Latino network where he plays a crucial role in coordinating the news department, scheduling, and supervising the selection of news—particularly topics of interest to the Latino community.

Outside of his role in the media, Mr. Ahumada is passionate about being of service to his community. He is the Executive Director of Chaplains Counselors, a nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in supporting low-income families and fostering self-esteem and personal growth among participants. The organization provides educational workshops on several vital topics, including domestic violence, drug abuse, and family counseling.

Mr. Ahumada also serves as the Colonel of Chaplains of the International Federation of Christian Chaplains. In this capacity, he leads and teaches individuals dedicated to helping those at risk, whether in prison, hospitals, or facing drug addiction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Guillermo A. Ahumada for his tireless efforts, professional accomplishments, and contributions to the Latino community.

JUSTIN VALDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Valdez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Justin has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Justin, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Justin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Justin Valdez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team from Hampton, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 4 State Champions.

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, the Phoebus Phantoms won the Class 4 State Championship Game against the Salem High School Spartans with a score of 21–14. This is the third year in a row Phoebus High School has claimed a state championship title following two consecutive victories in the Class 3 division. Led by Coach Jeremy Blunt, the Phantoms won this title on the tail end of an equally astounding season. Phoebus High School closed their season undefeated, with a record of 15 wins and 0 losses, and maintained a 35-game winning streak going back to the two previous seasons.

Throughout the game, the Phantoms and Spartans fought back and forth for control of the scoreboard, with the victor only being determined in the final moments of the game. The two teams, tied 14–14, were seemingly set for a showdown in overtime. But with one second remaining on the clock, freshman quarterback Maurikus Banks completed a pass to senior wide receiver Keyontae Gray, who ran the ball for an 86-yard touchdown to secure the championship. The determination it took for these young athletes to keep fighting down to the end is an example for all of us. Because of their hard work, they have made our community proud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Phoebus High School Football Team and thank Coach Blunt, the parents, and the entire

Phoebus High School community for supporting these students throughout this remarkable season. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
JAVIER MILEI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people extend congratulations to the Honorable Javier Milei on being sworn in as the President of Argentina on Sunday, December 10, 2023. His success as a member of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies, as well as a macroeconomics professor, author, and radio host, demonstrates his ability to be a great versatile leader.

Best wishes to President Javier Milei for continued success to address Argentina's economic crisis alleviating poverty, creating jobs, and promoting prosperity.

Historically Argentina with its enterprising citizens and natural resources has been recognized for extraordinary capabilities. I still cherish, as a teenager, in Charleston, South Carolina, meeting Argentine President Arturo Frondizi when he arrived at the Fort Sumter Hotel on the historic Charleston Battery at White Point Garden.

The inauguration of President Milei featured an overwhelming amount of support for him, as thousands of people from across the country and foreign dignitaries from around the world, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, gathered in downtown Buenos Aires on Sunday.

I am grateful for the commitment of President Milei to strengthen relations with the United States, support Ukraine in response to war criminal Putin's murderous invasion, and diversify trade away from China, currently their second-largest trade nation. Free nations must work together as our adversaries threaten national security and sovereignty.

President Zelensky wrote this week that "Freedom is what unites us, Ukraine and Argentina. We truly cherish it, protect it, and stand ready to strengthen it together."

I look forward to working with President Milei on achieving Peace Through Strength, in the war we did not choose between Dictators with Rule of Gun against Democracies with Rule of Law.

RENEE HERNANDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Renee Hernandez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Renee has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Renee, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Renee's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Renee Hernandez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR DOGGETT FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE 39TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Taylor Doggett and her tremendous work as my Communications Director. In her time in my office, she has been an outstanding leader, mentor, and colleague. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her work and her talents.

From day one, Taylor has been dedicated to ensuring that the constituents of my district felt connected to my work, both at home and in Washington. She developed a streamlined process for expanding and managing contact with constituents on the issues that matter most to them. Under her leadership, we were able to expand our subscriber base significantly and provide accessible channels for the people of the 39th District to feel connected to their Member of Congress and this legislative body.

Taylor proved to be a strong advocate and valuable voice for our most important legislative priorities. She steered our communications team through some of our greatest legislative accomplishments, including the introduction of the Equality Act and the passage of the Korean Valor Act into law. Despite the challenges of being in the minority, her innovative vision for our social media stood out. To the members of her communications team, she has been a mentor and a model of running an effective, relationship-based comms shop.

Above all, Taylor has been a joyful presence in my office. She is cheerful, sharp, and quick-witted, and her jokes often make it to my social media pages. She is known for always being good for a laugh or a heart-to-heart chat among my staff. Wherever she may go down the road, she will always be a member of Team Takano.

I am enormously grateful to Taylor for her contributions. She will be dearly missed, and I wish her luck in her next adventure.

HONORING SHERIFF CULLEN
TALTON

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of a devoted patriot and civil servant in Houston County, Georgia, Sheriff Cullen Talton.

Mr. Talton's dedicated career in law enforcement has spanned over five decades,

making him the longest-serving sheriff in the history of the State of Georgia. Born in 1932 in Bonaire, Georgia, Mr. Talton was a Houston County commissioner and a dairy farmer before being elected sheriff in 1972.

When he first took office, Mr. Talton was responsible for a department of just 28 employees, which has grown to over 300 today. Additionally, Houston County had a population of 63,000 in 1972 and now boasts over 170,000 residents, which Mr. Talton has selflessly dedicated his career to protecting and serving. He is a shining example for all law enforcement officers to aspire to.

Family and friends describe Sheriff Talton as a “role model,” a “servant,” and a “peacekeeper.” He has embodied the meaning of each of these words to their fullest during his time as Sheriff of Houston County. I wish Mr. Talton a long and healthy retirement, surrounded by the family and friends he has served tirelessly throughout his esteemed career.

I would like to thank Sheriff Talton for his years of service to our community and our country. It is an honor to represent such outstanding constituents like him in the Eighth Congressional District of Georgia.

EMILY PETERSON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emily Peterson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Emily has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Emily, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Emily's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Emily Peterson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MS. LUCETIA
MANWARING

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Lucetia Manwaring as she marks her retirement from public service after 30 years as a congressional staff member. As a Casework Manager in my office, Ms. Manwaring has established herself as a dedicated and distinguished professional with a demonstrated record of achievement.

Lucetia has served our country in many ways, including in the U.S. Navy from 1989 to 1993. During this time, she served on the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Nuclear Repair Division; served honor-

ably in U.S. Desert Storm campaign; and was a member of the U.S. Ready Reserve from 1993 to 2000. In addition, she has received several awards, including the Navy Wide Command Award, the National Defense Service Medal for Desert Storm, and a Naval Citation.

Lucetia received her Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University, and her Bachelor of Business Administration from Davenport University. She was a member of the Dean's List upon completing both degrees. Since 1994, Ms. Manwaring has helped thousands of constituents throughout the state of Michigan. Her tenure began as a staff member for my uncle, retired U.S. Congressman Dale Kildee. She met Congressman Dale Kildee while serving in the Navy and began her career as a staff member shortly thereafter. Upon his retirement, I was grateful to have her join my staff as well.

Ms. Manwaring's career is a true example of public service. Throughout her career she has been a tireless advocate for her community and her work has had a lasting impact on the lives of hundreds of Michiganders. I am grateful to be represented by such dedicated employees who work hard to make our community and Nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. Lucetia Manwaring for her unwavering commitment to public service and extend my heartfelt gratitude for her years of service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN BRIDGET
GREENE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize Captain Bridget Greene of the United States Marine Corps, for her service to Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District and my national security team as my 2023 Defense Fellow.

Captain Greene started in our office as a First Lieutenant, this year's youngest defense fellow in Congress. From leading her Marines as a logistician for Marine Aircraft Group 24 stationed at Kaneohe Bay, to serving as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, she has made immeasurable contributions to the Marine Corps and to the Joint Force prior to joining our office as a part of the Department of Defense Legislative Fellowship Program. She brought her operational experience—especially her expertise of the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility—to our office and Armed Services Committee work, sharpening the tactical effectiveness of our National Defense Authorization Act policies focused on strengthening the American military's advantage in deterring aggression vis-à-vis China.

Like Peeps in the microwave, her influence was ever expanding. As duty called, Captain Greene not only crafted brilliant legislation to support in-theater logistics and streamline our military partnership with allies and partners, she also worked day-in and day-out with Wisconsin's veterans, and provided unconventional and matchless counsel on bill designations to guarantee awareness of my policy pri-

orities, notably the Deterring Attempts at Dirty Deals by Youngsters Act. While she is a native New Yorker, she quickly adopted the Northeast Wisconsin ethos by embracing a love of cheese curds, dairy animals, and Al Johnson's rooftop goats.

Through her responsibilities, she exemplified the Marine Corps motto “Semper Fidelis”—Always Faithful. This eternal and collective commitment to the progress of our nation and steadfast loyalty to the Corps is evident in every moment of her service to my office. From recruiting future Marines in our intern cohorts simply by being an example of what a Marine is and could be, to being a trustworthy and honest adviser on the most pressing issues of national security, and all the while demonstrating the highest class and unwavering kindness to my constituents and my staff, during her time here, she is a truehearted patriot and I am proud to call her a fellow Marine.

I wish Bridget the best of luck as she continues her Marine Corps career. She will no doubt excel and impress in her future endeavors, to the benefit of this country. I thank her for her service to the military and the people of Wisconsin, over the course of this year.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
HONORABLE JOHNNY WAYNE
“JUDGE” McLARTY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of The Honorable Johnny Wayne “Judge” McLarty who died on Monday, December 11, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital—North Mississippi.

Born on May 28, 1950, to the late Clara Mae and John Murry McLarty, Judge spent his entire life in Oxford, dedicating his heart and soul to his community. Serving as a judge since 1979, he was the second-longest-elected Justice Court Judge in the State of Mississippi. Renowned as a devoted Ole Miss Sports enthusiast, he earned legendary status in Left Field and ushered in countless fans over the years. While he cherished his Rebels, his greatest joy came from supporting the Lafayette County School District and its athletic programs.

Throughout the years, he actively participated in various roles, including coach, umpire, and videographer. He even drove a bus route for nearly two decades. As a charter member of the Splinter Valley Hunting Club, he enjoyed numerous days engaged in hunting and fishing. Judge was a dedicated member of Taylor Baptist Church and the Mason Lodge #33 in Oxford, fostering cherished friendships among his fellow masons. In addition to his judicial duties, he volunteered as a deputy with the sheriff's department, served as a 911 dispatcher, and worked as an EMT at Oxford-Lafayette County Hospital. His ability to fulfillment in his career was a testament to his passion.

Judge was not only a central figure in numerous professional and personal circles but, most importantly, the cornerstone of his family. He never missed a significant event in the lives of his children and grandchildren, going

so far as to livestream a graduation from his hospital bed. His unwavering commitment to his career, friends, and family endured until his final moments. Mere hours before his passing, he was sworn in for his 12th term as Justice Court Judge, a ceremony presided over by his longtime friend, Judge Howorth. Even now, his thoughts centered on his loved ones and the community he was honored to serve.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Debbie Tatum McLarty, and his sister, Jeanette Wells. Judge is survived by his daughter, Deanna McLarty Massey and her husband, Bruce; son, Chad McLarty and his wife, April; brothers-in-law, Dewey Wells and Jimmy Tatum and his wife, Theda; seven grandchildren, Austin McLarty (Caitlan), Lee Murray McLarty, Alexis McLarty, Taylor Jackson, Bailey Jackson, Rex Massey, and Smith Massey; and two great-grandchildren, Myles McLarty and May Ann McLarty.

HAPPY 105TH BIRTHDAY TO BIG
LAKE'S STELLA HUSO

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stella Huso ahead of her upcoming

milestone birthday. January 8 marks Stella's 105th birthday, making her the oldest Gold Star Mother on record. Stella's story is one of resilience, patriotism, and unwavering dedication to her family and country.

Born in 1919, Stella has seen more than most of us can imagine, from the Great Depression and World War II to the Cuban Missile Crisis and Apollo 11 mission. Through it all, Stella has remained a pillar of strength for her family and community and channeled her energy into activism.

After losing her son Wayde to an enemy artillery shell in Vietnam, Stella became a relentless advocate for our Nation's veterans and their families. She has offered solace and support to countless military families in their darkest moments.

Stella has been a dedicated community activist in her hometown of Big Lake. She taught Sunday School at her church, and eventually became the Sunday School Superintendent. Stella was also involved in local politics and served as caucus convener for the Big Lake area.

Stella is a true patriot. She has written letters to the editor advocating for respect of our nation's flag and the Pledge of Allegiance and remains one of the most active members of the Big Lake and Buffalo American Legion Auxiliaries.

As she marks her 105th birthday, let us celebrate Stella and her incredible life. We hope

that her activism and strength will inspire generations of Minnesotans yet to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF LIEUTENANT JESSICA WYMAN

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Lieutenant Jessica Wyman of the Nashua Fire Department, who, on November 28, 2023, passed away after her battle with cancer.

Lieutenant Wyman was not only an exemplary public servant working two jobs as a firefighter and an ER nurse, but also a trailblazer for women in the fire service. She was the first female firefighter to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in Nashua Fire Department history. She also led week-long summer camps to help women get involved in the fire service.

Lieutenant Wyman will be remembered as many things: a hero, a professional, a civil servant, a trailblazer, a community leader, and a friend. My heart is with Jessica's husband, Chris, her family, and the Nashua Fire Department. May she rest in peace.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5969–S6012

Measures Introduced: Forty bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3514–3553, and S. Res. 503–510. **Pages S5995–97**

Measures Passed:

Military Personnel Confirmation Restoration Act: Senate passed S. 3553, to provide a retroactive effective date for the promotion of senior officers of the Armed Forces whose military promotions were delayed as a result of the suspension of Senate confirmation of such promotions. **Page S5989**

Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act: Senate passed S. 474, to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, after withdrawing the committee reported amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6006–08**

Schumer (for Blackburn/Ossoff) Amendment No. 1377, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6004**

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act: Senate passed S. 195, to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854. **Pages S6008–09**

National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 3315, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days. **Page S6009**

Building Chips in America Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from

further consideration of S. 2228, to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S6009–10

Schumer (for Kelly) Amendment No. 1378, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6004**

Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 62, providing for the reappointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed.

Pages S6010–11

Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 63, providing for the appointment of Antoinette Bush as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed.

Pages S6010–11

Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 64, providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed.

Pages S6010–11

Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act: Senate passed S. 382, to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation.

Page S6011

Texas Christian University 150th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 453, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Texas Christian University, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S6011

National Ataxia Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 507, designating September 25, 2023, as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”, and raising awareness of ataxia, ataxia research, and the search for a cure. **Page S6011**

Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 508, recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Day on December 14, 2023. **Page S6011**

First Commemoration of the Anti-LGBTQ+ Attack at Club Q: Senate agreed to S. Res. 509, recognizing the first commemoration of the anti-LGBTQ+ attack that occurred on November 19–20, 2022, at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. **Page S6011**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Randall Schriver of Virginia and Aaron Friedberg of New Jersey. **Page S6006**

Fonzone and O’Malley Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. **Page S6011**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 18, 2023, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Martin O’Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security, and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m.; and that upon disposition of the nomination of Martin O’Malley, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S6011**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 66 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 345), Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. **Pages S5970–86**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 344), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5976**

By 64 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 346), Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Pages S5986–88**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, be withdrawn. **Page S5986**

Lisa A. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

Todd Gloria, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023.

Todd Gloria, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2029. **Page S5989**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

17 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

6 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army. **Page S6011**

Messages from the House: **Page S5995**

Measures Referred: **Page S5995**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S5995, S6006**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S5995**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5997–99**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5999–S6004**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5994–95**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6004–06**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6006**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—346) **Pages S5976, S5986–87**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:09 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6011.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, with amendments;

S. 1118, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, with an amendment;

S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, with amendments;

S. 1662, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1776, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, with an amendment;

S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1955, to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, with amendments;

S. 2247, to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, with amendments;

S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the

State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations;

S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry;

S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”;

S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, with amendments; and

S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

Subcommittee on Energy: Senators Sanders (Chair), Wyden, Heinrich, Hirono, King, Cortez Masto, Hickenlooper, Hawley, Risch, Murkowski, Hoeven, Cassidy, and Hyde-Smith.

Subcommittee on National Parks: Senators King (Chair), Sanders, Heinrich, Hirono, Padilla, Daines, Lee, Murkowski, and Hyde-Smith.

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining: Senators Cortez Masto (Chair), Wyden, Heinrich, Hirono, King, Hickenlooper, Padilla, Lee, Risch, Daines, Murkowski, Cassidy, and Hawley.

Subcommittee on Water and Power: Senators Wyden (Chair), Sanders, Cortez Masto, Hickenlooper, Padilla, Risch, Lee, Hoeven, and Cassidy.

Senators Manchin and Barrasso are ex-officio members of all subcommittees.

DIABETES EPIDEMIC

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the diabetes epidemic, after receiving testimony from Ashley N. Gearhardt, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Lindsey Smith Taillie, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health Global Food Research Program, Chapel Hill; Kasia Lipska, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut; and Natalie Stanback, Lewisville, Texas, and Aaron J. Kowalski, New York, New York, both of JDRF.

FOSTER CHILDREN

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law concluded a hearing to examine protecting the human rights of foster children, after

receiving testimony from Jose A. Perez, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Rebecca Jones Gaston, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

SUBSTANCE USE TRENDS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine substance use trends among older adults, after receiving testimony from James W. Carroll, former Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Deborah Steinberg, Legal Action Center, both of Washington, D.C.; Keith Humphreys, Stanford University, Stanford, California; and William B. Stauffer, Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance, Harrisburg.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 60 public bills, H.R. 6838–6779; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 935–939, were introduced. **Pages H6983–85**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6988–89**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 3229, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to apply the prohibition against contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with elections to contributions or donations in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–318).

Page H6983

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Valadao to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6945**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Roy motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 23 yeas to 307 nays, Roll No. 722. **Page H6961**

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

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024: Conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 310 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 723. **Pages H6947–60, H6961–62**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, December 13th.

National Plan to End Parkinson's Act: H.R. 2365, amended, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 724.

Pages H6962–63

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes."

Pages H6962–63

Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation Board of Trustees: The Chair announced the Majority Leader appointed the following member of the House to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation Board of Trustees: Representative Grothman.

Page H6963

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Thursday, December 14, 2023, through Monday, January 8, 2024, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H6963**

Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Representative Bacon. **Page H6980**

Board of Trustees of the Adams Memorial Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of

the Adams Memorial Commission: Representatives Griffith, Moolenaar, Lynch and Connolly.

Pages H6980–81

Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Representatives Bucshon and McCollum.

Page H6981

United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Representative Norcross.

Page H6981

Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Representatives Cole and Leger Fernandez.

Page H6981

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6961, H6961–62, and H6962–63.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, December 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Friday, December 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Martin O'Malley, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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